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# Phuket Gazette



## Parents prepare

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■ TUK-TUK, TAXI DRIVERS LASH OUT AT 'RUSSIAN' BUSINESSES

# Beach blockade drives tour blitz

■ Targeted tour counters specializing in Russian services not Russian backed; owned and operated by Thais

By **Chutharat Plerin**

A BLOCKADE of the Karon beachfront road by tuk-tuk and taxi drivers has sparked a police blitz on all tour counters in the area using Russian nationals to sell tours.

Hundreds of drivers blocked the road in front of the newly-established Karon Police Station on the night of January 3 in protest of local tour counters allegedly using Russian nationals to provide transport services.

Chief among the complaints made during the blockade was that the tour counters were offering much cheaper fares than those charged by members of the local "drivers' co-operative".

The blockade was lifted only after police ordered all "Russian tour counters" in the area to close until further notice.

A second demand, met within the one hour of negotiations that night, was that relevant officials would meet within days to take action on a slew of complaints, including allegations of Russians operating massage services, working as tour guides and even offering laundry services in Kata-Karon.

Continued on Page 3



Hundreds of tuk-tuk drivers in Kata-Karon took to the streets in protest of 'Russian' tour businesses offering cut-rate prices for transport and other services. Photo: Christian Mouchet



Tom Travers is recovering in hospital after the altercation.

## Russian men attack couple at beach club

TWO out of the four Russian men who allegedly led an unprovoked attack on a couple at Catch Beach Club, which sent both of them to hospital, have been charged with assault.

Tom Travers, managing partner of Indigo Real Estate, and his girlfriend of nine years, Jen Khamsorn underwent corrective surgery later that day.

Full story on Page 3

## Ambassadors target Phuket tourist scams

JET-SKIS, taxi prices and tuk-tuks all topped the list of concerns among the British, Canadian and Dutch Ambassadors to Thailand who paid a visit to Governor Maitri Inthasut on Tuesday.

The joint envoy was held in order to highlight their chief concerns about the scams continuing in Phuket.

Full story on Page 5



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Thai businesses get lean on labor to remain viable. **Page 11**



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Flying high and living the good life at a spa in Phuket. **Page 36**



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Find a furry friend under the tree? Read the 'Dog Whisperer'. **Page 39**



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A Phuketian's double life between Patong and the South Pole. **Page 40-41**



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Phuket United continue on the road to victory in the TFPL. **Page 51**

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# Anxiety named a key factor in Australian tourist death

By Orawin Narabal

STAFF at Patong Hospital have reported that 21-year-old Australian tourist Sebastian Eric Faulkner was showing signs of anxiety when he presented himself to the hospital just hours before his death on New Year's Eve.

On recognizing the symptoms, doctors at Patong Hospital admitted him for minor depression.

Mr Faulkner, from Melbourne, plunged from the ninth floor balcony of his guest room at the Andaman Beach Suites hotel in Patong at about 6pm that night.

He was rushed to Patong Hospital where he was diagnosed as comatose with spine and rib fractures as well as chest injuries. He was taken to Bangkok Hospital Phuket for emergency care, but pronounced dead a short time later.

However, the acting director at Patong Hospital, Dr Muanprae Boonlorm, told the *Gazette* that early on the morning of December 31 Mr Faulkner was brought to the hospital by his friends.

"His hands were shaking and his heart was beating hard. However, he was able to talk and understand what the nurses and doctor said."

"The doctor examined him and diagnosed him with minor depression. The doctor suggested that he rest at the hospital until he felt bet-



Staff at Patong Hospital report that Sebastian Faulkner had been admitted for minor depression on December 31, the day of his fatal fall from his room at the Andaman Beach Suites hotel. Photo: Gazette file

ter. His friend left after the talk with the doctor," Dr Muanprae said.

At about 8am, hospital staff noticed that Mr Faulkner was missing from his room. They searched the hospital, found him, and took him back to his room.

Mr Faulkner told them that he did not want treatment, but the staff could not allow him to leave without a doctor signing discharge papers formally acknowledging that he had refused treatment.

"At about 10am, he disappeared from the room again. This time

we could not find him, so we contacted the Patong Police Station," Dr Muanprae explained.

At about 5pm, staff at the Andaman Beach Suites Hotel saw Mr Faulkner in the hotel lobby looking anxious. They encouraged him to go to the hospital, but he did not want to, so they took him back to his room to rest, Kathu Police Deputy Superintendent Nikorn Choothong explained.

About an hour later, at 6pm, staff discovered that he had fallen from his balcony on the ninth floor.

## Police closing in on killers of Phi Phi speedboat driver

POLICE have made headway in identifying and capturing the murderers of a Phi Phi speedboat driver who was stabbed to death in Phuket Town just before dawn on January 2.

Ronnachai Chayliang, 26, was found dead in front of Wat Wichit Sangkharam, on Narisorn Road, at about 5:20am. He had suffered knife wounds to his neck, chest and back.

"We have checked CCTV images along Montri Road, which Mr Ronnachai drove past before he turned onto Narisorn Road," Col Sermphan said.

After reviewing the CCTV footage, police were able to identify



Phuket City Police chief Sermphan Sirikong. Photo: Gazette file

the men seen pursuing Mr Ronnachai through the streets of Phuket Town.

Now armed with images and the identities of the prime suspects to the murder, police believe they will make arrests soon, he added.

## B100k reward for gunpoint bank robber

POLICE are offering 100,000 baht in reward for any information leading to the arrest of a man who made a fast-cash "withdraw" of over a quarter million baht at gunpoint from a Phuket bank on Monday.

The robbery, at the Kasikornbank (KBank) branch at the Tesco Chao Fa Park shopping complex on Chao Fa East Road, happened at about 12:30pm.

"After reviewing the CCTV footage, we have established the man escaped on his motorbike down Soi Anusorn 5... We also found the jacket he was wearing during the robbery in a rubbish bin in the area," Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat said.



The robber made off with 260,000 baht in 37 seconds. Image: CCTV

"The jacket has been sent to the Phuket Forensic Office to see if any DNA samples can be pulled from it," he added.

Police are also trying to establish if the gun used during the robbery was real or a replica handgun.

The robbery was not the first

at the same branch, with nearly one million baht being stolen in the past 12 months.

"Minute Man" Anusit Kaewmookda made off with 650,000 baht from the bank in less than 60 seconds on January 29 last year.

He was arrested on November 3, while on the run, after robbing the KBank branch on Thepkasattri Road in Rassada four days earlier. In that robbery, Anusit made off with a reported 2.7 million baht. Again, the robbery was conducted in less than 60 seconds.

Anyone with information relating to the latest bank robbery can call the police at 081-8021011 or 076-212046.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong



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Tiger Disco chief Piya Isaramalai (right) joins Pheu Thai Party Spokesperson Prompong Nopparit on Soi Bangla for new year.

## Tiger disco yet to face charges over fatal fire

CHARGES have yet to be formally presented against the owners of the Tiger Discotheque over the fatal blaze that ripped through the Patong nightclub five months ago.

The fire on August 17 killed four people, including two tourists, and injured 11.

Public Prosecutor Vivath Kitjaruk told the *Gazette* they were still considering whether or not to press charges against the Tiger Bar and Discotheque owners Sara Entertainment Co Ltd and CEO Piya Isaramalai.

"We will make a decision on the case very soon," Mr Kitjaruk said.

— Chutharat Plerin

# Russians wanted for attack

By Orawin Narabal

TWO out of the four Russian men who allegedly led an unprovoked attack on a well-known local couple at Catch Beach Club on Surin Beach have been charged with assault.

Police are still searching for the two other men.

Canadian Tom Travers, managing partner of Indigo Real Estate agency, was beaten unconscious and had his cheekbone broken in three places during the attack.

His girlfriend Jen Khamson suffered a broken nose when she was punched in the face.

Staff at the hotel, which the couple visits about once a week, explained to them that no CCTV footage exists of the altercation as it happened in a blind spot.

Both have undergone corrective surgery at Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

"It was about 2:30am, when we were getting ready to leave the club... There were some guys hanging around. One of the guys was walking around the area with no shirt on. We had a feeling there was going to be trouble, so we



Jen Khamson suffered a broken nose after being punched in the face, as well as bruises to her upper left thigh, in the attack. Photos: Orawin Narabal

wanted to get out of there," Mr Travers told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

"Jen paid the bill and we were about to leave, when I noticed one of the guys walked up to her. It looked like he was about to cause trouble. I stepped in front of her, trying to get her out of the area. Suddenly the man punched over my shoulder and hit Jen in the face," he said.

Mr Travers had no idea why the men started attacking Jen.

"I tried to stop them, but they all jumped on top of me and started to punch me. They knocked me to the ground and then kept beating me," he explained.

"I'm so thankful for the staff at Catch for helping, because if they hadn't, I did not know when the men would have stopped beating me," he added.

Allegations have arisen that Ms Jen may have instigated the confrontation, though Mr Travers told the *Gazette* she only left his side that night when she went to pay a bar tab, "which only took about 30 seconds".

"I did not hit them with the water bottle [as alleged]," Ms Jen said. "That night I didn't even drink water. How could I have a water bottle? I was with Tom the whole time and we weren't anywhere close to those men. How could I attack him first?" she asked.

Both Ms Jen and Mr Travers recalled that one of the Russian men who assaulted them had argued with a British man earlier in the evening.

"Before we left, I saw Tom went to off to say 'hi' to the British man. After I finished paying our bill I walked back to Tom and told him it was time to go home — that's when the Russian punched me in the face," she said.

Ms Jen explained to the *Gazette* that a friend of the Russian men came to the police station to talk with her over the incident.

"He tried to compromise, but I didn't listen to him," she said.

## 8 injured as pickup flips, flings passengers to safety

A BOY, 12 and an 18-year-old woman are in hospital with serious head injuries after the pickup truck they were travelling in flipped and rolled down an embankment while returning to Phuket from Krabi on January 4.

Nathanon Kaewrua, 12, and Jinta Petchkrua, 18, were thrown out of the back of the pickup when the driver lost control of the vehicle on a sharp curve at Baan Suan Maphrao, Lt Col Watcharin Jiraththikanwiwat of the Tah Chat Chai Police explained.

"They were travelling back to their home in Rawai after visiting relatives in Krabi when the accident happened.

"It appears Somchai Kaewrua, 48, lost control of the vehicle as the road was slippery from rain," Col Watcharin said.

Altogether, eight people travelling in the pickup were injured in the accident, including eight-month-old baby Paraway Somboon.

Col Watcharin named the other passengers injured in the crash as Thannawat Somboon and Prem-sinee Sawangworakul, both 19,



The pickup as rescue workers found it, upside down with its roof flattened down to the body.

and Siwakorn Chanakul and Inkarat Petchkrua, both aged 9.

Miraculously, the six inside the vehicle were thrown clear of the pickup truck as it continued to roll multiple times into a field beside the road.

"None of them were wearing seat belts. When we arrived at the scene, none of them were in the pickup truck. They were all outside and the pickup, which was upside down with its roof flattened," one rescue worker told the *Gazette*.

"Luckily they suffered only minor injuries," Col Watcharin said.

— Thawit Bilabdullar

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## Beach blockade hits tour counters

From page 1

At a highly-charged meeting last Saturday, many local business owners brandished placards with slogans such as "Russians stealing Thai jobs" and "We don't want Russian businesses".

At the same meeting, Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak ordered the local Labor Office to investigate all tour counters in the area for possible breaches of foreign worker regulations.

So far the blitz has been "well received", Karon Police Deputy Superintendent Narong Laksanawimon told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

The tour counters allegedly



One massage center was closed in the raids. Photo: Nattawut Laorsuwan

specializing in Russian services were individually owned and operated by Thais — not backed by major inbound tour handlers — Lt Col Narong said.

"The tour counter operators have cooperated well with police

and they no longer have Russian nationals sitting at the counters selling tours to Russian tourists anymore," he explained.

"We have checked and confirmed that the tour counters belong to Thai nationals. The operators of these small tour counters are mostly people who set up counters in front of their homes. They explained that they hired Russians to sell tours because they found it very difficult to find Thais who can speak Russian," Col Narong added.

The order for all "Russian counters" to close has been lifted, with the only business ordered to remain closed being a massage parlor on Taina Road in central Karon.

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# Parents get ready, it's Children's Day

By Irfan Jamdukor

THIS Saturday, January 12, families across the country will be joining the annual Children's Day festivities.

In Phuket Town, the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO) will be staging its activities at the Provincial Hall from 8am to 4pm.

Among the activities, 83 bicycles will be given away as prizes, a "Children's Playland" will be set up and gifts, games, prizes, free food and drink will be all available.

Thai celebrity actor and singer Saran Siriluksana, better known as "Porshe Saran", will perform a mini-concert, joined on stage by "Grandma Waew", the famed singer and comedian from Channel 3's popular prime time variety show *At Ten* ("Tee Sip" in Thai).

A selection of the events at Provincial Hall is as follows:

**8am** Event opens

**9am** Opening ceremony and mass balloon release by Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut and PPAO President Paiboon Upatising

**9:10am** Governor Maitri and President Paiboon hand certi-

icates to 100 children selected by the Phuket Provincial Culture Office; and hand certificates as well as bicycles to 23 children selected by the Business and Professional Women's Association in Phuket

**9:40am** Governor Maitri and President Paiboon stage lucky draw for five bicycles

**10am** Governor Maitri and Mr Paiboon open their offices for children to visit and to sit in the two "Big Chairs" of the province

**10:50am** On stage, song and dance performances by students

**11am** Lucky draw for bicycles

**11:30am** "Gangnam Style" dance show, bicycle lucky draw

**Midday** Bozo magic show

**12:20pm** Game time, bicycle lucky draw

**12:40pm** Game time, bicycle lucky draw

**1pm** Grandma Waew At Ten stage performance, bicycle lucky draw

**2pm** Game time, bicycle lucky draw

**2:30pm** Mini-concert by Thai celebrity Porshe Saran

**3:30pm** Lucky draw for bicycles

**4pm** Mr Paiboon chairs closing ceremony



Children enjoy mixed reactions at the official launch of Children's Day activities at Jungceylon shopping mall, Patong, last year. Photo: Gazette file

## Patong

Patong Municipality Children's Day activities at Loma Park, on the Patong beachfront, from 8:30am to 3pm, with fun games and free food and drink for children and families

## Rawai

Children's Day activities will be held at several locations starting in the morning and continuing into the night, with games, stage per-

formances, prizes free food and drink for children and families

**8am-Midday** Games, educational displays at Wat Sawang-arom School

**7pm-10pm** Stage performances, lucky draws at sea gypsy village

**7pm-10pm** Stage performances, lucky draws in Soi Saliga

**7pm-10pm** Stage performances, lottery draws with prizes and games at Baan Bang Kanatee Stadium, (turn right into Soi Masyid

Nurudee Neeyah, about 1.3km south of Chalong Circle).

## Karon

Children's Day activities at Karon Circle from 8am, with games, prizes and free food and drink

**8:30am** Stage performance by Wat Kittisankaram School

**9am** Opening ceremony

**9:20am** Handing over of scholarships to children from poor families

**9:50am** Lucky draws for 10 bicycles

**10:20am** Magic show

**11:30am** Lucky draw for 15 "tablet computers"

**Midday** Closing ceremony

## Cherng Talay

Children's Day activities at the stadium behind the Tunthee Anusorn School (opposite the Cherng Talay Municipality offices) from 8am to 8pm, with games, children's play zone, prizes, educational exhibitions, kids sports competitions, stage performances, mini-concerts, free food and drink for children and families

For details of more events, see the Phuket Gazette website.

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## Mangrove probe whittles down encroachment claim

THE 70 rai of protected mangrove forests investigated on Phuket on January 4 in fear it was being illegally encroached on was whittled down to only two rai after a followup probe the next day.

"After I examined the Klong Mudong area in Chalong again, I was able to determine that only about two rai of the land being reclaimed by developers is actual mangrove area," Pongsapak Aiabsakul, chief of the Mangrove Forest Resources Development Station Phuket office, said.

Land documents for the rest of the area in question do exist.

However, Mr Pongsapak said the documentation would have to be examined to ensure that they were legally obtained.

"I have already filed a complaint over the two rai of mangrove forest destroyed to the Chalong Police," he added.

Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak, who led the inspection, tasked Phuket Marine office chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut with charging any developers found illegally encroaching on the mangrove area.



Vice Governor Somkiet led the inspection of the mangrove site.

"Muang District officers will be ordered to stop people from dumping more trash in the area. They will also be asked to remove the rubbish already present and take it to the incinerator at Saphan Hin," V/Gov Somkiet said.

The land probe unearthed that the huge amount of rubbish dumped at the site had already inflicted much harm to the mangrove ecosystem, he added.

"The destruction of mangroves has been ongoing for decades. We will need help from the central government to protect them from developers encroaching on them, but we can start on solving the problem immediately," he said.

— Kraitsada Mueanhawong

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# Ambassadors target unruly tourist scams

Tuk-tuk, jet-ski, taxi rip-offs highlighted as tourism threats

By Chutharat Plerin

IN THEIR first official visit to Phuket, the British, Canadian and Dutch Ambassadors to Thailand on Tuesday plainly described their chief concerns about the scams continuing to plague Phuket's tourism industry.

Speaking with Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut at Provincial Hall, ambassadors Mark Kent of the UK, Philip Calvert of Canada and Joan Boer of the Netherlands focused on why tuk-tuk and taxi drivers are continuing to charge tourists in Phuket higher fares than charged elsewhere in Thailand.

They also asked why metered taxis are not as common in Phuket as they are in other major tourist destinations across Thailand, including Bangkok and Chiang Mai.

"They are very concerned about why taxis are so expensive compared with other tourist areas

**'They are very concerned about why taxis are so expensive compared with other tourist areas in Thailand'**

— Governor Maitri

in Thailand," Gov Maitri said.

The governor explained to the ambassadors the steps Phuket authorities have taken in recent months in an attempt to regulate taxi drivers.

Phuket Land Transport Office [PLTO] chief Teerayut Prasertpol, who was present at the meeting explained further, "The PLTO is trying to get metered taxi drivers to charge fares based on the meter, but the drivers do not want to because if they charged only that rate they would not make enough

to be able to earn a living."

"This has also deterred any private investors from even wanting to start a metered taxi service company," Gov Maitri added.

British Ambassador Kent also introduced the governor to the website PhuketTukTuks.com, which lists incident after incident of tourists in Phuket being cheated, scammed and even violently attacked by local tuk-tuk and taxi drivers.

"The police are doing their best, but there is a serious shortage of officers in Phuket," Gov Maitri replied.

Ambassador Boer specifically cited his concern about jet-ski operators keeping tourists' passports as a condition of renting jet-skis. However, Phuket Marine Office chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut said that keeping customers' passports was a practice of the past.



Governor Maitri Inthusut (left) looks on as British Ambassador Mark Kent shows him a website listing scores of incidents in which Phuket tourists were beaten, robbed and scammed by tuk-tuk and taxi drivers. Photo: PR Dept

"They no longer do this, and I passed that message along to Ambassador Boer," Governor Maitri explained.

In addition to sharing his concern over the fares charged by tuk-tuk and taxi drivers in Phuket, Canadian Ambassador Calvert also raised the issue of the media using photos of dead bodies and photos of passports in news stories.

Despite the contentious nature of the chief concerns discussed

at the meeting, Ambassador Kent was supportive of the Thai government's efforts to resolve Phuket's perennial problems.

"Most tourists who come to Phuket enjoy their holidays and have a good time," he said.

He also praised the governor's willingness to work with embassy officials in tackling the major issues affecting Phuket.

See First Person on page 19

## Migrant workers not to be deported – yet

MIGRANT workers in Phuket still waiting to complete the nationality verification process, in order to become legally registered alien labor, have at least a one-week reprieve from any deportation crackdown, the Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO) chief Yawapa Pibulpol confirmed on Wednesday.

The news follows the Thai Cabinet not discussing the issue at the regular Cabinet meeting in Bangkok on Tuesday.

More pressing issues took precedence at the meeting. As the issue was not discussed, and a resolution not passed, the question of whether or not migrant workers will face mass deportations remains.

"The issue of migrant workers has been postponed, and is set to be considered at the Cabinet meet-



Yawapa Pibulpol

ing next Tuesday," PPEO Chief Yawapa said.

"We are still accepting work permit applications as usual until we receive a new order concerning the issue," Ms Yawapa confirmed.

"We are not going to conduct any raids or deport the workers until we receive notice of the Cabinet's decision next week," she added.

— Irfarn Jamdukor



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# A heart lost in Seoul

## A professor falls in love in Phuket, loses his heart, but he's still got Seoul

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

IN A cautionary, age old island tale, one known by many jaded and broken-hearted men on Phuket, Barry (not his real name) fell in love with a young Thai bar girl.

"It was early Spring, 2010, almost three years ago. Her name was Liz (not real name). I fell madly in love with this girl. Each second apart from her felt like months," Barry, a professor in English, wrote to the *Gazette*.

"We were inseparable. We spent every waking hour together – swimming, dancing, shopping, biking, exercising, traveling, fine dining – everything!

"Our love (seemingly) grew – second by second, hour by hour, month by month. I was completely convinced that I had finally located my soul-mate. The woman of my dreams. The one," Barry explained.

November arrived, as had a new motorbike for Liz, jewelry, perfumes, spa visits and "a treasure trove of sexy clothing". However, with November came a change in the direction of the winds. The couple decided that it was best for Barry to move to Seoul, Korea for work.

"Looking back, I recall being reluctant to make this move, but Liz was adamant of its merit for our future life together," he explained.

"The plan was that I would work in Korea and send money to my personal account at the Siam Bank. I began by sending around 60,000 baht per month. Liz would access the funds through a debit card. She convinced me that it



Working seven days a week, living in a room with no window, no air conditioning and no heat, he roamed the streets of Seoul after a dinner of peanut butter sandwiches, he was in love. Photo: Provided by 'Barry'

would be better for her to save our money. The reason for this escapes me now. I was so madly in love with this girl, I rarely paused to question 'why'."

"Each and every day Liz sent me two, three, sometimes four messages exhorting her passion for me – her undying love for me. She talked of marriage, having my baby, and an immeasurable love for me... life was indeed grand.

"At least once a month I would traverse the streets of Seoul shopping for sexy underwear, fine jewelry, candy, shoes, exercise garments, plush toys and all manner of other goodies to send to Liz

by courier. I cut out hundreds of little red paper hearts, writing 'Barry loves Liz' and 'Liz loves Barry' on each and every one," Barry wrote.

Though rarely getting to visit Liz, Barry began to notice a number of incongruities when he did make it back to the island – the type of evidence that should have served as more than just red warning flags.

Barry listed just a handful of the warning signs: "While making her bed one morning, a box of condoms fell onto the floor – not mine; answering the phone – a strange man's voice, and then a hang up; strange conversations emanating from a locked toilet; long disappearances during the day and at night.

"Frantically trying to hold onto Liz, while thousands of miles away

"Returning to Korea, I booked myself into a tiny little room, with a tiny little bed, barely big enough for me to stretch my arms... no window, no air-conditioning, and no heat.

"I began to work seven days a week. I took extra jobs early in the morning and late into the evening. I started at 5:30am and was rarely home before 10:30pm. I worked all day Saturday and Sunday as well.

"I was so excited about our marriage!"

Taking no luxuries for himself, Barry explained that he was surviving on peanut butter sandwiches and watered down orange juice – he was transferring all the money he could back to Liz in Rawai as she saved up for what he thought would be their future together.

**Wow!!! Honey!! That Big Big money Honey! Yes" Honey I think we can do very good! Because we are very good teem my love! I'm so proud you ! You try very hard for us! Honey! How come you make me so happy!! Ha! Ha! I know why Because I love you so much when I think about you think about we will get married we will move to Canada that make me so so so happy!! So this year very hard year for us. And this year very good year for me! you know why Honey? Because I will get married with 1 prison I love all my heart Is you NONG I !!!**



in Korea – I began to increase the amount of money I sent. I began to send her 104,000 baht, and two boxes of goodies per month.

Then in August this year Barry asked Liz to marry him. She accepted immediately saying "I'm the luckiest girl in Thailand!"

Barry, now 58 years old, was elated.

For two months Barry lived off of the dream of his life with Liz. They spoke over the phone "at least six times a day".

"Each conversation ended with Liz saying exactly this: I have only one plan Honey. We will get married in December. I will have your baby. We will make love all night," Barry said.

On November 20, Barry discovered that Liz had another boyfriend. "I discovered that she'd had this boyfriend for at least two years of our 'passionate' affair – maybe from the start. I discovered who he was and that he had a wife and family in Rawai.

"I was informed that he stopped by Liz's apartment every night at 9:00 pm – seconds after she had told me she was going 'beddy-bye'. These are irrefutable, verifiable facts," Barry wrote.

A deluge of stories came flooding in from friends and acquaintances still on the island.

"My heart began to shred. I confronted Liz on Skype. Me, shivering in my little room, jar of peanut butter in hand – even wearing a hat and gloves because of the lack of heat in my room. All my money having gone to Rawai three days earlier," he said.

"Liz said the man was only a friend."

Shortly after their Skype conversation, Liz made four trips to an ATM to withdraw the 104,000 baht recently sent from Korea by Barry. "I know what you're thinking – and you'd be right – 'How could I possibly be so stupid?' I was stupid.

"In the still clear recesses of my 'love sick' mind – I knew. I had been played. I had been played for a long, long time. I began to realize (albeit slowly) that Liz had never loved me. She had lied to me every day for 30 months.

"She lied to me about everything. I began to realize (as some of my Facebook acquaintances had forewarned me) that Liz had no intention of marrying me on December 21," he wrote.

On November 21 Barry put in a call to Siam Bank from Korea, asking for a hold to be put on Liz's debit card.

"Later that day, I received my last phone call from Liz... she said only one phrase, in the angriest voice I have ever heard 'F\*\*k off!' That was the last I've heard of her.

"This girl robbed me. As sure as she put her pretty hand in my pocket – she 'robbed' me. She robbed me of my money, my time, my health, my emotions, my self-confidence, my friends, my dreams, my future, and most importantly – she robbed me of my heart.

"I'm still shivering in my tiny little cubicle in Korea. Still scraping the sides of my Ligo peanut butter jar. Still watering down my orange juice to make it last longer.

"I have never liked Korea. I came here to build a life for Liz and I... I walk the streets in a daze. I had no time to make a single friend – my only goal was my life with Liz. I have never been so sad, so all alone, so disillusioned, so broken," Barry wrote.

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## Marine police hook Phuket fish smuggler



The specific types of fish seized are protected along the Andaman coast. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

A LOCAL resident in Rawai, at the southern end of Phuket, was arrested on January 3 trying to smuggle more than 200 protected-species fish to Bangkok.

Marine Police and Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) Region 5 office in Phuket arrested Boonsuan Raknawa, 41, after officers received information about protected fish being smuggled to Bangkok via a public bus.

"The suspect was caught with 232 fish, including sleepy gobies and combtooth blennies," Marine Police Region 8 Superintendent Montri Pancharoen said.

The specific types of fish Mr Boonsuan was caught with are protected along the Andaman coast, Col Montri explained.

"The suspect was charged with a wrongful act under the Enhancement and Conservation of National Environmental Quality Act, BE 2535 [also called 'NEQA 1992']. The penalty is up to one year imprisonment or a fine of up to 100,000 baht," Col Montri said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Police bust drug mule with 'Million-baht meth foot'

POLICE busted a man with methamphetamine crystals and pills, worth an estimated street value of one million baht, taped to his foot while they were making routine stops at a road checkpoint during the "Seven Days of Danger" road-safety campaign.

Narong Pongkornsopha, a 35-year-old resident in the neighboring area of Pa Klok, was stopped at the checkpoint to the south of the Heroines' Monument at about 4:30am on January 3.

"Mr Narong was on his motorbike when

we asked him to stop. We searched him and found 45.75 grams of *ya ice* [crystal methamphetamine] and 23 *ya bah* [methamphetamine] pills in bags taped to one of his feet," Police Deputy Superintendent Amnuay Kraiwoothinan said.

Lt Col Amnuay estimated the drugs to have a street value of about one million baht.

"Mr Narong was charged with possession of drugs with intent to sell and is now being detained in the holding cells at Phuket Provincial Court," Col Amnuay added.



Mr Narong, 35, points to the million baht of drugs that were taped to one of his feet when police searched him. Photo: Thawit Bilabduar

# Barrage of complaints hit Sydictive New Year Party

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

LEADING Phuket tourism and hotel figures on January 4 personally brought forward a barrage of complaints to the Phuket Governor about the Sydictive Element new year party, citing complaints that noise forced guests to check out early and trash was left strewn along Patong Beach.

The delegation filing the complaint comprised Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) President Ponganun Suwannakarn and PTA Vice President Sarayuth Mallam, along with Thai Hotels Association Southern Chapter President Suchart Hirankanokkul.

"We are here today to report the problems to Governor Maitri Inthasut and to ask that he carefully consider the effect that any similar events in the future might have on Phuket's tourism image; that he carefully consult with both private and government organizations, weighing the advantages and disadvantages such events might bring to the



Using a public beach to hold a private, profit-motivated event was one of the issues raised by the tourism leaders. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

province," explained Mr Ponganun.

The delegation cited numerous examples of complaints received from hotel owners, beach vendors and tourists.

"The party was held in the [tourism] high season, when many tourists visit Phuket to celebrate the new year. The guests staying at hotels near the party

were disturbed by the loud music and the people from the party. They could not get a good night's sleep.

"Many of them complained to hotel staff, many of them wrote letters of complaint, and many of them left their hotels before their checkout date because they could not stand the loud music," Mr Ponganun said.

He also berated the party organizers for not adhering to their agreement in maintaining beach cleanliness, and highlighted the problem of private, pay-for-entry parties being held on public beaches – a chief concern raised by Patong Mayor Pian Keesin before the party was approved.

"When they'd finished their event, they left garbage all along the beach. They weren't even concerned about cleaning it up. Many tourists filed complaints to us about how filthy the beach was after the party," Mr Ponganun said.

"Now Patong beach is filthy, full of garbage and flies," he added.

## School girls scream with high 'Scarlet Letter fever'

BIZARRE events surround a school in Samut Prakan after eight young female students were possessed by a ghost while practicing their cheerleading moves – or so reports claim.

About 20 girls from Had Amara Aksornlap School had gone to Pikka Fort Park in the Taiban area of the province to practice their dance moves.

Things started to get weird when they moved to a yard in the park next to a huge 200-year-old banyan tree. All of a sudden, eight of the girls started screaming and shaking for no discernible reason.

The other students were convinced their schoolmates had been possessed and ran to tell the teacher in charge.

The teacher and students watched the eight stricken girls



scream and writhe, hoping whatever was happening would stop of its own accord.

But the girls did not recover. Instead, their behavior became increasingly extreme.

The teacher led the other students in lighting candles and chanting prayers in an attempt to exorcise the wayward spirit from the young girls' bodies – but when the group finished their chants, the possessed girls started screaming even louder.

One student told the teacher that

a woman dressed in white was seen watching them from nearby.

The student said the woman wanted them to bring her two sets of traditional Thai clothes: one green set, one red.

The school did not have such things on hand, so the teacher led the students in prayer for the woman, telling the spirit they would come back the next day with the clothes she wanted.

But at this, the girls only screamed louder and shouted, "She hasn't left!"

As soon as she could, the teacher had the girls sent to a local hospital for treatment.

Local villagers said the children might have violated something sacred at the site, with the ghost possessing the girls as punishment.

– Khao Sod





# Furor over soap cancellation

## Government faces allegations of interference over satirical content

### AROUND THE nation

THE sudden cancellation of a soap opera that ridiculed corrupt politicians and featured a prime minister being controlled by a sorcerer has caused a furor and raised the specter of government interference in the media.

Channel 3, which broadcast the show *Nua Mek 2* ("Above the Clouds"), claims it decided of its own accord to cancel the program.

In an on-screen message on the night of January 4, the broadcaster announced that the show had been replaced because of "inappropriate" content.

The channel later stated that the show might have broken Article 37 of the Broadcast and Telecommunications Operations Act 2008, which prohibits "programs that seek to overthrow the

constitutional monarchy, the country's democracy, threaten national security or morality, constitute profanity or harm people's mental or physical health."

But rumors quickly spread that the channel had been forced to end the soap because its content was deemed an attack on the Pheu Thai-led government.

Some users of social media suggested a government minister had told Channel 3 to pull the program.

A popular television psychiatrist, Kampanart Tansithabudhkun, resigned from hosting his Channel 3 sex-counselling show to show his disgust at the channel's move.

"To neither be a hypocrite, hosting the show while criticizing the channel, nor be false and shameless like someone in that society and in that television station, I have decided to quit the show, despite hosting it for 10 years," he said on his Facebook page.

The sex guru of *Choo Rak*, *Choo Ros* (Spicing Up Love, Spicing Up Gratification) said he found



Democrat spokesman Peerapong Manakit attacked the government over the ban of the soap. Photo: The Nation

the management's decision to pull *Nua Mek 2* unacceptable, saying they were a "disgrace" as members of the media.

The government strenuously denied trying to get the show

cancelled. Pheu Thai Party spokesperson Sunisa Lertpakawat even issued a denial that party patron Thaksin Shinawatra had been behind the move.

It was "impossible and insen-

sible" for Thaksin to interfere with this matter, she said.

She added that the accusations obviously came from political enemies of Thaksin and Pheu Thai.

## Gun-free zone after stray bullet kills Brit tourist

THAILAND's reputation as a safe tourism destination took a serious hit after a young British tourist was killed by a stray bullet on Koh Phangan on New Year's Eve.

In a bid to improve safety on the island – or counter bad publicity – authorities in Surat Thani Province said they would not issue new gun permits or renew existing ones.

The idea would be to make the province's holiday islands, including Pha-ngan, "gun-free zones".

Stephen Ashton, 22, died at a bar on the island after being hit by a stray bullet when a gunfight erupted between two local gangs.

Thai man Ekkapan Kaewkla, 26, has been charged with the killing and is in police custody.

"He [Mr Ashton] has been taken away from us in such cruel and tragic circumstances in which he was an innocent bystander simply enjoying New Year celebrations," Mr Ashton's family said in a statement.

Pha-ngan, a resort island, draws thousands of tourists and



Ekkapan Kaewkla. Photo: The Nation

backpackers to its famous full moon parties each year.

Last year, up to 21.5 million tourists visited Thailand, higher than the projected 20.5 million. The government aims for 21 million arrivals this year and hopes to receive up to 22.2 million in 2014.

The gun-free campaign should be at all resorts in Thailand, vice president of the Thai Hotels Association Prakrit Chinamouphong said.

## Preah Vihear dispute back

THAILAND's dispute with Cambodia over the Preah Vihear Temple is making headlines again in advance of the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) verdict on sovereignty of the area surrounding it, due later this year.

The yellow-shirt Thai Patriots group is planning a rally later this month to pressure the government to reject any ruling

against Thailand. However, Foreign Minister Surapong Towichukchaikul cautioned that Thais should be ready for possible disappointment in the court dispute.

"Every country has to accept the ICJ's decision. Refusal to accept it may put Thailand in a difficult position in the world arena," Mr Surapong said.

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NATUZZI



## In brief...

## Three accused in Indian rape case get legal help

THREE of the men accused of raping and murdering an Indian student have asked lawyers to defend them and the lawyers have agreed to do so, even though most of the judiciary has refused to represent the suspects because of outrage over the attack.

Protests followed the 23-year-old physiotherapy student dying two weeks after being beaten and gang-raped on a bus in New Delhi.

## Belfast faces worst riots since 1998

PRO-BRITISH protesters pelted police with petrol bombs and fireworks in a sixth successive night of rioting in Northern Ireland's capital of Belfast.

Businesses have been disrupted and Belfast's reputation tarnished by some of the worst scenes seen since a 1998 peace deal ended 30 years of conflict in the province.

## Helicopter crash in Amazon kills seven

SEVEN employees of US-based Columbia Helicopters were killed in a helicopter crash on Monday in Peru's Amazon jungle, the company said on Tuesday.

The helicopter crashed minutes after taking off from Pucallpa, about 780km east of Lima. There were no survivors, a Peruvian judicial official said.

# 'Dark Knight massacre' details revealed in court

By Keith Coffman

THE former graduate student accused of shooting dead a dozen people at a Colorado movie theater in July sat impassively in court on Monday as police recounted the nightmarish mix of blood, tear gas, screams and flashing strobe lights they found in the darkened cinema.

Outside the crowded theater, police confronted the accused gunman, James Holmes, wearing a helmet, gas mask and head-to-toe body armor, the officers testified. He surrendered without a struggle, they said, and apart from smirking when asked whether he had acted alone, Holmes seemed "detached" from the mayhem around him.

Testimony from the first officers to reach the chaotic crime scene opened a hearing in which prosecutors set out to convince a judge that they have enough evidence to put Holmes on trial for one of the deadliest mass shootings in US history.

The one-time University of Colorado doctoral student of neuroscience is charged with multiple counts of first-degree murder and attempted murder stemming from a shooting rampage that left 12 dead and 58 wounded at a midnight screening of the Batman film *The Dark Knight Rises*.

The so-called preliminary hear-



Colorado shooting suspect James Holmes is pictured in a courtroom sketch as he is led into court for a preliminary hearing. Image: Reuters

ing is expected to last a week and offers the public its first detailed look into the investigation of the July 20 carnage in Aurora.

Most of the evidence against Holmes has been sealed, and Arapahoe County District Judge William Sylvester has issued a gag order preventing all parties, including law enforcement, from discussing the case outside court.

It also will give Holmes' lawyers an opportunity to call witnesses to testify about his mental state. They are expected to mount an insanity defense if the case goes to trial.

Public defender Daniel King has said that his client suffers from an unspecified mental illness.

Aurora Police Officer Jason Oviatt opened the testimony by

recounting that he saw "a trail of blood that led to the theater" as he approached Holmes in the rear parking lot, initially mistaking the suspect for a fellow policeman.

Holmes "immediately put his hands up" when ordered to freeze, and he was handcuffed and taken into custody without resistance, Officer Oviatt said.

Officer Justin Grizzle testified that Holmes kept silent after his arrest. "He didn't respond verbally. He looked at me and smiled," Officer Grizzle recalled. "It was a smirk."

Authorities have concluded that Holmes acted alone.

As terrified moviegoers fled the theater, Officer Oviatt said that Holmes appeared to be "very detached from it all".

Officers who rushed into the theater from the parking lot described the macabre scene they encountered as the film projection continued while people moaned and cried for help.

Officer Grizzle choked back tears as he testified about how he tried to attend to the wounded before paramedics arrived, saying, "I didn't want anyone else to die."

The Aurora shooting ranked as the bloodiest instance of US gun violence in 2012 until last month's massacre of 20 children and six adults at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut.

— Reuters

## Chinese protest outside newspaper gates in censorship demonstration

SCORES of supporters of one of China's most liberal newspapers demonstrated outside its headquarters on Monday in a rare protest against censorship, backing an unusual strike by journalists against interference by the provincial propaganda chief.

The protest in Guangzhou, capital of southern Guangdong province, comes amid an escalating standoff between the government and the people over press freedom. It is also an early test of Communist Party Chief Xi Jinping's commitment to reform.

The outcry began late last week after reporters at the influential *Southern Weekly* newspaper accused censors of replacing an original New Year's letter to readers that called for a constitutional government with another piece lauding the party's achievements.

Police allowed the demonstration outside the headquarters of the Southern Group, illustrating that the Guangdong government, led by newly appointed and rising political star Hu Chunhua, wants to tread carefully to contain rising public anger over censorship.



Demonstrators outside of *Southern Weekly's* headquarters. Photo: Reuters

The protesters, most of them young, laid down small hand-written signs that said "freedom of expression is not a crime" and "Chinese people want freedom". Many clutched yellow chrysanthemums, symbolizing mourning the death of press freedom.

"The Nanfang (Southern) Media Group is relatively willing to speak the truth in China so we need to stand up for its courage and support it now," Ao Jiayang, a young NGO worker with bright orange dyed hair said.

Last Sunday night, the *Southern Weekly* official microblog

denied the removal of the New Year Letter was due to censorship, saying the "online rumors were false". Those remarks drew criticism from Chinese internet users.

Many *Southern Weekly* journalists disavowed themselves from the statement on the microblog, which they say was taken over by management, and pledged to go on strike the next day.

Several open letters have circulated on the internet calling for the Guangdong propaganda chief, Tuo Zhen, to step down, blaming him for muzzling the press.

— Reuters

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# Coping with labor costs

As the standard of living increases for Thailand's poorest workers, businesses are experimenting with new ways to become more efficient and competitive



A textile factory worker operates the hand loom. Photo: Reuben Strayer



Chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries, Mr Payungsak Chartsutipol, third from left, meets with members of Thailand's auto industry.

## Pranee Muenphangwaree

AS labor-intensive industries adjust their operations in order to cope with the nationwide 300 baht minimum daily wage, efforts include trimming logistics costs, improving production efficiency and hiring only skilled workers.

Tawee Piyapattana, president of Pacific Fish Processing Co, which specializes in the production of frozen seafood, says the company, which employs 3,000 people, will not lay off personnel but will instead focus on cutting logistics expenses. He claims this new strategy will also boost production efficiency and human-resource management.

Mr Tawee says his company will not raise prices in the short term, which would risk loss of market share during a time of intense competition in the export market.

The total export of processed seafood from Thailand dropped by 15% last year, amid tough competition from exporters in neighboring countries.

The chairman of the Textile

Industry Club of the Federation of Thai Industries (FTI), Somsak Srisupornwanit, says the shutdown of a textile company in Saraburi province, is the result of declining purchase orders from foreign markets, especially as the European economy remains sluggish.

He added that the minimum-wage increase has aggravated his company's situation – while revenue fell labor costs rose.

The wage increase is expected to pressure manufacturers in remote rural areas to relocate their plants to more urban areas in order to save on logistics costs. Another option is that some companies may choose to relocate to low-paying neighboring countries such as Cambodia and Myanmar.

Therefore, it is possible that the concentration of factories in Greater Bangkok and major cities will become denser in the near

future, as companies seek a solution to streamlining efficiency.

However, Mr Somsak does not expect to see many factories closing down, as their owners will exhaust all options available to them.

"The textile business is not limited to garment production but can supply products to different sectors, such as the fast-growing auto industry," says Mr Somsak. "In one [new]

car model, at least 40 parts of the body uses textile material," he added.

One bright spot for Thai economists is that domestic car production is expected to reach 2.6 million units by the end of this year.

"If textile makers begin to work more closely with other high-growth sectors or supply products to the fashion sector, they will have a chance to survive. Small textile companies can also seek subcon-

tracts from bigger peers," he adds.

FTI vice chairman Vallop Vitanakorn says textile plants will not abruptly shut down in reaction to rising labor costs but would instead first slow production and stop recruiting new workers. If they have to recruit, they will select only skilled labor, he adds.

Sukit Kongpiyajarn, president of the Thai Garment Manufacturers Association, said after a meeting on the impact of the wage increase that manufacturers will have to improve production efficiency and control costs. If they pay overtime for 25 days, they will experience an additional cost of 1,600 baht per worker per month.

He expects it to become clear in the second quarter whether or not the sector can survive.

However, he noted that Thailand is not the only country trying to improve the incomes of its lowest-paid citizens. Vietnam has also raised labor wages by 18%.

If the garment producers can hold on for three years, the competition between Thailand and Vietnam will be on par.

'Another option is that some companies might choose to relocate to low-paying neighboring countries such as Cambodia and Myanmar.'

## Safety concerns



### PM Yingluck Shinawatra

TOURIST safety will be a national agenda item, the Tourism and Sports Ministry has announced.

Ministry spokesman Vachara Kannikar, referring to two Russian women who were assaulted and raped in Pattaya, said such incidents tarnish Thailand's reputation.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra has instructed state agencies to work together closely in protecting tourists from assault, robbery and other criminal acts.

Vachara said 1.6 million Russian tourists visited last year, generating a 60 bn baht revenue. -Mcot



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**HONDA**

## In brief...

### 900 Blue Flag campaigns planned

The Internal Trade Department plans to hold more than 900 Blue Flag campaigns nationwide this year to help consumers cut their cost of living amid rising prices.

"Blue Flag prices will be 20-40% lower than the market," said Viboonluck Rumraksa, director-general. The products on sale include daily necessities such as rice, vegetable oil, sugar, eggs, instant noodles, soap and toothbrushes.

### OK urged for water management scheme

The Public Debt Management Office has asked the Budget Bureau to approve a 340 billion baht budget for water management projects.

Supa Piyajitti, deputy permanent secretary of the Finance Ministry, who also manages the PDMO, said recently that if the Budget Bureau did not approve the project, the PDMO would not be able to borrow funds according to the plan. It has borrowed 10 bn baht so far.

"We believe that the Budget Bureau will approve the plan by May," said Mrs Supa.

### Ministry, BOI lure Japan investment

The Industry Ministry has joined with the Board of Investment in setting up a promotional panel to increase Japanese investment in Thailand by an average of 5% per year until 2014.

The program will focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) in Japan. Japanese SMEs will be encouraged to form ties with Thailand's SMEs under a business-matching program.

This program will target 500 SMEs from both countries.



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# NBTC fines mobile operators

THAILAND'S National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) ordered state-owned TOT, and three major mobile operators, to pay a combined fine of more than 50 million baht for breaching the law on mobile services to their customers.

Thakorn Tantasith, NBTC secretary general, said TOT was ordered to sign an interconnection (IC) agreement with Total Access Communication (DTAC) but it failed to do so, subjecting the state corporation to a fine of 20,000 baht per day, retroactive to Oct 8, 2010.

The Appeals Administrative Court ruled that TOT should enter an IC agreement with DTAC, but TOT chose to appeal this decision.

TOT and DTAC are in negotiations, which should conclude soon, he said.

The fine has accumulated to over 16.38mn baht and TOT will have to pay even more than that despite the ongoing dispute, pending the final verdict of the Supreme Administrative Court, Mr Thakorn said.

He said three mobile operators – Advance Info Service (AIS), DTAC and TrueMove – failed to follow an NBTC order to collect data and register personal details of their prepaid customers.

Each operator is subject to a fine of 80,000 baht per day, retroactive from July 6 last year, Mr Thakorn said, adding that the



NBTC members deliberate during the 3G spectrum auction held last year. Photo: Mcot

total fine from the three operators is over 14.56 mn baht, or around 3.64mn baht each.

The daily 80,000 baht fine will be in force until the day they pay, he said.

NBTC, he added, prohibits mobile operators from setting expiry dates on prepaid cards but they ignored the warning, compelling them to a daily fine of 10,000 baht, retroactive from May 30 last year.

As of last week, that fine amounted to

21.9mn baht, or 7.3mn baht per operator.

Mr Thakorn said the orders were meant to protect consumers, while mobile operators will be invited for talks and asked to pay the fine.

"The NBTC is not a 'paper tiger' but its order is not final. Mobile operators have the right to seek justice from the Administrative Court," he explained.

– Mcot



Toyota factory, Chonburi. Photo: Nation

## Thai car production soars

THE number of cars and pickup trucks produced in Thailand in 2013 could increase to 2.7 million from the predicted 2.5mn, according to the Thai Automotive Industry Association (TAIA).

TAIA President Piengjai Kaewsuan, said manufacturers are moving ahead with production capacity to meet the demand for 1.25mn cars, following orders received by buyers encouraged to purchase their first vehicles using the government's first car scheme.

Some 700,000 workers are needed for the entire supply chain of the auto production process, from vehicle manufacturers to spare parts retail stores. About half of the workers will be employed in car manufacturing. However, Ms Piengjai said small and medium-sized (SMEs) enterprises producing spare parts will face a lack of skilled workers, as bigger companies offer staff better opportunities and remuneration packages.

– Mcot

## Pork profits getting fatter



PRICEY PIG: Bellies are considered a premium cut. Photo: Clay Irving

THAILAND'S pork exports are surging, due to new orders from several countries thanks to the the Kingdom's internationally-recognized production standard, claims Agriculture Minister Yukol Lim-laemthong.

Mr Yukol said new export-destination countries, such as India and Singapore have ordered cooked and processed pork from Thailand, and then exported the products to Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia and Vietnam. Thailand exported hogs, as well as fresh and processed pork, worth 3.9 billion baht last year.

The livestock region in eastern Thailand is expected to be declared free of foot and mouth disease in May after an endorsement by the World Organization for Animal Health.

The endorsement will also contribute to increasing the

export volume of Thai hogs and pork products, he said.

On stabilizing the prices of hogs and pork products, Mr Yukol said a 61.8 million baht budget will be allocated for the scheme between December 2012 and June 2013, when hogs will be purchased from local breeders to be exported to Southeast Asian countries, particularly in Laos and Cambodia.

When the pork price falls below 55 baht per kg, 150,000 hogs will be purchased for export in order to help breeders. Mr Yukol added that the Livestock Department has been assigned to set up an *ad hoc* committee to work on the scheme.

The price of farm-breeding hogs is currently at 57.9 baht/kg, while the breeding cost is between 58-59 baht.

– Mcot



A baby Thai pig. Photo: David Schroeter

LEADING media and advertising agencies are optimistic that their businesses could rise as much as 12% to 135 billion baht this year, provided there is no new political strife, since there has been strong advertising spending through free-TV and rises in alternative media.

The full launch of 3G cellular services will also open more opportunities for local digital creative agencies. Businesses at large expect to experience intense competition as a result of high growth business, including non-alcoholic beverages, skincare products, automobiles, telecommunications and retail.

Advertising spending in alternative media, such as cable/satellite TV, out-of-home and digital media enjoyed double-digit growth in 2012, but 60% of total ad expenditure was still in TV.

Vichai Suphasomboon, CEO of Aegis Media (Thailand), the country's second largest media agency, said last week, that quality content and production was the key to success for local TV broadcasters.

Stakeholders keep investing in that area because strong television programs remain attractive to local advertisers and boost their TV ratings.

Cable and satellite TV operators, which are mostly leading content producers, also follow the same track, but local advertisers prefer to use those channels to communicate to segmented audiences.

According to leading satellite TV operators such as RS and Nation Broadcasting Corp (NBC), this year cable and satellite TV is expected to rise to 15% of total ad budgets via television, more than double last year at 7%. Out-of-home media,

## Advertisers to gain new footing in 2013



An outdoor billboard advertisement in Bangkok. Photo: Roger Price

such as billboards, transit, in-store and cinema, were also expected to maintain double-digit growth this year as related businesses are expanding in first and second tier provinces.

Surachet Bumrongsuk, country manager at Kinetic Worldwide (Thailand), said this development was also the result of the migration of Bangkok residents to the provinces and a change in consumer lifestyles due to bulging purchasing power.

Ichaya Santitrakul, founding partner of leading independent media and advertising agency Brand Connections, said old-fashioned billboards were being converted into multimedia screens that let media agencies

sell many ads on the same billboards.

Up country expansion of retail businesses such as Central Plaza, Index Living Mall, HomePro, Big C Supercenter and Tesco Lotus, as well as movie operators like Major Cineplex and SF Cinacity have opened more doors for media agencies that offer in-store, cinema and outdoor ads.

The start of 3G cellular services this year is expected to help advertisers move quickly towards digital media, so some ad agencies are forming a digital and online unit to exploit this market. Due to fierce competition, advertising is still needed.

– The Nation



# Thailand's first container mall

## PROPERTY Gazette

THAILAND'S first 'container mall', the colorful new Boat Avenue Shopping Street is taking shape as part of a cosmopolitan community in Cherg Talay and is set to be finished by the end of the year.

The mixed-use retail, commercial and residential development covering 25 rai is the latest community-style project by Phuket-based developer Boat Development. Director Mr Boon Yongsakul said that the project is on schedule for completion by the end of the year.

"The spacious open-air retail area covers more than 2,000 square meters and comprises 16 trendy shop-spaces made of reconditioned containers as well as a new Villa Market supermarket stocking a wide range of international produce," said Mr Yongsakul.

According to Mr Boon, the vibrant container conversions will be available for rent as shop units by March 16 and the Villa Market is expected to be complete by June.

A dozen stylish three and



**INNOVATIVE:** A computer graphic of what the planned container mall in Cherg Talay will look like once finished.

four-storey shop house units overlook the shopping street and connect to the walking street via an elevated walkway, also created from recycled containers.

Mr Yongsakul's first commercial project in Phuket was the Phuket Shopping Center, which boasted the island's first escalators, when it was built more than 20 years ago.

Since then, he has put various mixed-use commercial and residential developments on the map, including Phuket Center Apartment and Boat Lagoon in Koh Kaew.

The eco-friendly design concept of using recycled shipping

containers to create Boat Avenue's multi-tiered shopping mall was locally designed by Able Architects, headed by Pakhin Aunggulsant, whose conscientious approach to sustainable design has won global recognition, including the BCI Asia Green Leadership Award for the self-sustaining Orang Laut Cultural Centre, designed to preserve the sea gypsy culture in Rassada.

Urban lifestyle developer Tri Property has also teamed up with Boat Development to bring the new west coast community to life, with Zcape Condominium and Zcape X2 Condominium,

each providing resort-style facilities and smart, affordable units, which give residents direct access to the shopping street.

Once complete, the Boat Avenue will have parking spaces for up to 100 cars and provide a range of shopping, dining and entertainment options.

Mr Yongsakul said the container mall has already received a great deal of interest. Among the outlets will be unique boutique stores and trendy eateries catering to a distinctly cosmopolitan crowd of locals, expats and international tourists.

— *Phuket Gazette*

## KMC hope to stop the rot

KRISDA Mahanakorn (KMC) is trying to regain its former glory by increasing capital to 142 billion baht to build a fast recovery in its loss-making business.

KMC's board of directors has approved a doubling in par value from 10 baht to 20 baht and the offering of 4.49bn new shares to existing shareholders for 0.5 baht, against the 20 baht par value. Then par value would be slashed from 20 baht to 0.7 baht to write down share loss and retained losses.

As of September, the losses were 28.7bn baht.

A total of 5bn shares with par value of 0.7 baht are to be offered in a private placement for not lower than 90 per cent of the market price.

Shareholders will meet on February 11 to approve the resolution, which involves the issuance of 12.1bn new shares.

Asia Plus Securities expects a 78.3 per cent dilution effect, but the company would have more capital to fund expansion.

In the first nine months of last year, KMC showed a net loss of 51mn baht on 365mn baht in sales. KMC in 2010 and 2011 managed to report net profits of 30mn baht and 86mn baht, against a 511mn baht net loss in 2009.

— *The Nation*

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This imagery is for conceptual purpose only and may not be the same as the actual complete project.



# A touch of class and comfort

FOUNDED back in 1996, Euro Creations, through its exclusive brand name products, is a leading player in high-end home furnishings in Thailand. It started as a *niche* player in the classical furniture business; the home furnishing company has a number of high-end brands under their banner, including Natuzzi, which has a store in the Häfele building opposite Phuket International Hospital.

## Phuket Gazette: Why choose to open a branch in Phuket?

Phuket is a great hub for southern Thailand and we plan to take advantage of this to expand to Krabi and Surat Thani.

This area has diverse cultures and lifestyles. People who live on Phuket (both expat & local) understand what home and lifestyle is all about.

The property, real estate and hospitality markets on the island are growing. The growth of these markets and development of the economy help to increase demand in furniture.

Natuzzi is the only luxury European furniture brand in Phuket.

## How is your product different to others on Phuket?

Every single piece of Natuzzi furniture is developed by our Natuzzi research center and made in Italy with the best quality

material.

Natuzzi is the only luxury furniture brand on Phuket who install built-in innovation into a piece of furniture, like the sound chair (an egg-shaped chair with a built-in speaker), Brio (touch sensor adjustable sofa) and wave (sectional sofa with built-in speaker)

## What type of things do you sell?

Natuzzi offers furniture for living rooms, dining rooms and home theaters, as well as home accessories like paintings, Murano glass vases, floor lamps and wall units.

## What are your most popular sellers?

Natuzzi is most famous for its sofas. We have a sofa that can be turned into a bed by using a touch sensor. The sofas come in a variety of leather, depending on the preference of the owner and usage of the sofa. Most of all, each model can be customized to fit well with any home style. Natuzzi only uses leather from animals that are killed for the food industry. The animals are not killed for their leather.

## Has the furniture market changed?

Yes. The size of furniture has changed to become smaller and smaller. Natuzzi and other brands under Euro Creations are not

affected as much by this trend because most of our items are customized.

## How do you market and brand Euro Creations?

Euro Creations are known as a real player in the luxury European furniture business. We do not have direct competitors because we offer: lifestyle, uniqueness, quality, and designer pieces. We market ourselves in the high-end furniture bracket.

We are partners with other luxury brands such as, Ferrari, Yafriro and Raimon Land. We only organize events in high-end properties.

We take care of our customers in the details because we do not have a large customer base.

## Who tend to be your main buyers?

Local and foreigners who live in Phuket and nearby provinces. Also, projects that are looking for luxury European furniture with a modern style.

## Do you mainly sell imported furniture over local? Why?

Euro Creations exclusively sells imported furniture because of our experience in the luxury market.

We offer exclusive options for home lovers who are looking for world class residences with unique style.



VERSATILE: A touch sensor sofa, which is part of Natuzzi's Brio collection.



NEW SOUND: An egg-shaped chair with built in speaker.



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Currently under construction. The developer reserves the right at any time to make changes to the project at its own discretion. Images are computer generated and for visual reference only.



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# UK bill reassures QROPS retirees

WITH the recent release of the draft finance bill for 2013, the UK government has eased worries of the QROPS

(Qualified Recognized Overseas Pension Schemes) industry that new legislation might close down the market.

Last year, offshore pension providers were quite shocked when HMRC (Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) removed overnight the ability of expat retirees to transfer their pensions to Guernsey, which had been at the forefront of the offshore pension transfer industry.

There have been some minor changes in this year's bill – mainly dealing with reporting requirements in the event that a pension scheme should no longer be a QROPS in the future – but overall it is seen as a positive nod from the government that they aren't going to close down the market.

Many retirees were worried that their right to transfer a pension to a jurisdiction other than the one they reside in, might be legislated away. Obviously, this would be a huge blow to anyone planning to retire in Thailand, as there is no qualifying scheme administered from this country.

If you have large potential tax liabilities when drawing your pension, transferring to an offshore pension scheme is a way to stretch the after tax value when drawing your pension down. In Gibraltar you will pay a flat 2.5%

## Retirement Years

By David Mayes



Photo: Stan Dalone

income tax regardless of the amount, which can almost double the spending power of your pension if you are in the upper tax bracket of the UK.

However, one needs to ensure that the benefits outweigh the costs, and many smaller pensions are simply not worth transferring. HMRC has been proactive in giving warning to advisors who do not provide accurate advice in this area, even going so far as threatening to seek hefty fines from companies that falsely claim to be specialists.

For instance, even with our firm's FSA (Financial Services Authority of the UK) regulated branch, which has staff holding specialist qualifications for pensions and taxation, we have been advised by counsel to refrain from use of the word "specialist" despite the number of successful transfers we have completed.

That being said, I would make sure any company advising you on the transfer of your UK pension would be regulated within the UK and hold the required qualifications to give the proper exit advice. Keep in mind that as far as Thailand goes, regardless of what qualifications an advisor holds in other jurisdictions, their advice in this country is not regulated by those agencies.

While there is no guarantee the HMRC will not do a 180 degree turn next year, it is good to know that for now expats retir-



LAZY DAYS: Phuket's retirees dependent on QROPS can breathe a sigh of relief. Photo: Stan Dalone

ing to countries such as Thailand will be able to move their pensions to a safe jurisdiction and potentially save a fortune in taxes. The larger the pension is, generally speaking, the larger the potential tax bracket and thus the greater the potential benefits from moving the pension offshore.

David Mayes MBA lives in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expats around the globe, focusing on UK pension transfers. He also runs Humble Asset Management, a British Virgin Islands based alternative investment fund. He can be reached at david.m@faramond.com or 085-335-8573.

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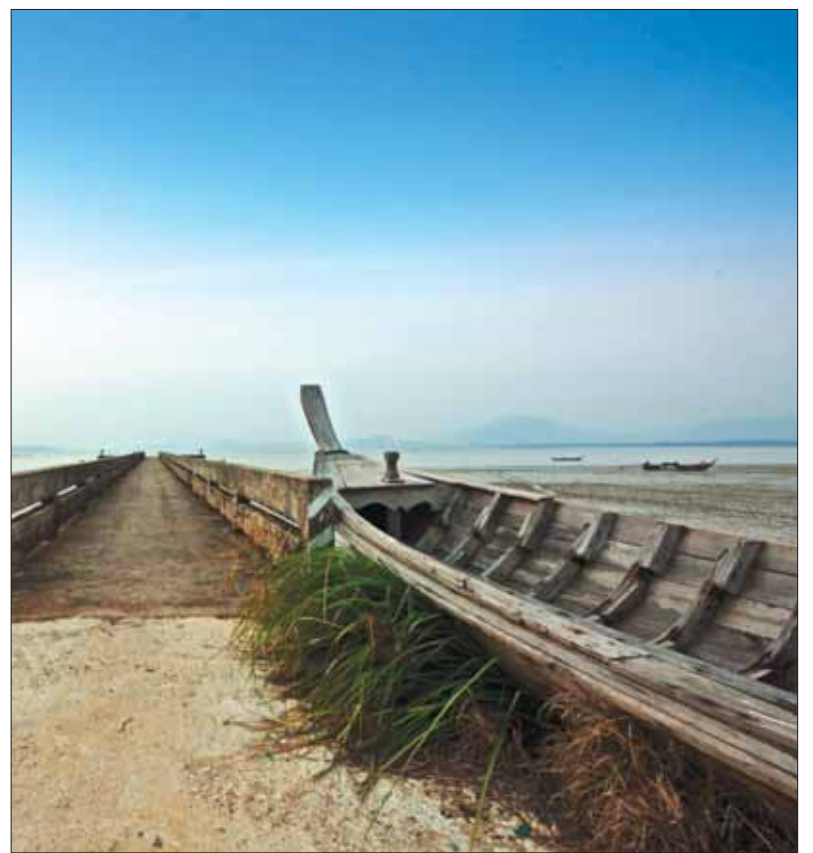
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TOUCHDOWN: A plane lands at Phuket International Airport, which has undergone expansion. Photo: Andy Mitchell



Cape Yamu, still a pristine natural environment. Photo: Kevin Hellon

# Bold predictions for 2013



## Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

BELIEVING Chinese zodiac signs went out sometime in the 1970s, though clearly citizens of Sedona and Byron Bay didn't get the memo.

We are about to enter the twelve year cycle of the Snake. From a quick look around the zodiac, the slimy reptile is still trumped by the Dragon, but nonetheless, words like mysterious, cattiness (love that one) and malevolence describe some of its supposed traits. This is a pretty potent package.

Heading out of the dark days of 2012, into the stark sunshine of 2013, this year I've decided not to write any self-indulgent 'best of' columns or quips. Maybe the horizon isn't even that bright and it's more like a midnight run at the refrigerator with a bad case of the munchies?

Let's take a look at what's going to buzz in the year ahead, or at least what's worth 'getting up for' in the whacked out world of property, tourism and hotels.

I must first add that this is a random 'bird's-eye view' appraisal, it is in no particular order and has no favors given, nor asked. Now that we have dispensed with the fine print, here we go:

Point Yamu by Comco – After years of tribulations and management changes, this development looks to answer the question, "Who on the East Coast can become a mainstream hotel in the market?" Sri Panwa took the bar far and ran with it, then the Regent stuck in a shoulder and has moved ahead, now the impetus is on Point Yamu to

bring it home.

### The Naka Phuket

Designed by Duangrit Bunnag is a chic offering set to position well in the boutique market and is a unique reprieve from what currently plagues the island's hotel trade. All these 'same sames'; at last the cookie cutter was thrown away and we can celebrate something new and different.

### Luxury Villas

After being stuck in neutral with an inevitable funk of fatigue, we'll see a new generation of multi-million dollar property offerings at Rosewood on the Patong head-

'I must first add that this is a random 'bird's-eye view' appraisal, it is in no particular order and has no favors given nor asked. Now that we've dispensed with the fine print, here we go...'

lands, Point Yamu, Anantara Layan and the nearby Kajima estate. Throw in the new Malaiwana Residences and perhaps it's time to check in on the progress of the Park Hyatt on Koh Sireh.

### 'Condotels'

For better or worse, investors are back in Phuket and these lifestyle offerings have regained some glitter. Laguna Shores was only the beginning. Next comes the Amari Residences and a slew of others are expected to tempt overseas purchasers with the dream of 'branded-hotel managed units' and high-yield returns. If you read my column on a regular basis, you understand the reality. Enough said.

### Resales vs New Sales

The balance has shifted in favor of resales due to a flat and broad resort grade market, in addition to

the Global Financial Crisis and an overabundance of secondary product. We're seeing new projects and phases selling, which shows that buyer sentiments are improving.

### Airport and Tunnels

Thank God, there are signs of life on Phuket's infrastructure development and dirt is being pushed. It's going to be ugly for now but at least the ball is rolling.

### Celebrity Skin

Expect new offerings of international-branded beach clubs, designer and maybe even some property-branded developments to surge in the snake era. In Asia, giving face has never been more important.

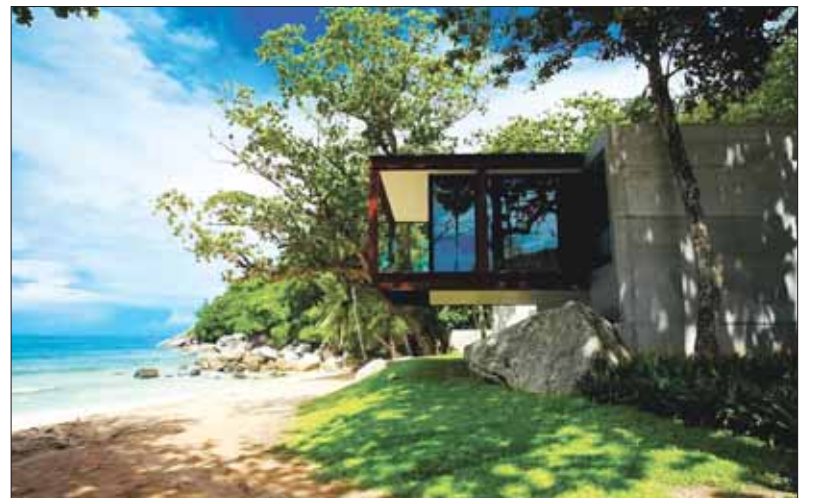
### Yingluck Shinawatra

The jury is out on the effectiveness of the current administration and there's no end in sight for the reds, yellows, whites, blacks, and browns. But in the age of Instagram, she is without a doubt the most photogenic world leader. Thailand – smile and say cheese.

Sure I can go on and on, but this needs to end for God's sake. The future of Phuket is ahead of us, not behind as the naysayers would have you believe. Certainly there will be time to ponder this as the traffic gets worse or you try to find a parking slot at Central but reflection is good.

I'm not sure about this whole snake thing, but things can change. Or possible get worse. The only thing we can be sure of is: in the land of same same, nothing stands still for long.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through [C9hotelworks.com](http://C9hotelworks.com).



A villa at The Naka resort, off Phuket's soon-to-be famous East Coast.

## Property roundup



Land &amp; Houses, Phuket

ONE of the major Thai-listed real estate investors into the Phuket property sector Land & Houses are seeing their development footprint creep north.

The 128 home Inizo project near British International School (BIS), which was launched last year, is expected to complete in April. Pricings are from just under 4 million baht up to just under 5mn baht.

The two storey houses feature three bedrooms, two bathrooms and two-car parking. – Bill Barnett



Laguna Shores

LEADING destination resort Laguna Phuket has signed a deal for a Challenge half Ironman on December 1, 2013.

The Ironman 70.3 Asia Pacific Championship, which has been held on the island the past two years, will be moving on to Melbourne, Australia.

Laguna's Tri-Fest includes the long running Laguna Phuket Triathlon, which will run on November 24<sup>th</sup>, the week before the Challenge event. – Bill Barnett



PHUKET and neighboring provinces contain some of the finest villa developments in Thailand. However, under Thai law, foreigners are generally prohibited from owning land. However, they are, as many are aware, allowed to own buildings. Therefore, a common method for foreigners to purchase a villa is to lease a land plot (or plots) from a Thai landowner, and purchase (or construct) the villa.

Thai law permits a maximum registrable lease term of 30 years.

At the end of the 30-year term, the lease may be renewed together by the lessor (the landowner) and lessee (the buyer) but such a renewal

agreement is by contract only, not pre-registration at the land office. Most land lease agreements for the leasing of land in Phuket's villa developments contain provisions stating that the lease will be renewed for two additional 30-year terms. As such, a common lease arrangement is 30 years + 30 years + 30 years, for a total of 90 years, thus providing a time period that can be considered "near-freehold". However, many potential buyers and their international legal counsel question the validity and enforceability of the renewal term.

#### Challenges of leasehold arrangements

As stated above, a significant drawback with such leasehold arrangements is that there is no legal guarantee that a landowner will actually renew the lease. Thai law does not require such lease renewals. A lessor's "obligation" to renew a lease is merely a contractual promise. Therefore, if the lessor chooses not to renew the lease, it is a breach of contract, and not a violation of the law per se. The likelihood of a lessor breaking a contractual promise to renew a lease increases when the land is transferred to a third party, as is likely during a 30-year term, since such a third party may (incorrectly) conclude that it is not under the same obligations as its predecessor.

What is more, a lessee's remedies are limited in the event of a lessor's breach of a contractual obligation to renew a lease term. To compel renewal, a court action must be initiated. However, the

#### Property Legal

By D Hughes and J Frangos

damages that are available regarding a breach of a renewal clause are restricted to damages, and a lessee cannot

"force" a renewal.

#### Collective Leasehold

However, despite the challenges outlined above, a structure is available that can provide greater security for villa owners. The structure is known as "collective leasehold", where owners, as a group, take a minority shareholding in the landowning company via a corporate entity. Through corporate and legal structuring, the owners would be able to provide their opinions on issues regarding the landowning company. Importantly, this would include renewal of leases.

This structure works by all the owners in a development each owning shares in an offshore (non-Thai) company. Usually, such shareholding corresponds with the land plots leased. In other words, if an owner leases two plots, they would own two shares in the "owners' company". This offshore company would then purchase a minority stake in the landowning company.

As such, the owners have a say in the landowning company's corporate decision-making, especially regarding the development's land. The end result of the collective leasehold structure is that owners have more control over their own villa investments.

The primary drawback of the collective leasehold structure is that it requires the full consent of the landowner to be implemented. For example, the lessor must agree to allow the lessees to own a stake (even if a minority portion). However, the structure

# Collective Leasehold Structures: Overview



Decrease risk when buying a villa with a Collective Leasehold agreement. Photo: Janet Lindenmuth

can ultimately be beneficial to landowners, who are often the villa project's developer, in that greater owner security means a more attractive project to potential investors.

#### Conclusion

Collective leasehold structures provide owners in villa developments the legal means to have a greater say in their villa projects. Importantly, this means that owners have increased control over the renewal of their leases, thus mitigating a major risk associated with long-term leases in villa developments. For the structure to be successfully implemented, owners must

work with the project's developer or landowner. While such a proposition may seem daunting to many owners, if correctly implemented, a collective leasehold structure has benefits for both owners and landowners. Projects, which do not have collective leasehold structures now, but contain multiple stand alone lease agreements, could be converted to this safer system.

*This article was co-written by Desmond Hughes, Deputy CEO, and John Frangos, Senior Associate, of the law firm of Limcharoen Hughes and Glanville.*

## Getting rich with real estate

MANY people think that if they do not have much money, they can't invest in real estate.

"And with that attitude, they will never get started," says Pichai Chawla a property and stock investment expert.

"You should learn first that at some point, money will arrive. Don't wait to have money before getting started. [Because] you will never do it," he adds.

The property and stock investment expert, who runs the B2 budget-hotel group as well as property and other businesses in Chiang Mai, said what a would-be rich person needed to invest was time.

"Go to see the properties," he advises. "You have to do a practical study. After visiting 50-100 places, you will become knowledgeable."

American real-estate billionaire Donald Trump has suggested that investors start by visiting 100 properties, Pichai said.

Through visiting a lot of properties, one will learn by observing and comparing the assets, and consequently being able to distinguish good from bad real estate.

"The point is whether you can find a good thing at a good price. And then, even if you don't have money, you can present it to the bank; some of them can lend you up to 90 per cent [of the property's appraised value]. Or you approach your



Projecting success. Photo: Victoria 1558

friends for a joint investment, or sell it to them for a commission," he said.

Most importantly, to get rich from property investment, Pichai suggests that investors make regular visits to inspect real-estate sites as part of their lifestyle.

"Instead of wasting your money shopping, you can go to see properties during your free time," he said.

Pichai believes everyone can profit from real estate. Not all of the rich people in this world are particularly smart.

"There are plenty of factors: emotion, fear, luck," he says. "You see, most [wealthy people] don't have a PhD. But they have practical knowledge, the courage to take risks and the ability to control their minds.

Sometimes, knowing too much prevents you from doing anything."

Pichai says a winner in business is usually the one who understands and overcomes psychological obstacles.

"Suffering losses is part of the process of getting rich. There is a deep correlation between the times of problems and success.

"Location is certainly an important factor but it also depends on the kind of project one is developing. It would be a mistake for the developer of a five-star hotel project to be stingy on land cost, for instance.

"An excellent piece is priced at 28 million baht, whereas a modest one is offered for 15mn baht... Sometimes, I will go for the latter. It depends on how you weigh the pros and cons. But the important thing is what are you developing. As a three-star-hotel developer that sells our rooms for 500 baht a night, location is not of much importance to us," he says.

Pichai notes that he personally prefers property over stock investments, since the former involves fewer psychological factors.

"Stock investing appears easier but it is in fact more difficult [to succeed]. To invest in real estate, there are a lot of procedures and things you need to study, but the risk is lower."

— The Nation

## Prop sales surge in Myanmar



Construction in Yangon. Photo: Rebecca W

ONE of Myanmar's largest real estate developments has purchased a shareholding stake in a prime Yangon 10 acre parcel.

Singapore's Yoma Strategic Holdings along with key shareholder Sergie Pun are taking over a majority stake in a local affiliate.

The project, which is partly on a property that formerly housed railway headquarters, includes a 5-star hotel, four star hotel, serviced apartment, condominium and two office towers.

Media reports have indicated that part of the projects funding will come from pre-sales. — Bill Barnett



# Taxis: a decade of blocking progress

THE recent police-ordered closure of tour counters run by Russian nationals in Kata-Karon is just the latest in a long series of protest-related events in Phuket that undermine the rule of law by rewarding law-breakers and punishing those who play by the rules.

The closure of the counters followed a blockade of the Karon beachfront by members of a so-called taxi “co-operative”, one whose self-proclaimed right to extort visiting tourists through collusion tactics is apparently deemed more important by police than the right of law-abiding citizens to drive on Patak Road.

The Kata-Karon co-op members are, of course, no strangers to protest tactics. They are the same group that in December 2002 took it upon themselves to form a mob to blockade Kaktanode Road, successfully convincing police and other local authorities to force eco-tour operators to stop using their own vehicles to pick up passengers from local hotels – even though the practice is eminently legal.

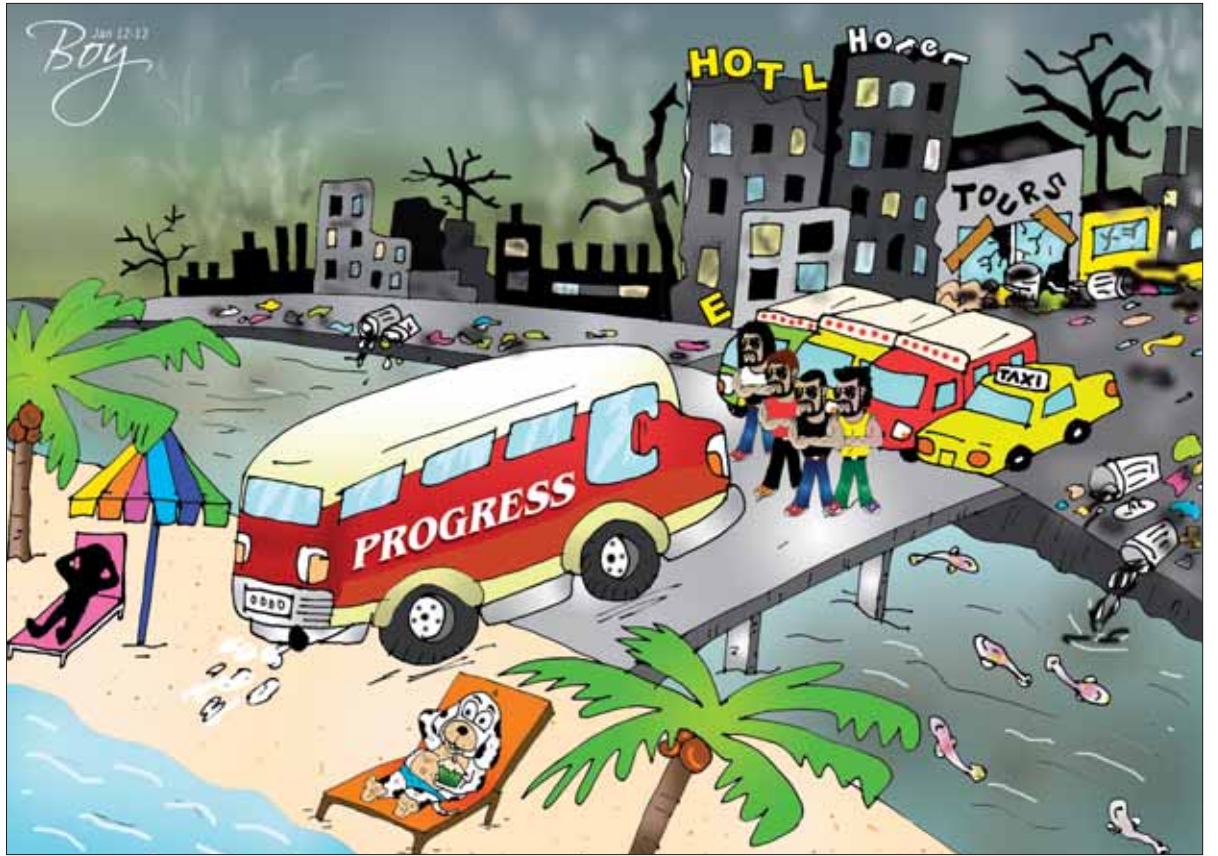
Coming ten years apart, the two protests serve as perfect bookends marking a full decade in which absolutely no progress was made in tackling the activities of the local taxi syndicates, which thoroughly besmirched Phuket’s reputation – not only among foreign tourists, but among visiting Thais as well.

The fact that protestors chose to set up the blockade right in front of the newly-opened Karon Police Station speaks for itself, demonstrating that the “drivers” have no fear of arrest and that they, not the police, will determine who can do what – and where they can do it.

We fully support the right of citizens to peaceful protest, yet this latest debacle was clearly illegal because the protestors blocked access to a public road. Once again, they thought nothing of inconveniencing thousands of people, and quite likely caused a certain number of unfortunate tourists to miss departing flights. After all, who else in their right mind would dare pick them up in a place like Kata-Karon?

Let us not forget that this is the same turf where a *songtaew* (pickup truck modified to serve as a public transport vehicle) driver who had the audacity to run a route connecting Patong and Karon in 1994 was pulled from his vehicle and brutally beaten by local taxi drivers – just three days after he started the service. The route remains vacant to this day because no party dares take it on out of sheer fear of a similar reprisal.

Perhaps most ironic of all is the fact that the illegal protestors actually appeal for sympathy as “locals” and wrap themselves in the Thai flag while breaking the Kingdom’s laws with impunity for their actions.



## Best efforts, but a sad ending

*Re: Gazette online, Anxiety key factor in Australian tourist death: Phuket hospital staff, January 4*

I would like to commend the doctors and staff at Patong Hospital for their efforts in helping Mr Faulkner.

Mental illness unrecognized and untreated can have tragic consequences. With what appeared to be so many people trying to help this young man, the worst occurred.

This is not a Phuket problem, but simply circumstances of an unfortunate misadventure.

*Sherlock Holmes  
Gazette forum*

### Letters to the Editor

*Do you have an opinion to voice?  
Email Editor@PhuketGazette.net*

to dumping mountains of garbage on empty lots. It's a pity because many tourists follow these two streets as they head off to enjoy the beautiful nature in Phuket.

I hope the Tourism Authority of Thailand Phuket looks at this issue so they don't lose good tourists who really care about Phuket.

*Anna of Sweden  
Kata Beach*

### Keepin' it local

*Re: Gazette online, Russian tour counters closed in Phuket, pending probe, January 5*

The [Russian] tour desks are the tip of the iceberg. We now have bars, massage parlors and [allegedly] girls soliciting on the street in Karon – and none of the profits stay here to help the local economy.

On the other hand, the tuk-tuk taxi mafia break every rule presented to them by weak-as-water officials. I see unregistered taxis every day at the ranks in Kata-Karon. Why can't the authorities deal with it?

*Azza  
Gazette forum*

### Party like a 'flopstar'

As long-time visitors to Patong Beach every New Year's Eve, we were very disappointed we were not allowed to go on a public beach for the fireworks display this year without paying an entry fee.

The focus of this event [Sydictive New Year's Eve party at Patong Beach] was purely to make money for the organizers, and not for the benefit of the people.

In an emergency, what would have happened to the people fenced in on the beach? Let's hope next time this is not allowed.

*Ivan  
Patong*

### Fight or flight?

I witnessed a terrible thing this afternoon, a drunken slow-loris tout got into a fight in the middle of Soi Bangla. He was still holding the slow loris when the fight started.

The loris was flung into the air, hit the road, rolled a few times and ended up in the gutter.

The tout had no concern for the poor animal, which didn't move until a tourist picked it up. However, the tout took it back.

I do think some tous love and care for their lorises, but this man certainly didn't.

*Private  
Phuket*

### No dumping on empty lots

I am a big fan of the island – that's why I have been coming here for 15 years. I have seen and experienced a lot of changes in Phuket. However, the worst has been seeing and smelling the garbage everywhere.

Every time I come here, I love to hike to the Big Buddha image, so I usually stay in Karon. I often go through Soi Patak 12 or Soi Patak 14, which I think are the two worst streets when it comes

### All the children

*Re: Gazette online, Phuket blockade wins tuk-tuk drivers reprieve from Russian operators, January 4*

When the second biggest political party in Thailand can occupy two international airports when they are not happy, why can't tuk-tuk drivers occupy a road when they are not satisfied with a situation? My God, there are so many children in this country, and most of them are not even young.

*Richard  
Gazette forum*

### Phuket not exactly flushing with success

Our family had the misfortune of recently finding ourselves in need of a toilet at the stunning Kata Noi Beach. We were advised by a hotel security guard that we could not use the resort's facilities and had to use the public toilet at the top of the stairs.

After an agonizing climb up, we were faced with the filthiest toilet facilities I have ever encountered.

The stench and filth surrounding the toilet hit us first, and then upon entering the cubicles we saw the floors were flooded with faecal waste overflowing from the toilets – in both the male and female toilets.

I still feel sick to the core when I think of it, and how it has altered my perception of Phuket being such an idyllic tourist destination.

Please can you direct my query to the relevant authority – surely such a beautiful beach deserves hygienically, clean toilet facilities.

*Michael Wolf  
Australia*

## Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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# Taxi greed still in driving lane

THE scene at the airport was bedlam. The taxi drivers were grabbing people; they grabbed my rucksack. They were banging a metal ramp to cause a lot of noise and shouting, "You'll be here until morning if you don't get into our taxis."

I had read about all of this in the online forums and on the UK embassy website, but I didn't know anything about the stickers on the taxis or who to call if I had a problem.

The taxi counters were zero help. No one was speaking English, no one was giving basic information. People wanted to charge tons of money for taxi fares. They were charging 1,500 baht to Karon.

I asked the security guards and other people in the terminal if there were any other way to take a taxi, but they just kept saying, "I don't know."

I finally found the metered taxi stand all the way down at the end of the terminal. There was a bloke behind the counter, but he was ignoring everyone, and another bloke outside the desk just kept saying "no, no" and pointing to a sign that said "No taxis". But taxis were slowly picking people up, so I queued.

After ages, the bloke outside the counter gave me a ticket for the next taxi. I told him where I was going. He said it would be about 600 baht, but it depended on the meter.

When I got into the taxi, the



British tourist **Iain Barnes** arrived in Phuket to begin his dream of traveling to Asia while in his twenties – he turns 30 on January 19.

Here, at the start of his trip, Iain describes his "welcome" to Phuket from the taxi touts stationed at the Phuket International Airport.

driver wouldn't turn the meter on – he even seemed to be trying to hide it with his hat and a box of tissues.

After all that hassle, I just thought, whatever. I told him where I was staying, though the bloke standing next to the counter obviously had already talked with him. The driver just said, "I know better hotel, you stay there."

Then he drove me to a little random office about five or 10 minutes away from the airport. A bloke came out of the office and told me that his company was partners with the taxis. I didn't want to get out, but he kept saying I had to get out and come into the office.

As soon as I got out, the driver drove off with my bag.

The man in the office kept telling me I should stay at this other hotel and that he didn't know where my hotel was, that he had never heard of it.

The battery on my phone was low. I tried to plug it in so I could show him the address, but he wouldn't let me.

The driver just said, 'I know better hotel, you stay there.'

About 10 to 20 minutes later the taxi came back. The driver said he knew where we were going, so I got back in.

I was knackered, so I drifted off to sleep a bit. We finally stopped just past the hotel.

He said it would be 2,000 baht.

I said, "No, the man at the counter said 600 baht", but the driver got aggressive and shouted at me it was "700 baht more".

I started to get out of the taxi, and found that my rucksack was open and stuff fell out everywhere. I think the driver must have opened it when I was sleeping or something, because I never leave my rucksack open.

I realized my phone was gone only after the taxi had left.

Suddenly it dawned on me that if I had paid the 2,000 baht he would have said, "Hey I found the phone." I believe that he kept the phone because I didn't pay him the money.

It was a horrible experience, but it hasn't ruined Phuket for me. I brought spare mobile phones and I had kept my SIM card safe, separate from my phone, so I still have that.



Rohingya only end up back in traffickers' hands. Photo: Chaichana Keowkaow

## Deporting Rohingya only feeds traffickers

THE Rohingya refugees rescued off of Phuket on January 1 reportedly requested to be sent back to Myanmar, according to Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut.

Since Thai authorities systematically deny access to detained Rohingya for humanitarians, NGOs and journalists, it's impossible to actually know what the Rohingya told the officials, but you can bet they were not given much choice in the matter.

What the Governor left unsaid was that the Thai government blatantly discriminates against the Rohingya by denying them the right to seek asylum and refugee status, and keeps UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] representatives away from them.

He also forgot to mention that the National Security Council has as a matter of the policy, categorized the Rohingya as a threat to Thailand's security – although you can see in the destitute and desperate manner they reached Thailand's shores that they are hardly a threat to anyone.

Now this group was sent to Ranong for a so-called "soft deportation", meaning that they will be handed over to profit-seeking people smugglers who will exact very high fees from the Rohingya

### Island View

By Phil Robertson

Do you have an opinion to voice?  
Email [Editor@PhuketGazette.net](mailto:Editor@PhuketGazette.net)

to move them to Malaysia, or failing that, will force them into labor to pay off the fees – essentially a situation of human trafficking.

The so-called "help on" policy of Thailand then becomes a de facto "help out the smugglers" policy when Rohingya reach land, in some cases seriously compounding the human rights abuses against these desperate people.

Thailand should accept these Rohingya, give them access to UNHCR for refugee status determination, and provide them with assistance – just as Malaysia has recently done with Rohingya arriving by boat in that country. Thailand needs to stop its illegitimate "beggar thy neighbor" policy of pushing the Rohingya problem south to other countries and recognize that Thailand's international human rights obligations require a better response than this.

Phil Robertson is the Asia Deputy Director for the international human rights organization Human Rights Watch, based in New York.

Issues & Answers... ...asking the questions that affect you...

## Providing for your family is a matter of trust

I have a Thai wife and I am curious about her getting a trust fund to buy a small business in Phuket, or elsewhere in Thailand, but nothing bigger than a guesthouse. Is there an information center where I can get a reliable idea of standard costs and very general reliable information about what types of trusts are available in Thailand?

I would prefer the information be in English, but it need not have a foreigner involved in the trust, it can be all my wife and her family. We like to have things locked up tight so they stay exactly where we put them.

Ben Host  
Thailand

**Phuket Gazette investment columnist David Mayes replies:**  
The only trusts recognized by



Thai law are those set up for the benefit of certain capital market transactions. A small business such as a guesthouse would not qualify.

Trusts as most of Westerners think of them are simply not recognized here, and if they were it would be a very simple way to skirt the laws against foreign ownership of land. While many

foreigners use a similar approach to get around these laws by setting up a company to own land and use nominee shareholders, this is technically illegal as well.

If you want to do things the right way – and in strict accordance with the law – it is very difficult to set up a business for a Thai national where they control the business and

then place any restrictions on them. Where land is involved, you are essentially required to gift them the money and they would then buy the land and set up the company. At this point shares can be transferred back to you, but there is always a window where trust is involved.

Most land offices go so far as to make the husband of a Thai sign a disclaimer that they have no right to the land prior to officially registering the purchase of a property in the wife's name.

Plenty of lawyers will be – at varying prices, usually correlated with their English language ability – willing to set things up for you that may or may not hold up in court, but it is always a gamble to some degree.

As always, there is plenty of gray when it comes to foreigners' rights in Thailand. My advice to someone

thinking about setting up a business for their Thai partner is to limit the damage that could be done if things went totally wrong, especially if one hasn't been living in the country very long. Once you have been here a while and have an idea of how things typically work, you will develop a sense of how much you are willing to place at risk.

David Mayes can be reached at [david.m@faramond.com](mailto:david.m@faramond.com)

Send us your queries and we'll ask the right people to respond to them.

Submit your issue at

[www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers](http://www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers)



# YOUR Phuket

## Happy New Year 2013



PHUKET INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL



ANANTARA PHUKET VILLA



KAJONKIETSUKSA SCHOOL



LAGUNA PHUKET



BOATHOUSE ON KATA BEACH



## RED CROSS PROJECT 2013

The Phuket governor and the Phuket Red Cross received a motorcycle offered by Phanasong Group for Red Cross Projects in 2013.

Ms Rachanok Ithinanthawan, managing director of Phanasong Group (third from left) presents the motorcycle to Phuket Governor Maitree Inthasut.

## SMART PROPERTY & LIFESTYLE EXPO 2012



At the Austro-Thai Wine importer and distributor Wine tasting Session were (second from right) Ms Bussarin Jantakul, sales & marketing director and (center) MrThapanat Lohaves from Phuket Graceland.



MANAGING DIRECTORS: From left: Ms Oranee Hildebrand, MD of the Phuket Gazette, Mr Songkran Issara, MD of Charn Issara Development Public Company Ltd and Bill Barnett, MD of C9 hotelworks.



From left: Mr Boon Yongsakul, Boat Lagoon deputy managing director and Krisana Matzenberger, manager of advertising of PGTV.



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

# ISLAND TRADER

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\*The Gazette is the top-ranked Website for Phuket. (Google Analytics)

## PROPERTY of the week

### LUXURY VILLA FOR RENT IN KAMALA



See page 24

## JOB of the week



Avista Hideaway  
Resort & Spa – Phuket

Avista Hotels & resorts

See page 26

## BUILDING PRODUCTS & SERVICE of the week

EasyHomePhuket®

[www.easyhomephuket.com](http://www.easyhomephuket.com)

See page 25

## BOAT of the week

SIMPSON  
MARINE



See page 31

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## Properties For Sale

### LUXURY PANORAMA SEA & ISLAND VIEW



For sale. 3-storey villa, 1 rai, Yamu Hills, 560sqm, living area, 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, infinity pool. Sale: 34.7 million baht. Tel: 089-582 8401. Email: pbbbronz@gmail.com

### BEACHFRONT LAND FOR SALE



2 rai, absolute amazing beachfront, few minutes boat ride from Phuket, facing west to sunset and views of Phuket. 13 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-278 8300. Email: izzy.serenitygroup@gmail.com

### FREEHOLD CONDO PATONG

Patong Condotel, 7th floor, 28sqm. Fully furnished, kitchen, new bathroom and aircon. Seaside, 800m to the beach. Price: 1.35 million baht o.b.o. Tel: 084-844 7693 (English & Thai). Email: heijojo@hotmail.com

### NEW CONDO FOR SALE

Prime location, deluxe apartment, pool, gym, sauna, 43sqm, 3.5 million baht. Freehold. Tel: 087-978 1947.

### KRABI, AO NANG

Pool villa, 2 bedrooms. Land plot: 255sqm. 4.8 million baht. Email: mr.axelmay@gmail.com

### RAWAI HOUSE

Sale or rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big garden, cul de sac, 668sqm, Chanote. Tel: 080-144 7801. Email: riseland\_123@yahoo.com

### ANANDA HILL VILLAS

161/42 Moo 10 Chao Fa East Road, Chalong, Phuket. Near Chalong Homepro, 900m from home (Supermarket in Chalong Homepro Village), 25 minutes drive to Patong Beach, 5 minutes drive to Chalong Bay. 1 aircon, fully furnished, balcony, garden, internet connection, European kitchen, UBC. Tropical modern style, mountain views, freehold, 50sqm. Built in 2005. Villas: 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 20sq wah. Under construction. At Chalong Bay Phuket. Price: 2.5 million baht. Tel: 080-520 5188 (Thai), 081-176 8404 (English & Thai).

### APARTMENT, HOUSE IN PATONG

For sale. 8 rooms with kitchen, aircon, fan, internet, TV, safe. Sale: 7.5 million baht. Tel: 086-283 1674.

### PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For sale. Price 4.5 million baht. No agents, no furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long-term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

### SEAVIEW PENTHOUSE FOR SALE



360° panoramic sea view and mountain view. 310sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with option to convert into 3 bedrooms. Spacious living area. 9.25 million baht. Tel: 086-278 8300. Email: izzy.serenitygroup@gmail.com

### HOUSE WITH POOL IN RAWAI

Large 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom house in Sai Yuan on private gated estate with 24hr security guard. Private pool, CCTV, furnished. 10.5 million baht. Tel: 091-208 4853 (English), 088-752 4071 (English). Email: oscarnick@hotmail.co.uk

### PLOTS FOR SALE

At Koh Lanta, Krabi. 43 plots. Price: 1.8 million baht per 100sqm. Chanote title. Concrete road access (8m width, 260m length) to Klong Dao Beach. Electricity and water supply. 800m from ferry pier. Tel: 081-535 0060.

### HOUSE FOR SALE: URGENT



4.9 million baht, 89sq wah (includes furniture). Stone wall around the house & fruit garden. 4 air conditioners, telephone and internet, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 CCTV. Located near the Heroines Monument, towards to Tesco Lotus Thalang. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: edc9designs@gmail.com

### FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE FOR SALE



Chao Fah Garden Home 3 in Koh Kaew near BIS, 10 mins to Lotus. 2 beds, 2 baths, 2 aircons. Nice living & kitchen room, car park, fully furnished. Ready to move in. 2.85 million baht near Boat Lagoon. Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

### SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT



In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Sale: 2.25 million baht. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Contact owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

### 3 GORGEOUS LOTS, CLEAN TITLES

For sale or long lease. 2 lots on island beachfront (bungalow/housing-estate) and 1 big mainland mountain-property all in very quiet, secure, well maintained locations, near Krabi. Must see. For further details, please see our website at www.sackenheim.net

### LARGE HOUSE + 1 RAI

3 bed, 2 bath with large garage and separate storage room. Nice pond and large garden in Thalang near PIA. 8 million baht. 0% finance available over 5 years. Tel: 076-621200, 080-141 8292 (English & Thai). Email: davestacey16@hotmail.com

### SHOPHOUSE IN GOLDENVILLE 1

4-storey shophouse in best condition with many extras like solar water-heating system, exhaust hood etc. For quick sale. Only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 086-091 5150 (English), 087-518 8837 (English & Thai). Email: peterwiniker@hotmail.com

### 1.5 RAI NEAR LAGUNA PHUKET

Chanote title, quiet location, gentle slope, highest point of Pasak 8, easy access. 8.5 million baht. Tel: 089-875 9609 (English), 087-418 5924 (Thai). Email: claudebaltes@gmail.com http://phuket-land-villas.blogspot.com/

### CONDO IN SUPALAI PARK



for sale. Near Sengho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio, 30sqm, floor 15, sea view, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.9 million baht. Ready to move in. For more info call 089-472 9118.

### URGENT SALE/RENT



House in Patong. Newly built 40sq wah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircon, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 089-469 1813.

### NEW CONDO: URGENT SALE/RENT



Special price, modern style, 30sqm, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, 1 pantry. In Kathu, 3km to Patong. Full set of built-in furniture. Ready to move in! Contact Ya. Tel: 081-797 5138.

### HOUSE & FURNITURE

Single house, 60sqm. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms and 3 toilets. In Chaityapruet Village at Land & Houses Park, Chalong. Good location and entrance from bypass road. Built 2 years ago. Tel: 084-627 7001.

### LAND FOR SALE

Nai Yang, 2,630sqm. Chanote. Price: 9.5 million baht. Tel: 089-724 1140.

### D CONDO 1, KATHU

-29.94sqm, mountain view, price 1,278,000 baht.  
-29.70sqm, mountain view, price 1,280,000 baht.  
-29.79sqm, pool view, price 1,330,000 baht.  
-29.70sqm, pool view, price 1,365,000 baht.  
Contact Vutdy on 081-892 3709.

### HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

2.5 floors, 5 mins to town, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Good for stay! 2.85 million baht. Tel: 083-506 9155. Email: sumitra.saetan@gmail.com

### PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

At Ao Makham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. For more information please call: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

### TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW



Corner unit, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

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# Property Classifieds

## Properties For Rent

### HOUSE TO LET

Chaun Chuen Lagoon, near British International School. 3-4 bedrooms, 4 lounges, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, parking, park area. Tel: 076-239435.

### PATONG CONDO PRIVATE RENTAL

Fully furnished apartment. 800m to beach, swimming pool, gym, WiFi, cable TV, washing machine. 1 or 2 beds available on January 16. Tel: 085-069 0938. Email: nnorthwo@hotmail.com

### HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



Near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, aircon, 3 bedrooms, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 086-607 7493.

### SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT/SALE



In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Sale: 2.25 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

### PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For sale. Price: 4.2 million baht. No agents! Not furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long-term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

### LOVELY APARTMENTS FOR RENT

<http://pukeyomefc2.web.fc2.com/phuketcondorent.htm>

### SURIN CONDO

1, 2 & 3 bedroom, pool, safe, 300m to beach, low density. Email: jgstryker@gmail.com

### SUPERB 3-BED POOL VILLA KATA

Last minute availability 4-18 Jan only. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

### CONDO IN PATONG

Large 50sqm studio, nicely furnished, pool and parking. Long term. Tel: 081-892 1621.

### PATONG STUDIO

Beautiful studio, modern, views, s-pool, garden, long term. 17,500 baht. Tel: 087-819 2162 (English & Thai). Email: caltirol@hotmail.com

### NEW CONDO FOR RENT



Short or long-term rent at Kathu, fully furnished, swimming pool, fitness, quiet and secure. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

### 2-BED BEACH CONDOS NAI HARN

Holiday rentals, spacious, big pool, large gardens, 3 minutes stroll from scenic Nai Harn Beach. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

### LARGE HOUSE KAMALA

Furnished, 280sqm, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, office, sundeck, pool, jacuzzi, carport. 25,000 baht per week or 35,000 baht per month, minimum 6-month contract or for sale 3.5 million baht leasehold. Tel: 084-716 0502.

### NEW FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE



2-storey house, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 20,000 baht per month, quiet area. Ao Ma Kham Bay, 4km from town, 2km to beach. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at panwagreen.weebly.com

### LUXURY OCEAN VIEW APARTMENT

For rent in Kata and Karon. Furnished, 1+2 beds, 2 baths, kitchen, 24hrs security, gym, pool. Tel: 076-486624, 086-281 9311. Email: bao200@gmail.com

### 2-BED CONDOS NAI HARN BEACH

Spacious 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, free WiFi, pool, parking, beach 3 minutes walk. Great for families too! Email: resortgm@gmail.com

### POOL VILLA FOR RENT



Near Chalong, short or long-term rent. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully furnished, European kitchen. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

### TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW



Corner unit, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

### LUXURY VILLA FOR RENT IN KAMALA



VILLA CHELONI is a modern style villa, 3 bedrooms each with private bathroom with Jacuzzi and wardrobe, 4 bathrooms. Fully furnished and laundry, villa is about 280 sqm, swimming pool, barbecue. 600 meter from the beach. Price start from 5,000 baht per day 70,000 baht per month.

Francesco 085-790 7816 francescobonta@gmail.com www.villacheloni.com

### NICE HOUSE IN CHALONG



Single house (74sq wah) with lovely garden for long-term rent in Soi Parichart, Land & Houses Park. It has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, 24 hr security + clubhouse facilities. Price: 25,000 baht per month or special price of 20,000 baht per month without furniture. Contact the owner. Tel: 081-867 6466 (English & Thai). Email: bow.jariya@gmail.com

### FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. Near Tesco Lotus shopping center, 10 minutes to Bang Tao Beach, Surin Beach and Kamala Beach. 20 minutes to Ao Por Marina, Boat Lagoon and Phuket International Airport. 10 minutes to Phuket International School. Only 15 minutes to Phuket Town. Available now! Only 16,500 baht per month. Tel: 089-724 2787.

### BANGLA SHOPHOUSE 'HUGE'

Perfect bar, nightclub, guesthouse etc. 6m frontage x 14m depth x 4 floors. Aircon. 150,000 baht per month + bond. Be quick. Tel: 082-102 3157. Email: cocodior@hotmail.com

### PATONG TOWER CONDO A BEAUTY



Beautiful Patong Tower Beach Condo with stunning 280-degree panoramic views of the ocean, mountains and town. Large outdoor patio and wrap around balcony. Completely renovated, Internet and washing machine. Available from Jan 11, 2013. Tel: (86) 138 1634 4147. Email: PatongTowerRental@yahoo.com. For further details, please see our website at www.PatongTowerRental.com

### 1, 2, 3-BED PATONG APARTMENTS

Large pool, gym, parking, maid, free WiFi. Rates from 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, quiet area near Laguna, rental 13,000 baht/month. Tel: 084-051 1955 (English & Thai), 080-521 9888 (English & Thai). Email: somin\_s@yahoo.com

### URGENT: HOUSE FOR RENT IN KARON

25,000 baht per month, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Yearly contract. Quiet location, close to the beach. Tel: 081-878 2199. Email: sumonmarn@phuketrealife.com

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The Network property office



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**Khun Anna: 076-388144, 086-4780201, 088-1685032**

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The **Gazette Online** is always on top in **Google!**



## Accommodation Wanted

Spacious 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, free WiFi, pool, parking, beach 3 minutes walk. Great for families too! Email: resortgm@gmail.com

The Lofts apartments are situated on the beach road in Surin which is fast developing into one of the trendiest areas of Phuket. Overlooking the King's Park, location of Phuket's first golf course, now a public park, these apartments put you on the front step of all that the area has to offer. The apartments are accessed through a code panel lock with remote entry possible from the apartment for visitors. One bedroom from 33,000 baht. Two bedrooms from 35,000 baht. 2-bed penthouse from 60,000+ baht. Tel: 076-386537, 086-120 0298 (English), 080-995 8609 (Thai). Email: [info@rentalpropertyphuket.com](mailto:info@rentalpropertyphuket.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.rentalpropertyphuket.com](http://www.rentalpropertyphuket.com)

**076 383 435**

Renovations, house repairs, painters, tilers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, construction. Fluent English-speaking boss. Free quotes given. Tel: 084-193 5124. Email: [phukethomemainenance@yahoo.com](mailto:phukethomemainenance@yahoo.com)

Weather Wicker Sofa.  
Conversation set, 3 months  
old. New: 205,000 baht.  
Sale now: 120,000 baht.  
Patio exclusive outdoor  
furniture-sofa. Tel: 089-043  
2954.

**Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.**

**See more classified ads at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)**



**COOK, MAIDS, DRIVER**  
Villa staff needed. Live in or live out. Pay negotiable plus good tips. Tel: 089-005 0700. Email: toddplay@hotmail.com

#### STAFF WANTED

Receptionist, good written and spoken English is a must. Word and accounting experience is a plus. Must have a friendly outgoing personality. Salary: 12,000-20,000 baht depending on experience.

- Office admin, good computer skills, Excel, and accounting is required. Good written and spoken English is a must. 15,000-22,000 baht monthly depending on experience level.  
- Office manager, must be proficient in Excel, written and spoken English. Prior experience required. Salary: 25,000+ baht monthly depending on experience. Please send your resume to smartbusinessphuket@gmail.com

#### NEGOTIATOR

We are looking for well-qualified and motivated individuals to join our dynamic Residential Sales team in Phuket.

The ideal candidate will be:

- Female and of the Thai nationality.

- A Bachelor's degree holder.

- Fluent in spoken and written English.

- Service oriented, with good communication skills and able to work with demanding international clients.

- Computer literate (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Office Access, email and the Internet).

- Fast-learning, enthusiastic, hard working and dedicated.

Candidates must have their own transportation and be willing to work in the Patong area.

We offer great opportunities for candidates, including new graduates, who are looking to grow with the Company and develop their skills in sales.

Qualified applicants please send your resume to phuket\_hr@cbre.co.th

**HeadStart**  
International School Phuket

**Position**  
**Thai Principal**

- Thai nationality
- Excellent written and spoken English
- Bachelor's Degree in Education
- Master's Degree in Educational Administration
- Minimum 5 years teaching experience
- 2 years administration and management experience
- Salary 60000++

Email: jazon@headstartphuket.com

#### HEAD OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

We are looking for a Thai female with teaching skills for four English teachers and our security guards. Tel: 076-336 084, 081-607 6637, Fax: 076-336 085. Email: pornthip@sgsphuket.com

#### SMALL BUSINESS LOOKING FOR

Thai male/female wanted to work in our office. Must have good English (speaking and spelling) and good computer skills. Job involves talking with clients, recording, keeping, and doing quotations. University degree desired, but not required for right applicant. Thai male wanted to work in Phuket. Must have good English (speaking and spelling). Job involves mechanical/electrical engineer work within the marine industry, preferably with experience. 076-239 112. Email: damian@electrical-marine.com

#### International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd.

##### Accountant 1 position

- Diploma or Bachelor degree in Accounting
- 1-2 years working experience as Accounting staff
- Can speak English would be advantage
- Computer skills in Microsoft Office
- Experience QuickBooks program is desire

Interested candidate, please send your CV with recent photo, expected salary to [sam@ilo-phuket.com](mailto:sam@ilo-phuket.com)  
Only qualified candidate(s) will be called for interview.

#### Staff For Villas

**Maids** - Cleaning - Garden  
- Babysitting - Cooking

Contact Khun Joy. Tel: 081-797 1497.

Email: [info@phuketbabysitting.com](mailto:info@phuketbabysitting.com)

#### ACCOUNT MANAGER

Experience as account manager for over 5 years - native Thai, and with excellent command of English - experience dealing with foreigners would be helpful. Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: heijojo@hotmail.com

#### STAFF WANTED FOR BEACH BAR

All staff needed for new beach bar on Surin Beach. Competitive wages, good hours and a fun place to work. Please e-mail your resume. Everyone considered. Email: jessezurn@hotmail.com

#### EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Experience as executive assistant/PA to MD for over 3 years - native Thai, excellent command of English, good computer and internet skills, own and drive personal car, great administrative skills and secretarial work, ability to "manage" situations make decisions. Tel: 081-979 9911 (English & Thai). Email: vrit@boatlagoon-yachting.co.th For further details, please see our website at [www.boatlagoon-yachting.co.th](http://www.boatlagoon-yachting.co.th)

#### ADMIN MANAGER

Admin at cable ski required good spoken English, water sports experience. Good salary. Tel: 082-938 7748. Contact Kiki. Email: phuketwakepark@gmail.com

#### RUSSIAN STAFF

Russian manager requires. Good spoken English. Responsibilities: marketing, management, PR, translating. 25,000 baht per month+premium. Contact Kiki. Tel: 082-938 7748. Email: phuketwakepark@gmail.com

#### WEBSITE / SOFTWARE PROGRAMMER

Bayshore Group is looking for Web or Software Programmer/Developer (Java, C) (numbersign).NET) Requirements:

- Have good knowledge of OOP and RDBMS with past working experience.
- Good understanding of current web and software technology such as HTML5/CSS3, Ajax, MVC, etc.
- Ability to code in Java or C(numbersign). NET as well as Ajax, JQuery.
- Good understanding of frameworks and IDE in Java or C(numbersign).NET
- Fluent English. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Please send CV to [f@bayshoreprojects.com](mailto:f@bayshoreprojects.com)

#### REAL ESTATE REPS NEEDED

Phuket Condos & Homes, one of Phuket's leading Real Estate Agencies, are now looking for new property consultants to join our success full team. You should have experience in Sales and have your own car to be able to apply for this position. French and Russian speaking is a plus. Tel: 076-341 045, 081-459 0152 (English). Email: andres@phuket-condos-homes.com Please contact us by mail or call for an appointment

We invite you to join us & be a part of the Avista Hotels & Resorts Family.



Avista Hideaway Resort & Spa is a brand new contemporary luxury 5 star hotel situated on a peaceful hill with spectacular views over the Andaman Sea. This ideal location is perfect for guests seeking something special, but still close to the famous entertainment landmarks in Patong Beach. The Resort features 150 spacious guestrooms including pool suites featuring lavish in-room facilities and the latest technology.

We are seeking suitable candidates for:

**Executive Chef**  
**Pastry Chef**  
**Asst. Food & Beverage Manager**

#### General Requirement:

- Minimum experience of 5 years in 4-5 stars hotels.
- Good personality and positive attitude.
- Excellent communication skills (English) - oral and written.
- Ability to handle stress in a fast-paced work environment.
- Have a sound working knowledge of the hotel's daily functions.
- Promote and apply teamwork skills at all times.
- Maintain a positive working relationship with all hotel departments.
- Is polite, friendly, and helpful to guests, and colleagues.

We offer a very competitive salary and benefit package for the deserving candidate. Interested candidates who would like to join Avista's family are invited to submit their updated resume indicating qualifications, experience, expected salary and recent photo to Human Resources Department at [hr.ah@avistahotelsandresorts.com](mailto:hr.ah@avistahotelsandresorts.com) or 076 681 681 or contact in person at the resort. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified for interviews.

#### LOOKING FOR STAFF (4 POSITIONS)

Phuket Wake Park is looking for Chef of Thai Cuisine, Cook / Waiter, Operator of Cable Ski Line, Cashier. Tel: 084-889 4942 (English). Send CV to [office@phuketwakepark.com](mailto:office@phuketwakepark.com)

#### SWEDISH / FINNISH TOUR GUIDE

Swedish/Finnish speaking tour guide wanted for cruise boat. Tel: 087-897 1761. Email: lotta@lamoet.com

#### SENIOR ARCHITECT

Phuket-based architectural practice urgently requires a senior architect to oversee design of luxury villa and hospitality projects. Proficiency in written and spoken English required. Please send CV and expected salary to: [info@imedgeconcepts.com](mailto:info@imedgeconcepts.com)

#### WEBSITE PROGRAMMER

Solid HTML and CSS coding experience with knowledge of JavaScript and PHP. Design and English skills are an advantage. Start immediately. We are located in Karon. Tel: 085-758 3780 (English). Email your CV to [shotham.hari888@gmail.com](mailto:shotham.hari888@gmail.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.paroot.com](http://www.paroot.com)

#### MANAGER - PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Experienced manager required to manage 30 private residence in Krabi. The manager is responsible for managing all teams for maintenance, housekeeping, office, rental and security. Operate all property in a 5-star manner for both owners and guests. Applicants need to have strong leadership skills, excellent command of English, hotel and/or property management experience. Applicants will be required to have their own car and driving licence, and to be able to work both in Krabi and Phuket. Tel: 081-968 3140 (English), 081-797 3401 (English & Thai). Please send CVs to: [manager@engchuan.com](mailto:manager@engchuan.com), [www.engchuan.com](mailto:www.engchuan.com), [www.krabisunset.com](http://www.krabisunset.com) and [www.krabihideaway.com](http://www.krabihideaway.com)

#### COOKS, MAIDS, MANAGERS

Luxury villas looking for cooks, maids and managers. Live-in and live-out positions available. Tel: 080-699 2436. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

#### HOUSEKEEPER

For 6 months in Australia. An aussie man with 2 young daughters require help of young Thai woman to assist housekeeping. The candidate must have an English skills, passport preferably, age between 25-35, enjoy children. Contact Jum Tel: 087-095 9274.

#### Employment Wanted

#### TIMESHARE SALES POSITION

Timeshare Sales-Management jobs wanted by experienced Norwegian male. See my CV, please click on the web link below. Tel: +47 095 776 604. Email: [aad-karl@online.no](mailto:aad-karl@online.no) For CV and further details, please see our website at [www.aad-karl.com](http://www.aad-karl.com)

**Live in Patong?**  
**Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel**



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Kai: (076-344321-2)**

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**Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!**



**SALES MANAGER  
& SALES EXECUTIVE**

A reputable tourist magazines looking for 24-45 yrs. old, male or female, good personality. Applicants should have relevant experience and be able to speak English.

Send resume to  
ajapply@yahoo.com  
086-490 3101, 081-806 2946

**THAI ADMIN WANTED**

Organizing paperwork, documents and computer-based information. Taking care of inventory and stock levels. Providing secretarial support to the Director. Basic accounting. Dealing with customers. Tel: 085-331 0295. Email: m.hill@phuket.soccerschools.com

**MARKETING REPS  
NEEDED**

EZYSTAYS looking for marketing representative. No experience required, full training provided, work permit and good income. Email: leoniphuket@gmail.com

**CONSTRUCTION  
MANAGER**

Or civil engineer with experience. Any nationality. Established company. Tel: 087-897 0501 (English). Email: aleksa.rtn@gmail.com

**ANDAMAN CRUISES  
COORDINATOR**

Looking for coordinator who is responsible for working with crew to organize the cruise, manage bookings, provide administrative assistance. Excellent benefits provided. Tel: 076-316 537, 081-370 5689. Email: hr@twinpalms-group.com

**ESTATE / RENTAL  
MANAGER**

Intira Villas is looking for a Thai person with a happy and positive attitude. Must be able to communicate in English and Thai, both in speaking and writing. Experience in management and rentals. Tel: 081-472 4925 (English). Please send CV and salary requirement. Email: jonas@intiravillas.com

**SCUBA DIVE AND  
TOUR SHOP**

We are looking for a Thai staff to book our scuba diving customers when they come into the shop, and also book the island tours we sell. Must speak, read and write English. Must be very happy and good with customers. Salary: 15,000 to 20,000 baht, depending on the person. Tel: 076-388 684, 082-810 2443 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-388 684. Email: mjrossi2004@yahoo.com

**Data Entry Position**

Chatbox Entertainment Ltd. is urgently looking for self-motivated individuals to work in our branch in Phuket.

**Qualifications:**

- Fluent in English
- Computer literate
- Good typing skills
- Able to work independently
- Able to work weekends/holidays

**What we offer:** 5 day work week.

Interested candidates are invited to send their resumes to  
**hr2@k-and-b-ltd.com**

**KINDERGARTEN  
TEACHER**

Qualified female native English speaking teacher needed. Please email CV and photo. Tel: 076- 521550, 084-847 0732 (English). Email: info@smiley-kidz.com

**STAFF WANTED**

Rawai Pub requires Thai Bar and Kitchen staff. Tel: 081-396 8701. Email: kanthasin@gmail.com

**MARKETING  
MANAGER**

Phuket Wake Park is looking for a Russian English-speaking person. Salary: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-938 7748, 082-415 4546. Please send your CV to: lizunov.o@mail.ru

**LOOKING FOR STAFF**

Aroi-Comer Restaurant in Rawai is looking for staff. Waitress and bartender with experience. Working hours: 3pm-11:30pm, one day off, good salary. Contact 084-442 8330. Khun Peter. Email: hp.sch.ranz56@gmx.ch

**SALES CONSULTANT  
REQUIRED**

Club Asia Fitness requires a Sales Consultant. Applicants should be fluent in English and a Thai national. Excellent remuneration offered. Tel: 080-698 5021.

**LIVE-IN DRIVER  
AND MAID**

Experienced live-in staff wanted for a holiday villa in Surin start December. Driver must speak English. Tel: 084-689 4658 (English), 081-693 1621 (Thai). Email: malinlson@hotmail.com

**PRIVATE TEACHER**

Looking for private teacher for teaching a 10-years -old child. Any nationality is entitled to apply. as long as fluent in English and certified for teaching. Good salary. Tel: 081-728 8269. Email: psupparin@yahoo.com

**STAFF FROM  
PHILIPPINES**

Bayshore Projects Company is looking for Filipino staff. Must be female. Contact Mariane. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Send CV to c@bayshoreprojects.com

**SPA STAFF AND  
MANGER NEEDED**

Newly remodeled spa and massage parlor hiring staff for immediate Start. Competitive salaries and accommodation offered! Tel: 083-391 0291. Email: kamal.mail2000@gmail.com

**CHEF REQUIRED**

Small international restaurant in Kalim Seeks for independent working kitchen chef with experience in preparing Thai and international dishes. Tel: 080-555 2377 (English & Thai). Email: 55inkalim@gmail.com

**DISTRIBUTORS /  
RESELLERS WANTED**

Thai national. Sales of manufactured modular and customized activation, booth, display and expo solutions. Network and infrastructure in place. Thai/English speaking. Excellent earning. Email: sales@bconcept.asia

**NATIVE ENGLISH  
TEACHERS**

Brainy House is an English-language school, which is committed to provide all of our students with quality teaching and prices that are affordable. Qualifications;

- Applicants must be native English speakers.
- Bachelor's degree and TEFL are required.
- Teaching experience would be an advantage.
- Must be able to start in December.
- We offer competitive salaries and work permit. Tel: 080-907 7466. If you are interested, please contact Sasi or send your CV and recent photo to info@brainy-house.com

**STOREMAN/SITE  
CLERK**

Will work for Bayshore Projects Co. Ltd. Must be Thai national Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

**KINDERGARTEN  
TEACHER**

Female caucasian native English speaking teacher with experience to teach class of 10-12 children, ages 2-6 years old. Monday-Friday 8am-4pm. Chalong. Tel: 080-624 7060. Email: buds.span@yahoo.com www.buds-phuket.com

**VILLA MANAGER**

Experienced Villa Manager required to manage an 8-bedroom private residence in Kamala. The VM is responsible for managing an in-house team for maintenance, housekeeping and F&B. Operate the villa in a 5-star manner for both owners and guests. Applicants need to have strong leadership skills, excellent command of English, hotel experience. Applicants will be required to have their own car and driving licence and to be able to live-in when required. Tel: 076-527633, 087-881 0003. Please send CVs to: hr@phuketvillasandhomes.com, www.luxuryvillasandhomes.com

**YACHT SALES  
EXECUTIVE**

- Experience dealing with luxury MOTOR YACHTS for at least 3 years
  - Fluency in English. Any other languages would be very helpful (Russian, French, Chinese).
  - Proven track record and good understanding of motor yachts
  - Excellence with computer and Internet
- Tel: 081-979 9911. For further details, please see our website at www.boatlagoonyachting.co.th



[www.anantaraclub.com](http://www.anantaraclub.com)

**AVC Sales Executive****Brand summary**

Anantara Vacation Club is an exciting multi destination Shared Ownership Club recently launched in the Asia Pacific region. It is developed by Minor International PCL, one of the largest hospitality and leisure companies in the region. Minor is listed on the Thailand Stock exchange and has over 25,000 employees.

**Position summary**

With the opening of our new Phuket Sales Gallery in our purpose built shared ownership club resort, we are now increasing our sales team and looking for the best in the industry.

As an AVC Sales Executive you will be responsible for consistent and accurate sales presentations to AVC tour guests, to achieve defined sales targets while at all times maintaining a professional and personal image in upholding AVC's standards of integrity, quality and service to both internal and external customers.

AVC Sales Executives understand and believe that their personal responsibility for ensuring a positive customer relationship continues long after the point of sale.

This role is open to international candidates. Fluent business English is required, and ability to conduct business in any of the following additional languages would be a plus: Mandarin, Cantonese, Thai or Russian.

If you believe you have what it takes to compete with the very best then please forward us your resume.

**Job qualifications**

- A minimum of one year's experience in the Shared Ownership selling profession, and/or two years' experience in the direct selling profession,
- Tertiary or University education desirable, though not an essential requirement,
- Excellent communication & listening skills, and verbal & non-verbal communications,
- Proven past experience in problem solving and negotiation,

*'Discover your potential as we strive to fulfill ours'*  
If this sounds like you, please submit your CV to email address  
[njeske@anantaraclub.com](mailto:njeske@anantaraclub.com)

**Ocean Resort Group**

is currently seeking candidates for the following positions:

**► Bakery Chef**

Contact Human Resources Department

Phone: +66 (0) 76-314263-69 ext 7732 or

email your CV to [hrrsunwing@oceanresortgroup.net](mailto:hrrsunwing@oceanresortgroup.net),

[www.sunwingphuket.com](http://www.sunwingphuket.com)

**ARCHITECTURE**

Thai national wanted. Ability to use AutoCAD, Sketch-Up and 3D-Max is a must. Tel: 081-788 1639. Email: sec@phuketawnings.com

**RESTAURANT  
MANAGER**

New restaurant, Surin Beach, needs front of house manager. Must be fluent in English, have experience in managing large restaurant, will be responsible for management of bar and wait staff, including high-level training, recruitment. Good salary plus generous incentives. Tel: 076-325 755.

**RESERVATIONS  
ASSISTANT**

Full time. Western. Must have excellent written English, organizational and computer skills. Self motivated / good communicator. Send CV to phuketbookings@gmail.com

**SITE ENGINEER**

Will work for Bayshore Projects Co.Ltd. Thai Nationality: Minimum 5 Years experience in residential development. Must hold national diploma in civil or structural engineering. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

**Looking for a job?**  
**Looking for a better candidate?**  
**Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [WWW.PhuketGazette.Net](http://WWW.PhuketGazette.Net)!**



## Education

**NEED A TUTOR  
IN ENGLISH**

Need a tutor in English and a tutor in Thai for a child, both with experience working with kids. Please call: 085-576 9139 (English). Email: Vanyamordred@gmail.com

**CHILDREN'S  
ENRICHMENT CLUB**

"Take Care" service, day-time classes, skill development. Birthday parties. Amusement Park. Tel: 088-819 2526 (English & Thai). Email: annchik@me.com

**BAR FOR LEASE  
SURIN BEACH**

Area is about 100sqm internally with patio out front. Prime location on Surin Beach, on main High Street overlooking King's Park, just yards from 5-star resorts and restaurants (at Twin Palms), 100m to the beach. Fully furnished with sofas, pool table, 2 x flat screen TVs, cable and UBC/True Vision TV, Hi Quality Denon Music System with 8 speakers built into ceiling. Rent: 50,000 baht per month. Email: stewartlees@gmail.com

**RESTAURANT  
FOR SALE**

6 years on contract, great location, Patong Beach Road, full furniture and equipment. Tel: 087-075 2166, 090-175 9126. Email: omaraalquraini@hotmail.com

**HOTEL FOR SALE  
PATONG BEACH**

10 apartments & 14 rooms, 1km from sea, good location, 49 million baht. Chanote. For more information please call 076-292596. Email: nc.residence@gmail.com

**RESTAURANT &  
SPORTS BAR**

Newly renovated sports bar, 45 seats. Newly built kitchen. 5 rooms on 2nd floor. Sale includes all furniture and pool table and 5 flat-screen TVs. Location: Soi Taina 11 (Kata Center). Rent: 30,000 baht per month. No key money. Contract runs until 30 April 2015 (can be renewed after or already now) - Rent paid until 30 April 2013. Sale: 1.1 million baht. Call or email for more info and pictures. Tel: 080-530 5950. Email: allstarkata beach@gmail.com

**BAR FOR SALE  
NEW TIGER**

High Roller Bar. 3rd row from the front. Two-year contract. Books available. Tel: 085-654 8510. Email: typhoon\_stjames@hotmail.com

**RESTAURANT + BAR**

Phuket Town, 30 seatings, TVs, music, furnished, living. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Sale: 470,000 baht. For more information please contact Phil. Tel: 085-297 4002.

**PATONG RESTAURANT**

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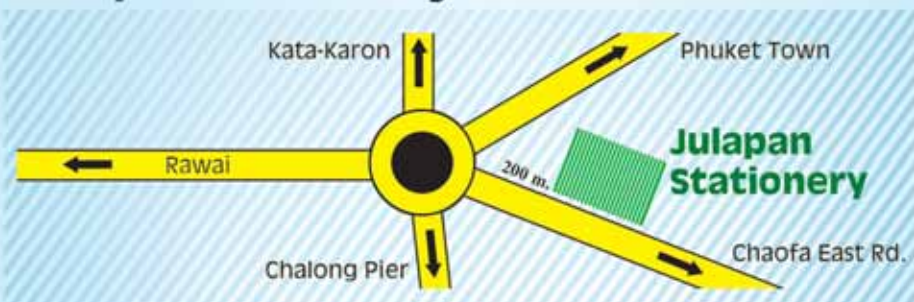


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## NEW ALESSANDRO MARCHI

"Carenacorsa 18". Hypalon RIB, light and fast. 90hp lean-burn, 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and trailer. 999,950 baht. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

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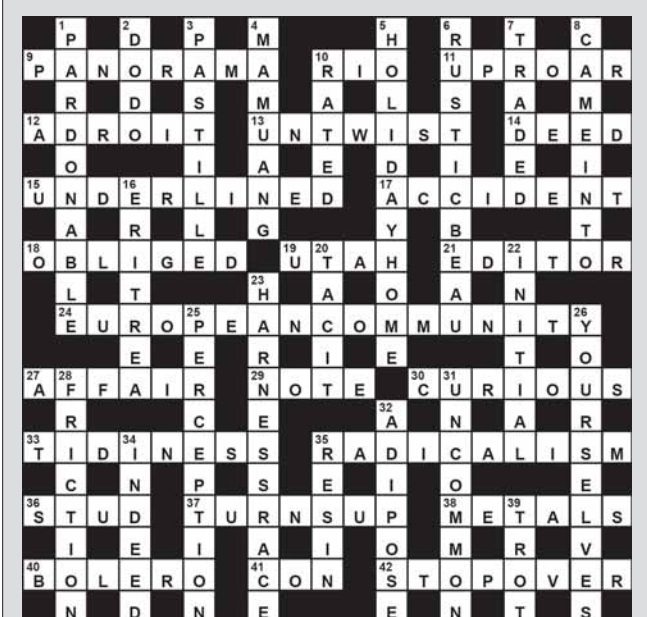
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## SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S

## CrypticCrossword

## COFFEE break





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At their “New Year’s Eve – Celebrities under the Stars” event guests enjoyed the countdown at the Sala Bua Restaurant.

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**From left: Mr Jose Luis Burn, F&B manager, Mr Ake Laochan executive assistant manager, (first from right) Atiya Bower, sales & PR manager, SALA Phuket Resort and Spa with their guests.**



# HARD ROCK CAFE PHUKET



Hard Rock Cafe  
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band UK” and a rock  
session from resident  
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to see in 2013.



# KATA CUIT

Kata Cuit is a bakery & art gallery restaurant serving daily homemade baked goods, food and beverages within atmospheric Andaman style architecture.



# FRAGOLA CREATIONS JEWELLERY

**From left: Mr Andrei Novikov CEO, TEZ Thailand group of companies. Mr Thibault Salaun, GM Andaman Cruises and Frigola Creations Jewellery representatives (ladies) at their recent launch.**



Photo: **Danmilesmedia**

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## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

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### January 13; 11:30am to 2:30pm: Sunday Lobster Lunch at RE KA TA Beach Club at Boathouse

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### January 15, 6pm to 12am: Tapas & Wine at RE KA TA Beach Club at Boathouse

Tapas and wine every Tuesday night



## Baan Kata Arts Fest at Mom Tri's Villa Royale

### February 3-4

at RE KA TA Beach Club at Boat-house. Free tapas with each drink! Wine list with 50 per cent discount. Pitchers of Sangria for 250 baht net. DJ set by Jamie O'Rourke. For more information call Annie at: 66-76-330421

### January 17, 11:30 am to 2pm Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch at Trisara

We shall be treated to a fabulous seafood lunch at "Seafood" in

Trisara. All are welcome but prior registration is essential. Members price is 500 baht; non-members 650 baht. All profits go to the PIWC scholarship fund. For more information visit: phuketiwc.com.

### February 3-4, 6:30 to 10pm: Baan Kata Arts Fest at Mom Tri's Villa Royale

You are invited you to join the Baan Kata Arts Fest 2013 at Mom

Tri's Villa Royale. Sunday February 3 and Monday February 4. On February 3 there will be an opening exhibition of paintings by Mom Tri Devakul at the VR Gallery, and on February 4 ML Usni and his ensemble will perform a classical music concert at Villa Royale. Tickets for the concert are 500 baht each.

### February 25: Makha Bucha Day (Public Holiday)

Makha Bucha Day, which falls on the full moon of the third lunar month, commemorates the Buddha's ordaining of 1,250 monks who had arrived unannounced from afar only seven months after the Buddha began his teachings. It is also the date the Buddha delivered his Fundamental Teachings – just months before his death.

**Apr 13 to 15: Songkran Festival**  
Songkran is the Thai New Year Festival. Also known as the 'Water Festival'. Held during the driest month in Thailand, Songkran is celebrated by Thais throughout the country pouring – traditionally only a little, but these days a lot – of water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

**May 5, Coronation Day**  
Coronation Day commemorates the accession to the throne of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on May 5, 1950.

**May 6, Substitution for Coronation Day (Public Holiday)**

**May 24, Visakha Bucha Day**  
Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the 6<sup>th</sup> lunar month, which usually falls in either May or early June. It is a day to commemorate three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha. Miraculously, these events fell in the same month and on the same date in the Buddhist era.

## Beauty & Shape Art exhibition at VR Gallery until February 1

PHUKET artists Watcharin Rodnit and Kriangrat Thephabutra are holding a joint exhibition of oil on canvas and mixed media sculpture at VR Gallery in Kata. Khun Watcharin has a Masters in Fine Art from Silpakorn University and has exhibited internationally. Khun Kriangrat also attended Silpakorn University and received a Bachelors of Fine Art. His paintings and sculptures have been exhibited throughout Thailand. Both artists are part of the Chino Art Group in Phuket. More information can be found at: momtriphuket.com/artgallery/index.html



Watcharin Rodnit with Mom Luang Tridhosiuth Devakul at the exhibition opening. Photos: Marc Mulloy



### Phuket Afternoon Computer Clinic

Is Windows driving you nuts? Looking for a good internet connection? Need to know how and where to get your PC repaired, or your confounding questions answered? Drop by the new Afternoon Computer Clinics, hosted by Woody Leonhard and Seth Bareiss. Bring your computer. Bring your questions. Bring your sense of humor and let's see if we can solve your PC problems. Sponsored by Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

Informal computer clinics are held every Sunday at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong

Contact at 076-282403, Woody@KhunWoody.com or visit KhunWoody.com



# Impiana's Swasana Spa

No trip to Phuket is complete without at least one visit to a local spa. This week we feature the Swasana Spa, which is tucked away in the Impiana Resort on Patong Beach

IF EVER there was a true boutique spa, then this is it.

It doesn't make pretentious claims to be the biggest, or even the best spa in Phuket. Nor does it boast of having the widest choice of treatments. But what Swasana Spa is proud of is that it offers top-notch spa services fusing the very best techniques of Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, emphasizing inner healing and balance of mind, body and soul, using a fusion of Asia's massive treasure trove of spices and philosophies.

Nestled in the lush tropical gardens of Impiana Resort Patong Phuket, Swasana

**LUXURY**  
living

Spa offers so much more than a spa vacation. The resort also has an excellent local reputation for its fine dining at Sala Bua Restaurant, and now Swasana Spa gives it that something else to be noted for. And you can enjoy the best of both places on the same day, as it offers special spa/dining packages combining an afternoon's body care at Swasana, culminating in a gastronomical adventure (lunch or dinner) at its culinary outlets – with spa cuisine on the menu.

It is no secret that spa therapies are a healthy way to relax. In Swasana Spa, you are able to contemplate while skilled therapists carry out the especially tailored Swasana Massage.

This is an exceptional fusion of three of Asia's most popular massages – Thai, Balinese and Malay – and is a truly unique pampering and blissful experience you may not want to end.

In addition to the interesting selection of treatments, there are a lot more attractions than the year-round promotional packages and special offers.

There are several signature treatments, which are worth highlighting; particularly the all-inclusive 3.5 hour Royal Swasana package.

This package starts off with a choice of body scrub or wrap, followed by a Swasana Massage and Fuzo Massage



and finishing with a choice of a moisturizing or rejuvenating facial.

The Detox Massage is another one of Swasana's particularly enjoyable treatments, and it's therapeutic too.

This is a four hand massage with two therapists working harmoniously to eliminate accumulated toxins and unwanted substances leaving you healthy, happy and glowing – a real 'treat for the senses'.

But whatever treatment you choose, Swasana Spa is a vacationer's paradise situated beside a spectacular beachside location. The spa area features both air-conditioned rooms, with their ornate decor, or the outside fresh air in the spa garden where you can enjoy the sea breeze.

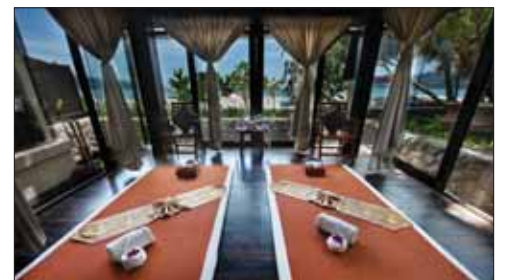
There are also suites for two, should you wish to share your spa experience with a loved one.

Designed with a hectic traveler in mind, the Swasana Spa has a proven record from its predecessors in both Malaysia and Thailand.

Let exceptional Thai pampering carry your vital senses into a world of healing, soothing away the stress of everyday life.

Recover from travel weariness here, and feel the benefits as you experience a touch of paradise.

For further enquiries or to book a session, please email [spaipc@impiana.com](mailto:spaipc@impiana.com) or call +66 (0) 7634 0138.



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## Take us to Phi Phi, chop chop



Hosting lunch right on the beach was Marc Landgraf, COO of Outrigger.



HELILUCK launched a new luxury service to Phi Phi island last week with a new flight from its base at the Boat Lagoon to a private helipad at the new Outrigger Phi Phi Island Resort and Spa. The chopper used was a Robinson R44 Raven II.

To book the sleek new bird, please contact 081-926-2102 or email to [info@helithailandassociates.com](mailto:info@helithailandassociates.com)



PHI PHI FOR LUNCH: On board for the 20-minute trip were, (L to R), Grenville Fordham of Image Asia; Bob Mott of Faraway Yachting Charters; and John Magee of the *Phuket Gazette*.



# Somchai Yimpat

PHOTOGRAPHER and retired lecturer Somchai Yimpat believes that, in photography, the argument over whether film is superior to digital has become mute.

"People focus too much on mediums," he says. "The concern should be about what the final presentation will be. If it's for exhibition prints then film is definitely superior to digital. For sharing on the internet, digital is perfect because it's cheap and fast."

Using photography and other media as a presentation tool is his speciality. *Ajarn Somchai*, as he is known to many, taught education and audio-visual aids (as it was called back then) at both Rajabhat and Prince of Songkhla Universities for 40 years, and is therefore an authority on the subject. He retired in 2005, however, his education work is far from over.

A keen photographer, Somchai has helped to create a community of local photographers. He taught at the now defunct Phuket Photo Association back in the 1980s, inspiring generations of young people to take up cameras. He has also witnessed the rising popularity of digital photography.

In 2012 he established the Phuket Shutter Club (PSC), a new type of cyber community that makes full use of social networking media.

It works very well, he says. The setting is informal as the club



imposes neither strict rules nor membership fees and activities and announcements are usually shared online.

At the core of PSC is an outreach program initiated by Somchai that involves teaching local school children the art of picture making.

As an educator who believes that learning is best done by doing, most of his time is spent outside the confines of the classroom. Somchai taught his first group of youngsters from Koh Sireh and the feedback, according to him, was exhilarating.

"The children were so thrilled that they got to lay their hands on cameras. I believe learning should be fun, creative and democratic. As a teacher nothing pleases me more to see all these ideas coming together."

The outreach project, Somchai says, has the full support of PSC's members who have pitched in either by giving workshops or lending equipment.

Each two-day course includes basic camera use and compositional techniques. The emphasis is on picture taking and a review is given at the end of each session.

As the word got out, the program attracted interest from individuals and photo institutions in Bangkok who donated cameras and printers so that the children could see a tangible result from their efforts. They are also encouraged to turn their prints into postcards, which are then sent to the donors with thank you notes. "People love to receive these hand-made postcards. This tells them that their contributions actually reach the children," says Somchai who has organized around 30 workshops thus far.

As a landscape photographer, who enjoys travelling (he has just returned from a photo trip to Myanmar), Somchai has won many awards in his day. Now he is more likely to sit on a panel of judges at a photo contest than to enter himself. He has also taken part in many group exhibitions and likes the idea of an outdoors show or installation. "Outdoor exhibitions are great, they break down the confinement of a white space. Plus they are easy to set up and fun."

At 67, this retired lecturer is as active as ever. The outreach program, now held once a month, still keeps him busy. Along with teaching part-time and taking photographs, Somchai's days are full and varied. And in the offing is a planned show of his photos from Myanmar. Who says that retirement is a time to wind down?



## About Thai Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Thai Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket as an *international* community, and, often, for having made those contributions through successful social and/or working relationships with foreigners. This implies some foreign language skills and an interest in interacting with different cultures. They are people who in our experience help make the lives of expats far more enjoyable here than might be the case without them.



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\*The Charm Residence Project: Proving Co., Ltd. is the owner of the land, the land allocator and the marketer of the project. It's company registration number is 0835522010143, with its registered office at 5/41 Thaveewong Road, Tambon Patong, Amphoe Kathu, Phuket Province. The company's registered capital is THB 55,666,000.00 (based on the company's certification document dated 30 November 2010). The company is developing the project to be a residential condominium, comprising three five-story residential buildings, and one seven-story residential building, with a total of 240 residential condominium units (and no commercial condominium unit). The company is also developing a residential land allocation project located at Thaveewong Road, Tambon Patong, Amphoe Kathu, Phuket Province. It is being developed on the land under the land title number 12177, land plot number 6, page search 159, Tambon Patong, Amphoe Kathu, Phuket Province. The area of the land subject to the development has an approximate area of 3 Rai, 1 Ngan and 15.8 square Rai. The company is the owner of the land. The land is encumbered to Kasikorn Bank PCL. The project is currently being developed. Once the buyer pays the full purchase price under the sale and purchase agreement, the company will be ready to transfer the ownership to buyers within 30 days. The development of the project commenced in April 2011, and the development of the common properties and public services in the project should be completed around December 2013. Once the development is completed, the company will register the condominium. The buyers of the condominium units will be required to pay the common area fees, taxes, and other fees as determined by the developer or the condominium joint person, subject to the laws on condominium and the terms and conditions set by the company.



# Phuket's Internet options



## Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

As many of you know, I am in the process of moving. Sometime in the next month or so, I'll be moving from a Patong townhouse – where I've lived for the past 12 years – to a modest housing development in Kathu, near Loch Palm Golf Course.

For most of you, moving is a massive pain. For people who are dependent on having fast, reliable internet, 24/7, moving is not only a massive pain, it's frightening. When my internet goes down, I might as well go fishing.

Over the course of the next few Live Wire articles, I'm going to describe the steps I'm going through to get a decent internet connection at my new house and at the same time I'll fill you in on options and tricks available to make your internet connection as painless as possible.

This week, I'm going to start with a general overview of which internet products are available, and how much they cost. Next week, I'll try to hone in on what kind of service(s) most people need – 3G, ADSL, Fiber, WiFi and more exotic options – and how they fit together. In subsequent weeks I'll tell you about the options I've chosen, and try to give you hints about what might be right in your situation.

Here are the main internet vendors in Phuket, and what they have to offer:

TOT has ADSL lines, and in some places Fiber 2U. The standard TOT ADSL package is listed at 10 Mbps, and costs 590 baht per month. You can run that up to a nominal 15 Mbps at 1,290 baht or 20 Mbps at 1,890 baht in most locations. TOT also had the first Fiber Optic lines commercially available in Phuket. The "Infinite Basic Fiber 2U" package runs 1,500 baht per month for nominal 10



**PLAN B:** If internet coverage is sometimes spotty, it's best to have more than one network. Photo: Alan Levine

Mbps, up to 2,500 baht for 20 Mbps. The "Infinite Advance Fiber 2U" package runs 4,500 baht for 10 Mbps, up to 7,500 baht for 20 Mbps. I don't know of anybody who's paid for and tested a faster Fiber 2U connection in Phuket – although they are available in some parts of Bangkok.

TOT also has just started selling a 3G (actually, HSPA+) wireless internet service in Phuket, but details are sketchy. The TOT network is the same one as AIS.

TOT is unique on the island in offering something they call Winet or, sometimes, AirMax. It's an odd service that runs without a wire up to your house, but there's a box that TOT puts on the side of your house that converts the wireless connection into something that works exactly like an ADSL connection. It's a bit complicated, conceptually, but the bottom line is that you can get ADSL-like service without run-

ning a phone line to your house, as long as you're close enough to a particular kind of TOT antenna: that's very important for people who live 'out in the boonies', and for those who live in housing estates that don't allow you to run wires to your house. AirMax is 599 baht per month. I wrote about TOT AirMax in the August 21, 2011 Live Wire.

CAT has ADSL lines, too, starting at 690 baht for a nominal 10 Mbps line, going up to 1,490 baht for a nominal 16 Mbps. Like TOT, they offer premium ADSL service which, like TOT, doesn't seem to work any faster than the plain-vanilla kind.

CAT's Fiber Optic network is now widely available on the island; it's been sitting in a marketing closet for quite a while. The CAT "ONNet" service runs from 1,500 baht per month for a nominal 20 Mbps line, up to 3,500 baht for a 40 Mbps line. Their Gold and Gold Plus services are considerably more expensive, starting at 4,200 baht per month for a 30 Mbps line. We haven't had any real-world test scores submitted for the Gold or Gold Plus lines.

CAT also has 3G (HSPA+) service. It's the same network used by TrueMove, and by DTAC. As of this week, the CAT 3G internet runs 499 baht per month – considerably less than TrueMove and DTAC, for essentially the same product.

3BB is the only landline vendor who hasn't gone to Fiber, or to 3G. Yet, 3BB lines are everywhere (they piggy-backed on the old TT&T wired network). Service starts at 590 baht per month for the nominal 10 Mbps line, going up to 2,290 baht for 20 Mbps.

True offers standard ADSL, which is arguably the best-regarded garden variety ADSL service on the

island. Price starts at 599 baht per month for a nominal 10 Mbps line, up to 1,399 baht for 16 Mbps. I've been told by True staff here in Phuket that they also have a VDSL service available in some locations: VDSL is a lot like ADSL, except it's

faster, and should be more reliable (operative term: "should"). The 20 Mbps VDSL service lists for 2,299 baht per month.

True also has a DOCSIS network set up that runs to many high volume areas on the island. (I have DOCSIS lines installed at the Sandwich Shoppes in both Patong and Chalong, if you want to try them.) DOCSIS is another odd technology that uses a cable that's very similar to Cable TV – shielded coax. I wrote about the DOCSIS technology in the July 7, 2011 Live Wire. Right now, DOCSIS service runs 599 baht per month for 10 Mbps, just like ADSL, going up to 1,299 baht for nominal 20 Mbps. There's also a bonus for the faster DOCSIS lines where you get a very stunted line-up of television stations over the same cable, free, when you subscribe to DOCSIS internet.

True is well known as the parent

company of TrueMove, which offers the TrueMove-H 3G (actually, HSPA+) service all over the island. TrueMove-H uses the same equipment as the CAT 3G network, but it's more expensive: 899 baht per month for up to 5GB of monthly data. If you exceed the 5 GB cap, your service is knocked down to a much slower speed for the rest of the month. For comparison, if you download a typical medium definition TV show, expect to use up to 1 GB per hour of TV show.

DTAC offers 3G (HSPA+) service, the same as CAT, with the same higher price offered by TrueMove. AIS also offers 3G (HSPA+) internet, but it uses the TOT network. It, too, charges 899 baht per month.

By the way, if you go looking for these prices on the internet, you probably won't find them. The ISPs in Phuket are infamous for not using the internet, like a cobbler with no shoes, or a phone salesman with a Blackberry 850. You can find the latest movie schedules online, you can find detailed instructions for building a Plutonium enrichment plant, or creating a liquid that's supercooled to below absolute zero. But heaven help you if you need to find out what internet packages are available and how much they cost.

I came up with all of these numbers by schlepping to each company, in turn, picking up their latest brochures, and chatting with the clerks. Next week I'll try to sort through the alphabet soup and explain what most people need to run their home PCs, Macs, phones, iPads, and the like. It's complicated.

*We're running informal computer clinic roundtables every Sunday morning at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong, located 1 km north of Chalong Circle on Chao Fah East road. If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, or a question about internet service in Phuket, drop by and ask one of the assembled gurus. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.*

*Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Shoot him mail at Woody@KhunWoody.com, follow him on Twitter, @PhuketLiveWire, or "like" his page at facebook.com/SandwichShoppes.*

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**DON'T TOUCH:** Broadband internet is fed into a home. Photo: Nicholas Nova



# Mommy, I want the cute puppy

BY THE time you bring your new puppy home, say at eight weeks of age, it should already be accustomed to an indoor domestic environment (especially one with noises) and well-socialized with people. Similarly, house training, chew toy training, and tutoring in basic manners should be well underway.

If not, your prospective puppy's social and mental development is already severely at risk, and sadly, you could be playing catch-up for the rest of their life.

Make absolutely certain your new puppy has been raised indoors in close contact with people who have devoted lots of time to its education.

If your dog is expected to live in a household with people, obviously it needs to have been raised in a household with people.

Your puppy will need to be prepared for the clamor of everyday domestic living: the noise of the vacuum cleaner, pots and pans dropping in the kitchen, children crying, and passing motorbikes.

Exposure to such stimuli, while its eyes and ears are still developing, allows the puppy (with her blurred vision and muffled hearing) to gradually become accustomed to sights and sounds that might otherwise frighten it when older.

There is not much point in choosing a puppy that has been raised in the relative social isolation of a backyard or kennel, where there is precious little opportunity for actual interaction with people and where a puppy has become accustomed to soiling her living area and yapping a lot. Puppies raised in physical seclusion and partial social isolation are hardly prepared for household living, and they are certainly not prepared for encounters with children.

Look for litters born and raised indoors – in a kitchen or living room. If you want a companion dog to share your home, it obviously should have been raised in a home, not a cage. If they've just been raised in a market cage, look elsewhere. "My dogs need socialization" is one of the more common phrases we hear from dog owners – however, this incredibly important phase in a dog's life is essentially from the age of 6 to 10 weeks.

So, if you've just adopted a five month old street dog,



**Dog Whisperer**  
By Russell D Russell

you have missed the boat.

## Selecting the Right Puppy

Your prospective puppy should feel thoroughly at ease being handled by strangers – you and your family. The puppy should be fully desensitized to sounds before he is four weeks old.



**LIGHTS OUT:** An English Bulldog puppy. Photo: Ivan McClellan

Likewise, his house training program should be well underway, his favorite toy should be a chew toy (stuffed with puppy chow), and he should happily and eagerly come, follow, sit, lie down, and roll over when requested. If these are not so, either your puppy is a slow learner or he has had a poor teacher. In either case, look elsewhere.

An essential ingredient of puppy husbandry is regular (several times a day) handling, gentling, and calming by a wide variety of people, especially children, men, and strangers.

These exercises are especially important during the early weeks and especially with those breeds that are notoriously tricky when handled by strangers – that is, several Asian breeds, plus many herding, working and terrier breeds: in other words, most breeds of dog.

The second most important quality in any dog is that that it can calmly interact with people, and be handled by all people, particularly children and veterinarians.

Early socialization easily prevents serious adult problems. Please remember, the single most important quality for a dog is to develop bite inhibition and a soft mouth during puppy hood.

## Handling and Gentling

If you want a cuddly adult dog,

he needs to have been cuddled regularly as a puppy. Certainly, neonatal pups are pretty fragile and helpless critters; they can barely walk and they have a number of sensory constraints. But they still need to be socialized.

Neonatal pups are extremely sensitive and impressionable, and this is the very best time to accustom them to being handled and to outside distractions. Neonatal puppies may not see or hear very well, but they can smell and feel.

Of course, neonatal, and also initial puppy socialization, being of paramount importance, must be done gently and carefully.

## Questions

Ask the breeder how many people have handled, gentled and trained the pups daily.

Specifically, ask the breeder how many children, men, and strangers have worked with the puppies.

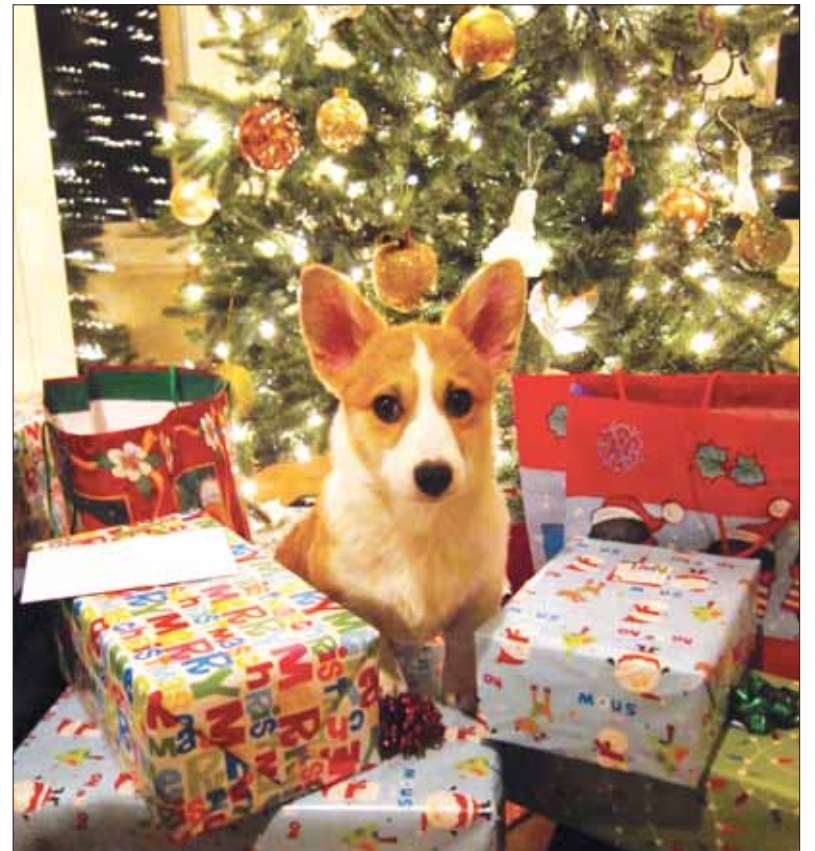
Handle each puppy to see how it enjoys being cuddled (gently restrained); specifically,

see how it enjoys being stroked and massaged (examined) around his neck, muzzle, ears, paws, belly, and rear end.

For more information contact the Thailand Canine Academy on: 089 588 4050, or send an email to [canineworld@icloud.com](mailto:canineworld@icloud.com)



**PUPPY POWER:** Who can resist the persuasive power of faces like these? Photos: Steve Jurvetson; Corrie Barklmore



## Boathouse Wine & Grill

The legendary Boathouse Wine and Grill is a celebration of great French and Thai cuisine right on Kata beach, simply the best oceanfront dining on Phuket.

It is the perfect place for many special occasions such as friends gatherings, birthday celebrations, anniversaries, romantic dinners, weddings etc...or simply a cool cocktail at sunset.

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# David Martin: Life in the extreme



**TOUGH DECISIONS:** David Martin formerly served as a warrant officer with the Royal Logistics Corps.



**IN GEAR:** The vehicles used on the Polar Plateau have been featured on the BBC TV show *Top Gear*.

## From the South Pole to Patong one founder of Extreme World Races helps people achieve the extraordinary

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

NO SMELL, no life, no sound – except the booming of ice cracking and the wind – the South Pole is one of the most hostile environments in the world, but even here in this frozen abyss dreams manage to materialize.

Few search for answers in so bleak a landscape, a place where one meter of snow is no different than another 700 kilometers away. Yet, half a world away, perched on a bar stool in a button down shirt at the Sunset Bar on Soi Bangla is a man who spends half of the year in such a desolate landscape helping people from all walks of life fulfill their goal of participating in the world's most extreme multi-discipline endurance races. The other half of the year he's on the island, helping manage the throbbing, wild crowds that fill his wife's bar in Phuket's party district of Patong.

David Martin, one of the founders of Extreme World Races (EWR), having formerly served as a warrant officer with the Royal Logistics Corps in both the Arctic regions and in the jungles of Central America, is no stranger to extremes.

The most recent high-profile race established by David and his team is their annual South Pole race in honor of those explorers who first raced to the South Pole in 1911. The EWR's "Scott vs Amundsen Centenary 2011 Race to the Pole" ran 745km through the high altitude, white washed desert of the southern Polar Plateau to the Geographic South Pole.

Every year people around the world sign up to fight the elements and endure the mentally grueling battle to achieve this extraordinary goal. These individuals burn over 8,000 calories a day and desperately try to pack back on the necessary 6,000 to 7,000 calories a day to prevent the loss of essential body mass needed to ski across the frozen wasteland dragging all their necessary gear behind them.

"The physical element of the race is not a massive problem," David surprisingly explains. "Physically, most people have the ability to do it."

But the vast majority of individuals stuck in one of life's ruts are never able to break free of the set track and escape their nine to five, escape a life that they are no longer satisfied with.

At the Sunset Bar, David hears these stories from middle aged men spending their two-week holidays complaining about a life that they are unable to untie the

apron strings from.

"There is always an excuse why you can't do it – always an excuse. That's the easiest bit. There are so many excuses. The only obstacle in this is you," says David.

David isn't suggesting that everyone in the world should start purchasing crampons, cross country skis and arctic coats.

"Achieve the extraordinary," David encourages. "But what is extraordinary is relevant to what's out there."

Recognizing achievable goals and gearing expectations to hit those is part of the EWR program, but David steps in from the cold to a New York City example of an

**"I hate when you get the 'you're so lucky that –' go and get it. Go do it. Change it. You want something for nothing? If you don't get up and change it, it won't change – you'll be stuck in your nine to five."**

explains David.

The symptoms can include: deafness, blindness, growth defects, as well as a host of other physical and mental issues.

"So we put Ruben in a speed boat and the feeling of bouncing up and down in the boat was fantastic for him. The motion was the same as an able bodied person gets sitting on a jet-ski. Then we put him in a wetsuit and life jacket and threw him into the water and drove around him creating waves. We couldn't get him out – he loved it".

Not only did Ruben throw a fit when they tried to take him out of the water, he also refused to leave the hot tub where he had a chance to feel the bubbling warm water.

Everyone has a weakness. By establishing those individual handicaps during the EWR training

program in Norway, David and his team are able to push competitors in the right direction to help ensure that they can surmount these individual obstacles in order to succeed. This is also the time when he is able to accurately assess why they are participating in one of the harshest races in the world.

"We establish what they are actually there for, and in doing so we can build upon those reasons and motivate them towards achieving those personal goals.

"For example if we have a middle-aged, divorced housewife with a couple of kids that have just left home, who now has a new lease on life and wants to go out there to do something for herself, that's fantastic.

"She's not going to go out there and win the race against some of the extreme athletes we've got. But we can preposition goals for her, so that, at the end, she can still feel good about achieving the goals she set out to achieve," he explains.

In 2011, a self-employed electrician in London was sitting on his sofa munching on chips with a six-pack of beer watching BBC's *On Thin Ice*, which documents one of EWR's South Pole races, and said to himself, "I can do that."

"He signed up and came to the training. In fairness he did it. He bought the kit, he jogged around his local park – he did it. Was this guy a fine specimen of an athlete? No," says David. "However, he was an individual who poured his heart and soul into achieving something he wanted and was given the support to do it."

The man, who had never even played football as schoolboy, had signed up for the 379 mile ultra marathon (on EWR's 'Black Ice



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Race' in Irkutsk Siberia on Lake Baikal). He made it to the half-way point of the race, and in doing so inspired himself to come back next year and complete the entire race, David explains.

"These are the people we really care about," he adds.

No one from Phuket has yet to step away from their tropical beachfront paradise to race with EWR, David confirms with a laugh.

"I actually joke with my wife that my three boys will be the first Thai nationals to race to the South Pole – they just don't know it yet. I'll groom them over time, they are interested in penguins at the moment, so they are kind of getting into it," David confesses.

But really it is not about leaving Phuket for the desolate frozen world of the Southern Polar Plateau, its about stepping away from the computer, the television – putting down your iPhone5.

It's about signing up for the next Laguna triathlon or the next 5k charity event.

"Just go do it."



FROM HERE TO ETERNITY: David Martin, seen here with his family in sunny Thailand, is equally at home in the sunny, but frozen South Pole, (right).



AGAINST ALL ODDS: Those that are running from something, fighting boredom or are professional extreme racers come to EWR from diverse backgrounds.



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# Pottering with giant plants



**FLOWER POWER:** The Water Jasmine, or *wrightia religiosa*, is favored by Thais for its fragrance. Photo: Prens

I WAS recently asked about suitable terrestrial plants for large, even giant-sized pots. These glazed pots are hand-crafted by traditional methods, and are *objets d'art* in their own right. Not to be upstaged by mere plants. So what principles apply?

First, preserve the integrity of the container by ensuring it is not camouflaged, or covered up by untidy festoons of pendant blooms and foliage. Petunias look wonderful hanging from baskets. Leave them there. Equally, vines are less than ideal since they become straggly, and will ultimately need a supporting structure.

These artificial additions are unlikely to enhance the lines of the pot. It is unwise to consider plants that have tap-roots (most members



## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

of the fig family, for example) since they will be constantly frustrated by their lack of access to deep-lying water.

Or plants, which have huge root systems such as bamboo, which will rapidly outgrow even giant containers. Discount too, plants which droop as soon as their supply of water is exhausted (*gardenias*, *zingibers*).

Any shrub that develops into a small tree will certainly make the pot unstable in high winds.

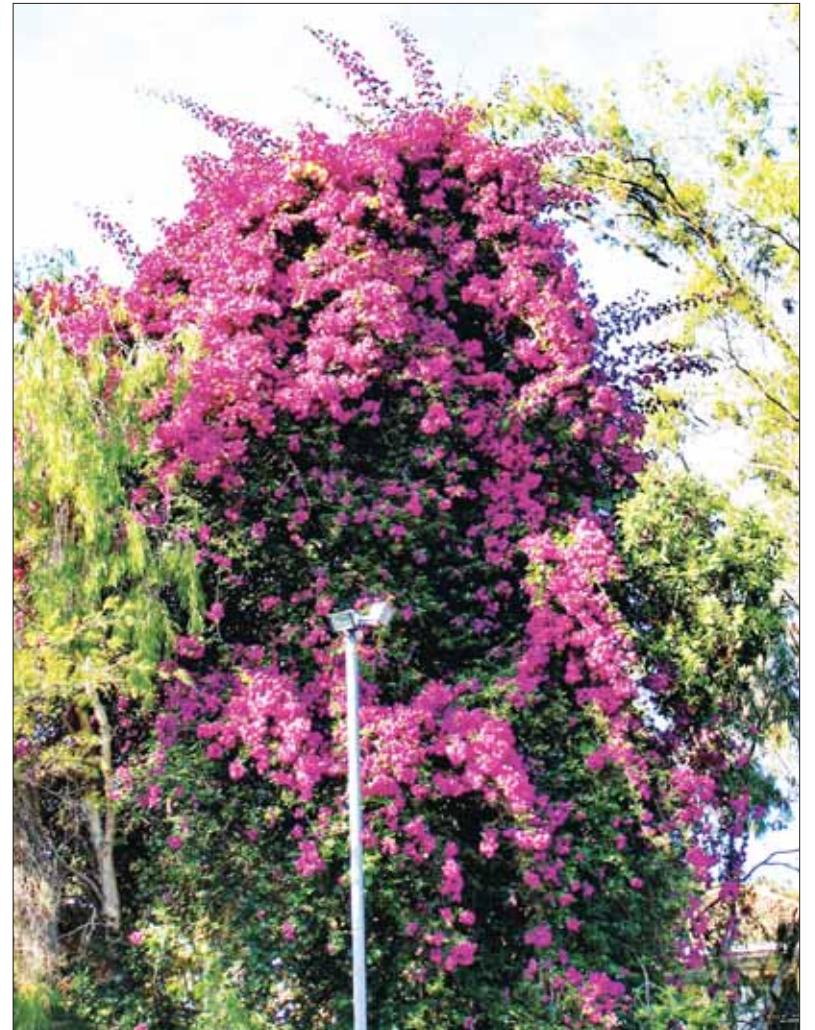
It may, moreover, detract from the aesthetic appeal of the pot. Conversely, a small shrub may

look lost in a giant pot.

Too many "don'ts", you will say. Okay, here are some "dos".

*Do* consider shrubs: they are woody plants that live for many years. Some establish a permanent tree-like structure, then increase in size by sending out new branches from older ones. Others, probably less suitable, send out woody stems (canes) from the base as the older stems decline. Shrubs, like pots, may be rounded, vase-shaped, conical, pyramidal or columnar.

And they should complement the container both by being the right shape, and, by being neither too big nor too small. Foliage preferably evergreen is often more important than flowering capacity. Also the plant's ability to tolerate clipping, either to create a neater shape (as in topiary), or to prevent the shrub from becoming too large. Less of a problem with pots since the dimensions of the root ball will largely determine the size and



**Bougainvilleas** are vines and can grow to 12 meters in length. Photo: bertknot

require only occasional watering.

Among conventional woody shrubs, the range is endless. Here in Thailand, locals favor the fragrant *wrightia religiosa*, but I find this shrub too sparsely leaved. *Murraya* is better and prunes easily. *Ixoras*, particularly the larger cultivars, look good in containers, have attractive foliage, and come in various colors. *Bougainvilleas* are also a sensible choice, especially those which have been grafted to produce several different hued bracts.

They will, however, definitely need to be carefully pruned. Try the upright, white-flowering *plumeria* known here as *leelawadee luxon*. *Dracaenas*, corylines and crotons all possess dramatic, multi-

colored foliage. Among palms, lady palms (*rhaps*) or bamboo palms look splendid in pots, and require little maintenance.

If you are thinking about potted plants for homes elsewhere on this planet, you might consider conifers such as *chaemaecyparis obtusa* (cedars), which have distinctive, evergreen foliage, and rarely grow more than three or four feet tall. Or bay trees. Forms of the Japanese maples (*acer palmatum*) produce leaves which are often red in spring, green in summer and red again in the fall. Beautiful.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, you can email me anytime at: [drpaccampbell@gmail.com](mailto:drpaccampbell@gmail.com)

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## Tip of the Week

### May your New Year be fruitful

THE term fruit refers to the product of a plant's reproductive system.

Most, but by no means all, are produced by trees.

Shrubs that bear edible fruit include the *caramba* or country gooseberry, the roselle (*hibiscus sabdariffa*) whose small red fruits are made into a refreshing drink popular with Thais, and the pomegranate (*punica granatum*), which is full of flesh-covered seeds, and usually ends up as vitamin-rich juice.



**Pomegranate fruit.** Photo: Angelo Amboldi

Fruits range in style from a fleshy berry (mulberry), a drupe

with a hard interior pit or stone such as a *mangosteen*, *lansium* or *langsart*, *rambudan*, to a pome (think apples, *guavas*).

There are also nuts with a hard outer shell such as coconuts, and legumes, which produce pods (*tamarind*, *sator*, *senna*).

Oddly, the peanut is a legume.

Not all are fruits are edible and some are in fact toxic: for example the drupe of *thevetiana* (yellow oleander).



# Indulging in OJ Simpson

## Books

By James Eckardt

THE author of a dozen books, mostly about crime in high places, Dominick Dunne was a compulsive name-dropper.

Ah, but what names! Princess Diana, Elizabeth Taylor, Jack Nicholson, Warren Beatty, Annette Bening, Gregory Peck, Kirk Douglas, Nancy Reagan, Frank Sinatra, Tony Curtis and a whole slew of Hollywood and Euro-trash royalty.

He died three years ago at the age of 83, having lived a very full life. He grew up wealthy in Hartford, Connecticut and mixed with WASP gentility, despite his handicap of being an Irish Catholic.

A decorated veteran of World War II, he drifted into show business.

His brother John Gregory Dunne would grow up to be a famous writer, whose wife Joan Dideon would be even more famous, though a family feud would keep them on tense non-speaking terms for decades.

Dominick Dunne came to writing in a round-about sort of way.

He started out as a Hollywood producer until his drinking and drug problems cost him his wife and his career in 1979. He picked himself up and became a writer, inspired by rage at the man who killed his daughter and spent only two and a half years in jail. He went on to cover famous murder trials, most notably that of the Menendez brothers, Kyle and Eric, who murdered their parents, spent all their money and

when finally exposed as the killers, pleaded fraudulent sex abuse by their father.

Of all murder trials,

OJ Simpson's in 1995 was the big *kahuna*.

Dunne wrote a monthly column about the trial for *Vanity Fair* and was a ubiquitous TV commentator. The result is *Another City, Not My Own* (Ballantine Books, New York, 1997, 406pp), billed as "A novel in the form of a memoir".

Former football star and fledgling actor, OJ Simpson allegedly killed his wife and a waiter friend, Ron Goldman, nearly decapitating them with a knife, and in "The Trial of the Century" led by his "Dream Team" of defense lawyers, he allegedly got away with it.

Simpson is a black man, his wife and the other murder victim white.

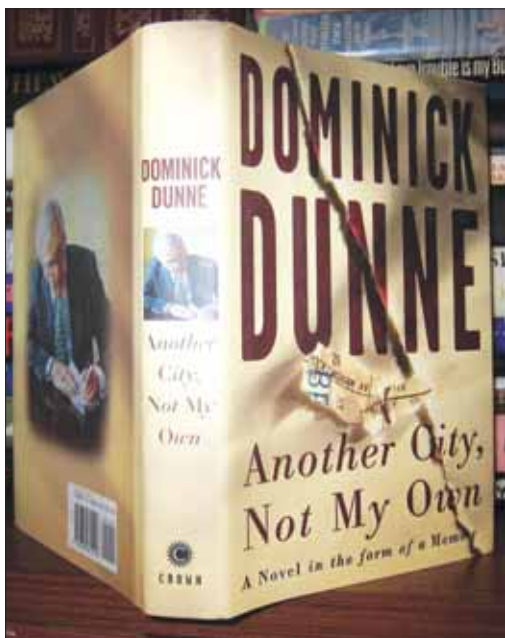
The case brought to the fore America's vicious divisions.

The jury was comprised of nine blacks, two whites and a Hispanic. Despite the overwhelming blood and DNA evidence, Simpson walked.

There was one famous Associated Press photo at the

time, illustrating the national racial divide: a score of college students in front of a TV, the whites open-mouthed with shock and dismay, the blacks leaping aloft in jubilation.

Dominick Dunne spent a year in Los Angeles covering the trial. His investigative method was to dine out every night at various posh venues and pick up gossip. As a television personality, he was



Dunne's book about the OJ Simpson murder trial leaves the reader outraged and intrigued.



HIGH CRIMES: Best-selling author Dominick Dunne (bottom) and OJ Simpson. Photos: US Archives

deluged with tips. The novel is one long slog through the minutiae of the case.

Convinced the evidence proved Simpson's guilt – as is any rational observer – he was bitter in the aftermath of the trial. In a television interview, his fictional alter ego, Gus Baily declaims:

"I felt permeated by evil. I thought of the millions of dollars that had been spent, the lies that had been told, the cheating, the blackmail, the payoffs, the forgery, all that it took to make that moment of acquittal happen. Outrage seems to have gone out of style. I'm an old-fashioned kind of guy. I still believe that killers should be locked up for life. They shouldn't be walking around among us."

Elsewhere he explains why the prosecution failed: "Because the African-

American jurors won't be welcomed back in their neighborhoods if they send their hero to prison. It's as simple as that."

OJ Simpson was later stripped of his fortune in a civil case brought by the two victims' families and later jailed for a clumsy attempt to steal sports memorabilia from his football career.

His was a great case of thwarted justice, but so was the acquittal, a few years before, of the four white LAPD cops who were filmed savagely beating a black man, Rodney King, which sparked nationwide riots.

So the wheel of justice turns, or doesn't.

Dominick Dunne's novel is noble in its moral outrage but the millions of copies sold owe more to the guilty pleasure of rubbing up against Hollywood celebrities.

## A very rich and royal history

BOON Rawd Brewery and Singha Corporation have just released *The Mahidol Royal Family*, an elaborate book tracing His Majesty the King's lineage, to be made available in schools and libraries.

"The book and video, which took over two years to make, are the result of everyone's dedication," said Buranee Rachjaibun, managing director of Ovation Studio and executive producer of the project. "The content isn't new, but it's been carefully processed from reliable and verifiable sources in order to help people understand history and, more importantly, use them as a reference."

"The documentary film wasn't easy because we had to tell the stories via images and voiceover, but it's very special and enchanting. It isn't just old pictures put together,



The Royal Palace, Bangkok.

but reflects the atmosphere, the lives and the memories of the past.

Readers will gain a fresh appreciation for the Mahidol clan's determination to improve citizens' lives and an understanding of the affection the family shares. – *Kupluthai Pungkanon*

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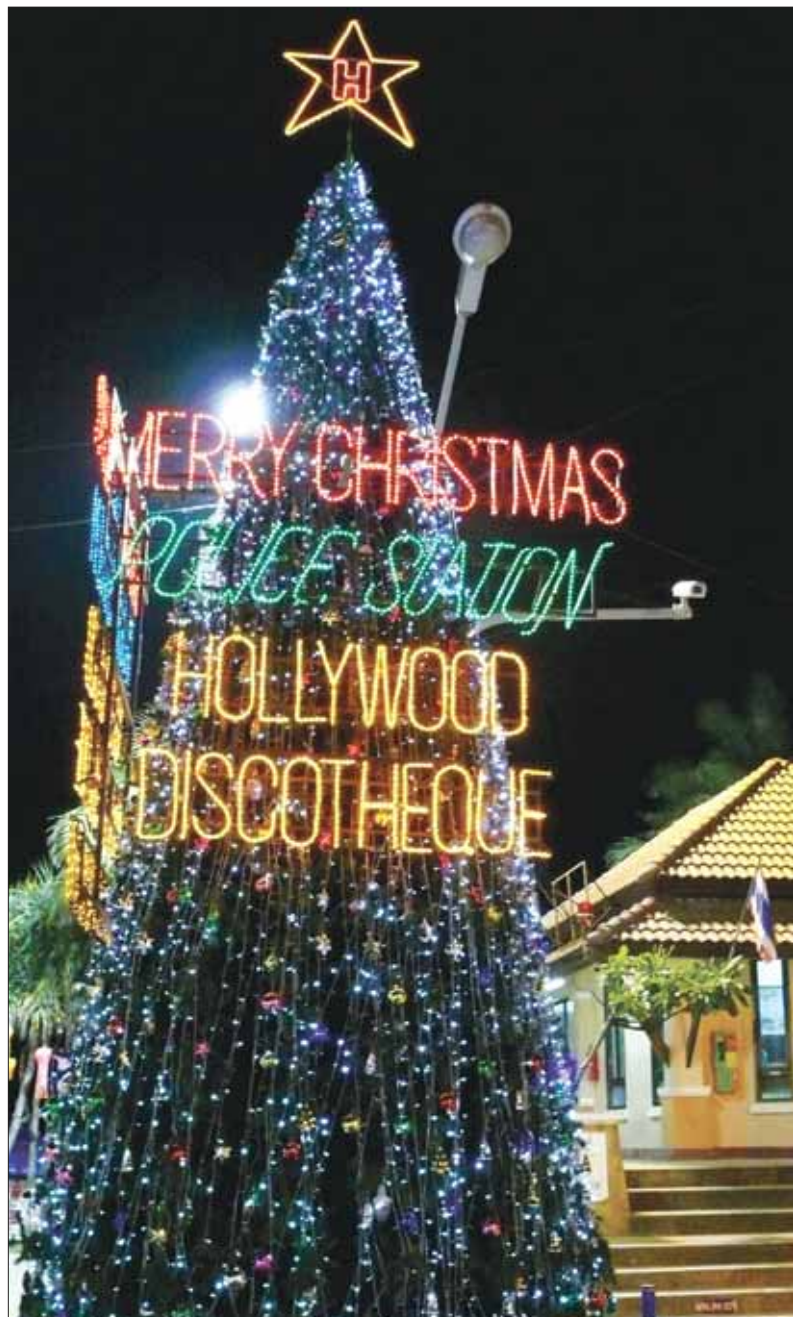
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ONLY IN PATONG: A strangely named discotheque and a specialized day care center (above right). Photos: Bob Mott



Not it's not, but the Pigs in Blankets (right) are. Photos: Mark Dee, Bob Mott

# More sign language



## Some resolutions for 2013

JUST for today, I will not sit in my living room all day in my night-clothes. Instead, I will move my computer into the bedroom.

I will no longer waste my time reliving the past, instead I will spend it worrying about the future.

I will not bore my boss with the same excuse for taking leave. I will think of some more excuses. I will do less laundry and use more deodorant.

I will avoid showering whenever possible and conserve more water.

I will assure my lawyer that I will never again show up drunk at

a custody hearing.

I will give up chocolates totally. 100 per cent. Completely. Honestly....

I will try to figure out why I really need nine e-mail addresses.

I will stop sending e-mails to my wife/husband.

I resolve to work with neglected children – my own.

I will stop sending e-mail, ICQ, Instant Messages while being on the phone with the same person.

I will never again eat a jack fruit before going to a public function.

I will read the manual... (just as soon as I can find it).

I will think of a password other than "password."

I will not tell the same story at every get together.

I will read those books I bought 5 years ago on "How to improve my memory" ... I keep forgetting to read them.

I will stop considering other people's feelings when they so obviously don't consider mine – if that unwashed fellow sits next to me again, I'll tell him he stinks!

Be more decisive. I'll absolutely try to attempt to think about resolving to be more decisive, if I

possibly can.

I will not ring the stewardess button on airplanes just to get her phone number.

I will not congratulate any woman on their pregnancy unless I am sure she is pregnant and not fat.

I will start buying lottery tickets at a luckier store.

When I hear a funny joke I will not reply, "LOL!"

**Resolutions you would be tempted to keep...**

Spend more time watching TV or movies.

Chat more often over the phone or the Internet.

Read less.

Gain weight. Put on at least 30 pounds.

Stop exercising. Waste of time. Procrastinate more.

Drink some more.

Start being superstitious.

Spend much less time at work.

Stop bringing lunch from home:

I should eat out more.

Take up a new habit: Maybe smoking!

– Compiled by Marc Mulloy



## Adventures in Tinglish



YOU may be familiar with the word "Tinglish." This is a mixture of Thai and English often spoken in Thailand. Just as we have Hinglish (Indian English, achhchha!), Singlish (Singaporean English, lah!), and Jinglish (Japanese English, deska!), so we also have Tinglish.

My friend Fardley Nerdwell has a girlfriend named Noy, who provides him with a rich supply of Tinglishisms.

"One of Noy's favorite celebri-

ties is Juttin Timmerlay," Fardley told me. "Bet you can't guess who that is."

That was too easy: Justin Timberlake.

"There's also the movie star Boot Weelit."

That was easy, too: Bruce Willis.

"Shot Put," Fardley continued. "Guess who that is?"

That one stumped me. It was George Bush.

"One day she had to go to the hot peter to see a friend. It took some time to figure that out. She meant the hospital."

"I wonder how the two of you manage to communicate at all," I said.

"It can get frustrating," Fardley admitted. "The worst time was when she came back from a trip to Hua Hin with her girlfriends. I asked what she had liked best about Hua Hin. She said, 'I like hot.'"

"Hot," I echoed. "You mean she liked the warm weather?"

"Nope. Guess again," Fardley said.

"Hot food," I ventured. "She ate some spicy-hot food there and liked it."

"Nope. Try again."

I was baffled.

"Think, man! When you go down to the beach at Hua Hin, what's the first thing you see?"

I thought. "Well, you see

ponies giving rides to tourists."

"Exactly. 'Hot' means 'horse,'" Fardley said. "She liked riding the horses on the beach. Once we were driving along and she suddenly said, 'One woe for life.' I was startled. I had been thinking about asking her to marry me. And now, like a thunderbolt, the possible consequences came crashing down around my ears. If I married Noy, quite possibly I would have 'one woe for life.'"

"Nice of her to warn you," I said.

Fardley chuckled. "Yes, but it was unintentional. She had been reading a sign on the back of the car in front of us. It was a Volvo, and the sign read 'Volvo for Life.'"

"That's a new one," I observed. "I've heard 'Volvo' pronounced 'wowo' before, but never 'one woe.'"

"There's also a Khorat Hotel in

Bangkok, and a song called *Writing Bahboo*. Bet you can't tell what those mean."

I was stumped again. The hotel turned out to be the Conrad, and the song was *Lightning Bar Blues*.

"One day she was gazing into a mirror and looking disconsolate," Fardley went on. "She sighed, 'I am owned!' I was puzzled. Owned? By whom, pray? Did she find our relationship confining? Had she given her heart to somebody else? Had she been sold into slavery? But no, nothing so dramatic. She meant 'I am old!' At the advanced age of 24 she was imagining bags under her eyes."

"Better to be old than owned," I philosophized.

*Ye Olde Curmudgeon, who is old but not owned, can be flamed c/o s.tow@gmail.com.*



# A Christmas carol



" 'Twas the day before Christmas and all was calm at the 91.5 FM studio in Kathu, with nothing to be heard but the occasional Tuk-tuk and the odd tailor offering to make a suit 'Special price for Christmas, sir'. The afternoon show hosted by The Doris was in full swing...."



THEN there came a knock at the door. "Is this Santa with my Christmas bonus?" asked The Doris.

"Not possible," replied 'The man that does not speak'.

But there behind the door was Santa Claus in disguise, fully dressed as an official from the Phuket Labor and Employment office.

"I have come to check all your staff credentials," he politely explained and was invited into the office.

'She that must be obeyed' duly provided everything required, even The Doris (who always carries his credentials with him) was able to satisfy the officers.

After a short period of photocopying and picture taking they climbed aboard their very special Santa sleigh, disguised as a Toyota mini-bus, and went on their way, no doubt seeking mince pies and festive spirit.

Christmas day arrived and with it the ghosts of Christmas past in the form of three DJs: Garry Holden, Paul Norris and Gerry Mitchell.

All was calm in the realm of 91.5 FM, when all of a sudden there was another knock on the door.

"Who can it be this time?" asked 'The man that does not speak'.

"Easy" replied The Doris, "It's Santa

returning with my Christmas bonus".

However, opening the door 91.5 FM was delighted to see it was Santa and his helpers only this time dressed as officers of the Phuket Immigration Department.

"Two official visits in two days?" 'She that must be obeyed' inquired, "... and both around the Christmas holiday?"

"Just doing our job" replied the senior immigration official.

"No worries," 'She that must be obeyed' retorted and proceeded to produce all the paperwork and photocopies from the Christmas Eve visit.

"Excellent, and sorry for disturbing you on your Christmas day" came the

response after a short while, "We will be on our way".

The three immigration officers climbed aboard their sleigh (also disguised as a Toyota mini-bus) and went on their way.

The Doris returned to his Special Christmas Day Show, "Still no bonus..." he was heard mumbling.

Gerry arrived in preparation for his special Sunset Sounds show and 'The man that does not speak' sat contemplating life and the universe and wondering about coincidences.

All was calm and peaceful and goodwill spread throughout the 91.5 FM realm.

- *The man that does not speak*



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**SUDOKU:** Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

## COFFEE break

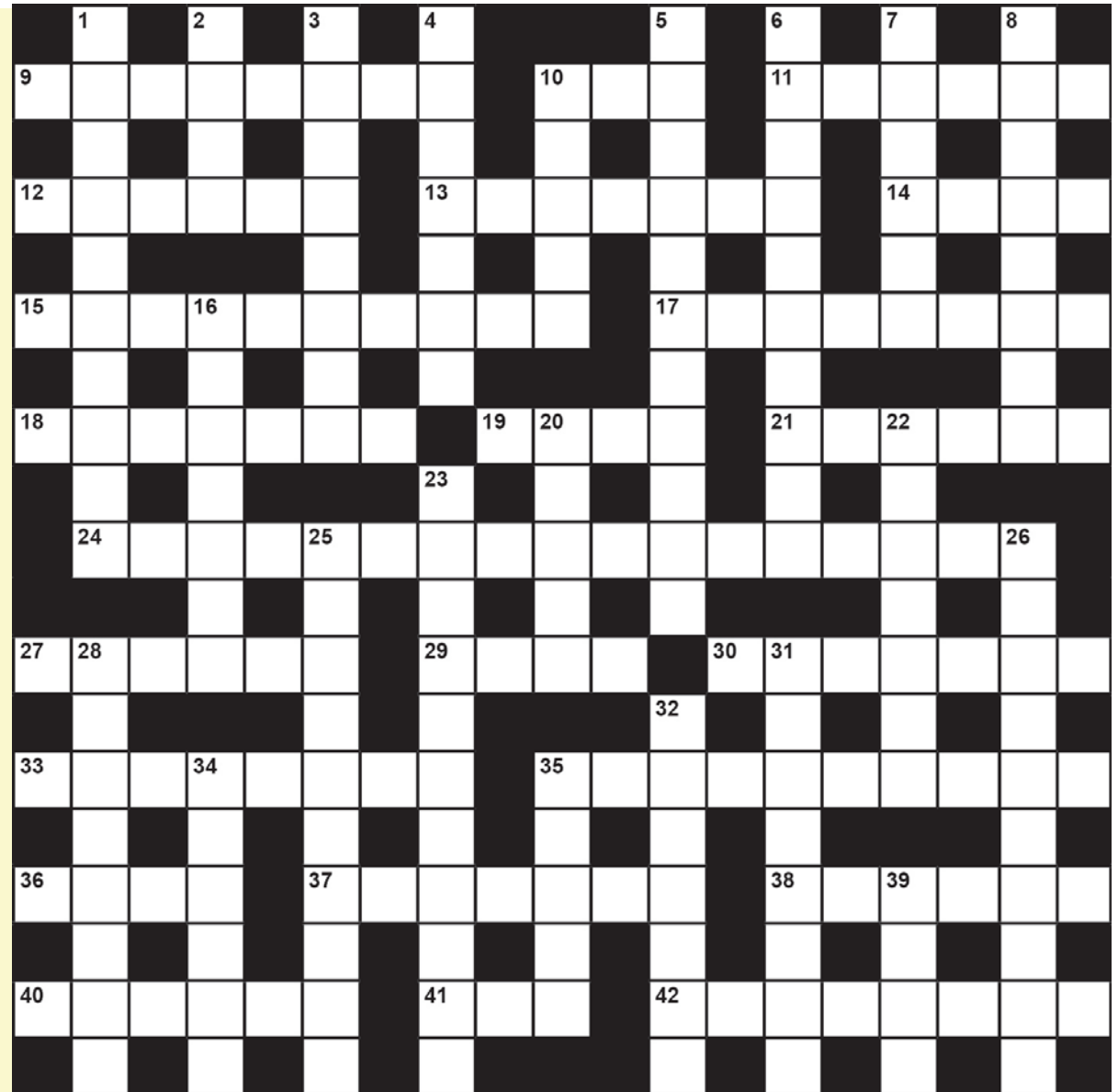
### Across:

9. Or in Panama, a prospect (8)  
10. Or back around one in S.A. city (3)  
11. Turn past clamor in turmoil (6)  
12. Nowadays, riot about the skilful (6)  
13. United Nations twits arranged to undo winding (7)  
14. Exploit both ways (4)  
15. Ruined, lend out, become stressed (10)  
17. Can't dice around in mishap (8)  
18. Required to dig bole out (7)  
19. A hut untidy, in a state (4)  
21. Paper boss tired out about nothing (6)  
24. Eastern upper class mutiny, compare no such arrangement in

- Western group of nations (8,9)  
27. A fine, pretty romance (6)  
29. Not Egyptian record (4)  
30. Strange, worthless dog with evidence of debts (7)  
33. Is sent, I'd organised order (8)  
35. Calm raid is uncovering extremism (10)  
36. Street back of the French horse breeder (4)  
37. Arrives and increases the volume (5,2)  
38. Melts a new group of elements (6)  
40. Olé, little brother is out for a Spanish dance (6)  
41. Trick the prisoner (3)  
42. Proves to become a short break in the journey (4,4)

### Down:

1. Arranging parole, band is capable of being excused (10)  
2. Party cheat, a bird no longer with us (4)



3. Pal is let chew the lozenge (8)  
4. Mug a man destroying fruit in Thailand (7)  
5. Oh, I'd lay out residence as a second dwelling (7,4)  
6. Curt abuse I get from swain (6,4)  
7. Dashed about, did business (6)  
8. Arrived inside and inherited (4,4)  
10. Judged the worth of trade turn-over (5)  
16. Retire about article in African

- country (7)  
20. Possible tact I understood (5)  
22. Starting badly, I tail in (7)  
23. Control nation in trotting competition (7,4)  
25. Nope, I crept about showing intuitive recognition! (10)  
26. Those identical to you, maybe every soul, son (10)  
28. Right, stories around cause discord (8)

31. Turn new public land to the few and far between (8)  
32. These days I put forward fatty (7)  
34. Dine out, editor. Really? (6)  
35. Pine, sap, about wrongdoing (5)  
39. Slowly run toddler round the river (4)

*Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 31*

### CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

The stars suggest that your creative energy will flow more freely during the second half of January. Put this asset to good use by tackling a work related problem you haven't known how to approach. Those with a birthday during the coming week should enjoy closer family ties in the year ahead. Where romance is concerned, single Capricorns could meet their match in another earth sign. Your lucky number this week is five.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

Work matters become more promising during the second half of January, with a fire sign waiting in the wings. This person can provide necessary support and experience to enable you to achieve more. Aquarians who are determined to go it alone with a new project are advised that this will be more difficult than expected. Sparkling days for romance are Sunday and Monday. Number two could prove to be lucky this week.

### PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):

Obstacles are more easily overcome this week, particularly if they are financially related. The stars suggest that the second half of

January will be an auspicious time to agree settlements and gain what is rightfully yours. Where romantic relationships are concerned, Pisceans who have been putting another water sign first could have a change of heart. Love with an earth sign is well starred. Number eight can bring good fortune this week.

### ARIES (March 21-April 20):

The stars advise Arians to allow others to have their say this week. There are hints that certain people in the world of work have useful information that you would be wise to listen to. In the realm of romance, sharing your feelings will be appreciated by an earth sign this weekend. Money matters are well starred on Tuesday and Wednesday. Your lucky number this week is four.

### TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

Actions speak louder than words. Those born under the sign of Taurus should finally see another earth sign making good on a promise made late last year. Wednesday is the best day for talking about how this will happen. Romance will also benefit from an honest conversation this weekend – an air sign partner is ready to explain why they acted out of character lately. Number one can be lucky for Taureans this week.

## YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

### GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

A situation at work comes full circle during the second half of January and the stars advise that this will be to your advantage. There could be some nail-biting moments before a result is reached and de-stressing should be on your agenda this week. Those romantically involved with a fire sign could see a new side to this person they had never expected. The number two can be important for Geminis.

### CANCER (June 22-July 23):

The stars advise that you will need to try harder to earn respect. This may involve adopting a more formal approach to business negotiations, particularly if cross-cultural relations are involved. Loss of face is likely if your attitude is too casual. Cancerians looking for advice will learn from an earth sign with relevant experience. Auspicious days for finances are Wednesday and Thursday. Your lucky number this week is three.

### LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

Moves made on the spur of the moment are not well starred this week. Impatience could cause you to react too quickly and there are signs that this could land Leos in hot water. An offer made by an air sign should certainly be put on hold until you have chance to investigate further. Romance with another fire sign brings happiness this weekend. Your lucky number this week is seven.

### VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

Virgoans' ability to remain calm and collected will prove useful during the days ahead. The stars suggest that ups and downs in the world of work will be hard to understand, but clarity is forecast by the end of the month. A romantic relationship with a water sign that is still in early days may soon be put to the test. Number nine can be fortunate this week.

### LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

There are hints that Librans will be the center of attention for different reasons this week. At work, your skills are sought after and those seeking new employment may receive an

offer out of the blue. Within the realm of romance, there can be something to celebrate where a relationship with an earth sign is concerned. Number six looks special for those born under the sign of Libra.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

Scorpios who are searching for new ways to make money could pick up tips from another water sign. The stars suggest that your creative streak can bring in extra income, but this will mean burning some midnight oil. Those who were hoping to pursue romance with a fire sign will receive a clear message when they experience a setback this weekend. Your lucky number this week is three.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

Where work and business are concerned, this is not an auspicious time to rock any boats. The stars advise that a situation you're not happy about is likely to change, but trying to force any issues can create unnecessary ripples. On the domestic front, duty calls this weekend; a partner has been tiring of your tendency to avoid certain tasks. The number one stands out for Sagittarians this week.



# Suarez raises honesty issue

By Justin Palmer

NEVER far from controversy during his career, Liverpool striker Luis Suarez's winning goal in an FA Cup match on Sunday re-ignited the morality debate in sport – should the honesty card be played in the heat of battle?

Suarez's goal, aided by a clear handball, against plucky minor league opponents Mansfield Town in a third round tie brought accusations of cheating against the Uruguayan.

Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers staunchly backed his player and even Mansfield boss Paul Cox said it had been "instinctive" and Suarez had not done anything wrong in the 2-1 away win.

The handball was judged accidental by referee Andre Marriner and his assistants but Suarez, banned for eight matches last season for racially abusing Manchester United's Patrice Evra, was again greeted by unwanted headlines on Monday.

"Caught red-handed again", "cheated" and "Suarez 'stole our FA Cup glory'" were just some of the accusations laid at the striker's feet.

Suarez was also pilloried for a handball on the goal-line that prevented Ghana's Dominic Adiyiah from scoring a winner in the last minute of a 2010 World Cup quarter-final.

Suarez, then an Ajax player, was sent off but Asamoah Gyan missed the penalty – and Uruguay triumphed in the shootout after extra time to make the semis.

Unabashed, Suarez said he had usurped Diego Maradona by pronouncing "the hand of God now belongs to me".

Just how honest should sportsmen be on the field of play? Is it up to the match officials to spot incidents of cheating or must players own up when they clearly

## INTERNATIONAL Sport

know they have gained an advantage from an infringement?

Former Liverpool defender Alan Hansen, in his column in the UK's *Daily Telegraph* newspaper, said no footballer would ever ask a referee to disallow his goal, by whatever means it came by, and opined that the "outrage" was in part down to Suarez now being an "easy target".

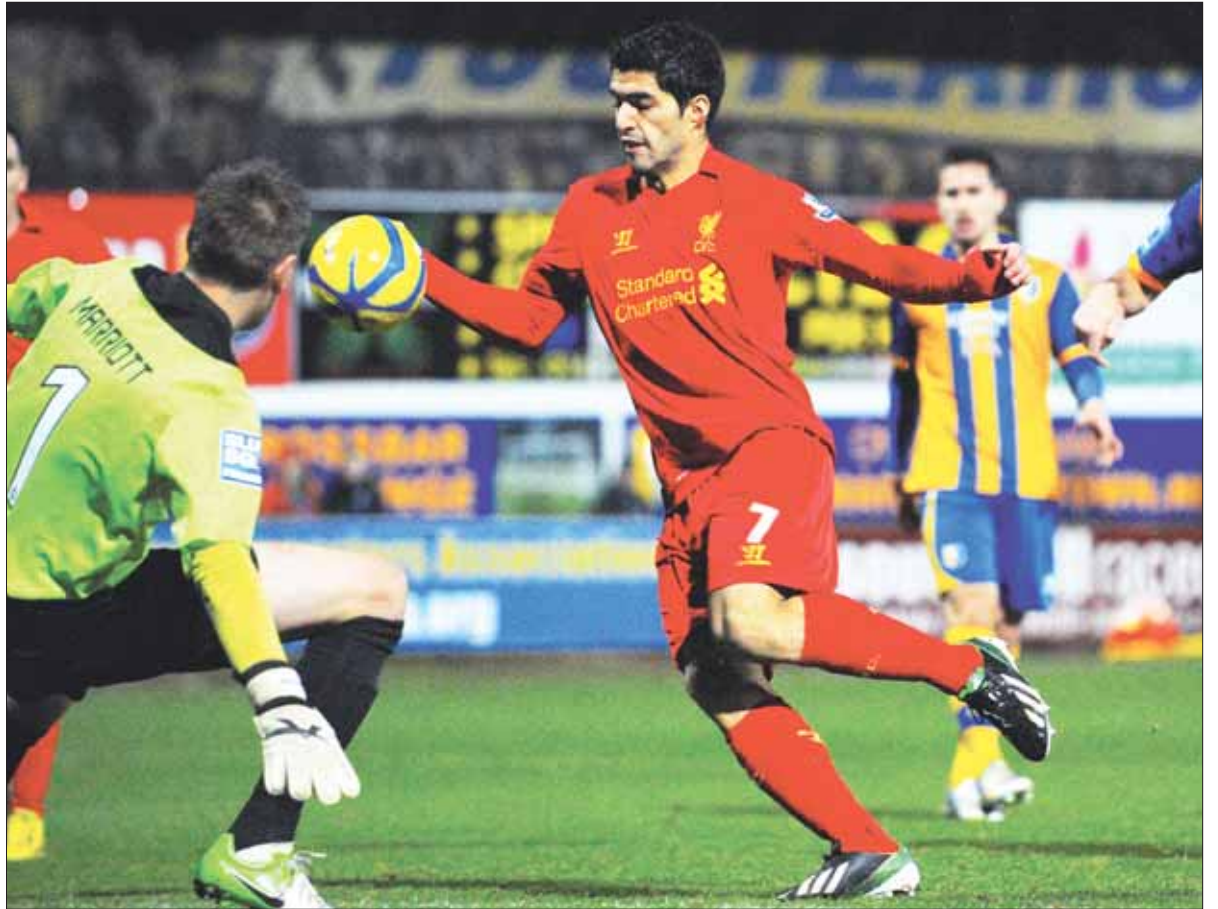
"What exactly was Suarez supposed to do? Run to the referee and tell him it hit his hand? His team mates would go berserk and his manager would not be too impressed either," Hansen wrote.

He added: "From Suarez's reaction, he expected it to be disallowed and when it was not, he has decided to get on with the game. It is not like he ran off celebrating. He did exactly what anyone who has ever played professional football – and anyone who plays in the future – would do in the same situation."

Suarez's goal revived memories of France's controversial World Cup play-off victory over Ireland in Paris in 2009, when Thierry Henry handled the ball before setting up William Gallas's winner that put the French team through to the 2010 finals.

The striker later acknowledged he had handled but absolved himself from blame when he said: "I'm not the ref. I played it, the ref allowed it."

Some sports have a reputation for honesty more than others. Golfers routinely penalize themselves for rule infringements, as do snooker players, but there is no such thing as a perfect world.



SPORTSMAN: Liverpool striker Luis Suarez gives his team a helping hand. Photo: AFP

In other sports, a reputation for upholding the spirit of the game does not always make you popular.

Former Australia cricketer Adam Gilchrist was renowned for his honesty at the crease, walking (back to the pavilion) when he thought he had made contact with the ball before being caught, even if the umpire had not given him out.

His moral stance, once the norm in the game but now a rarity, was not always appreciated by team mates, though.

Winning, at all costs and by whatever means, is often the watchword of professional sport.

The *Independent* newspaper's chief sports writer James Lawton said "doing the right thing", and owning up to having infringed the rules, would not have occurred to Suarez.

"He confirmed his status as arguably the most dazzling but troubling enigma ever to arrive in English football," Lawton wrote on Monday.

"Once again, and after one of the most brilliant phases of his

extraordinary career, he showed that for some men, however uncomplicated their gifts, doing the right thing, as opposed to simply gaining any kind of advantage, is the most difficult of challenges."

Moments of honesty do win you friends and admirers. In 1997, Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler won plaudits when he asked referee Gerald Ashby to change a penalty awarded to his side in a Premier League match against Arsenal at Highbury.

Fowler said he had not been fouled by Arsenal goalkeeper David Seaman but Ashby did not reverse his decision.

Fowler nevertheless took the subsequent penalty, which was saved, only for Jason McAteer to score from the rebound as Liverpool won the game 2-1.

Afterwards, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said it had been a "great gesture" by Fowler who was handed a UEFA Fair Play award by European football's governing body.

In 2001, Italian Paolo Di Canio

was commended by FIFA after passing up the opportunity to score a winner for West Ham United at Everton in December 2000 by catching the ball because goalkeeper Paul Gerrard was lying injured.

Another striking moment of honesty came earlier this season, when Lazio's Miroslav Klose scored an early goal against Napoli but the referee changed his mind after the Germany forward said he had used his hand.

The spirit of fair play can badly backfire though – as seen in a Champions League game in November.

Shakhtar Donetsk striker Luiz Adriano was banned for one game for unsporting behavior after he scored as his team tried to play the ball back to Danish side Nordsjaelland's goalkeeper following an injury.

Shakhtar backed UEFA's decision, saying they "believed fair play is a fundamental part of football". But just what constitutes fair play in sport remains open to debate.

– Reuters

EPL TABLE		
TEAM	PTS	
1 Man Utd	52	
2 Man City	45	
3 Tottenham	39	
4 Chelsea	38	
5 Everton	36	
6 Arsenal	34	
7 WBA	33	
8 Liverpool	31	
9 Swansea	29	
10 Stoke	29	
11 West Ham	26	
12 Norwich	25	
13 Fulham	24	
14 Sunderland	22	
15 Newcastle	20	
16 Aston Villa	19	
17 Southampton	18	
18 Wigan	18	
19 Reading	13	
20 QPR	13	

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES		
SATURDAY, 12 JAN 2013 19:45		
QPR VS Tottenham		
SATURDAY, 12 JAN 2013 22:00		
Aston Villa VS Southampton		
Everton VS Swansea		
Fulham VS Wigan		
Norwich VS Newcastle		
Reading VS West Brom		
Stoke VS Chelsea		
Sunderland VS West Ham		
SUNDAY, 13 JAN 2013 20:30		
MAN UTD VS LIVERPOOL		
SUNDAY, 13 JAN 2013 23:00		
ARSENAL VS MAN CITY		

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# Messi confirms legend status

INTERNATIONAL

Sport

By Brian Homewood

LIONEL Messi, still only 25, was named the world's best player for the fourth time in a row on January 7 after a year in which he finally produced his best form for Argentina as well as Barcelona.

Messi was handed the FIFA *Ballon d'Or* award after a typically cheesy ceremony, which featured a performance from a giant dancing armadillo named Fuleco, the mascot for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Real Madrid and Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo, winner in 2008, finished runner-up behind Messi for the third time and Messi's Barcelona teammate Andres Iniesta was third.

For the third time in a row since FIFA's Player of the Year merged with France Football's *Ballon d'Or*, the podium was shared by three players based in La Liga.

Spain's Vicente del Bosque won the Coach of the Year award in a poll where FIFA bafflingly failed to look beyond coaches based in Europe.

Herve Renard, who led Zambia to a poignant and highly unlikely win at the African Nations Cup one year ago, and Tite, coach of South American and world club champions Corinthians, both failed to make the original shortlist of 10 coaches.

Del Bosque's two rivals on the night were former Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola, who is currently on a one-year sabbatical and won only the King's Cup last season, and Real Madrid's Jose Mourinho, who won La Liga.

Brazil's participation was restricted to the armadillo, a capoeira dance group that performed early in the ceremony and cameo appearances from former forward Ronaldo



FOURTH STRAIGHT: Lionel Messi looks at the *Ballon d'Or*. Photo: Reuters

and national team coach Luiz Felipe Scolari, who presented two awards.

The five-times world champions have not had a player in the final three since Kaka won the award in 2007, an unprecedentedly bad run for a country, which once produced industrial quantities of world class footballers. Their only representative on the 23-man shortlist this time was Santos striker Neymar, who finished 13<sup>th</sup> with 0.61 per cent of the vote.

In terms of major titles, 2012 was relatively poor for Messi's Barcelona, who won only the King's Cup. They lost out to Real Madrid in La Liga and their Champions League campaign ended with a semi-final defeat to Chelsea.

Yet, there was no arguing with Messi's record-breaking total of 91 goals in the calendar year while he also overcame his

major perceived weakness, his form when playing for his country.

Messi scored 12 goals for Argentina, including his first two hat-tricks, as he put them well on course for a place at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

"We have changed this year, we haven't lost any games and, very importantly, we have played very well, something which we weren't doing before," said Messi in a news conference before the ceremony.

"I'm happy about the way things are going. We have to keep improving as a team and qualify first, but there's still a long way to go."

Messi won 41.6 per cent of the votes in the poll conducted among the coaches and captains of the world's national teams, while Ronaldo managed 23.68 per cent and Iniesta 10.91.

Xavi was fourth and Colombia's Radamel Falcao fifth while Africa's only representative among the 23-player shortlist was Didier Drogba, who was eighth.

The ceremony, conducted by former Dutch international Ruud Gullit and television presenter Kay Murray, began with a speech from FIFA president Sepp Blatter, who made a brief reference to last week's racism incident in Italy.

"If a player walks off the pitch because he has been racially abused, just as AC Milan player Kevin-Prince Boateng did, it is a strong and courageous signal, a way of saying it has gone too far," he said.

"It is praiseworthy but it cannot be the solution in the long term," added Blatter over the incident in which Boateng walked off the field after hearing racist abuse from the crowd and Milan followed suit.

The Team of the Year was entirely based on La Liga players, featuring Iker Casillas in goal, Dani Alves, Gerard Pique, Sergio Ramos and Marcelo, in defense, Xabi Alonso, Xavi and Andres Iniesta in midfield and Lionel Messi, Radamel Falcao and Cristiano Ronaldo in attack.

In a rare venture away from Spain, the Best Goal of the Year was given to Slovakian forward Miroslav Stoch for his effort for Fenerbahce against Genclerbirligi in a Turkish Super League match.

Former West Germany captain and coach Franz Beckenbauer was given the presidential award for outstanding service to football.

Abby Wambach became the first American since 2002 to win the women's Player of the Year award and Sweden's Pia Sundhage, who led the United States to the gold medal at the Olympic Games, was named Coach of the Year for women's football.

Uzbekistan won the Fair Play award for their overall record in Asian competitions. They beat the Guatemalan Football Federation who had been widely praised for handing life bans last year to three seasoned internationals found guilty of match-fixing. — Reuters

## Armstrong offered donation to USADA

DISGRACED cyclist Lance Armstrong once offered to donate nearly US\$250,000 to anti-doping efforts, the head of the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) told the sports show *60 Minutes Sports* in an interview aired on Wednesday.

Armstrong, who was stripped of his seven Tour de France titles last year after an investigation by USADA found evidence of wide-spread doping, had a representative offer the agency a large sum of money in 2004, USADA chief Travis Tygart said in the wide-ranging interview.

"I was stunned," Tygart told interviewer Scott Pelley, "It was clear – it was a clear conflict of interest for USADA."

"We had no hesitation in rejecting that offer."

Asked how much money Armstrong offered the agency, Tygart replied; "in excess of \$150,000." Told by Pelley that *60 Minutes* had learned it was \$250,000, Tygart answered; "It was around that ballpark."

Tygart also alleges Armstrong provided the International Cycling Union (UCI), a regulatory body for the sport, a gift of \$100,000.

During the interview, Tygart describes

Armstrong and his team of doctors, coaches and riders as similar to a "Mafia" that kept their secret for years and intimidated riders into silently following their illegal methods.

Some of those riders are considered victims by Tygart and he says they were forced to choose between following the doping program or being off the team.

Tygart tells Pelley, he was "stunned" when the US Justice Department failed to charge Armstrong at the end of a two-year investigation and failed to share their findings with USADA.

"I don't know (why they failed to charge Armstrong)," says Tygart. "It's a good question and if you finally get an answer, let me know."

Armstrong has denied ever using performance-enhancing drugs, but according to a recent *New York Times* story is considering coming clean about doping in an effort to return to competition.

He declined to be included in the *60 Minutes Sports* story.

Lance Armstrong will give his first television interview, since his career crumbled, to Oprah Winfrey on January 17. — Reuters



UNDER PRESSURE: Lance Armstrong continues to maintain his innocence. Photo: Reuters.



# Quake fears not a factor in Tokyo's 2020 Olympic bid

By Alastair Himmer

CONCERNS that a major earthquake could strike during the 2020 Olympics will not affect Tokyo's chances of hosting the Games, the city's bid leader said on Tuesday.

Tokyo tiptoed into the bidding race after losing out to Rio de Janeiro for 2016 and with the country still recovering from a deadly tsunami and resulting nuclear crisis in 2011.

"You can't predict with any certainty where and when earthquakes will hit," Tokyo's bid president Tsunekazu Takeda told reporters.

"They can potentially happen in any country. It's the reaction to the quake, which is the most important thing and to be ready as a nation if that occurs."

Tokyo, which hosted Asia's first Olympics in 1964, is the favorite with British bookmaker William Hill to beat rivals Istanbul

## INTERNATIONAL Sport

and Madrid, offering odds of 4/6. Istanbul are 5/2 and Madrid 3/1.

Despite Tokyo's economic strength and strong infrastructure, Takeda faced questions over whether the city could withstand another major earthquake.

A 9.0-magnitude quake in March 2011 triggered tsunami waves of up to 40 meters, killing more than 15,000 people in north-east Japan and causing a meltdown at a nuclear plant north of Tokyo.

"In Japan, the procedures for dealing with disasters and architectural guidelines are very stringent," said Takeda. "In the 2011 disaster there were no casualties in Tokyo.

"The buildings really didn't suffer damage. We stressed to the IOC (International Olympic Committee) that Tokyo's buildings can withstand earthquakes.

"Tokyo's government is also working on making sports facilities even more quake-proof and seven years from now they certainly will be," he said as the city unveiled its bold, waterside plan for the 2020 Olympics.

All three cities – Madrid bidding for a third consecutive time and Istanbul a fifth – submitted their candidature files to the IOC in Lausanne on Monday.

"Tokyo is the world's most forward-thinking city," said Japanese Olympic Committee chief Takeda. "It sets global trends in everything from technology to fashion.

"Many of our venues are in place. Most of the Games' infrastructure is in place. The US\$4.5-billion budget is already in the bank for a Games in the capital of the future."

The jewel in Tokyo's glossy 2020 brochure was a space-age makeover of the National Stadium, the main venue for the 1964 Games, which symbolized Japan's recovery from its war-time defeat.

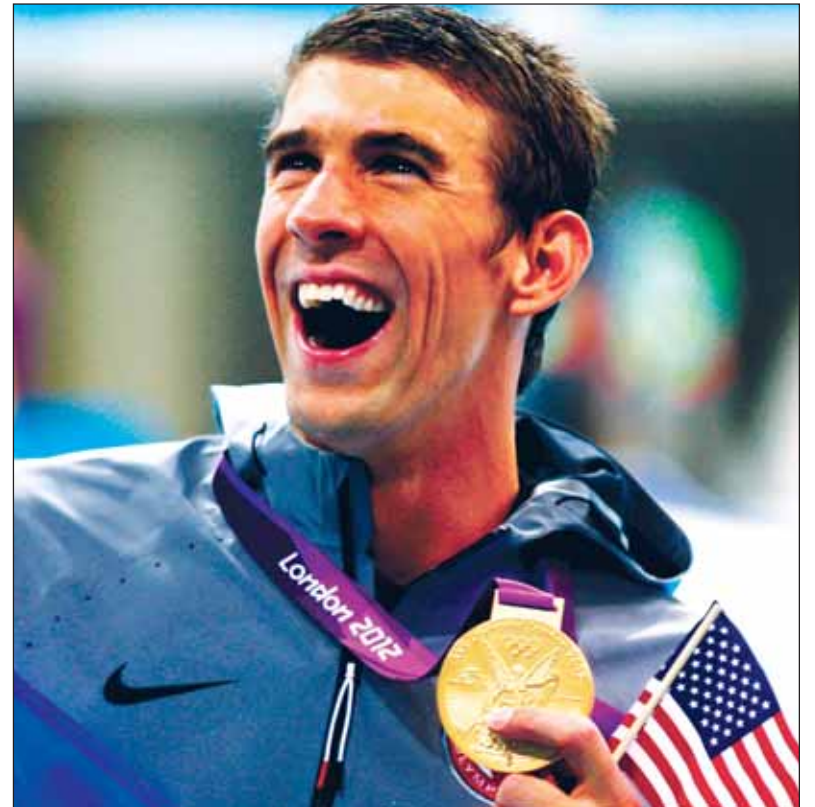
The 80,000-capacity venue, which resembles a flying saucer, will feature a retractable roof – a first for a main Olympic stadium – and movable seats.

"We will use the stadium from 1964 and improve it for 2020," said Takeda. "It will be there for another 50 years, which would be around 100 years. That legacy is an important point."

New Tokyo governor Naoki



Tokyo's Tsunekazu Takeda.



OLYMPIAN: Michael Phelps holds his 19th Olympic medal. Photo: Reuters



BLADE RUNNER: Oscar Pistorius at the London Olympics. Photo: Reuters

Inose underlined the city's credentials, pointing to the full backing of the government of Shinzo Abe, who returned as Prime Minister last month.

Abe himself was appointed as the Tokyo 2020 bid's supreme advisor on Tuesday.

"Tokyo has a budget of 12 trillion yen (US\$136.78 billion)," said Inose, referring to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government's financial base. "That's quite big."

Inose added: "Tokyo has a superb transport system, its railway network can handle 25 million passengers daily without

a second's delay."

The Tokyo governor said he had been inspired by watching Usain Bolt storm to Olympic gold last year. "I will never forget the 100 meters final in London," he said "Bolt's attitude at the start and the way he burst out of the blocks was spectacular.

"I'm no Usain Bolt but for Tokyo's campaign the starting point is crucial. We have communicated Tokyo's overwhelming edge in our candidature file. It's very thick."

The IOC will choose the host for the 2020 Olympic Games on September 7 in Buenos Aires.

## Windy start to PGA Tour

IT REQUIRED a lot of patience and overtime but American Dustin Johnson opened the PGA Tour season with a comfortable victory at the windswept Tournament of Champions in Hawaii on Tuesday.

Johnson, who had a three-shot overnight lead, fired a five-under 68 for a 16-under 203 total on another blustery day at the Kapalua Resort to finish four shots clear of defending champion Steve Stricker (69).

"Obviously it gives me a lot of confidence going into this year," Johnson, the first player since Tiger Woods to win at least one tournament in six consecutive years straight out of college, told reporters. "I'm very pleased to come out and get a win this week, I played very good golf the last two days.

"It's tough when you have a three-shot lead to stay aggressive. I just hit a couple of bad drives that cost me a few shots but other than that I played really good golf today."

The weather-hit event was

trimmed to three rounds and forced to a rare Tuesday finish because of relentless howling winds.

The elite field of champions from last year's PGA Tour completed 36 holes on Monday after play had been abandoned the previous three days because of strong winds. Stricker, who carded an error-free round, got to within a shot of his US Ryder Cup team mate with five holes to play but could not keep up the rally as Johnson went on to collect his seventh career win.

American Brandt Snedeker, last season's FedExCup champion, had a solid start to his 2013 campaign, also closing with a 69, to finish alone in third, six shots behind Johnson. Masters champion Bubba Watson (71) was a further behind in a tie for fourth with fellow American Keegan Bradley (70).

Holding a four-shot lead through eight holes, Johnson saw his lead

chopped to two when he bogeyed the ninth and Stricker birdied the same hole. Johnson's roller coaster back nine ride continued with a birdie at the 12th before taking another nosedive with a double-bogey at 13 to leave the steady Stricker just one off the pace.

But Johnson immediately hit back in spectacular fashion, chipping in for an eagle two at the par-four 14th followed by birdies at 15 and 18 to close out a final round that was nearly as wild as the Hawaiian weather.

"I had some opportunities, if I could have made some putts early in the round and a couple on the backside as well but all-in-all it was a pretty good round," said Stricker, who battled a shooting pain down his left side all tournament and will take time off to have it treated.

"He (Johnson) played well when he had to. ... I knew it was going to be tough today but I gave him a bit of a run for a little while."

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SMASH IT: An awkward looking shot by Fozzie during last weekend's PCC game against the Village.



PCC fielding against a Village batsman.

# PCC start new year with win

AFTER a short break for the festive season, the fourth match of the Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels Cricket League was played on January 7. Patong Cricket Club (PCC) squared off against the Village Cricket Team, with PCC claiming an all important victory.

Opener Mike Khan (41), who was well supported by his opening partner Raju Seemant (45), continued his impressive form in the league.

The duo got Patong off to a solid start making the Village wait until the 15<sup>th</sup> over before they claimed their first wicket, with the score on an impressive 109.

After the departure of Seemant,



Ashman about to knock the ball for four.

the league's top run scorer Manish Sadarangani continued the Patong onslaught. With a strike rate of 150, Sadarangani took the game by the scruff of the neck with a

score of 63.

The Village's Captain, Kevin Quilty, spread some late season cheer with inspiring fielding, taking two excellent catches in

the mid-off position. This did little to hinder the run flow though. One could debate whether the Village was still in a giving spirit or just undisciplined in their bowling, conceding a total of 56 extras in the Patong batting innings. The PCC innings came to a close on a total of 265 for the loss of eight wickets.

The Village batsmen knew that they had a huge turkey to chew if they wanted to win this game. Not only did a big run chase loom but there was also the prospect of contending with the bowling prowess of the Patong bowlers.

It did not take long for Richard Desmond to claim the first scalp,

as Quilty fell with the score on six in the 2<sup>nd</sup> over. P Morton continued his good form with the ball, with figures of four for 13 placing him firmly at the top of the league's bowling stats.

Aided by Captain Anthony van Blerk's wicket-keeping skills – three stumpings and one catch – the Patong team carved up the rest of the Village batting line up.

The village lost their 10<sup>th</sup> and final wicket with the score on 130.

Reigning league champions Laguna play Patong Cricket Club next. The two teams will face each other January 13 at 9am at the Alan Cooke ground.

# Bay Regatta back in style

THE Bay Regatta, formerly known as the Phang Nga Bay Regatta, will take place January 30 to February 3.

The popular sailing event takes in the scenic cruising grounds around Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi. The event is organized by Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) and is expected to attract around 40 boats this year.

The racing is split into Racing Class, Cruising A, Bareboat Charter Class, Cruising B and Multihulls.

The first day's racing is on January 31 and starts at Koh Naka Yai from where the boats will sail a 17 mile course to finish north of Ko Yai Noi.

The second day finishes at Villaguna Residences on Ko Yai Noi. The boats will sail across to Krabi on the third day and the fourth day culminates in prize giving at the ACYC.

For the first time an all women's team will be joining this year's Bay Regatta. The *Lady Sevenstar* team consists of women with all levels of sailing



Khun Gay, Maureen Ezendam, Chris Jongerius, Lies Sol and Marieke Derks.

skills: highly competitive, professional sailors, occasional weekend yachswomen and even an absolute novice.

The Bay Regatta is a popular live-aboard regatta famous for its parties as much as the sailing.

If you would like to register for the Bay Regatta, please visit:

[pangngabayregatta.wufoo.com/forms/race-registration-form/](http://pangngabayregatta.wufoo.com/forms/race-registration-form/)

Cost is 8,000 baht per boat including the skippers party ticket and 4,000 baht per crew.

*The Phuket Gazette and Phuket Today are media sponsors of the event.*  
– Andrew Scott



# PSS Academy

PHUKET Soccer Schools (PSS) has announced the start of their 2013 Academy Program, commencing, Saturday 19th January 2013. The program will lead into our 3rd annual International Tournament, and training will include, coaching sessions and matches against local teams held at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSPLC).

The program will take place on Jan 19, Jan 26 and Feb 2, and the season will conclude with players representing PSS at the 3rd annual Phuket International Youth Tournament held over the weekend of February 9 and 10.

Phuket Soccer Schools are currently recruiting players for their U12 team, if any experienced players would like more information about a trial contact: [info@phuketsoccerschools.com](mailto:info@phuketsoccerschools.com).



# Andaman Pearl continue to shine

By Andrew Scott  
Wisuwat Romin

PHUKET United's last away game against CAT FC at Grand Sport Park, Bangkok, was played without their head coach issuing instructions from the sidelines. Suphol Senapeng was admitted to hospital in the early hours of Wednesday morning suffering from a severe stomach ache.

The Andaman Pearl used coach Suphol's absence as an added incentive to continue their fine form by beating CAT FC 5-2 in the Thai Futsal Premier League (TFPL) match.

CAT FC took an early lead in the 2<sup>nd</sup> minute through Veerayut Taveegun. Phuket United's new signing Marcos, looking for his second goal in two games, tested the CAT FC goal keeper in the 5<sup>th</sup> minute.

Brazilian Adriano Lino Luchetta missed a great chance to put CAT FC 2-0 up before Veerayut Taveegun scored his second of the game. Phuket United managed to pull level before half time through Anurak Patchloun and Jackson Santos.

The Phuket United half time talk, given by assistant coach Patt Srivijit, clearly helped rally the team as Marcos scored straight after kick off, to put Phuket in the lead 3-2.

Kanok Chidchiew increased the Andaman Pearls' lead after 30 minutes and in the dying seconds, Jackson Santos scored his second of the game and Phuket's fifth.

Phuket United unveiled new Brazilian winger Marcos Vinicius De Mendonco before their TFPL home game against Royal Navy on January 5.

Phuket United won their last home game 7-3 against Lampang United.

The newly installed floor covering at Saphan Hin was looking a bit worse for wear but this didn't affect the Andaman Pearl, who won 4-2 against a strong Royal Navy team consisting of two Thai international futsal players – goalkeeper Suramong Tompa and striker Jetsada Chudet.

Phuket United started the stronger of the two teams and took the lead in the 5<sup>th</sup> minute through Jardel.

This early setback forced Royal Navy to attack but a resolute Phuket United defense kept the leagues 4<sup>th</sup> placed team at bay. A Phuket counter attack in the 14<sup>th</sup> minute culminated in Jackson Santos heading the ball past two defenders, before calmly slotting it into the bottom corner from just outside the box to put Phuket 2-0 up.

Royal Navy continued to attack at will and it was only a matter of time before they scored. Veerapong Chaiwong calmly chipped the ball over the advancing keeper to bring the score to 2-1 in the 18<sup>th</sup> minute. Thai international player Jetsada Chudet scored in the 20<sup>th</sup> minute to bring the game level going into half time.

The second half was end-to-end with both teams looking for a third goal. New signing Marcos endeared himself to the Phuket United fans by taking the ball past a Royal Navy defender with ease and then scoring with a powerful shot from outside the area, sending the partisan crowd into a frenzy. Benjarong Panphob scored Phuket's



SAMBA STAR: New Brazilian signing Marcos.



Head coach Suphol Senapeng in hospital.



Phuket United before CAT FC game.



Team talk after the CAT FC game.

4<sup>th</sup> goal from inside his own half into an empty net in the 37<sup>th</sup> minute, as Royal Navy sacrificed their keeper looking for a way back into the game.

Marcos told the *Phuket Gazette* after the game that he is happy with his move to

Phuket: "I liked our supporters in this match because they cheered with passion. We played well against Royal Navy and I like the Thai Futsal Premier League. My aim is to help Phuket United win the Thai Futsal Premier League," he said.

## More and more players arrive at Phuket FC



Thanatthep Jiaradab.



Brazilian striker Dudu.



Krisada Sakeaw.



Worawit Khiuwongngam.



Bhavid Phimparat and Mr Kerdyam.

PHUKET FC has signed 25-year-old Brazilian striker, Luiz Eduardo Porcino or "Dudu", from Osotspa FC. Dudu scored 10 goals in 28 games for Buriram PEA FC in 2010.

"We told Dudu that if he plays in the Thai Premier League there will be strong competition with footballers of his caliber. But if he join us in Phuket and helps us go to Thai Premier League it will be a big milestone in his career profile," Phuket FC Chairman, Mr Pamuke Atchariyachay told a press conference last week.

Mr Pamuke is confident about Phuket FC's TPL promotion chances and says that this is his one and only goal for the team.

"I made a promise that I will take Phuket to the Thai Premier League. That is why I'm trying to

get as many good and efficient footballers as I possibly can. I'm happy and the fans are happy and have been giving positive feedback through many channels, including social network and personal messages. When footballers see that positive feedback, they want to come and play with us too.

"Right now I am looking at 2-3 more footballers and I think we still have time until March to sign them. Also, as we have many footballers

signed to our team, we received contacts from smaller teams asking if we would have footballers on loan available for them to use."

Before Phuket FC signed Dudu, they also bought Thanatthep Jiaradab, midfielder Krisada Sakeaw from Thai Port FC and Worawit Khiuwongngam from Prachinburi FC.

Thanatthep knows Phuket well as he was part of the Phatthalung team that knocked Phuket FC out of the

Toyota League Cup last season. Due to problems within the club, Phatthalung sold the 27-year-old right back to PTT Ranong FC, which is where Phuket FC bought him from. Thanatthep is known to be a strong committed defender with a powerful shot.

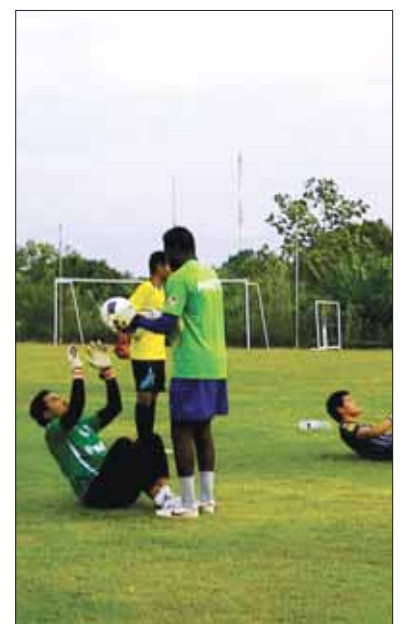
Mr Pamuke ended by elaborating on the important role Phuket FC fans play in helping the team. "We are serious about Phuket FC. We will do all we can to get to the Thai Premier League.

But I would like to tell the fans, that while we're doing our part, they have a very important part to play as well.

Your love and support is what we need. 'Phuket' for me is not just a word. It's a great city. It's our goal. We'll make it happen."



Mr Pamuke Atchariyachay and Dudu.



Phuket FC training. Photos: Phuket FC



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