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INSIDE TODAY

March 2 - 8, 2013 PhuketGazette.Net In partnership with [The Nation](http://TheNation.com)

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■ 'MY SON HEARD A WOMAN SCREAMING IN FRONT OF OUR HOUSE'

Pit bull attack mangles hero

■ Man savaged by three pit bull terriers after he rushes from home to help a woman being set upon by the animals

By **Chutharat Plerin**

A MAN savaged by three pit bull terriers outside his own home is now fighting to recover over 800,000 baht in hospital bills for treatment of the injuries sustained in the vicious attack.

Tiansak Aikpaiboon, 33, was mauled by three of his neighbor's five pit bulls right in front of his home in Suan Thai Village, behind Wichit Songkram School near Central Festival, at about 8am on February 6.

"My son heard a woman screaming in front of our house. He went to see what was going on and saw a woman trying to fight off the three dogs with her handbag and umbrella," Benjarat Aikpaiboon said.

Her son rushed out of the home to help the woman, only to have the three dogs turn and attack him, she added.

Mr Tiansak was taken to Bangkok Hospital Phuket for treatment after a neighbor managed to chase off the dogs.

"He was at Bangkok Hospital Phuket for almost three weeks," Mrs Benjarat told the *Gazette*.

"Some of his wounds, like the ones to his face, chest...



Benjarat Aikpaiboon holds up photos of her mauled son. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Drug dealer guns for top brass



Cornered by police, dealer snatches an officer's firearm, aims it at a deputy superintendent and pulls the trigger.

Full story on Page 3

Dengue rumors get put down

HEALTH officials assured the *Gazette* that dengue fever in Phuket was under control, despite rumors of a possible outbreak in Karon.

Phuket Public Health Office Deputy Director Wiwat Seetamanotch said there was nothing to worry about. However, he does ask that residents take precautionary measures by not allowing water to stand in containers around their homes.

Full story on Page 6

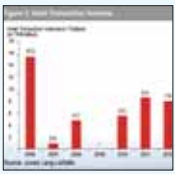
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This Week



Business

Last year Phuket was one of Asia's strongest hotel markets. **Page 12**



Charity

Three charities fill their coffers for the coming year. **Page 36**



Health

Hayden ponders the definitions of health and fitness. **Page 40**



Diving

Learn about how to 'side mount' your scuba tank. **Page 41**



Tech

Woody decides to 'take his chances' on a landline. **Page 42**



Sport

Andrew Scott interviews Michael Brasier, a PGA professional. **Page 49**

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Chalong Bay mooring sinks 'Booze Cruise'

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A TOUR boat carrying 15 tourists collided with a concrete mooring and sank during its approach to Chalong Pier during low tide Tuesday afternoon.

All 15 tourists on board and the skipper were safely rescued.

The accident occurred when the tourist boat *Darunee*, skippered by Suthip Kasathit, 50, was returning from a snorkeling trip to Coral Island, Phuket Marine Office chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut explained.

When the boat, better known as the "Booze Cruise" (emblazoned on the front of the vessel's wheelhouse) was about 500 meters from Chalong Pier, it hit and got stuck on a mooring block, said Mr Phuripat.

"Mr Suthip tried forward thrust to free the boat from the mooring, but it didn't work. When he put the boat in reverse, water came in and it started to sink," Mr Phuripat said.

"All of the tourists on board jumped into the water without life jackets. Boat operators in the area saw the incident and rescued them," he added.

Mr Phuripat attributed the cause of the crash to reckless driving.

"The concrete mooring was installed to mark a boat anchorage. It has been there for months. Every boat driver in the area knows where the moorings are



The sunken tour boat popularly known as the 'Booze Cruise' struck a mooring as it returned from Coral Island. Photo: Provided to the Gazette

located and where the rocks are. The boat driver did not drive along the right path," he stated.

To solve the problem, Mr Phuripat plans to introduce new speed regulations.

"Within this week, I will announce that all boats must travel at no more than five knots during their approach to the pier or the shore," he said.

"Usually they go at 20 knots, even when they are getting close to the pier or shore," Mr Phuripat alleged.

The mooring that was struck is one of 200 installed in Chalong Bay in November. Yachties expressed concern at the time that

they posed hazards.

Some of the moorings were thought to be too close together, creating the danger of boats colliding.

The other danger noted was that some moorings were sunk in areas that are very shallow at low tide.

One local yachtsman confirmed to the *Gazette* on Wednesday that several moorings were installed inside the fairway – the dedicated channel for vessels to approach and depart from Chalong Pier – but that only four were still marked by buoys.

The rest remain underwater, out of sight, the sailor cautioned.

Engine trouble coming back from Phi Phi sets family adrift

A FRENCH man and his family were rescued on Tuesday night after their speedboat broke down about two nautical miles from Koh Sireh.

Phuket Marine Police received a distress call from Patrick Legros, 58, at about 8:30pm informing them that he, his wife and his 7-year-old daughter were in need of help.

Chatchai Sakdee of the Marine Police led a quick rescue operation, eventually towing the boat back to Rassada Pier.

"It took us about an hour and a half to tow the boat back due to the strong winds and high waves," Lt Col Chatchai said.

"The family ran into trouble com-



The family was due to return to the Boat Lagoon at about 6pm.

ing back from Phi Phi when the engine of the boat, *Kenavo*, broke down," Col Chatchai explained.

No members of the family were reported injured.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Merit making journey car crash, three dead

THREE Phuket residents died and two were injured on their way to make merit for Makha Bucha Day when their car went off the road and landed in a pond in Phang Nga on Monday.

One of the passengers, a five-year-old girl, was thrown from the car and found dead in the pond.

"At about 8am this morning, a Honda Civic slammed into a road safety sign warning of a dangerous curve, flipped and landed in a nearby pond," said case investigator Sornsak Jandee of the Takua Thung Police.

"The three who died in the accident were Narumon Luijan,

50; Jaron Sukkua, 57; and the five-year-old girl, Chawancha Maharae," Lt Sornsak said.

One of the injured passengers was Chawancha's mother, Laksana Nuanjui, 33. The other was Sukanya Luijan, 53. Both were rushed to Phang Nga Hospital, Lt Sornsak said.

Mrs Laksana broke a leg and Mrs Sukanya had internal injuries, the *Gazette* was told by hospital staff.

"The accident most likely occurred because of the wet road and the speed the car was travelling," Lt Sornsak said.

"Since late last year there have



The group was en route to meet family in Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

been about 10 deaths at this curve," he added.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



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ANANTARA SI KIAO RESORT & SPA

DSI digs up illegal sand



The 'Blue Sand' company may have taken sand from a National Park.

THE Department of Special Investigation (DSI) on Wednesday raided a construction supply company suspected of taking sand from a National Forest.

DSI chief Pol Col Paisit Wongmuang and his team arrived at the Blue Sand construction supply company in Srisoonthorn, Thalang at 8am.

"Last year, the DSI pressed charges against businesses that encroached on Pa Klong Thung Maphrao National Forest land in Phang Nga, and during the investigation, Blue Sand company was suspected of encroachment as well," said Col Paisit.

— *Orawin Narabal*

New B10mn Chalong dam is 'money down the drain'

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

CONSTRUCTION issues plague the dam project in Chalong less than a year after it was completed at a cost of over 10 million baht.

Villagers complained in May 2012 to the Phuket Office of the Royal Irrigation Department, but after nine months of silence turned to the Phuket Governor and the Phuket Press Club for help.

"On February 15 of this year, we filed a complaint to Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut asking him to examine the dam," Chalong Kamnan Charoen Taewabutr said. "More than 10 million baht was spent on the project and if it doesn't work, the money we spent was for nothing."

The dam, located within Moo 5 in Chalong, was finished early last year to help solve water shortages during the dry season, Kamnan Charoen explained.

"After it was finished, we re-



Chalong Kamnan Charoen Taewabutr points to erosion, one of the problems frustrating residents.

alized there were a lot of problems with it, such as not being able to open or close the water gate when it rains heavily because

sediment washes against it and blocks it. And some parts of the dam are already being eroded away," he said.

"It is a shame the dam cannot be used. I would like all relevant organizations to help us fix this problem right away," he added.

Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS)

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Laparoscopic surgery, also called minimally invasive surgery (MIS), is a modern surgical technique performed using an instrument called a laparoscope, through small incisions (usually 0.5-1.5 cm). Two or three smaller incisions are made along the sides of the abdomen, pelvic cavities, thoracic or chest cavities



Flooding possible if klong not ready



Phuket Town could experience serious flooding again this year if the Klong Bang Yai project is not completed before the rainy season.

PHUKET Governor Maitri Inthusut paid a visit to the behind-schedule Klong Bang Yai project, which, if incomplete by the coming rainy season, threatens Phuket Town with another round of serious flooding.

"The klong is the main waterway draining water from Kathu to Saphan Hin. If it is not finished before the heavy rains start, homes and businesses in the heart of Phuket City could be damaged by more flooding," Governor Maitri said.

The klong renovation project was due to be completed by December 28, 2012 at a cost of 21 million baht.

However, the acquisition of some property needed to expand

the klong took longer than expected. In addition, the amount of damage to the retaining walls from last year's floods was worse than originally estimated, the construction company reportedly told Gov Maitri.

"Because they broke the contract by missing the deadline, they must be fined as is stipulated in the contract," Gov Maitri said.

"The work must be done as soon as possible," he added.

In addition to taking note of the delayed work, Gov Maitri said he was on site to gather suggestions from locals about how to handle other flooding issues in Phuket Town.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



Stein Havard Dokset

Victim's uncle testifies during ongoing Dokset murder trial

RUNGNAPA Suktong's uncle took the stand on February 22 in the second day of witness testimony in the Stein Havard Dokset murder case.

Mr Dokset has been charged with the murder of his ex-girlfriend Rungnapa Suktong. Under Section 288 of the Criminal Code, he faces a penalty of 15 to 20 years in jail – or death. He has also been charged for concealing a body and the illegal possession of a firearm.

Ms Rungnapa's uncle, 42, stood as a character witness, recalling arguments between Ms Rungnapa and Mr Dokset. He noted the arguments remained verbal and had never broken down into physical violence in front of him.

The uncle knew Mr Dokset because he had helped construct the house in Kata that the couple had lived in, and in which Ms Rungnapa's body was found.

With a barrage of questioning, the defense attorney appeared to fluster Ms Rungnapa's uncle in court today, causing inconsistencies in his answers and eventually leading the judge to declare a recess.

Mr Dokset, accompanied by his current girlfriend, remained calm throughout the court hearing. He is due back in court on March 8. – **Orawin Narabal**

Drug dealer pulls trigger on police deputy superintendent

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

TWO Phuket Police officers were injured during a sting operation of two Cherng Talay drug dealers after one of the dealers took an officer's gun and attempted to shoot Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Parinya Tanthasuwana.

"During the arrest, Witoon 'Bang Ann' Piwluang took the gun from one of my men," said Lt Col Parinya, the case investigator.

"He pointed the gun at me and pulled the trigger," Col Parinya said. "But the safety was on, so I pushed the gun away."

Col Parinya and another officer received minor injuries in the ensuing scuffle.

The successful sting operation began with the arrest of Sarat 'Ong' Kaenphet, 38, two days before Mr Witoon attempted to shoot Col Parinya.

Acting on a tip-off from an informant, police sent an undercover agent to buy drugs from Mr Kaenphet, said Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Arayapan Pukbuakhao.



POINT BLANK: Mr Witoon grabbed an officer's gun, pointed it at Deputy Superintendent Parinya Tanthasuwana and pulled the trigger. **INSET:** drugs.

"We sent an agent to buy drugs from him by the road, close to the entrance to Saphan Hin, at 9pm on February 18," Col Parinya said.

Mr Kaenphet was arrested in possession of five grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine).

The next day, police searched

Mr Kaenphet's house in Cherng Talay and seized more than 3,000 pills of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) 500 grams of *ya ice* and 500 grams of heroin, Col Arayapan stated.

Police also found 70,000 baht and a bank book indicating there was 700,000 baht in the account. In addition, investigators seized a car from Mr Kaenphet's property.

Acting on information supplied by Mr Kaenphet, police arrested Witoon 'Bang Ann' Piwluang in Cherng Talay the following day, February 20, with over 3,600 *ya bah* pills and over five grams of *ya ice*.

Mr Witoon was charged with resisting arrest and attempting to murder a police officer, Col Arayapan said. Additionally, he faces charges of possession of category 1 drugs with intent to sell.

Mr Kaenphet was charged with possession of category 1 drugs with intent to sell, Col Arayapan stated.

Police successfully netted over 500 grams of *ya ice*, more than 6,700 *ya bah* pills and 500 grams of heroin from the raids.

Man survives pit bull mauling, fights to pay hospital bills

From page 1

and arm are better, but he still needs treatment for the deep wounds to his legs.

"He was transferred to Phuket International Hospital on Wednesday to receive a skin graft to repair his leg wounds," she said.

Spiralling hospital bills totalling over 800,000 baht prompted Mrs Benjarat to file a criminal complaint with Wichit Police on Monday.

"We tried to negotiate with the neighbor at the police station after the incident," Mrs Benjarat said at the time of filing the complaint.

"Initially, the dogs' owners asked us to transfer Tiansak to the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization Hospital [in Rassada], but I declined. Our hospital bill from Bangkok Hospital Phuket reached 800,000 baht, but the owner has paid only 300,000 baht and has refused to cover the rest of the bill," she said.

Police confirmed to the *Gazette* that the dogs' owners now face criminal charges as Mrs Benjarat filed two complaints under the Criminal Code: one under Section 300, causing grievous bodily harm through negligence, and another under Section 377, allowing a

ferocious or vicious animal to wander alone in a manner likely to cause injury.

"If they [the dogs' owners] are found to have been negligent, the case will be filed with the Public Prosecutor," said Officer Sanich Nookong of the Wichit Police.

The maximum penalty for a Section 300 infraction is 3 years' imprisonment, a fine up to 6,000 baht, or both. For Section 377, the punishment is up to a month in prison, a fine up to 1,000 baht, or both.

Additional reporting by Kritsada Mueanhawong

New Zealanders make flight despite cement truck mashup

THREE tourists from New Zealand made their flight out of Phuket earlier this week despite a concrete truck hitting their taxi and sending it careening under the bed of a parked 10-wheeled truck on Thepkasattri Road.

"The limousine [taxi] driver, Worrathat Chaikajorn, 47, had picked up the three tourists in Patong and was taking them to Phuket International Airport shortly before 11am on February 25 when they were hit from behind by a concrete mixer truck," said Chaleaw Taihoo, Phuket City Police Duty Officer.

"The road was slippery with rain, so the impact caused the limousine to slide off the road and hit the 10-wheeled truck," Maj Chaleaw said.

Because there was concern that the tourists might miss their flight, staff from Phuket International Hospital were called to the scene



One of the three tourists walks past the wreckage.

to attend to them.

"One of them had a small cut from the car mirror on his left arm. The rest of them were okay," Maj Chaleaw said.

"After the tourist received treatment, the limousine driver called a taxi van to take them to the air-

port," Maj Chaleaw added.

The 27-year-old driver of the concrete truck, Wiji Pattani, was charged with reckless driving causing damage to a person and property.

The tourists made it to the airport in time to catch their flight.

– **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

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Myanmar Navy ports in Phuket

Capt Hlaing navigates uncharted waters with first diplomatic mission abroad

EXCLUSIVE

UNDER a tight program, Capt Aung Zaw Hlaing, Commander of Myanmar Number 1 Fleet, still made time for an exclusive interview with the *Phuket Gazette* during the navy's historic first diplomatic visit to a foreign country.

"We are very pleased to be here. It is the first time our ships have visited Thailand," Capt Hlaing said. "The panoramic views are very beautiful and we've been met with smiling, friendly people. Third Naval Area Commander Vice Admiral Taratorn Kajitsuwan and other high-ranking officers, as well as the Thai crews have given us a very warm welcome."

Capt Hlaing and other ranking members of the Myanmar Navy have already launched discussions during the friendly visit aimed at increasing co-operation between the two navies as they battle piracy and drug and human

trafficking in their territorial waters.

"If we can create joint patrol operations, we can maintain peace and stability in the area," he said. "Close, friendly relations and mutual understandings between our two navies is very important."

Though Phuket was the target of the first diplomatic navy mission, Capt Hlaing assured the *Gazette* that the goal was to promote stronger relations with all countries in the region, pointing out that the Myanmar Navy would be visiting India next.

"Ships from a variety of friendly countries in the region have paid us diplomatic visits. The Royal Thai Navy's ships have visited Myanmar three or four times in recent years, so we are now reciprocating, and visiting other navies with which we have good relations," he explained.

One of the many duties of the 125-vessel navy is protecting the mostly untapped marine resources off the 2,835-kilometer coastline of Myanmar—the offshore oil, gas and



The Myanmar Navy's diplomatic visit offered the chance for military discussions. Photo: Third Naval Area Command

mineral resources, as well as fisheries and pearl production areas.

"We cannot permit illegal activities on the sea," Capt Hlaing said. "It is necessary for companies to obey rules and regulations."

"Those who join the navy to maintain law in our territorial waters are all volunteers, since our military is a patriotic armed service. They enter in accordance to their personal aspirations," he said.

There are about 2,000 officers

and 20,000 sailors on active duty.

Despite the Thai and international media spotlight on the Rohingya's flight from Myanmar, Capt Hlaing spoke only briefly on the topic.

"You call them Rohingya, we call them Bengali. We allow the government to handle the situation," he explained when asked about the current navy policies in regard to the refugees.

The two Myanmar coastal pa-

trol ships, UMS 561 and UMS 562, left the Phuket Deep Sea Port after their three-day visit came to an end last Friday.

Capt Hlaing thanked the Royal Thai Navy for their great show of hospitality.

"It has been a very good visit. Vice Admiral Tharathorn and other high-ranking officers have assisted us in every possible way, and shown us true Thai hospitality," he added.

— Isaac Stone Simonelli

Makro Opens New **MAKRO FOODSERVICE STORE**, Patong Branch to Serve Food Stores at Promising Tourism Destination

makro
foodservice
partner for your business

Patong, Phuket – Makro further reinforces its "Partner for Your Business" slogan with the opening of its Makro Foodservice Patong Branch. The new store offers fresh and frozen foods as well as accessories for Thai and international food shops to help them save time while gaining the most accessibility to raw materials to serve the booming tourism business.

General Manager of Makro Foodservice, Patong Branch, Ms. Arisa Vongsawad "Patong beach is one of the main attractions in Phuket as it is highly recognized by local and international tourists. In the near future, the expansion of Phuket International Airport and the roadmap to promote local tourism industry would boost tourism here. Therefore, new local food stores will keep popping up to serve increased demand. Therefore, we decided to open the Foodservice Store here to allow the operators of food stores in the



Patong area to source quality raw materials for their businesses with convenience and accessibility."

Under the concept "Partner for Your Business," the Foodservice

Store, Patong Branch is exclusively designed to serve the specific demands of food store operators by offering over 3,000 items of quality consumer products to serve daily demands

of food stores, ranging from frozen and dry food; ingredients; meats; eggs; vegetables; cheese, bakery products and food containers. Spanning over the area of over 1,000 sq.m. with

parking spaces of over 50 cars, the Patong Branch promises to serve the operators of Thai and international food stores in area who demand convenient and speedy access to get quality raw materials for cooking, while saving their commute times and costs. Therefore, they can sustain and optimize their business performances.

Concept: MAKRO FOODSERVICE is a cash & carry store providing restaurants core and daily use ingredients in the kitchen and on the plate.

- Offering all kinds of daily necessities, and providing convenience for local restaurants.
- Our aim is not to compete with local food distributors, as a majority of our products are sold in Makro Phuket already.

The Makro Foodservice Store, Patong Branch is located at the former Mae Ubun Market on Na Nai Road, Patong District, Amphur Krato, Phuket. The Store is open daily from 07.00 – 21.00 hrs. and can be reached at tel. (076) 512-388.

Advertorial



Rescue workers found Mr Kowit, 23, in agony with both legs broken. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Chevy driver sought over hit-and-run

POLICE are searching for the driver of a Chevrolet vehicle believed to have been involved in a hit-and-run in Phuket Town on Tuesday night.

Phuket City Police duty officer Akaradech Phongprom received a report that a man riding a motorcycle had been struck down on Narisorn Road near Phuket Provincial Hall at about 10:30pm.

Officers arrived at the scene to find Kowit Charoensuk, 23, in obvious agony, crying for help in the middle of the road. Both his legs were broken.

"Not far from Mr Kowit, we found his motorbike, which suffered extensive damage in the impact," Capt Akaradech said.

"Near his motorbike, we found the license plate *Gor Nor* 361 still in its Chevrolet dealer frame. We will use it to search for the driver," he added.

Staff at Vachira Phuket Hospital confirmed to the *Gazette* that Mr Kowit was admitted to the hospital's Orthopedics department, and was due to undergo surgery on Wednesday.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Health officials squelch dengue fever rumors

By Chutharat Plerin

RESIDENTS must do their part in controlling dengue fever by not allowing water to stand in containers around their homes, officials have told the *Gazette* as rumors started to grow last week of an outbreak in Karon.

In response to a complaint from a reader living on Patak Road Soi 24 in Karon that at least nine people in his area have dengue fever, the *Gazette* contacted Phuket Public Health Office Deputy Director Wiwat Seetamanotch and Karon Municipality Deputy Mayor Itthiporn Sangkaew.

"Dengue fever in Phuket is under control; there is nothing to be overly worried about," Dr Wiwat assured.

Mr Itthiporn encouraged those in the area to contact his office if they were concerned about a possible outbreak, so he could send staff to check for mosquitoes and spray if necessary.

However, both officials said that the first line of defense is preventing standing water.

"Taking steps to prevent mosquitoes from breeding near your house is more important than waiting for public officials to spray mosquitoes once they've hatched," Dr Wiwat said.

"Each family must take care to prevent containers from collecting water, as these provide a place for mosquitoes to breed," he said.

"If you must leave water in



Phuket Public Health Office Deputy Director Wiwat Seetamanotch

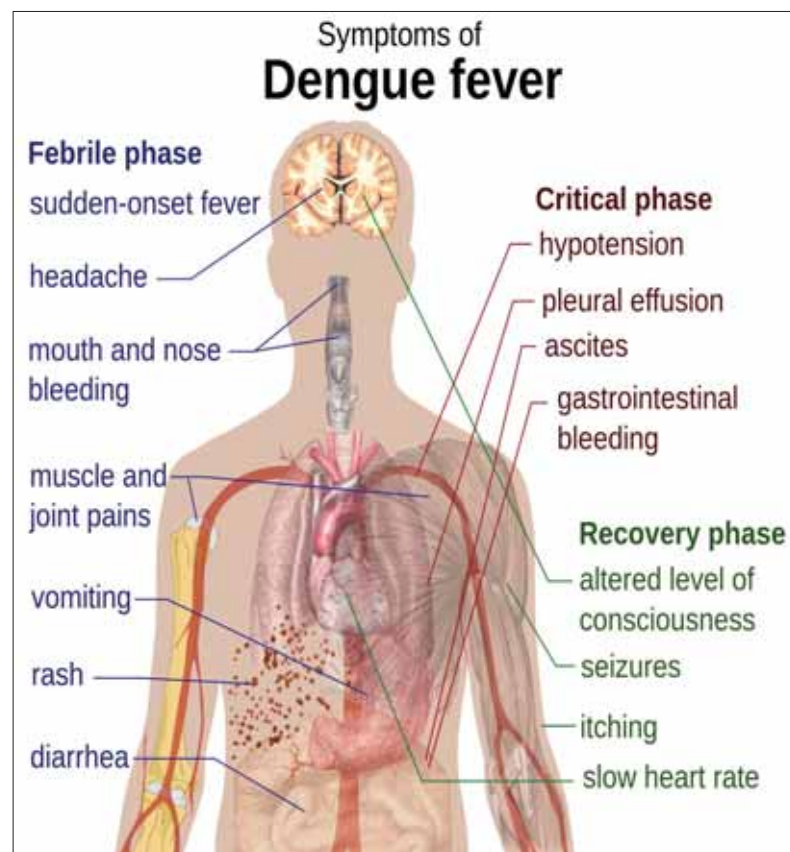
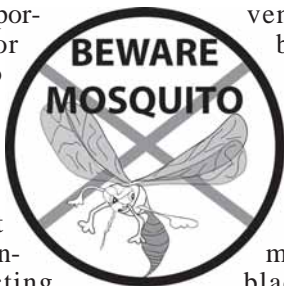


Karon Municipality Deputy Mayor Itthiporn Sangkaew

containers, for example, in plants, you can add Temefos to prevent mosquitoes from breeding.

Temefos (brand name Abate) is an organophosphate larvicide used to treat water infested with disease-carrying insects, including mosquitoes, midges and black fly larvae," Mr

Itthiporn said, adding that Karon residents can get Temefos from municipal officers.



Although there is currently no known cure for dengue, immediate medical treatment is strongly advised. Image: Mikael Häggström

HARD FACTS

INFECTION: An estimated 500,000 people with severe dengue, a large proportion of whom are children, require hospitalization each year. About 2.5% of those affected die.

TREATMENT: There is no specific treatment for dengue fever.

IMMUNIZATION: There is no vaccine to protect against dengue.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL: At present, the only method to control or prevent the transmission of dengue virus is to combat vector mosquitoes.

Source: World Health Organization

Mangrove flyover gets start date, plan tweaked

A MAY start date for the long awaited 170-million-baht Klong Koh Pee flyover project, which will now traverse 700 meters of protected mangrove forest, was announced on February 22 by the Phuket Governor.

"The people of Phuket have been waiting for this project to start for almost 20 years," Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut said. "The project is important, as it provides a much needed direct connection between Sakdidet Road Soi 7 and Saphan Hin."

The plans for the project have been modified since Cabinet approved an original 200-million-baht budget for the mangrove flyover. The approved budget was planned to be released in two stages: 40mn baht this year and 160mn baht in 2014. Of the



Governor Maitri (left) runs through the plans for the flyover project.

new 170-million-baht budget, 34 million baht has already been released for the 2013 fiscal year. An additional 68 million will be allotted in 2014 and the final 68 million in the 2015 fiscal year.

Estimated costs for the project have dropped by 30 million baht

since Cabinet's approval and the length of the overall project has been extended from 600 meters to 700 meters. Many other small adjustments have been made to the construction plan, including an additional allotment of 240 days to complete the flyover.

Kanokthep Rattanadilok Na Phuket, the head engineer, explained that a gap between the two elevated roads will allow enough light for the mangroves below to grow and would not affect low and high tides.

However, the construction company that takes responsibility for the Klong Koh Pee flyover will have to adhere strictly to regulations to prevent serious damage to the mangroves as the project gets underway, Gov Maitri said.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Bottlenose dolphins are more often found west of Maithon Island in Phang Nga Bay.

Bottlenose dolphin discovered dead

A BOTTLENOSE dolphin was found dead on Bang Tao Beach on February 25, the first to be found beached in Phuket in at least two years.

"The dolphin was a female bottlenose dolphin," Dr Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong of the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) said. "They mostly live west of Maithon island in Phang Nga Bay and in Ranong. There were wounds on its beak and body, but we're not sure if they occurred before or after death," he said.

A villager at Bang Tao saw the dolphin and reported it to the Bang Tao Longtail Boat Club president, Yunu Krohlek, who called the PMBC at about 8:30am.

"I talked to villagers in the area. They said that last night there were high waves. It was probably washed ashore and could not get back to the water," Mr Yunu said.

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**

Controversial Thai ivory trade tops agenda at CITES meeting

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

DEPARTMENT of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) officers, non-governmental organizations and legal wildlife and fauna traders attended a one-day meeting in Phuket as part of the 16th Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) being held in Thailand.

Members of the meeting expressed their gratitude for the honor of holding the event in Thailand, as the Kingdom attempts to buff its tarnished reputation for being an international transit point for dead and live species of protected wildlife.

"From 2009 to the present, there have been more than 3,000 cases involving protected species of animals, with more than 50,000 being recovered alive and massive amounts of animal remains being seized within our borders," said DNP Region 5 Director Metee Meechai, who chaired the meeting at Sirinath National Park on February 22.

One of the key topics brought to the table during the meeting was the illegal ivory trade, which has recently been publicized by American movie star Leonardo DiCaprio. The actor signed a World Wildlife Fund petition this week, urging Prime



Customs in Bangkok seized a load of 158 African elephant tusks last year. Photo: The Nation

Minister Yingluck Shinawatra to outlaw the sale of all types of ivory within Thailand, *The Hollywood Reporter* said.

"Africa is in the midst of an epic elephant slaughter... And much of the ivory trade goes through Thailand... tell Thailand to ban all sales of ivory," the movie star wrote on his Facebook Wall on February 18.

Current legislation allows for the domestic trade of ivory from domesticated elephants, as Thai elephants are Asian

elephants, which are listed in Appendix I under the CITES. However, the "import and export of elephants, specimens, parts and derivatives, including products like ivory, are prohibited," stated the DNP website.

"The meeting was conducted in order to have the traders acknowledge the regulations and to encourage them to follow the laws," said academic and DNP Region 5 Wild Animals Protection Department Chief Suruwuth Sutthamusik.

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Tsunami memorial returns to Krabi

"HOLD me close", the two sculptures designed by late French artist Louise Bourgeois to commemorate victims of the 2004 tsunami along the Andaman coast, will be given a new, secure home in Krabi.

Local officials plan to provide a place on the beach at Hat Noppharat Thara where the metal sculptures can be admired, but will remain safe from thieves and salty sea air.

"We are now in the process of designing and budgeting for a new place to display both sculptures, so tourists can see them and remember the lives lost in 2004," said Hat Noppharat Thara National Park chief Chaithat Boonphuphantanti.

The two statues had been on display at Noppharat Thara Beach



'Hold me close' by Louise Bourgeois

for years when they were noticed by Deputy Permanent Secretary for Culture Apinan Posayanont in 2010. Fearful that salty conditions were damaging the sculptures, he had them moved to Bangkok.

Local residents demanded the statues be returned, so they were brought back the same year and



'Hold me close' by Louise Bourgeois

displayed at Krabi Provincial Hall.

"I requested that the sculptures be returned to Nopparat Thara Beach," Mr Chaithat explained.

According to Mr Apinan, Ms Bourgeois designed the pieces to be displayed in an area surrounded by trees, with a pond.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Cops confused by spooky apparition

A GROUP of Bangkok teenagers were so scared by an apparition they claim they saw in an abandoned house that police officers thought they were on drugs.

But when the results of urine tests came in, all four 13-year-olds turned out to have nothing in their systems — leaving the cops scratching their heads.

On February 16, Bukhalo Police Station in Thonburi received a report that a group of teenagers were screaming for help outside a house.

At the gate of the old building they found three girls and one boy, all 13, crying and claiming they had seen a ghost in the house.

The group told officers the house



had formerly been rented by one of their aunts but was now empty.

The group decided to spend a night in the old place, climbing through an open window at 11pm.

Things went without incident until about 3am.

At that point, the teenagers claim, an apparition appeared in front of them. It was a man wearing a red loincloth. His face appeared to be rotten.

They fled the house in hyster-

ics. Some neighbors heard the clamor and called the police.

At first, officers did not believe the kids' story.

They noted that they were "inappropriately dressed" and appeared to be on drugs.

The officers took all four to the station, where they tested their urine. None of the samples turned the tell-tale purple color indicating drug use.

Officers told the children firmly that they had to tell the truth about what happened, saying that if they lied they could be sent to a young offenders' institute.

All four stuck firmly to their story — that they had seen a ghost in the house that night.

— **Sanook**

B6bn graft probe gains ground

ALLEGATIONS of corruption are dogging a project to build 396 new police stations across the country at a cost of almost 6 billion baht.

The Department of Special Investigation (DSI) says it has collected enough evidence to support a collusion case regarding bidding for the project.

Critics allege that the company that won the contract, PCC Development and Construction, had ties with senior members of the previous government.

DSI Director-General Tharit Pengdit said the probe report would be forwarded to the National Anti-Corruption Commission soon for prosecution, as the DSI had no jurisdiction over political office holders.

The project has been dogged by delays, with many construction sites sitting empty or with half-finished work, including three sites in Phuket.

At a press conference in Chiang Mai where the company is based, PCC chairman Phibool Udomsithikul denied the allegations of corruption against his company and dismissed speculation that it had ties with Democrat

AROUND THE nation

MP Suthep Thaugsuban and Bhum Jai Thai de-facto leader Newin Chidchob.

Both politicians were influential figures in the previous Democrat-led administration, under which the construction contract was awarded to PCC, in 2010.

Mr Phibool instead blamed the police for tardiness in handing over the sites.

The news follows DSI chief Tharit arriving in Phuket on February 1 to inspect incomplete police housing projects. With him was Government Spokesman Prompong Nopparit.

"We will be looking at the delay in construction and will also determine whether corruption is involved, said Mr Tharit, adding that the case had attracted the attention of national police chief Adul Sangsingkaew.

Mr Prompong described the



Officers led by DSI chief Tharit Pengdit inspect an incomplete police housing project in Phuket. The investigation report will soon be handed over to the National Anti-Corruption Commission for further action. Photo: Gazette file

project as "wrong from the beginning."

"Only one company bid on this project, PCC Development and Construction Co Ltd," he said. "The bidding process looks suspicious."

Mr Tharit and Mr Prompong met Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat and

police senior officers to discuss the incomplete construction of three housing blocks to provide accommodation for officers serving at Thung Thong, Patong, and Thalang police stations.

"I received complaints from police officers in Phuket about financial hardship because rents in Phuket are quite expensive and

they have been waiting for the police housing for a long time," Mr Prompong said.

After inspecting the sites in Phuket, Mr Prompong said he would submit his report to the Anti-Money Laundering Office and ask them to verify the budget and the financial process used in the construction.



Rescue workers at the scene attend to casualties. Photo: The Nation Digital

Temple carnage as grenade explodes amid festival crowd

FOUR people were killed and 58 injured when a grenade exploded at a festival in Maha Sarakham Province on Sunday night.

The explosion took place as police officers tried to forcibly take the grenade from Winai Jeknam, 32, who lost an arm in the blast. Two police officers, two civilians and a 12-year-old boy were killed.

Witnesses said a brawl erupted while the Pong Lang Sa On band was playing on stage during the annual festival. Pong Lang Sa On performed at the Patong Carnival in December.

Mr Winai was seen holding up the grenade. He refused to hand it over despite pleas from police and security volunteers. Then the officials decided to take it off him by force.

"I grasped his legs, and when others rushed in to help, I retreated," Pol Snr Sgt Maj Sa-nga Kamchu said.

The grenade detonated in the commotion.

"I think somebody dropped the grenade accidentally," the 49-year-old policeman said.

Killed at the scene were two policemen, Snr Sgt Maj Weerayut Kongprakom and 3rd Master Sgt Padej Singsanan, as well as 12-year-old Thirakarn Panamatang. The boy had travelled with his parents from Surin to take part in the festival.

Another civilian, Sontichai Tinburan, succumbed to injuries in hospital.

According to police, Mr Winai had been previously sentenced to 20 years in jail over another attack, but his sentence was commuted to nine years.

In 2010, he was arrested again for illegally carrying a firearm and is believed to have developed some form of mental disorder in recent years.

Tourist's gang rape claim raises doubts

THE alleged gang rape of a young Scottish woman in the Southern city of Nakhon Sri Thammarat has hit international headlines – though local media reports have cast doubt on the victim's account of events.

A suspect has been arrested for the alleged attack. Pongpat Posoy, who was seen on CCTV following the victim, told police that he had sex with the woman but that she welcomed his advances, *The Nation* reported.

The alleged incident took place in the early hours of Friday, February 15.

All accounts of what happened that night agree that the victim was drunk at the time, having been out drinking with a foreign male friend at various bars in the city.

The pair parted ways later that night. The woman told police that as she walked along a road, a pickup truck pulled up and some men picked her up, drove her to a building and gang raped her.

But Mr Pongpat told police he spotted the alleged victim in the early hours in a bar he frequented, and initially approached her and offered help because she had sustained a knee injury.

He said he felt a sexual urge during the close contact and followed her to the second floor of the bar.

The suspect said he then attempted to have sex with the drunken foreigner twice, during which he claimed she did not resist his advances.

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In brief...

South Korea's first female president delivers powerful inauguration speech

SOUTH Korea's new president Park Geun-hye, the country's first female president, urged North Korea to abandon its nuclear ambitions and to stop wasting its scarce resources on arms in her inauguration speech on Monday.

President Geun-hye also called on South Koreans to help revive the nation's export-dependent economy whose trade is threatened by neighboring Japan's weak yen policy.

Myanmar bank tycoons granted right to US trade

TWO banks owned by tycoons associated with Myanmar's former military regime will start to do business with US companies and investors in the latest reward for the Southeast Asian country's rapid political transformation.

BBC says English radio broadcasts jammed in China

RADIO broadcasts in English from the BBC World Service are being jammed in China, the broadcaster said on Monday, suggesting the Chinese authorities were behind the disruption.

China, which enforces strict restrictions on its domestic media, has been accused by several prominent foreign media of seeking to stop their news reports from reaching Chinese audiences.

Sri Lanka security forces rape, torture Tamil detainees – HRW

By Nita Bhalla

SRI Lanka's security forces have used rape to torture and extract confessions from suspected Tamil separatists almost four years after the country's civil war ended, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a report on Tuesday.

The rights group documented 75 cases of predominately Tamil men and women who said they were held in Sri Lankan detention centers and repeatedly raped and sexually abused by the military, police and intelligence officials.

The victims – now living as asylum seekers, most of them in Britain – said once they confessed to being a member of the Tamil Tiger rebel group, the abuse generally stopped and they were allowed to escape by paying a bribe, before fleeing abroad.

"We found that rape was used to secure some sort of confession, but also as a political tool to punish people," Meenakshi



An undated picture shows Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) leader Vellupillai Prabhakaran standing with his family. Photo: Reuters

Ganguly, the rights group's South Asia director, told a news conference in New Delhi.

"These were people who had some connection with the Tigers... who were forced to sign

confessions, and only then would the rapes stop," Mr Ganguly said.

Mr Ganguly said sexual abuse was only one form of torture that the people suffered.

Sri Lanka's High Commis-

sioner to New Delhi said he had no evidence to suggest the allegations of abuse, which the rights group said occurred from 2006 to 2012, were true.

The ambassador, Prasad Kariyawasam, said the testimonies of 41 women, 31 men and three boys were likely made by "economic refugees" who "need a good story" to get asylum.

"Until we do a proper inquiry, we have to believe that these are all sob stories for the sake of obtaining asylum or refugee status in a developed country," Mr Kariyawasam told Reuters.

"Until there is a proper examination... in the Sri Lankan court system, we will not be able to accept these allegations," Mr Kariyawasam said.

He added that the report was "a well-timed effort" to discredit Sri Lanka ahead of a vote on a US-backed resolution criticizing it at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva this week.

– Reuters

Egypt balloon crash kills 19, mostly tourists

AT LEAST 19 people, most of them Asian and European tourists, were killed when a hot air balloon crashed on Tuesday near the ancient Egyptian town of Luxor following a mid-air gas explosion, officials said.

The balloon came down in farmland a few kilometers from the Valley of the Kings and pharaonic temples that draw tourists to Luxor. Rescue workers gathered the remains of the dead from the field where the charred remains of the balloon, gas canisters and other pieces of burnt wreckage landed.

One Egyptian was also killed, Health Minister Mohamed Mostafa Hamed told Reuters, listing the others killed as tourists from Japan, China, France, Britain and Hungary. Earlier,

officials had said all the dead were tourists.

The pilot survived by jumping from the basket when it was 10 to 15 meters from the ground, said Ahmed Aboud, head of an association representing Luxor balloon operators. Two other survivors, both British, were being treated at Luxor hospital, said Mohamed Mustafa, a doctor at the hospital. The fatalities were caused by burns and by the impact, he said.

The balloon crashed on the west bank of the Nile river, where many of the major historical sites are located.

The governor of Luxor ordered an immediate halt to all ballooning, the state-run *al-Ahram* newspaper reported.

– Reuters



A security officer examines the wreckage of a hot air balloon that crashed in Luxor. Photo: Reuters

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	PG909	16.45	18.10
	PG278	19.45	21.10
	PG280	21.55	23.20
BKK-HKT	PG271	08.05	09.30
	PG222	10.00	11.25
	PG924	12.30	13.55
	PG273	14.35	16.00
	PG277	17.30	18.55
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ASIA'S BOUTIQUE AIRLINE

Local firm takes the LEED in sustainability

PHUKET headquartered construction and development firm, Development Management Group Co Ltd (DMG), recently announced that its Sustainability Manager, John Covello has earned his LEED Accredited Professional (LEED AP) certification.

The designation, with a specialization in Building Design and Construction, makes John one of a small number of sustainable building specialists in Thailand.

LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a certification system overseen by the US Green Building Council.

Each LEED AP must pass an accreditation exam administered by the US Green Building Certification Institute.

The designation demonstrates technical competence with regard to green building practices and principles, as well as LEED requirements, resources, and processes.

John joins DMG's existing team of LEED APs and Green Associates, who identify themselves as "professionals with knowledge of the best strategies for incorporating green building principles".

"We are seeing more and more owners and building operators in Southeast Asia interested in sustainability, simply because of the sound financial return provided by the operating expense savings from a sustainable and green building," said David Arell of DMG.

DMG's client base includes owners, developers, real estate investors and buyers of luxury resort and residential developments. Its business scope spans everything from single superbly-crafted oceanfront villas to high-yield resort developments, with a working mission to "take clients' goals to heart and commit highly-qualified personnel and polished management systems to carry dreams from concept to reality."

DMG owner, O B Wetzell, concludes, "The prudence of sustainability and environmental sensitivity is axiomatic to DMG's management practices."

LEED is a certification program for new and renovated buildings that encourages the process of a holistic approach to sustainable building. The program is voluntary and has created a methodical multi-step process for the implementation of strategies for better energy, environmental and health performance of buildings.



John Covello is one of a few LEED AP certified professionals in Thailand.



FROM WEST TO EAST: French ambassador to Thailand Thierry Viteau and Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut recently met to talk about Thai-French relations. Photo: K. Mueanhawong

French ambassador visit to boost SMEs

THE new French Ambassador to Thailand, Thierry Viteau, made his first visit outside of his station in Bangkok to Phuket on Thursday to discuss the need to strengthen relations in the tourism market.

"Phuket and Nice in France have been 'sister cities' since 1989; I want to take this opportunity to re-strengthen and renew our relations," Amb Viteau, who assumed his position in October last year, told Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut.

"I also want to focus on increasing business opportunities between our two nations," he said.

Amb Viteau explained to Gov Maitri that

he planned to invite small and medium enterprise (SME) businesses to Phuket to discuss cooperative investment opportunities between the two countries.

Gov Maitri, receptive to the idea, also suggested adding more special programs to the Alliance Française (*French cultural center*: see afthailand.org/en/alliance-phuket/) in Phuket. Special programs would help to give Thai people in Phuket a better understanding of France, he said.

Amb Viteau offered to write to the Mayor of Nice, Christian Estrosi, on behalf of Phuket to strengthen the relations between the two cities. – **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

AMCHAM to host US taxation seminar in Patong

IF YOU are an American and are baffled by the US tax regime on overseas residents, then you do not want to miss an AMCHAM (the American Chamber of Commerce) seminar on March 8, at the Holiday Inn Patong.

John Andes, tax partner at KPMG Thailand, will provide an overview of US taxpayers' 2012 US income

tax and information reporting requirements, including a discussion on the Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR) and the Statement of Foreign Financial Assets (Form 8938).

John will also discuss the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (ATRA), enacted January 2, 2013.

This law has wide ranging

consequences for all US individual taxpayers for 2013 and onward. It both extended the "Bush tax cuts" for many middle and lower income taxpayers and significantly increased the tax rates for high income individuals.

These, along with recently enacted "Obama Care" taxes taking effect in 2013, will signifi-

cantly impact all US taxpayers. He will also present an overview of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) and its impact on US taxpayers.

The seminar will take place in the conference room at the Holiday Inn Patong on March 8 from 12:45pm onward. Registration will be from 11:30am to noon followed by lunch.

The cost for members is 750 baht (non-members: 1,000 baht) and includes a buffet lunch.

– **Phuket Gazette**

Pre-payment is required and bookings and payment can be made online, if made by March 5. For registration assistance, email: eventbooking@amchamthailand.com

B5bn industry budget in the works

THE Industry Ministry will propose to cabinet its 5-year, 5.8 billion baht budget plan for Thailand's industrial sector's pollution management.

The plan will be introduced formally as soon as it gets approval from the Industry Minister and the Office of National Environment Board.

Permanent Secretary for Industry Witoon Simachokedee said the move followed the Cabinet's resolution in March last year to have the ministry map out the pollution management plan.

He said the new pollution management plan, comprising 124

projects, can support new investments in the country, strengthen Thailand's industrial sector, and enable the sector to be competitive at the international level.

Five main measures are included in the plan. These are: 1) Supporting environmentally-friendly industrial production to be allocated with 3.9bn baht; 2) Increasing ability to inspect and control sources of waste (1.3bn baht); 3) Managing chemical waste (137mn baht); 4) Improving human resources in the industrial sector and local communities (190mn baht), and 5) Implementing environmental



A lot of money will be spent on reducing pollution. Photo: Steven Layne
management to welcome the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015 and to comply with international commitment to other countries (102mn baht). – **MCOT**

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A land of opportunity

A trusted market report lauds Phuket as one of Asia's strongest hotel markets

PHUKET emerged last year as Thailand's strongest hotel market, according to a recent report by Jones Lang LaSalle

The report, entitled *Spotlight on Thailand – Hotel Investment Market* said that as of December 2012, year-to-date (YTD), Phuket had an occupancy rate of 72.4%.

Meanwhile, it said that the Average Daily Rate (ADR) was 3,902 baht, which resulted in Revenue per Available Room (RevPAR) 2,824 baht.

This was higher than other markets in Thailand, with the exception of Bangkok's five-star hotel market.

As of December 2012, YTD, Phuket's RevPAR was 10.1% above the same period last year.

The strong hotel performance was credited primarily to the continual growth of international visitors, which have increased steadily from 2.3 million in 2009 to 4.3mn in 2011.

As of June 2012, YTD, visitor arrivals recorded a year-on-year increase of 9.7% to 2.7mn. During the same period, domestic visitors registered a 6.6% year-on-year growth to 1.2 million.

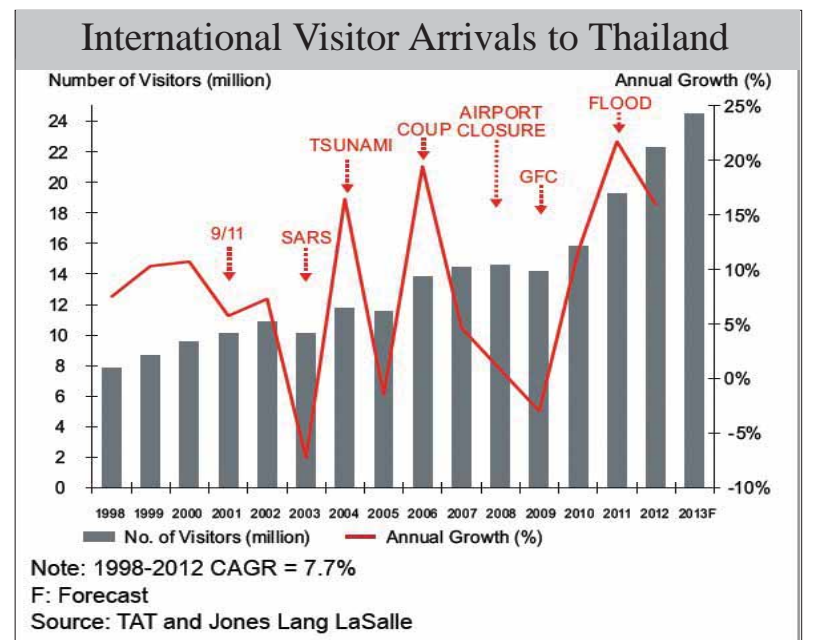
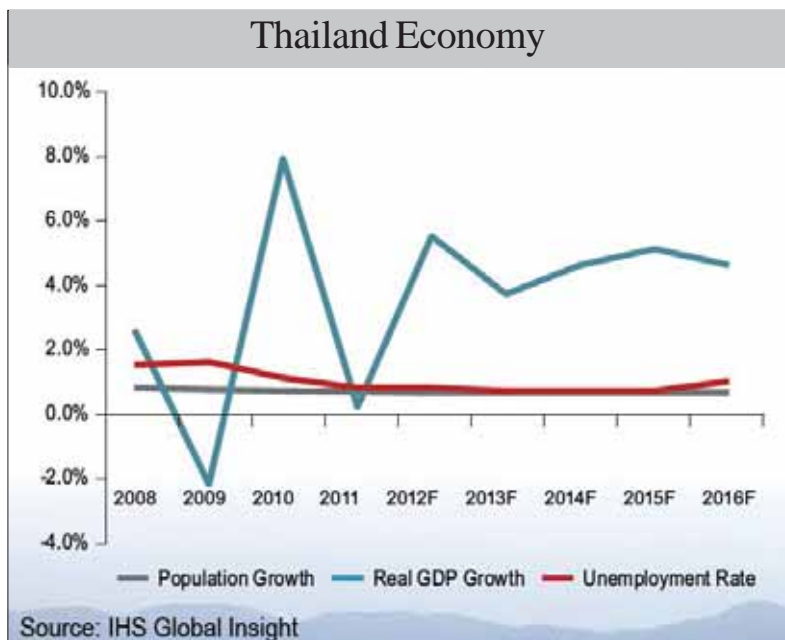
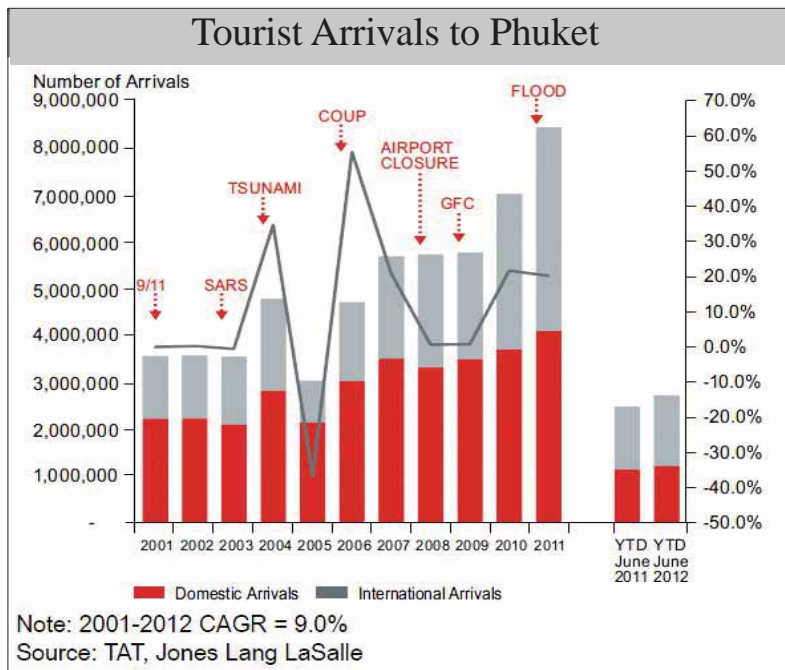
China, Russia, Korea and Australia were the fastest growing source markets for Phuket.

Between 2009 and 2011, arrivals from China and Russia have showed an impressive CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 119% and 109% respectively, while those from South Korea and Australia grew by 38% and 37%, respectively.

Sweden has remained as the only (Western) European country in the top five source markets following the global economic crisis.

The total number of domestic and international tourists accounted for approximately 6mn arrivals between 2007 and 2009, followed by a significant jump to 7mn in 2010 and almost 8.5mn in 2011.

The fast pace of growth has put the island's infrastructure under pressure, especially the Phuket International Airport (HKT). Having exceeded its original handling



ALL IN THE NUMBERS: From top left, going clockwise: Phuket tourism figures show how the island was resilient to various 'crises'; Thailand's hotel transactions are reviving; 24 million tourists are expected this year, and Thailand's GDP growth is projected to be stable, with low unemployment.

capacity of 6.5 million passengers per year, HKT received an estimated 9.4mn travellers in 2012.

In early September 2012, the Airports Authority of Thailand announced the appointment of a main contractor to lead the 5.7 billion baht expansion of HKT.

The expanded airport will see the addition of an international passenger terminal, boosting its capacity to 12.5mn travellers a year.

An expanded airport is expected to attract major international carriers to fly direct to Phuket, including Emirates' Dubai – Phuket route which commenced flights in December 2012, as well as direct flights from London scheduled to commence in late 2013.

Construction of the new terminal is estimated to be completed by 2015.

Despite the significant growth in hotel supply, with 2,756 additional rooms anticipated by 2015, the increase in visitor arrivals has provided demand and the outlook remains positive.

Given the current rate of growth, airport expansion plans and an increase in affluent Asian travellers with greater spending power, Phuket is poised to retain its position as one of Asia's most popular tourist and investment destinations.

An Active Year

Overall, 2012 was an exceedingly strong year for hotel investments in Thailand.

Phuket remains the hotspot

with four major transactions of over 1bn baht each, three of these being undertaken by Jones Lang LaSalle's Hotel & Hospitality Group.

The Moevenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach was sold early in the year on behalf of Kingdom Hotel Investments to Malaysia's TA Global, for approximately 2.8bn baht or 8mn baht per key, yielding an initial yield of approximately 9%.

The 338-key property (excluding residences) is situated on an expansive 52 rai plot of land in front of Karon Beach and offered numerous expansion and redevelopment opportunities to the incoming investor.

The Evason Phuket Resort & Bon Island, situated on over 110 rai of freehold land in the south of the island, and featuring a private beach [front property] on Bon Island, traded in an approximately 1.4bn baht deal to an interest associated with LC Development out of Singapore.

The property was subsequently closed with the purchasers believed to be considering a major redevelopment of the resort

and extensive land holdings.

Unlike the two deals described above, the sale of Laguna Beach Resort to Outrigger Hotels & Resorts did not involve a public company investor and, as such, much of the transaction information remains confidential.

The transaction involved the Laguna Beach Resort (acquired last year by RECAP) which was subsequently closed for a major renovation.

The resort is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2013, and will open as the Outrigger Resort & Spa.

The final transaction recorded in Phuket involved the sale of the Bundarika Villas & Suites on Layan Beach to Minor Hotel Group.

The deal, which was worth US\$95 million or close to 3bn baht, comprised of the existing 77 villas and suites on 23 rai of beach-front land, funds to refurbish the existing property and further expansion on a 32 rai plot of land also acquired as part of the transaction.

– Jones Lang LaSalle and
Phuket Gazette



PROPERTY Gazette

Centrio condominium to be launched in Phuket Town

PROPERTY developer, Able Asset Co Ltd are excited about their upcoming Phuket development, Centrio, a condominium to be built on 2,100 square meters of land close to Central Festival, comprising three eight-storey buildings with a total of 504 units.

Kasidit Manopinives, managing director of Able Asset Co Ltd spoke to the *Phuket Gazette* about Centrio and his company's plans for the future.

Phuket Gazette: When will construction on Centrio start?

Kasidit Manopinives: Right now it is under review and we hope to get the license in the next couple of months. After that we will submit for the construction permit. I am expecting construction to commence in June. After Songkran we plan to do some site evaluation work so that we're ready for the start of construction.

When do you expect the construction to be finished?

Construction should be finished by the end of 2014. We will allow two months to make any corrections to the development and then after that we will start the unit transfers.

Why choose this location in Phuket Town?

It's a very prominent location. We called it Centrio because it is central to everything – shopping and nightlife. It took us a long time to negotiate for this site.

Do you have any plans for more

developments in Phuket?

Yes, we actually already have townhouses in Phuket Town in Phumpon called Phuket@town. Centrio is our second project and we would like to add more developments in Phuket.

What does Centrio offer that's different to the other condominiums?

We like to offer a lifestyle not just a building. We want it to be a place where people can relax.

How will Centrio affect or benefit Phuket?

As a company, we want to be part of the local community and being part of the community means many things. As I mentioned earlier, this is our second project and we hope to be on Phuket more and more. Centrio will be a new lifestyle choice for citizens.

Do you have any more plans for developments in Thailand?

Actually, we are going to launch at least one or two projects in Bangkok and Hua Hin. We are looking to launch a third development in Phuket Town next year. It will be a condominium project similar to Centrio.

What's the vision and objective of the Able Asset group?

We are a group of experts in property development. Our vision is to be part of local communities. We think that Thailand



Kasidit Manopinives, managing director of Able Asset Co Ltd, next to a model of Centrio.

has a lot of potential to grow, especially in major towns like Phuket, Hua Hin, Pattaya and even Udon Thani. Many major cities in Thailand have room to grow and we want to be a part of that. We want to create new lifestyle options in cities for people.

What's Able Assets' investment policy over the next 1-2 years?

We want to add 1-2 projects each year for the next three years, each worth 500 million baht to 1.5 billion baht. Our revenue will range

from one billion to 3 billion baht per year.

Do you see Phuket as a better market than Pattaya or Hua Hin?

Yes, I personally see Phuket as a more international area that has more potential to grow.

Units will range in area from 30 to 60sqm, and will be offered from 1.49mn baht, or 48,500 baht per square meter.

– Andrew Scott

For more information, visit: thecentrio.com

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Escape from Boracay



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

TIMING is everything, and my recent *soirée* to the Philippines for island hopping was ill advised.

I'm stuck in the middle of what they are politely calling a 'tropical depression', or what could eventually become a typhoon. The depression thing reminds me of Tony Soprano and his psychiatrist: "So how are you feeling today Tony?"

Yesterday's highlight was a 12-hour trip from Boracay to Manila, which should have taken three hours tops. While tourism is surging to the famed white-sand shores of Boracay, the airlift situation remains the penultimate deal killer.

For those who don't know, the island itself has no airstrip, but there is a limited facility at Caticlan on the mainland about 15 minutes away by boat.

It's a short runway limited to propeller aircraft such as ATR 72s. Departing planes have to limit their passenger count due to a mountain at the end of the runway.

All too often, as was the case yesterday, rainy or windy weather means planes cannot take off or land. The option is a larger airport in Kalibo about 1.5 to 2 hours away. So, on landing, door to door travel time can often be up to three hours, though the latter airport can land jets.



DEPENDING ON WEATHER: The Caticlan airstrip is only about 15 minutes to Boracay island by boat, but can only handle smaller propeller planes.

I had the misfortune of flying Cebu Pacific, and after repeated delays and little communication, we were eventually packed into a minibus, like sardines, driven by a madman in the rain to Kalibo, where the airport was SRO (Standing Room Only).

For those who complain about flying to or from Phuket, try Kalibo for a mass of overcrowded chaos. Ground staff had no idea when planes were coming or going, as they went promptly into hiding, and chartered flights headed for China were added to the mix.

Eventually, I made it back to Manila before midnight, shaken, stirred and sporting a bump on the head. As I write this I'm back

in the ring, bumping my way to Cebu straight into another depression way down South.

Reflecting on Boracay, it remains an awesomely beautiful island, but like Phuket, Bali and Samui, it is far from pristine and its hotels are getting better.

In my opinion, the Shangri-La Boracay is the best resort in the chain. Others like Discovery Shores and a personal favorite Asya are heads above the competition.

Yes, while we complain about the airport in Phuket, or Bali, or Samui's conundrum, it could be much worse – Boracay. While they are cutting down a hill and extending the runway, a long-term solution is years away. Airport owner San Miguel's plans to reclaim land and create a much larger facility are mired in red tape.

For Shangri-La, while the hotel has picked up its rates and occupancy, it's still a mis-match for this scale of property with limited access.

And yes, driving around the island is a similar conundrum to our own island Phuket, where poorly regulated building restrictions and inadequate infrastructure are creating an increasing urban sprawl.

Over the years there has been residential development on the



The Shangri-La Boracay is one stunning upscale resort.



Boracay's flashy Discovery Shores is up close and personal to the beach.



Boracay is famed the world over for its white-sand beaches.

drip, with mostly condominiums and a limited number of free-standing holiday homes.

Not villas in the way we know them in Phuket, but a more domesticated product.

Things are moving ahead as I visited the AQUA site, which has been designed by the Starck-inspired Yoo group. CBRE did a recent launch, and investment sales are picking up for the project.

Without a doubt, the island's real estate sector is going to see strong growth given the overall positive sentiment across the country. Coupled with this, over 10 million overseas Filipinos, who are scattered to every corner of the globe and all dream of owning a property back home.

Yet, for my money, the Philippines contains such strong potential, 7,107 islands and fantastic natural appeal.

Now, if only getting there and back were just a bit easier.

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Property Legal By International Law Office

IN MANY cases, foreign investors desire to register a company in Thailand with an eye towards later purchasing property in the name of that company to use for business purposes, or simply to use as the company's registered office.

Although it is commonly believed that a Thai company with foreign shareholders cannot purchase and own land, or that it's very difficult to achieve, in reality it's not difficult to accomplish if one follows some simple rules under which the land department will allow the transfer of land and/or buildings to a Thai company that has foreign shareholders.

Lawfully, for a Thai company to purchase land, the company must be set up under section 4 of the Foreign Business Act and section 92 of the land code, which require that the company not have more than 49 per cent foreign shareholding and that the company has more Thai shareholders than foreign shareholders.

In addition, a Thai company is required to have at least three shareholders, therefore, the company should have at least two Thai shareholders and one Thai director (in addition to any foreigner directors). Furthermore, the Thai director must be authorized to sign on behalf of the

Property purchase in the name of a Thai company



company for all company matters.

Upon registration of a land purchase by a Thai company, the Thai director, together with all Thai shareholders, is required to appear at the Land Office to satisfy the land official that the Thai directorship and Thai shareholders are bona-fide and not mere nominees as such.

Foreign nationals who place nominee Thai directors and/or shareholders into a Thai company structure are considered to have committed a violation under section 111 of the Land Act, whereas, such a violation carries a penalty of up to two years imprisonment and/or a fine of up to 200,000 baht.

If the company is in violation of the Foreign Business Act as of Section 36, which shall be punishable "with an imprisonment of not exceeding three years or a fine from 100,000 baht to 1,000,000 baht, or both, and

the court shall order a stoppage of the aiding or abetting, or order a stoppage of the joint business operation, or order a stoppage of share holding, or a cessation of the partnership as the case may be.

Violators of the court's order shall be subject to punishment ranging from a fine of 10,000 baht to 50,000 baht per day throughout the period of the violation."



Photo: stockmonkeya

In order to demonstrate to the land official that the Thai shareholders are *bona fide* and not mere nominees, they are frequently required to show their recent bank statements or other evidence that they actually had sufficient funds with which to invest in the company from monies saved, or to demonstrate how they independently acquired the funds.

In lieu of an actual cash contribution, Thai shareholders

with valuable skills, knowledge and/or experience may contribute their services to the company through a valid employment contract and receive their shares as compensation for future services to be rendered. All of the Thai shareholders will have to sign a statement to this effect.

The company itself will have to show proof that it has sufficient funds on hand to purchase the property, either as contributed capital, retained earnings or from the proceeds of a documented loan. The company will further be required to show the minutes of the company meeting where shareholders resolved to purchase the property, and the purpose of its acquisition.

It is easiest to purchase property in the company name if the property will be used as the registered office.

Once the land official has checked all documentations to his satisfaction, the registration of transfer of the property into the name of the Thai company

is a routine matter. To be sure all goes smooth, it is recommended that the company not have more than 39% foreign shareholding. This way the land official has authority to approve the set up on the spot. If the company has more than 39% foreign shareholding, he may need to send the file for prior approval to Bangkok before registration of the land transfer.

Always declare the full actual purchase price to all government officials when registering a company property purchase (or any property purchase). Never declare a fraudulent figure, as to do so is a tax fraud and a crime.

Therefore, always present truthful and legitimate documentation to all government officials. This includes the minutes of shareholders meeting approving the property purchase with the actual purchase price, and a lawful Power of Attorney if a third party shall appear in lieu of the Thai director.

Upon subsequent sale of the property by the company, the foreign director him/herself may sign on behalf of the company and the selling company will not be subject to further scrutiny, but it should always comply with the current land code effective at such time.

This article is written by International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd. For any questions you can contact sam@ilo-phuket.com or call ILO's offices at 076 222 191-5.

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Reflecting on currency exposure

Island Investor

Don Freeman

IF YOU are a long-term expatriate living in Thailand, you have probably seen the Thai baht appreciate significantly against your home currency – a trend that will likely continue for the foreseeable future.

This appreciation (along with an average inflation rate of 2.7% since 2000) makes it increasingly expensive to live in Thailand at a time when you are probably contending with near zero interest rates back home and low cost of living adjustments to your pension.

Fortunately, there are investment strategies that will help you, as an expatriate living in Thailand, to manage or limit your currency exposure risks.

Before you consider investing, you must first determine the level of your currency exposure and risks by answering the following simple questions:

- 1) Do you divide your time between living in Thailand and living in your home country?
- 2) Do you foresee returning (or being forced to return) to your home country?
- 3) Do you still own property in your home country?
- 4) Do you have other liabilities back home or denominated in your home currency?
- 5) Do you still need to pay taxes in your home country on your investments or other income?
- 6) Do you need to disclose offshore investments to your home country's tax authorities?

If you answered yes to most



OPTIONS: Consult a professional to determine which currency you should be exposed to. Photo: Images of Money

or all of these questions, then you will need to keep most of your investment portfolio exposed to your home currency and the various offshore investment products marketed to expatriates probably won't make financial sense.

Americans in particular, need to be careful, due to taxation policies that apply worldwide and increasingly onerous requirements to disclose any kind of offshore accounts, along with the possibility of having to return to the USA to use Medicare for major medical problems.

With the answers to the above questions in mind, a possible investment strategy would be to allocate a portion of your invest-

ment portfolio and income to cover any liabilities or expenses you have in Thailand, and another portion of your investment portfolio to cover liabilities or expenses in your home country.

For example: visits to your home country and any liabilities there (taxes, a mortgage on a home, your children's or grandchildren's education) should be covered by the return or income from the portion of your investment portfolio exposed to your home country's currency, while the rest of your portfolio will need to have a more aggressive return to keep up with your liabilities and expenses in Thailand as the baht appreciates.

Fortunately, you do not need to convert part of your investment portfolio into baht and invest directly in Thailand.

Exchange traded funds (ETFs) that trade on major world stock exchanges and invest in emerging markets, such as the iShares MSCI Thailand Index Fund (THD), or invest in foreign currencies can provide an easy way to give your investment portfolio a more aggressive return to keep up with an appreciating baht (and Thailand's rate of inflation).

Moreover, many ETFs that invest in emerging markets (or internationally) are internally hedged to major world currencies to limit the impact negative

currency swings will have on their returns.

However, you will need to be cautious when choosing your investments, as the currency your investment accounts are denominated in may not accurately reflect the actual currency exposure your investments have.

For example: A non-American investor who invests in multinational company stocks that are either based in the United States or do most of their business there, will actually have an investment portfolio more exposed to the US dollar than to their home currency.

That may actually work out nicely if you are a British investor living in Thailand as the GBP has depreciated more significantly against the baht than the USD has over the last decade, but it would be a negative if you are an Australian investor living in Thailand, as the AUD has largely kept pace with or has actually appreciated more in value against the baht.

For that reason, and if you are British (or to a lesser extent, American), you may have been better off if a portion of your investment portfolio was focused on Australian stocks or ETFs.

Don Freeman is president of Freeman Capital Management, a Registered Investment Advisor with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), based in Phuket, Thailand. He has over 15 years experience and provides personal financial planning and wealth management to expatriates. Specializing in UK and US pension transfers. Call 089-970-5795 or email: freemancapital@gmail.com.

Impact Muang Thong to attract more MICE

IMPACT Muang Thong Thani, Nonthaburi, one of Thailand's top convention and exhibition venues, is strengthening its business to serve the growing MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) market, especially for international trade and exhibitions.

"As Thailand's major MICE player and venue provider, we commit ourselves to the ongoing improvement of our services and facilities to an international standard. This assures local and international business partners that Thailand is capable of being the host country for major MICE events with Impact as the leading venue partner," Loy Joon How, general manager of Impact Exhibition Management Co, said recently.

The upcoming Asean Economic Community (AEC) will provide opportunities for Thailand, especially for overseas trade shows and exhibition organizers that target the markets in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, due to its strategic location as well as logistics and supporting facilities.

"We can cater to all the needs of functions ranging from 100 to over 30,000 delegates," he said.

Impact Muang Thong Thani offers the largest exhibition space in the country



Impact Arena is Thailand's largest internationally certified MICE location. Photo: Banphot Nuchleang

with over 140,000 square meters of indoor space in four main buildings – Impact Challenger; Impact Exhibition Center; Impact Arena and Impact Forum.

These facilities serve over 800 events a year, including trade and consumer exhibitions and attract 15 million visitors annually.

The Rotary International Convention,

Thailand International Motor Expo, Bangkok Gems and Jewelry Fair, THAIFEX-World of Food Asia, Herbalife Extravaganza, Amway Expo and ITU Telecom Asia are just a few of the major events held in Thailand.

The venue has recently spent US\$27 million (807mn baht) to add 30 meeting

rooms, bringing the total of breakout rooms to 52. Two banquet halls have been opened with 5,710sqm to serve all kinds of functions, in addition to the 3,500sqm Royal Jubilee and 2,000 sqm Grand Diamond ballrooms.

In two years, facilities and support services to be completed include the Ibis hotel, which will add 600 rooms to the existing 380 ultra-modern rooms at the Novotel Bangkok Impact and a 2,000-seat auditorium. Additions to Impact Arena will include more shops and renovation of the eight multipurpose halls at Impact Exhibition Center.

"Impact is the country's first MICE venue, which is certified as 'international standard'. It has successfully achieved ISO22000 for food safety management; ISO50001 for energy management and TIS22300 for MICE security management. The achievements enhance Impact's confidence and build trust with business partners," he said.

This year Impact projects its revenue to rise 10 per cent to US\$67mn. The company aims to tap the growth of MICE business, which is anticipated to generate 792,000 arrivals and US\$2.1-billion in revenue this year.

– The Nation

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Being Heroes

ALTHOUGH afforded little, if any, attention in the local media, the recent winning of a national championship in the “To Be Number One Teen Dancercise 2013” competition by a team of young dancers from the Baan Bangneaw Municipal School in Phuket Town deserves a great deal of recognition and praise. It was a considerable achievement, the first ever by a team representing Phuket.

Established 10 years ago by HRH Princess Ubol Ratana Rajakanya, the To Be Number One program offers Thai youngsters a chance to develop important life skills that include discipline and teamwork. These were the very character traits our ancestors needed simply to survive, yet they seem to be in increasingly short supply among youths in our modern world of digital information, video games, social networking and mobile phones.

Bangneaw School had two teams in the dance competition. The “Hero” team of 16 six to nine-year-olds won the southern finals at the Jungceylon complex in Patong in late November, then went on to win the national finals against 12 other teams at the national championships held at the convention center at The Mall Bangkok in Bangkok on February 10.

Their 17 big brothers and sisters on the “Aha” team (10 to 13 years old) also qualified for the national finals by coming second in the southern finals. They then went on to take fourth overall in the highly-competitive national finals, where they also managed a second place overall last year.

The Phuket Public Health Office, recognizing the two teams’ achievements and hoping to encourage more schools on the island to enter teams in next year’s competition, recently held a brainstorming session with the parents of the young dancers to learn more about how their experience had affected the children and their families.

Most of the parents were quick to point out their own considerable personal sacrifices and investments of time and money associated with the training, but said they were well worth it, even though the daily practice sessions sometimes ran as late as 10pm – with no breaks for weekends or during the school holidays. In fact, these latter periods were the time when team coach Charintorn “Khru Pop” Thongsamer ordered the training kicked up to another level: all-day rehearsals.

Despite the considerable costs involved, the Bangneaw “cheer squad” was among the largest and most vocal at the finals in Bangkok – and they were clearly overjoyed when the Hero team not only won the national finals, but was also given a chance to perform their winning routine in front of none other than Princess Ubol Ratana.

The *Phuket Gazette* would like to congratulate all of the dancers, as well as their parents, teachers and other supporters, on a well-deserved victory that all of Phuket can be proud of.



Just say no – to exercise

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Health: Being strong and balanced, February 21

You won’t get me on any ridiculous exercise machine or fancy diet. Nope, no way; my body is perfect the way it is, thank you.

All the good girls on Soi Eric reckon I’m a “handsome man” anyway. What more could I want?

Seriously, what’s the point in living to 100 and being bloody miserable all your life? Bah!

*Big Bernie
Phuket Gazette*

The sweetest pit bull

Re: Gazette online, Vicious Pit Bull Attack: Phuket mother files for compensation, February 26

There are many pit bulls that are fantastic pets and a few bad ones. To me, it’s the same as the gun argument: we all know there are idiots that own pit bulls, but that goes for all breeds.

Pit bulls get the attention because of the name and the damage they can do. Same with so called assault rifles.

Some of the sweetest dogs I have encountered were pit bulls.

*The Original Steve
Gazette Forum*

Bad to the bone

I worked in a casualty ward in California for two years, and try telling the other staff who worked with me that they [pit bulls] are some of the sweetest dogs you have encountered.

They are killing machines to little kids who thought they were sweet dogs they could play with until they [the pit bulls] exploded in rage.. Australia saw the light and banned them.

*Steve
Gazette Forum*

Letters to the Editor

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

Battling dengue is a draining issue

Re: Gazette online, Phuket officials squelch Dengue fever rumors, February 25

May I suggest that all of the rainwater drains be properly sloped for proper drainage. This is certainly an issue in our neighborhood. Without this, it doesn’t matter if everyone in the neighborhood has no standing water around their homes.

*Cindy
Gazette Forum*

A positive change

Re: Gazette online, ‘White Police’ to change Thai police culture, February 20

It is great to see such changes in Thailand. There is good and not so good in every walk of life all over the world, and it is good to see the government’s willingness to improve these things.

Thailand is such a wonderful country and this will bring the tourists back again. Brilliant!

*Irishkev
Gazette Forum*

In the driver’s seat

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Drivers’ carelessness causes traffic jams, February 25

Officer Boonliang said traffic on Thepkasattri Road would improve if the road were widened and people didn’t stop to buy stuff from roadside vendors. The road would naturally become wider if people didn’t stop to buy stuff.

I don’t think Thepkasattri at

Koh Kaew should be widened; it’s a residential and commercial area. Let it remain as such.

Instead, build a dedicated highway to the airport and on to Phang Nga. This would get those speeding vans and trucks that lose wheels out of densely populated areas.

*Marianne
Thalang*

Travel warnings to stop tourist scams

Re: Gazette online, Dutch ambassador guides reform, February 21

Nothing will change in Phuket until foreign governments issue travel warnings strongly advising their citizens not to come here. I really wish they would, then we might see some changes!

*Soapbox
Gazette Forum*

A fine way to go

Re: Gazette online, Thailand News: Tourists should be warned – expert, February 19

“...Thaweesak also urged Thai people to improve their driving...”

Urged? How about handing out serious fines for reckless driving, underage driving and all the other crazy driving habits. The money collected would more than pay for the extra police they need.

*Jim
Gazette Forum*

Taking stock

To all the big supermarkets in town, and especially the Tesco Lotus in my neighborhood: If you don’t restock an item, I can’t buy it! A distribution system that allows gaps in shelves for long periods does not make money – and it’s not keeping me in supply of my favorite Tesco granola.

*Ronnie
Gazette Forum*

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Dumping drugs for scouts' honor

FIRST PERSON

WE HAVE been holding our "scout training" courses for about six years. The first course this year was from February 11 to 14, followed by another from February 18 to 21. In each course there were 60 male and 60 female prisoners, all under 35 years old.

The aim of the courses is to solve community problems associated with drugs. More than 1,700 of 2,190 prisoners in the prison are in for drug-related crimes.

We believe the best way to reform drug-prisoners is to have them focus on positive activities. So, under this program, we follow the same principles of the National Scout Organization of Thailand.

However, we cannot allow the inmates out of the prison to perform the same duties as scouts. So we have them perform other forms of "community service", such as taking care of the other prisoners, cleaning the prison and helping officers do administrative tasks, in order to earn their merit badges.

More than 1,000 inmates applied to join the courses, but we could accept only 120 in each course, so we selected prisoners from high-risk groups, such as new inmates and those who were involved with hard drugs.

The course takes only four days, but the results last a long time. The participants are now more disciplined and more responsible. I believe that if we give them more attention, and make them realize they have not been aban-



helping drug users to become valuable citizens.

Rapin Nichanon, 58, has been the director of Phuket Provincial Prison since 2011. Originally from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, he served as the director of Krabi Provincial Prison before moving to Phuket.

Here, he talks about how successful the prison's "scout training courses" are in

done, make them feel that society still needs them, they will become valuable assets to society.

However, we need more financial support. Governor Maitri Inthasut, who chaired the opening ceremony of the first course, likes this activity and would like to support us so we can hold more courses each year.

He suggested we add two more courses each year. I would love to, but our officers do not have enough time as they have other duties as well. However, I will call in the relevant officers to discuss how we can do this. If we can manage the time, we might start a third course in a few months.

The Department of Corrections allocates 50,000 baht to fund each course. That is not enough, as we often have to hire speakers and experts, such as lecturers, from universities. The money also pays for scout uniforms for the participants. This helps prisoners create new personas that do not rely on drugs, but rather aim to provide a positive contribution to society.

Most repeat offenders are back for committing the same crimes as they did the first time. This is because some could not start new lives after their release, as society did not accept them, so they returned to their old habits and ended up in prison again.

Recently though, our inmates are being offered more opportunities by society. During their stay in prison they learn skills such as massage and handicraft techniques that they can use to get jobs after their release. Some massage and spa centers have even contacted us asking to hire prisoners after they are freed.

Giving prisoners opportunities to improve themselves is crucial to their playing a positive role in society after they are released. I am happy to see them receive strong support from the community. Any person can do wrong; no one is perfect. Once people realize the bad things they have done and they try to change themselves to be better people, they deserve the opportunity.



There's no need to let road safety grind to a lethal halt. Photo: Gazette file

Charming, to the last

Island View

By Leslie Porterfield

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

And my friend who responded "You have to die somehow" after I said I wanted to drive a car because motorcycles were too dangerous. She needs to know that motorcyclists account for 70 per cent of Thai road fatalities.

At the same time, we need a multi-pronged solution.

On Thepkasattri Road, let's change the u-turns into traffic lights. Let's make the fines for speeding so high they hurt, and use traffic cameras to catch offenders.

Some solutions are not so obvious, like providing more parking to make streets safer to navigate.

Some are visionary, like giving away helmets to motorcyclists, then fining the heck out of those who don't wear them; at the same time requiring all public institutions, including schools, to deny entry to those not wearing helmets.

Who will lead the safe-driving social movement? The government must provide funding for long-term programs and ensure proper enforcement – but there will be a role for everyone: mothers, fathers, monks, teachers and children. What will be yours?

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

Snail mail stalls in Chalong

What has happened to the Chalong Post Office service? For years service was fine and all my mail would arrive on time, but over the past six months mail has gone missing or taken far too long to arrive.

Last September I received my local phone bills for April and May along with my international mail from June. Also, cheques are not arriving or are arriving beyond their 90-day "to cash" date, and at least five known items of mail sent this year have never arrived. What's going on?

Mike
Chalong

An officer at the Rawai Post Office distribution department replies:

We are responsible for delivering mail to all 10 villages in Chalong and the seven villages in Rawai.

We are aware of the problem and apologize for the delays. We are trying our best to find a solution.

About halfway through last year, we started to struggle with the volume of mail coming to the ever-increasing number of houses in the area.

We currently have only 11 postmen working for us, and though we have advertised for staff, we haven't had many applicants and most of our new hires quit after two months.

It takes an especially long time for our postmen to deliver mail to some areas, such as Parichart Villa and Land & Houses Park in Chalong, as they are very big estates comprising many homes.

If you are expecting important or urgent mail, you can call our office to see if it has arrived, and come to pick it up when it has.

Stopping 'fat boys' from burning rubber

Where can I recycle big bike tyres in Phuket? Is there a pick-up service or do I have to drop them off somewhere?

Kim
Patong

Prachoom Suriya, chief of Phuket City Municipality's Environment Office, replies:

Thank you for being considerate of the environment.

Tyres can be dropped off at our office at the Saphan Hin incinerator – just inform the security guard at the security box that you are doing so.

There is always a guard at the box, so you can come whenever it is convenient.

If you have more tyres than you are able to carry to our office, call us and we can arrange to have them picked up.



Recycle those tyres, big boy.

Our tyre collection project has been in operation for about two years now.

We hand the old tyres over to local people who recycle them. These people can transform these old tyres into things such as decorative flower pot holders, which they can sell for about 100 baht each. This way we can help these

people to make a living.

In the past, people left tyres outside their homes, which caused problems because water collected in them and created breeding grounds for mosquitoes (see news, page 6). That is why we now accept old tyres for recycling at the incinerator.

If you have further questions, call us at 076-354 69 during our office hours: Monday to Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

YOUR Phuket

THE MAGIC OF LUCCA AT TRISARA

A magical performance and dinner with renowned Austrian magician, Lucca. More than fantasy and illusions, Lucca bends the laws of physics, looks into the future and astonishes the soul.



From left: Mr Chalerchai Prakobkit Trisara executive chef; Mrs Anca-Floria, Lucian's wife; Mr Lucca Lucian, magician and Mrs Sue Richardson, Trisara Villa Estate manager.



Bomb Alaska



Oyster Pearl

Kindfish Ceviche



PHUKET TODAY MEETS MCOT WORLD

MCOT World presenter Rani Ratanachaichan (center) took PGTV producers Nattamon Meesin and Simon J Hand for a tour of the MCOT studios in Bangkok, during their recent visit to the broadcaster's headquarters.



Mr Nigel John Cornick, chief executive officer of Kingdom Property Co, Ltd; speaker



From left: Mr Shahin Pilli; Mr Michele Orzan, president of the European Chamber (EUCHAM); Mr Patrik Kovacs, founder and president of Fivosz and Mr Cees "KC" Cuijpers, managing partner of Town & Country Property.

MOVERS & SHAKERS CORPORATE NETWORKING FUNCTION

The Movers & Shakers Corporate Networking function was held on February 22 at Four Points by Sheraton Bangkok.



Photos: Peter Kraemer



From left: Mr Cees "KC" Cuijpers, managing partner of Town & Country Property and Oranee Hildebrand, managing director of *Phuket Gazette*.

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

ISLAND TRADER

Phuket's **LARGEST CLASSIFIEDS** Marketplace – in Print and Online*

March 2 - 8, 2013 | PhuketGazette.Net

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

PROPERTY of the week



See page 22

JOB of the week

LaGuna
HOLIDAY CLUB

See page 27

BOAT of the week



See page 31

PROPERTY SERVICES of the week

Thailand's Leading Property Site
DDproperty
.com



See page 25

All Property, Boat and Business Ads are **PAID!**

– your assurance that whatever's advertised here is seriously for sale.
Gazette Classifieds – they work! Because they're **REAL**.

Properties For Sale

RAWAI VILLA SALE ONLY 4.9MB



400sqm land, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, garage, garden, furnished. For quick sale. Tel: 081-691 3029. Email: kris_silanachai@yahoo.com

KHOK KLOY 8.5 RAI LAND



Beautiful land, 1km to beach, 2km from Sarasin Bridge. 750,000 baht per rai. From owner. Tel: 089-290 6571.

NICE HOUSE CHALONG

400sqm land. 5.9 or 6.2 million baht. 4 aircons, swimming pool or pond, jacuzzi, lake view, car park for 2 cars. Tel: 082-809 2873.

GOLF POOL VILLA FOR SALE

Very good price! 4 bedrooms, dining room, western kitchen, large office with golf view, 50 sqm. Swimming pool + life time golf membership. Tel: 081-883 9983, 080-521 1222 (English & Thai). Email: Jakrapopw@yahoo.com

ECO-HOUSE

Big, 2-storey house, 2 beds, 3 baths. Land area: 640sqm, big garden in nice neighborhood. Tel: 081-816 1248, 086-074 7370. Email: lex_int@yahoo.com

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ENJOY?



Only 9.8 million baht from German private vendor. Tel: 089-868 6842. Picture choices and further information please see www.flickr.com/photos/thai stylevilla

HOUSE FOR SALE

2-storey house for sale, Patak Road, Kata seaview, Big Buddha view. 1,100sqm land, Chanote title. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully furnished, area for possible pool building. Tel: 081-536 7985. Email: kurzin@yahoo.de

1/2 RAI IN RAWAI

Soi Saliga, dead end of the road, 100m to the beach. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 080-530 6880. Email: rawai.steen@gmail.com

GOLF VIEW VILLA FOR SALE

Near British International School. 4 bedrooms + maid's room. 17 million baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English). Email: julien@phuketimmo.com For further details, please see our website at phuketimmo.net

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.

RAWAI FREEHOLD CONDO 1,2,3 BED

For sale or rent. 14 units left, sea view, luxury. Chanote forever, fully furnished, good price. Rawai Beach, 200m to fishing pier. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

3 GORGEOUS LOTS, CLEAN TITLES

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

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: 086-476 9612.

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.

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

GOLF VIEW LAND FOR SALE

Near BIS 1,020sqm, ready to build. 5 million baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English). Email: julien@phuketimmo.com

NAI HARN BEACH CONDO

2-bed, freehold, 146sqm. Ground floor, fully furnished. Large common pool, 3 minutes walk to beach. Only 7 million baht. Tel: 089-652 1951. Email: phuket.pn@gmail.com

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.

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE FOR SALE



Fully landscaped, 3 air conditioners, telephone and internet, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. Located near the Heroines Monument towards Pa Khlok. Land size is 53sqw. 3 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: edc9designs@gmail.com

KAMALA HOUSE FOR SALE



Near Phuket FantaSea. Price: 3.2 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 081-719 1041. Email: teddykong0222@hotmail.com

For sale: two freehold Apartments 85sqm. Unit, 151sqm. Unit Swiss Quality in Tropical Surroundings The Phuket Golf Residences Kathu



- Quiet area, 24-hour security guard, pool, covered car park.
- Long-term rental possible.

Mobile: Alain 091-040-8869 (English, German, Thai).
Email: agogniat@loxinfo.co.th
www.phuket-golfresidences.ch

30 RAI IN TOWN

Flat land near Dowroong School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

390sq wah, nice flat land, quiet area, Chanote. In Pasak Soi 5 near Laguna Home. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118, 086-709 2933.

LAND FOR SALE

Near the main road to Baan Don-Cherng Talay. 68sq wah. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@yahoo.co.th

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

PROPERTY AND MOTOR INSURANCE LBI

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Phuket Boat Lagoon
info@lambertbrothers.co.th
Tel: + 66 76 273 385
www.lambertbrothers.co.th

HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

Phuket Town. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 47sq wah. Tel: 089-909 2771.

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

At Ao Makhm. 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.

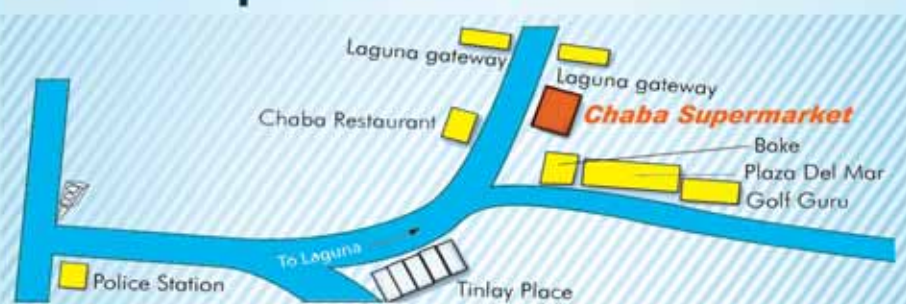
CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2fl, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more details. Tel: 086-476 9612.

Live in Cherng Talay?

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Small freehold plots: 1.5 million baht
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75% SOLD OUT

Close to Phuket International Airport. 4 rai, Chanote title. 3.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-868 7676. Email: phuketann@gmail.com

Pa Khlok. 2 rai 32sq wah, 60m wide. Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd. 11 km from Heroines' Monument. Price: 7.8 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@hotmail.com

Great location, road access. 5 mins to Kata Beach and main road, 1,450sqm with title deed. Contact Lychee. Tel: 081-891 3048 (English & German).

Freehold, studio, 28sqm. 1.3 million baht. 5 minutes to beach, furnished. Tel: 089-469 9256. Email: chino9280@hotmail.com

Full developed, 1,250sqm, 40m above sea level, Chanote, additional available, construction permits, 6 million baht, private. Tel: 087-298 0200. Email: rwberger00@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-seview-land.com

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.

Freehold condos, good rate,
sea and mountain views. Tel:
080-692 6114. Email: orsoreal
estate@hotmail.com

11 rai, 78sq wah, waterfront, unobstructed view, road access. Chanote. Tel: 080-144 7801. Email: riseland123@yahoo.com

Secure in Baan Suan Loch
Palm, 10 mins to BIS, 15
mins to Patong and Central
Festival. Fully furnished. Ask-
ing price: 14.9 million baht. Tel:
+61-8-6161 2691, +61-43-592
2900 (English), +61-46-831
5377 (English & Thai). Email:
donmountford@gmail.com

For sale. Complex area, garden
2-storey house, kitchen, fully
furnished, close to Patong
Beach. Asking price: 4.3 million
baht. Tel: 086-478 0201. Email:
laongfa@hotmail.com

Real 180° stunning seaview
land, unobstructed, east side,
Yamu Hill development. 2 plots
of 1 rai each. Chanote title.
Price: 5.5 million baht per rai.
Tel: 084-625 5090. Email:
phuket.turquoise@gmail.com

Walk to beach, 4 bedrooms,
must sell fast and cheap. 2.5
million baht. Tel: 081-303 2202.

Near BIS, 2 bedrooms, 2
bathrooms, ready to move in.
8.8 million baht. Tel: 089-724
7211 (English). Email: julien@
phuketimmo.com

Thai-style modern townhouse with land. Size: 10.50m x 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining room, kitchen and car park. Single house on land size: 15m by 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining area/kitchen, terrace and car park. Soi Mountain View Kathu Waterfall. Tel: 081-535 7585, 084-119 4262, 081-356 9754. Email: pee cho74@hotmail.com

For sale. 2 houses on land.
1 ngan 89sq wah. Chanote
title, near mountain, peace-
ful and safe, 10 minutes
from the beach. 5.5 million
baht direct from owner. Tel:
083-180 2143. Email:
nana1225@gmail.com

3-bedroom and 3-bathroom house, 3 terraces, on the hill, nice look over Patong and sea, plus 3 small separated apartments. Good for rental. 9.6 million baht. Tel: 081-824 1385. Email: ibiwo@csloxinfo.com

3 plots of land, each 420sqm.
each 850,000 baht. House
plan with building permit. 2
bedrooms, pool. Email: mr.
axelmay@gmail.com

Sale or rent. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big garden, cul de sac. 668sqm. Chanote. Tel: 080-144 7801. Email: riseland123@yahoo.com

1km from the beach, sea view, 24 rooms and apartment. Chanote. 49 million baht. Email: nc.residence@gmail.com

Special twin villa, 4 suites/ studios, 4 bedrooms, pool, very big terrace area, small garden, living space 400sqm, includes luxury furnishings. Price 8.5 million baht. SMS for info to 081-788 8280. Email: thewhitehouse kata@gmail.com For Russian contact Oxana. Tel: 080-529 0726 or email to phuket.lux@gmail.com

Spectacular 3-bed unit, 410sqm, on foreign freehold, with awesome view over Kata Bay. 51 million baht. Tel: 089-652 1951. Email: phuket.pn@gmail.com

Very nice studio apartment for sale in Na Nai Road, Patong, 50sqm, nice view, 3.6 million baht. For more info, please call 081-415 7774, 086-940 5187.

200sqm, waterfront, jacuzzi, 2 beds, 2.5 baths, nice western kitchen. Tel: 081-968 9046 (English & Thai), 082-798 3625 (English & Thai). Email: pen@mindproperties.net

Freehold condos, good rate,
sea and mountain views. Tel:
080-692 6114. Email: orsoreal
estate@hotmail.com

5.6 rai direct 80m beach frontage unobstructed views, road, power & water on site. 5 million baht/rai. Tel: 081-649 3557 (English). Email: ken@phuketlifestyle.com www.phuketlifestyle.com

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

0.5 MU LAND & HOUSE
For sale. 3 bedrooms, garden space for pool garden, Chalong area, 240sqm land size. Tel: 086-478 0201. Email: laongfa@hotmail.com

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.

Best Sea View Deal in Patong

**See more classified ads
at www.phuketgazette.net**

Properties For Rent

PATONG BEACH LUXURY APT RENTAL



Long or short-term rental. Balcony with seaview, kitchen, bathroom, swimming pool, underground parking, security, gymnasium, restaurant, bar. Tel: 085-788 7352.

3-BEDROOM PATONG HOUSE

For rent. Complex area, garden, 2-storey house, kitchen, fully furnished, close to Patong Beach. Asking price: 4.3 million baht. Tel: 086-478 0201. Email: laongfa@hotmail.com

LARGE HOUSE KAMALA

Furnished, 280sqm, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, office, sundeck, pool, jacuzzi, carport. 24,000 baht per week or 32,000 baht per month, minimum 6 months contract period. Sale: 3.4 million baht leasehold. Tel: 084-716 0502.

HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



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

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.

DELUXE KATA OCEANVIEW APT

For rent. Quiet, furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, 24hr security, gym, pool. Tel: 086-281 9311. Email: bao200@gmail.com

PATONG 1 + 2 BED APARTMENTS

Large pool, maid, security, free wifi, cable TV. Close to beach, mall and nightlife. From 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

KATA OCEAN VIEW CONDO

Fully furnished, seaview and non-seaview apartments, available for long-term rental. From 15,000 to 40,000 baht per month. Located on Kata Hill. Tel: 076-330641. For further details, please see our website at www.oceanic-global.com

LUXURY VILLAS FOR RENT KAMALA

2 villas in modern style, one of 3 bedrooms and one of 2 bedrooms, private swimming pool, big garden, jacuzzi. Contact Francesco. Tel: 085-790 7816. Email: francesco bonta@gmail.com See our website at www.villa cheloni.com

SURIN CONDO

1-3 bedroom poolside, furnished. 200m from beach. jgstryker@gmail.com

RAWAI CONDO FOR RENT

84sqm, 5 minutes to Nai Harn Beach, large pool, tropical garden, amazing panoramic view from Chalong Bay up to Phi Phi Island, fully furnished includes water supply, cable TV, and internet. Only long-term rental: 22,500 baht per month. Tel: 086-204 5817.

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2 floor, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Tel: 086-476 9612.

3-BED LAND & HOUSE PARK



A nice house with lovely garden for long-term rent. Single house (74sq wah) in Soi Parichart, Land & house Park. 24hr security + clubhouse facility. Monthly price (with some furniture): 26,000 baht per month. Special price: 23,000 baht per month for the rent without furniture. Contact owner. Tel: 081-867 6466 (English & Thai). Email: bow.jariya@gmail.com

RENT APARTMENT PATONG CONDO

Pool, security 24hr, 46sqm studio, fully furnished. Daily/monthly. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

2 & 3 BED PATONG APARTMENTS

Big pool, gym, parking, maid, wifi, security. From 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

PRIVATE POOL VILLA AVAILABLE NOW

3 bedrooms, fully furnished, located in secure area. Tel: 089-4729 870. Email: dchaibut@gmail.com

NEW HOUSE, RENT/SALE



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished with small garden, quiet area. Rent: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-626 5616. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

2-BED CONDO NAI HARN BEACH

Spacious, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, 3 minutes walk to beach. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

KATA NOI, 2 BED SEAVIEW

Spacious condo, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, free WiFi, 3 minutes walk to beach. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

B.L. APARTMENT

At Kathu, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, swimming pool, garden and car park. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6923 163.

OCEAN VIEW CONDO

Pool, gym, 5 minutes from Bangla Road, 6-8 months on lease: 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-026 3254.

LONG-TERM BEACH CONDO

Nai Harn, 125sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, swimming pool, garden. 50,000 baht per month. Email: phbouvier14@yahoo.fr

DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDO

2 bedrooms at Kalim Beach, Patong. Also 1 bedroom at Central Phuket Town, kitchen, lounge, many facilities. Tel: 081-892 0038.

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

House in Phuket
houseinphuket.com
Rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Wellta

3-BED POOL PENTHOUSE

In Kata, sea view, massive terrace, rooftop pool, 5 minutes walk to 2 beaches. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

FOR RENT IN PATONG



Main road from Karon to Patong. Close to Simon Cabaret. Multi functional building. Total 700sqm (15m front). First floor: 350sqm with 3 toilets. Second floor: 350sqm with 2 toilets. For visit, SMS to 080-035 1626 (French). English 081-788 8280. Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com For Russian contact Oxana. Tel: 080-529 0726. Email: phuket.lux@gmail.com

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

Serviced apartment. Studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, rooftop pool, free WiFi. Tel: 076-203208, 081-892 0038. For further details, please see our website at www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com

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The Network property office



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with
Khun Anna: 076-388144, 086-4780201, 088-1685032

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 .com

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Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

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- ▶ Initiative and enthusiasm to track down a story
- ▶ Photography skills
- ▶ Able to manage own time effectively
- ▶ Knowledge of Burmese an advantage
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Good salary for the right candidate.

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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

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

NEGOTIATOR

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

The ideal candidate will be:

- Thai Female 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

ARTICLE WRITER

Bayshore Projects is looking for article writer on freelance basis. Experience and well-formulating writing skills in perfect English required. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Send CV to c@bayshoreprojects.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

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, www.engchuan.com, www.krabisunset.com and www.krabihideaway.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

WEB PROGRAMMER

- ▶ Degree in Computer engineering, Computer Science or IT related field
- ▶ Minimum of 2 years experience in web programming and web development
- ▶ Experience in: PHP, asp, asp.net, OOP, Java Script, HTML5, CSS, JSON, AJAX, JQuery
- ▶ Expert in use of database tools and in SQL command (MS-SQL, MySQL)
- ▶ Experience in php frameworks would be a plus
- ▶ Ability in spoken and written English
- ▶ Ability to work with team
- ▶ Ability to work under pressure and time constraints

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to big@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Ext. 303 Fax: 076-615240

ARCHITECT

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

WEBSITE / SOFTWARE PROGRAMMER

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

1. Have good knowledge of OOP and RDBMS with past working experience.

2. Good understanding of current web and software technology such as HTML5/CSS3, Ajax, MVC, etc.

3. Ability to code in Java or C(numbersign). NET as well as Ajax, JQuery.

4. Good understanding of frameworks and IDE in Java or C(numbersign).NET

5. Fluent English. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Please send CV to f@bayshoreprojects.com

GUEST HOUSE STAFF

Reception - assistant manager who speaks English and Thai. Experience preferred. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English). Email: dshumny@yahoo.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

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.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

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

CALL CENTER NEEDS SWISS-GERMAN

We, Intercallservice Company, are seeking a Swiss-German speaking person, for our call center in Phuket, to support our customers in Switzerland. Good knowledge of French would be an advantage. We offer a 5-day week with Visa and work permit. For further information please contact Mr. Klaus. Tel: 089-873 9123.

ASSISTANT NEEDED

Rus Thai Business Group Company Limited requires Thai female, fluent in spoken and written English, good computer skills. Tel: 085-690 6052. Email: office@rt-pro.ru

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

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- ▶ **Julapan Stationery** (Chaofa East Rd)
- ▶ **KL Mart** (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle)
- ▶ **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd)

Tel: 076-282254
Tel: 076-280400
Tel: 076-282403

PATONG

- ▶ **Taurus Travel** (Aroonsom Plaza)
- ▶ **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Aroonsom Plaza)
- ▶ **Deli Supermarket** (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd)

Tel: 076-344521-2
Tel: 076-290468
Tel: 076-342275

PHUKET CITY

- ▶ **Earth Language Training Centre School** (Phang Nga Rd)
- ▶ **Sin & Lee** (Thalang Rd)
- ▶ **iTree complete printing service** (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone

Tel: 076-232398
Tel: 076-258369
Tel: 076-255425

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- ▶ **Chaba Supermarket** (at the Laguna gateway)

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RAWAI

- ▶ **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: 076-613173

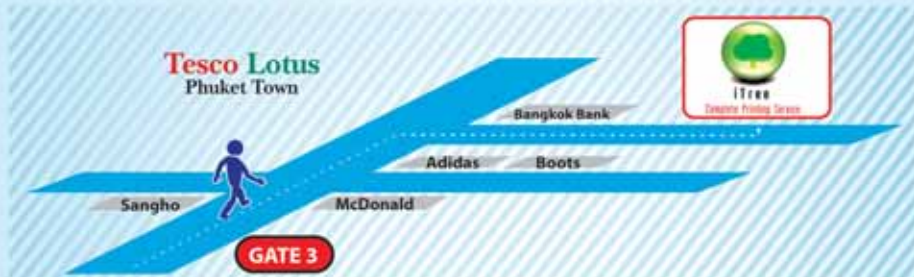
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Interested candidates please submit Current CV, Recent photo, Current and Expected salary with other related documents to: rinky@absoluteworld.net and ahrm@absoluteresorts.com
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Tel: 66 76 341 901-10 Fax: 66 76 341 122-3

- **Sales Representative**

Absolute are currently looking for Russian speaking sales representatives to join our already successful team. We offer excellent conditions, great product, full training and support. If you are a communicative, positive and dynamic person please send email to oxana@clubabsolute.com and we will get back to you asap.

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Experienced maintenance/facilities manager is sought for a villa on the west coast. Send CV. Email: ggreg@yahoo.ca

STAFF WANTED

Cashier who speaks English and Thai, experience preferred. Tel: 086-987 7339 (English). Email: stanlaysia Phuket@hotmail.com

COOKS AND MAIDS

Luxury villas in Patong looking for experienced cooks and maids. Live in or live out. Full or part time. Tel: 080-699 2436, 088-760 9841. Email: koka.kat@gmail.com

GUESTHOUSE STAFF

Reception - manager who speaks English and Thai. Experience preferred. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English & Thai). Email: phkrealestate@aol.com

**A CUSTOMER
SERVICE OFFICER**

We are looking for a customer service officer. Female between 20-35, Thai nationality only. Tel: 082-007 0700 (Thai). Fax: 076-367212. Email: info@phukettravel.co.th For further detail, please see www.phukettravel.co.th/recruitment.html

**NATIVE ENGLISH
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To teach class of 9-12 children, ages 6-9 years old, must have experience and degree. Start on 22 April, Chalong, 8am-4pm, Monday-Friday. Tel: 080-624 7060. Email: buds.span@yahoo.com

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Real Estate Agency is looking for an assistant sales manager. Requirements: Thai national, female, good skills in English, private car, working experience in real estate. Email: sales@rt-pro.ru

DEWA

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Dewa Naiyang Beach Phuket

Director of Sales (Bangkok or Phuket Based)
Our ideal candidate

- Female / Male
- Foreigner / Thai
- Previous experience in similar position for boutique resort.
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- Fluent in both spoken and written English
- Excellent computer skills, internet literate and social media skills

Interested candidates are invited to submit their CV together with applicable certificates to :

DEWA PHUKET

65 Moo. 1 T.Sakoo, A.Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel.+66 76 372300 Fax. +66 76 372399

E-mail: Lars@tri-asia.com

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For smart home / audio-visual company, Bangkok and Phuket area. Reasonable English skills needed. Salary plus commission / expenses. Please send CV with photo to info@techworx.asia

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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.

**FOOD STORE
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Food importer and distributor based in the south is seeking a branch manager. Ideal candidate has minimum 5 years experience in F&B industry and proven management skills. High salary and profit sharing scheme. Tel: 087-264 9695 (English). Email: eb@ebnetwork.it

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Waitress or waiter wanted for a holiday villa. Must speak English and have experience. Staff can live in or live out. Tel: 081-693 1621 (Thai), 084-689 4658 (Thai). Email: malin@son@hotmail.com

**WINE
&
TASTE**
**International Wine
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Wine & Taste sales division
www.wineandtaste.com

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/ Accounting officer**

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- ▶ **Education:** Bachelor degree.
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- ▶ **Computer skills:** Excel / Word.
- ▶ **Finance skills:** Basic accounting, knowledge of Quick Book is an advantage.

Thai national woman 20 - 26 years old.

Email: info@wineandtaste.com

Tel: **076-324265** www.wineandtaste.com

**RECEPTIONIST
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Hotel is looking for a reliable Thai female. 2 days off per week. Tel: 081-892 1621.

**RESTAURANT STAFF
NEEDED**

Small restaurant in Kata is looking for experienced staff, English is a must. Salary: 14,000 baht. Tel: 081-370 5855. Email: jad.nahle@hotmail.com

**CUSTOMER SERVICE
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Female for Villa Resort in Rawai. Part time, full time. Computer skills are essential. Tel: 089-289 1502. Email: jitraming@gmail.com

**HOUSEKEEPER
NEEDED**

We are looking for a young English speaking Thai lady who has knowledge of cooking, enjoys boating and house-keeping. Tel: 089-850 1622. Email: tcdesportes@gmail.com

**RECEPTIONIST /
SALES**

LED Light company based in Chalong, looking for Thai girl to attend to our Thai and foreign customers. English, Office and basic PC use is important. Salary based on skills + good commissions on sales. Tel: 081-139 4774. Email: boost@aboranet.com

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ISS Facility Services Co. Ltd are looking to fill this position asap. Reporting to expat management, preferred applicants are Thai nationals, aged 25 years plus, degree educated with good English communication skills. Excellent remuneration package / benefits offered to the right person. Tel: 076-610315, 081-958 6879 (English). Email: scott.d@th.issworld.com

**SALES & ADMIN
JUNIOR**


We are looking for young and energetic sales & admin staff. 20 to 25 years old. Good computer skills & English command a must. Thai national only. Call for an appointment now! Tel: 076-325419, 085-619 0380 (English & Thai), 081-400 4678 (English & Thai). Email: orientalsamui@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.oriental-living.net

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Two Chefs are now looking for an outgoing salesperson. Russian nationality. This is a good opportunity for the right person with possibility to get high salary and good commission. If you are used to using photoshop or coral it is very good. Tel: 087-276 6796. Email: jon@twochefs.com For further details, please see our website at www.twochefs.com

Phuket Gazette

*The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the
following position:*

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- ▶ Fluent in English
- ▶ Able to work to strict deadlines
- ▶ A team player
- ▶ Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- ▶ Newspaper experience and/or layout skills, especially in PageMaker or InDesign, required.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to editor@phuketgazette.net

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Contact Jack Martin for pics and documentation.
Tel or SMS: 081-207 4471.
Email: jackmartin3@gmx.com

KITCHEN
HARDWARE

Secondhand kitchen hardware: ovens, sinks, grills and etc. For more information please call 082-283 8250 (English & Thai). Email: phuket@rayadivers.com

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I want to rent (lease) a bar, guesthouse, massage or restaurant in Patong. My name is Mats from Sweden. Tel: +46-073-390-8414. Email: massloso@yahoo.se

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PATONG

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PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

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Several adorable rescued dogs, all sterilised and vaccinated. More photos @ www.doggieheaven.net or contact Sherin.peace@gmail.com

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Contact Jack Martin for pics and documentation.

Tel or SMS: 081-207 4471.

Email: jackmartin3@gmx.com

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Folding wheelchair for sale: 1,200 baht. Carpet for sale: 1,200 baht, good quality, 170x240cm. Tel: 087-381 5171.

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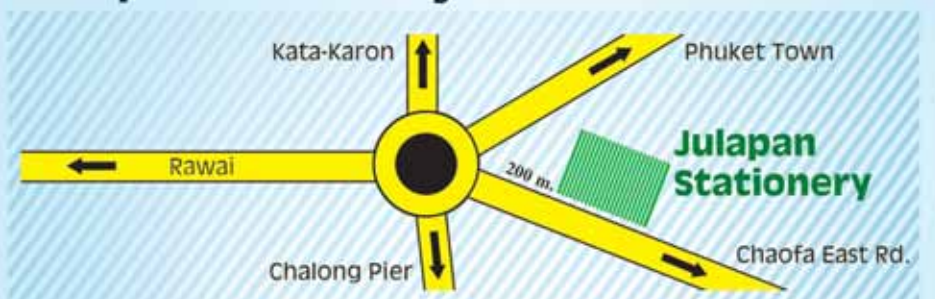
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FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S VISIT TO BOOST SMES

French ambassador to Thailand Thierry Viteau (center) and Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut (second from right).

PHUKET INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL MINI MARATHON

Phuket International Hospital's mini marathon 'Run For Health, Run For Charity 2013'



Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana (center) presented trophies to the athletes.



OTOP MARKET

From February 22 to March 2 the fair at Saphan Hin will showcase the best OTOP products from around Phuket.

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We don't just make videos We produce TELEVISION



Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

It takes a diverse bunch to produce a **NATIONALLY BROADCAST TV SHOW** about a place as weird as Phuket. Arctic explorers and jungle gourmets, yoga masters and rap stars, Olympians and mermaids, world-renowned chefs, daredevils, Birdman and the All-Asia Women's Surf Champion!

All on one island. All on one TV show.

Broadcast 8 times a week* on TrueVisions channels HD99 and 58, to 1.9 million subscribers. Phuket Today is also aired on local and regional television networks – even as far away as Rangoon.

So, who's behind the show? Clockwise from top left:

Nattamon Mee – Trained to be Thailand's first woman astronaut, Khun Mon gave it all up to produce Phuket Today.

Action Girl Presenter Kiranee – Used to wrestle wild crocodiles for fun, but now gets her kicks in front of the Phuket Today cameras.

Tech Heads Pu and Chai – When not attempting to crack the DaVinci Code, these two keep our super-computers from leaking oil.

The PGTV Car – Recently signed a multi-million dollar deal with Michael Bay to appear in three more Transformers movies.

Tara – The official Phuket Today dancing coach.

Isaac – The world's first TV presenter to insure his smile for \$10 million.

Kristi Matzenberger – Advertising and promotions manager. Joined Phuket Today in search of the perfect recipe for bratwurst.

Mr Kai – Mild-mannered video editor by day. Super hero by night.

Khun Aoi – PGTV's chief pilot and network development executive. Loves travel. Flies herself to work every day in a helicopter gunship.

Mr Lee – The only cameraman to successfully determine the purpose of the squiggly buttons on the side of our cameras.

The Man in the Hat – No one has ever discovered exactly what he actually does. So he must be quite good at it....

Got talent? Call Kristi: 080-690 2564

*See show times on page 35

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

March 2-31, 6:30 to 10:30am: Daily Breakfast on the beach at Moevenpick Bangtao
You are invited to our Daily Breakfast on the beach. For reservations please call: 66-76-310400

March 3, 10am to 4:30pm Phuket Sailing Club Family Open Day at Ao Yon, near Cape Panwa

The Phuket Sailing Club invites you to come and join our Family Fun Day. Activities include taster sailing for Adults on our Platu keelboat or one of our Cats. If you know how to sail, you can take out one of our boats for free – 16ft Cat, Laser, Omega Sport, Topaz sailboats and Toppers. Other activities for all the family include dinghy sailing, canoeing and SUP's. Bring your own food to cook on our BBQ or join our club BBQ – booking required. Please book if you are interested in sailing with us. For more information contact Katy Gooch-Firmin on: 66-85-215 9185.

March 8, 15, 22, 29; 7 to 11pm: Indian Curry Buffet at Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort

All you can eat, authentic Indian curry buffet at 449 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold Mango and Strawberry Lassi with our delicious Mutton Vindaloo, Dal Makhani, Bombay Aloo, Mutter Paneer, Butter Chicken, mouth-watering Chicken Tikka, Samosas, freshly baked Naans and more. For reservations contact Jaspal Singh on: 66-76-286464.

March 10, 8:30am to 8:30pm: Phuket Invitational Car Rally at Chalong Pier Beer Garden, Kan Eang

Finding places in Phuket that you never knew existed, navigate through some of the most beautiful parts of this paradise island – all the time with safety and careful driving being foremost in mind! Organized by Car Rally professionals with years of

experience, the course is set to take you over unusual roads and into uncharted country, whilst always ensuring that it is within the capabilities of any driver and vehicle so as to make it fun for all the family. Special lunchtime fun stop. This event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTv and 'Phuket Today', (see below right for showtimes). For more information contact Mr John Devenport on: 66-87-265 8845 or visit phuketinvitational.com

March 14, 10am to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club AGM and lunch at Le Meridien Phuket Resort & Spa

The annual general meeting will take place at 10am, to be followed by lunch. All are welcome but non-members cannot vote. Come to both or join us for the lunch at 11:30am. Members: 500 baht, non-members: 650 baht. For more information email: info@piwc.com

March 15, 5:30 to 10pm: Global Battle of Bands

The Global Battle Of Bands (GBOB) is coming to Thailand! In its 9th year with 40 countries participating, it is the largest such competition in the world. Bands must perform original songs. Thailand will have regionals in Phuket, Pattaya, Chiang Mai and Bangkok. National finals will be in Bangkok in June, and world finals will also be held in Bangkok in December. Valuable prizes are given to national winners and the world winner receives a package worth US\$100,000 and a world tour contract. It's an amazing opportunity for young bands. Entrance to the show is free, so don't miss it – March 15th. Please check back for updates. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTv (see below right for showtimes).

March 21-24, 11am to 7pm: Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) 2013 at Royal Phuket Marina

PIMEX is Asia's premier annual boating and luxury lifestyle event. The 2013 show will be the biggest and best yet, with up to 60 yachts in the water, from 10-

BAND REGISTRATION

TO ENTER: Each band must submit two original songs or videos of songs being performed, along with proof of citizenship from at least one Thai member of the band to Khun Siripoom via email: siripoomb@gmail.com.

DEADLINE: THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR PHUKET IS FEBRUARY 28.

REGIONAL FINALS (4 REGIONS)			COUNTRY FINAL	
Phuket	H2O Phuket Town	March 15, 2013	Bangkok	Central World
Pattaya	Central Festival	March 30, 2013		
Bangkok	Central World	April 27, 2013		
Chiang Mai	Central Plaza Airport	May 11, 2013		

GBOB THAILAND SCHEDULE 2013
Press Conference at Central World March 12, 2013

GBOB THAILAND PRIZES:
The GBOB Thailand national champion wins

- GBOB Bronze statuette
- 100,000 baht in cash and prizes
- 100,000 baht worth of free recording time at Karma Sound Studios over 2 days/1 night.
- National tour in Thailand
- Free transportation & accommodation to the World Final in December 2013
- The World Champion wins a band development package worth US\$100,000

meters to 35m, and as many as 120 plus exhibiting companies representing over 250 brands worldwide. Products on display will range from boats to marine equipment and accessories, charter, diving and sailing holidays, and a wide range of luxury properties, super cars and other investment opportunities, together with other iconic branded goods. This annual event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTv and 'Phuket Today', the island's only national television show (see below right for showtimes).

April 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 throughout the country pouring 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)

lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining Enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago. Evening candlelit processions are staged in all Thai Buddhist temples.

August 12, Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday

Her Majesty's Birthday is a public holiday.

October 23, Chulalongkorn Memorial Day

This day commemorates the reign of King Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

November 17, Loy Krathong Festival

One of the most beautiful festivals in Thailand. It is traditionally performed on the full moon night of the twelfth lunar month, which usually falls in November. A Krathong is a banana-leaf cup containing flowers, a candle and incense sticks which will be floated away in a canal or river. The idea is to worship the river's Goddess and at the same time to float away any bad luck. Loy Krathong is not a public holiday.

December 5, His Majesty the King's Birthday

His Majesty's Birthday is a public holiday and is also celebrated as Father's Day in the Kingdom.

May 24, Visakha Bucha Day

Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the 6th 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.

July 22, Arsarnha Bucha Day

This full-moon day of the eighth

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Phuket today

Phuket Gazette

Phuket Today is a 30-minute lifestyle show about Phuket. The show features resorts, villas, restaurants, yachts, private aircraft, nightlife, sports, leisure activities and events. Produced by PGTv, the television arm of the Phuket Gazette, the show is designed to promote Phuket to tourists and the international community resident in Thailand.

Catch the show at these times

<p>TrueVisions HD Channel 99 8 shows a week - MCOT World</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Monday:</td><td>05:10am</td></tr> <tr><td>Tuesday:</td><td>11:10pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Wednesday:</td><td>10:10am</td></tr> <tr><td>Thursday:</td><td>01:10pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Friday:</td><td>04:10am & 07:10pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Saturday:</td><td>01:10pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday:</td><td>06:10pm</td></tr> </table>	Monday:	05:10am	Tuesday:	11:10pm	Wednesday:	10:10am	Thursday:	01:10pm	Friday:	04:10am & 07:10pm	Saturday:	01:10pm	Sunday:	06:10pm	<p>Phuket Cable Company (PC) Covers all Phuket. Channel 1 - 19 shows a week</p> <p>Monday - Friday: 10:30am, 6:00pm, 9:00pm. Saturday & Sunday: 10:30am, 9:10pm.</p>														
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<p>True Freeview Channel 58 8 shows a week - MCOT World</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Monday:</td><td>05:10am</td></tr> <tr><td>Tuesday:</td><td>11:10pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Wednesday:</td><td>10:10am</td></tr> <tr><td>Thursday:</td><td>01:10pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Friday:</td><td>04:10am & 07:10pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Saturday:</td><td>01:10pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday:</td><td>06:10pm</td></tr> </table>	Monday:	05:10am	Tuesday:	11:10pm	Wednesday:	10:10am	Thursday:	01:10pm	Friday:	04:10am & 07:10pm	Saturday:	01:10pm	Sunday:	06:10pm	<p>Rawai Cable Covers Rawai, Chalong, Kata, Karon. Channel 1 - 28 shows a week</p> <p>Monday - Sunday: 10:00am, 1:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm.</p> <p>Channel 43 - 8 shows a week</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Monday:</td><td>05:10am</td></tr> <tr><td>Tuesday:</td><td>11:10pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Wednesday:</td><td>10:10am</td></tr> <tr><td>Thursday:</td><td>01:10pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Friday:</td><td>04:10am & 07:10pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Saturday:</td><td>01:10pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday:</td><td>06:10pm</td></tr> </table>	Monday:	05:10am	Tuesday:	11:10pm	Wednesday:	10:10am	Thursday:	01:10pm	Friday:	04:10am & 07:10pm	Saturday:	01:10pm	Sunday:	06:10pm
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Online: www.phuketgazette.net/tv | www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket
And in 4,600 hotel rooms around the island, international hospitals and Phuket Immigration Office.

Informal Sunday morning computer clinics

Do you have a question about computers, Windows, or the internet in Phuket? Need to find out where to get things fixed, or the best places to shop for new computer stuff? Drop by one of our FREE informal computer clinics. Every Sunday morning, starting around 10am or so, a group of computer savvy locals meet for breakfast at the Chalong/Fisherman's Way Sandwich Shoppe, 1 km north of Chalong Circle on Chao Fah East road.

Don't be bashful: introduce yourself to the group at the big table, and ask away. You might even find an iPad/iPhone, Android or Mac guru, if you're lucky.

Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

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

Jagota fulfil their promises

ON JANUARY 26, the first-of-its-kind Phuket Family & Gourmet Festival, a charity event, was held by Jagota Foods to raise valuable funds for the Andaman region's less fortunate children. The event pooled the talents of some of Phuket's top chefs with the local musical talents of *Legends of Siam*, Thai superstars *Moderndog* and internationally famous blues-rock trio *Vdelli*.

Jagota and sponsors footed the bill while others donated hours of hard work to pull off one of the greatest events ever seen at Royal Phuket Marina. Less than a month later, a special committee met to discuss what to do with the 940,390 baht raised for charity.

It was decided that 500,000 baht will be split equally between the ten respective institutions chosen at the outset: Home & Life Orphanage; Baan Than Namchai Foundation; Baan San-Fan Orphanage; Phuket Sunshine Village Foundation; Children World Academy Foundation; World Vision Foundation of Thailand; SOS Children's Villages Thailand; Child Watch Phuket/ Baan Holland; Phuket Has Been Good To Us and The Good Shepherd Phuket.

The remaining 440,390 baht will be allocated to these charities based on their individual urgent and practical needs.

The committee also stated that the event will be held again next year (likely in February) and Jagota CEO, Anand Jagota also commented that he would like to see even more money raised next year with the focus on scholarships for children.



MAKING IT HAPPEN: At the committee meeting were: (from left) George Des, GM Jagota Phuket; Vicky Gregory, lawyer; Martin Smetters, Pura Organics; Anand Jagota, CEO Jagota Brothers Bangkok; Sriram Kailasam, GM Banyan Tree; Kanittha Prasopsirikul, director of sales at Royal Phuket Marina. Photo: Marc Mulloy

This event was proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and PGTV.

Saddle sore but satisfied

ON JANUARY 28 another local expat, James Mason, left Tiger Muay Thai camp in Chalong (one of his main sponsors) to cycle 890 kilometers to Rainbow House, a home for disabled or abandoned children, in Bangkok.

James, who used to weigh 235 kilos, was given five years to live by a doctor in the UK until joining Tiger Muay Thai and MMA, where he lost 138 kilos.

The 29-year-old lost a few more kilos during his grueling nine day ride to the capital, which he undertook to give something back. The charity he has chosen, called 'For Life', helps disabled or abandoned children in Thailand and supports four day-care centers, a residential home for up to 50 children and a project that works with 600 children in rural communities.

James was able to raise 18,052

Pounds Sterling online and 84,000 baht in cash, which he handed over in Nonthaburi after his epic bike-a-thon.

Despite suffering from an allergic reaction *en-route* and losing sensation in his hand from the strain of cycling, James is already planning his next adventure.

This event was proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and PGTV.



WE MADE IT: James after his nine day bike ride to Nothaburi. Inset: Surrounded by kids from Rainbow House.



A cheque for 16,170 baht is presented to PAWS by Tobi and Parn.

Meditate for charity

LOCAL meditation coach Tobi Warzineck offers free meditation classes at his center in Chalong. Despite it being free, the people who come to learn normally leave a small donation to cover electricity, water, and drinking water.

This gave Tobias an idea. "Instead of keeping their money, we donate it to Thai organizations who help people, children, animals, educational foundations, abused women" Tobias told the *Gazette*.

"We started with the PAWS animal welfare society in January and when we open again in March the donations will go to the Elephant Nature Foundation, which helps elephants in Southeast Asia," he said.

Donations are accepted from everywhere, not just the classes. Their goal is to raise as much money as possible and offer it directly to foundations, provided they can prove where the money

goes. "It makes us feel incredibly happy to be able to help people with our classes where we already find peace and happiness. That we can help animals and people is a great bonus. This principle is based on the merit of giving (*Dana*). We see a lot of merit in offering the money to places where it is invested in counteracting acute suffering directly. We feel that it is best to use the money of our students and guests in a way that creates more and more happiness. It's a small contribution but a great impact. If we all could do something like this by doing what we love, the world will become a better, more balanced place. I am sure," he added.

Something to meditate upon.

For more information on meditation or to make donations, visit phuketmeditation.com

— Marc Mulloy

Chanchai Doungjit

AS THE director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) office in Phuket, Chanchai Doungjit needs no introduction. In a province where tourism is the main livelihood for most of the population and the industry's marketing needs to be robust, the director is always in the media.

Just before our interview, Chanchai had been in a weekly meeting with the governor. "It's just a routine meeting," he says. "The governor likes to keep us abreast of what's happening each week. He's just got back from Turkey, and believes the country has a potential to become our next tourist market."

Considered one of the *pu yais* (high-ranking officials) here, Chanchai is delightfully affable and down-to-earth. His easygoing manner belies his seniority and long experience with the TAT, both nationally and internationally.

Chanchai belongs to the generation of Thais who looked to the civil service as an ultimate career path. "My friends and I had this romantic idea of becoming a *nai amphoe* (district officer) in some provincial backwater," he laughs. But after a degree in political science and a few years working as a government researcher at Thammasart University, he was "itching" for some action. The opportunity came when he joined the TAT in Bangkok and was soon promoted to a posting in Kuala Lumpur.

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

"At that time, Malaysians were our top tourists," he reveals. "They drove in via Haad Yai in Songkhla Province. We have good roads so it was easy to promote tourism then. The problem was the Thais' way of driving, which managed to shock our law-abiding neighbors no end!"

After Malaysia, Chanchai was posted to the eastern province of Rayong, where he remained for seven years. His moment came when he was transferred to Los Angeles. As the TAT director, his job's remit was vast, covering not only the US west coast but also all the countries in South America. The work, he says, was long and arduous, but fulfilled at the same time.

"For one thing, there were fewer meetings compared to back home," he jokes. "No, seriously it was a great experience. You could see the result, as the number of American tourists increased year by year. Long live 'Amazing Thailand', he jokes.

In Los Angeles, Chanchai and his family (he is married, with a son) never felt homesick. "The Thais consider LA another prov-

ince of Thailand; there were about 200,000 Thais living there alone, and that is from the census data only. And where there are Thais, there is always food and parties."

After LA, Chanchai's career took him straight to Phuket in mid-2012. He remembers his first impression here. "I was naive to think that Phuket was just another Thai province with perhaps a few more tourists than the rest. How wrong I was. I was stunned – I have never seen so many tourists in any one place!"

"In a way I am happy for people working in the tourist, sector here. But I do worry about Phuket's infrastructure, which is stretched to the limit."

He continues: "Nowadays, the debate seems to be about which direction Phuket is going in terms of its tourism drive. For the time being, it all seems to be about leisure and quantity, but we may soon have to change our ways and look to other avenues instead. Tapping into sectors such as golf, weddings and honeymooners, as well as marinas and yachting, may provide the way forward."

As the TAT boss, where does Chanchai go for his *tee-ow* (travel)?

"Thailand, of course! I love taking a long drive through the country – with no definite plan, stopping the night when the fancy takes me. That's my kind of *tee-ow*."



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.

GPS Position: 7.847700, 98.345678a

Phuket Botanic Garden
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An impressive horticultural display in Phuket

Visitor Information Opening Hours:
09.00 - 17.00 hrs.
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Chalong Subdistrict, Muang District, Phuket 83130, Thailand.
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Email: info@phuketbotanicgarden.com, www.phuketbotanicgarden.com

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VERSATILE: Painted many times over by oriental artists, bamboo is elegant, evergreen but also rapacious, and will colonize the ground if left unchecked. Photos: brilesh, Steven, and Sean McGrath

Bamboozled by bamboo

A READER recently asked Normita Thongtham, who writes a Sunday gardening column for a national daily, if her earlier suggestion about making a living fence of bamboo “planted six to eight meters apart was a typographical error.”

The writer’s answer was “no.” And the reason? Because bamboo (*bambusa*) grows very fast, and the space between the individual plants is rapidly colonized by offshoots. Of course you can put the plants closer together, but remember that bamboo not only forms a dense mass of roots, but that it is, in any case, usually sold as a bagged clump, which already contains interwoven rhizomes.

Odd, when you think of what bamboo is like above ground: a gigantic tropical grass with smooth, cylindrical, ramrod straight canes that can grow, according to the variety, from fifteen to eighty feet tall; and possessed of luminous foliage so elegant it has for centuries been obsessively painted by oriental master artists.

That, in a nutshell, is both bamboo’s glory and its imperfection as a garden specimen. It makes a vivid and distinctively tropical screen, but it will not let much else grow beneath it, so rapacious is its capacity to



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

spread its roots.

There are a couple of further points for the gardener to consider. Bamboo does drop its leaves frequently: this habit means that the unsightly dead shards that

season. But those cavils should not amount to a rejection slip. It is just that bamboo is not suitable for every garden, especially small-scale ones.

Nonetheless, the range of available species is considerable.

Vulgaris, as its name implies, is the commonest form. It is also the giant of the family with dark green canes up to twenty five

everything from chairs or permanent screens to summer houses. A more decorative cultivar, “*aureo variegata*”, has canes striped with yellow and green. The tips of its huge shoots, sliced thin, are used in curries and soups.

Better suited to your garden is *ventricosa*, also known as “Buddha’s belly”. The apt name comes from the prominent swelling that develops between each joint or leaf node. These intervals are quite short, thereby giving the stem a knobby, even bead-like appearance. A native of China, it is unlikely to grow more than a few meters tall in Phuket. Distinctive but maybe not to everyone’s taste, its somewhat grotesque appearance looks impressive when grown as a clump in a prominent location.

Most garden varieties derive from *bambusa multiplex*, which has masses of crowded stems, no more than 3 meters across at the base. The leaves are smaller than those of *ventricosa*. Garden centers may stock “Alphonse Carr”, which has green and gold stems forming a broad-headed clump of foliage.

“Fernleaf” is perhaps the most distinctive, with slender, arching stems and dainty, fern-like foliage. Moreover, it does not exceed ten feet in height. *Sulphurea* has golden



Decorative bamboo stalks. Photo: George C Slade

canes, which nicely complement the bright green foliage.

Propagation of all bamboos is normally done by offsets, consisting of one fully grown and hardened stem, excised where its rhizome segment branches from an older rhizome. Put the offset in soil, flood with water, and apply fertilizer as soon as new growth shows.

Hey presto!

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, you can email me anytime at: drpaccampbell@gmail.com



INGENIOUS use of bamboo as parts of bicycle. Photo: Christian Gillingier

collect around the plants will need to be swept up at regular intervals.

Moreover, bamboo loves plenty of water. Around the streets of Phuket, I see screens of mature bamboo, which are bleaching and dying back in the current dry

meters tall and nine inches thick.

More often grown commercially, or taken indiscriminately from the wild, it is a feature of the Thai urban-scape both as a structural material for scaffolding, and as a component in almost



Young bamboo shoots are used in many Asian dishes. Photo David Davies

Tip of the Week

Sterilized soil

I WAS recently asked if I knew where to obtain sterilized soil in Phuket. I know of no such source, though the compost sold in white fabric bags may be already heat-treated. Sterilization is a precautionary process: it destroys harmful fungi, bacteria, viruses or nematodes. Plants have their own defense against such micro-organisms, but seeds and cuttings are especially vulnerable.



Sterilized soil. Photo: Lisa B

The simplest way to sterilize soil is to heat friable and moistened earth in a non-metallic container in a microwave for a

couple of minutes. Another more laborious method, is to bake soil in a conventional oven at 200 degrees centigrade for at least two hours. Commercial growers deploy pressurized steam systems, but in a hot climate such as Phuket’s, you can use double layers of plastic sheeting, which are laid over prepared and moistened ground, held down with stones and left for eight weeks.

AMCHAM meeting to shed some light on Phuket history

Have the opportunity to mingle with Phuket's 'movers and shakers' while learning more about the Pearl of the Andaman

ALTHOUGH the Thai resort island of Phuket has become a world-renowned tourist destination and is now home to many thousands of expatriates, limited attention, particularly in the English language, has ever been given to the rich history and cultural storylines that have accompanied its phenomenal growth.

That has now changed.

The Phuket Chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) is proud to promote the island's heritage through its upcoming event: The launch of Colin Mackay's new book, *A History of Phuket*.

To the delight of many island observers, the 38-chapter, 438-page tome becomes one of the first publications of record to so thoroughly examine the little-known history of Phuket and its neighboring provinces in the Andaman region.

Perhaps the hallmark of the book is the depth of Mackay's research. He incorporates more than 1,000 original quotes and writings from varied commentators and visitors over the last 2,000 years, and illustrates the work with over 100 maps, pictures and photographs, many of which have never been published before.

This epic story begins with the arrival of the first humans and goes

on to cover the influence of early Malay, Indian, Chinese, Arab, and Greek settlers and visitors; Phuket's important position on the ancient east-west maritime trade route; the rise and fall of mysterious early

land; and much more.

Colin Mackay is a Scotsman who grew up on the Tanzanian coast on the opposite side of the Indian Ocean from Phuket. After earning a Master's degree in History at Edinburgh University, he moved to Asia where he has worked as a journalist, fund-manager, historic ship salvager and property developer.

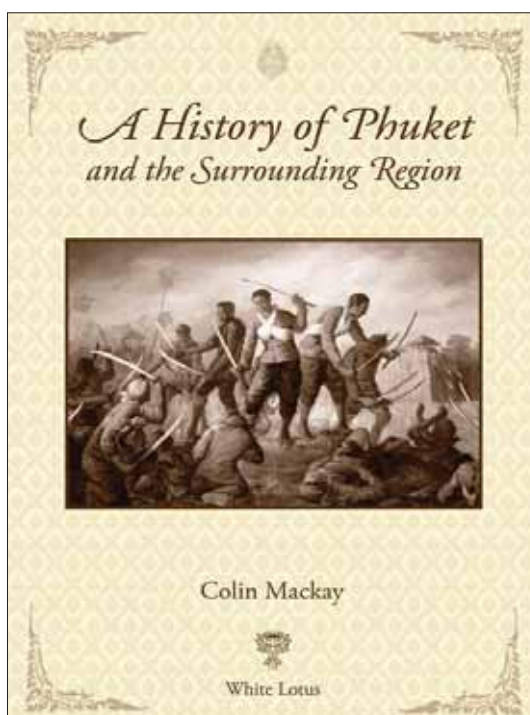
He first visited Phuket in 1985 and moved here permanently in 1998, and lives with his Thai wife Ana and two daughters, Skye and Aila.

Whether you are a visitor to Phuket or live here, this book launch is a great opportunity to delve into the past and to hear the story in the author's own voice.

The event takes place on Friday, March 8, at the Royal Phuket Marina.

Registration starts at 5pm and the roughly one hour presentation begins at 6pm. A networking event with drinks will follow from 7 to 8pm. The event is open to the public, with entry at 200 baht, including two drinks.

If you would like to sign up, please visit: amchamthailand.com or contact Mrs Sheree Tanpensuk sheree@amchamthailand.com or 02-254 1041, ext 212. Or simply call Bill Barnett or John Magee of AMCHAM's Phuket Chapter (076-271535 or 076-273555, respectively).



Colin Mackay's new 438-page book.

kingdoms and empires; Thai regional dominance; social history and the scourge of piracy; swash-buckling attempts by Portuguese, Japanese, Dutch, French and British adventurers to control this island in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries; the tin mining boom; mass Chinese immigration and their rise to

regional power; the birth of Thai-



NEW MEETS OLD: A Sino-Portuguese style building in old Phuket Town that was built in 1889 as identified above its arch. Photo: Marc Mulloy

An Italian Colonel's version

ONE of the first English language publications of Phuket history on record was a 152-page work published in 1905 by the Journal of the Siam Society.

A Historical Retrospect of Junkceylon Island by Colonel GE Gerini was a brief yet comprehensive historical record about the island, covering the period from the 13th century to the mid 19th century.

The author, Italian born Gerolamo Emilio Gerini (1860-1913), moved to Siam in the late 19th century, where he became a lieutenant in the Siamese Army under HM King Chulalongkorn, and later promoted to Colonel.

Beyond the military, Gerini was also the Siamese General Director of Military Education, as well as a geographer, an archaeologist, an ethnologist, a linguist, and a historian.

He was a lifetime 'Honorary Member of the Siam Society'.

Though currently out of print, *A Historical Retrospect of Junkceylon Island* was scanned and archived as a .pdf on the Siam Society website, and can be downloaded for free (Volume 2.2, 1905).



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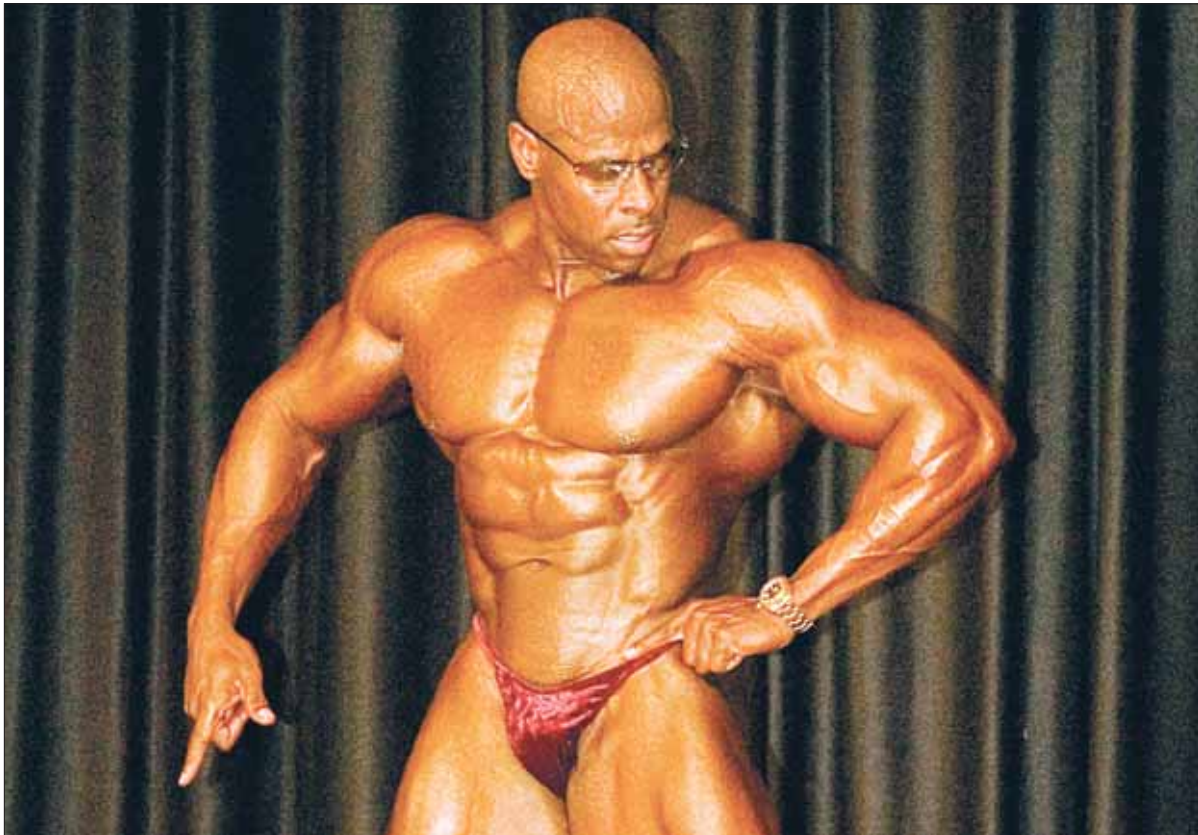
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Learning to love your body



HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH? A bodybuilder sports a figure that may or may not be 'healthy'. Photo: USMC



THIS week we are diving straight into what most people often need to hear when they come and ask how to improve their lives – health and fitness.

Your body is constantly in flux (just like life) and your health will always be subject to your lifestyle choices. Healthy, happy people do not necessarily have to be fit people who run marathons or compete in triathlons. They do, however, choose to make healthy choices as a part of their life.

Being fit is not the same as being strong. In fact, they are at two

ends of the spectrum when it comes to physiology and performance. It is a wise choice to build and maintain fitness levels, but over doing it can lead to a cascade of hormonal imbalances, over-use injuries, fatigue and general weakness.

Being healthy is not a quick fix. It involves becoming clear on personal values, attitude checks, hormonal balancing and being happy. Getting fit quickly is easy. Give me six weeks and I can get you fit, but that doesn't mean you're going to be healthy or happy though.

Just because someone is 'fit' doesn't mean they will lose body fat. Fit people have improved their ability to maximize oxygen consumption and that is why it is called cardiovascular exercise, not

fat vascular exercise. In fact, there are millions of people all around the world right now that are very fit and can't shed an ounce of body fat.

Healthy 'training' may include slower movement patterns to enhance blood flow, fat loss, balance, healing, joint stability, integrated flexibility and functional strength. Most of this is performed while keeping your heart rate very low and can be very enjoyable; the exact opposite of what most people believe.

Fitness for the most part is about performance: doing more, lifting more, exercising more and is often based on outside appearances.

Many 'experts' think the more a person can do, the healthier they are. Nothing could be further



Finding the right balance of training is essential. Photos: lullemon athletica

from the truth. Following a training mentality and methodology to beat up their bodies until they drop, is neither scientific nor intelligent. Anyone can train like a boot camp drill sergeant.

Health begins on the inside. Increasing energy levels and losing body fat begins on the inside. Balancing hormones and biochemistry is the basis of all health and can only be done from the inside. There are thousands upon thousands of fit and strong trainers around the world with 'great bodies' that beat themselves and their clients up every week.

Many of them suffer from aches, pains, mood swings and

poor health. How do I know? I used to be one; indoctrinated with university qualifications and by the health and fitness industry.

Being healthy is very different to being fit. While fitness is very important and plays an important part in overall health, it is only a small part of a much bigger and complex equation. If you want to bridge the gap between medicine, nutrition and your most important asset, your health, come and see me at RPM Health Club.

Hayden Rhodes is the Functional Diagnostic Nutritionist at RPM Health Club. Follow Hayden on Facebook/RhodesToHealth.

Addressing Asia Pacific obesity

OVER-eating, sedentary lifestyles, cultural attitudes, and a lack of prevention programs are to blame for the rising epidemic of obesity in the Asia Pacific region.

According to one study, the number of overweight and obese persons has quadrupled in China and some societies still label people of healthy weight as poor.

Prevention was an important theme at the 19th Asian Pacific Congress of Cardiology, held in Pattaya from February 21-24.

Professor Kui-Hian Sim, president-elect of the Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology, said: "In many of the countries in the Asia Pacific region, malnutrition is not undernutrition, it is overnutrition, which has resulted in overweight [people] and obesity."

He added: "The Asia Pacific region has developed rapidly and technological advances mean that children now spend too much time on the internet and mobile devices so they don't take up

much physical activity.

"The Asian culture revolves around food as a way of showing hospitality because in the past there was a lot of famine. As a result, there is a cultural perception that if you're not fat or obese then you are not well off."

The Asia Pacific Cohort Studies Collaboration (APCSC) found that the prevalence of overweight and obese persons among 14 countries in the Asia Pacific region varied considerably by country.

The combined prevalence of overweight and obese people in Japan increased by a rate of 46%, from 16.7% in 1976-1980, to 24% in 2000, and by 414% in China from 3.7% in 1982 to 19% in 2002.

The APCSC researchers also calculated the population attributable fraction for cardiovascular disease caused by being overweight and obese in these 14 countries. Taking China as an example, despite the relatively low prevalence of overweight and

obese people, it (being overweight and obese) accounted for just over 3% of fatal coronary heart disease and 3.5% fatal ischemic strokes.

At the other end of the scale, being overweight and obese accounted for nearly 8% of coronary heart disease in Mongolia and over 9% in Australia. It also accounted for nearly 9% of ischemic strokes in Mongolia and more than 10% in Australia.

Dr Huxley said: "Increasing 'westernization' of lower and middle-income countries in the Asia Pacific region is associated with increasing gross domestic product (GDP) and the adoption of more westernized patterns of physical inactivity and diets richer in calories and fat.

"The influx of fast food, confectionery and soft drink companies into the region is likely to further exacerbate the obesity problem."

She added: "In high income countries, there is an inverse association between income/education



Economic status correlates with increased obesity. Photo: Stan Dalone

with obesity, whereas in lower-middle income countries the reverse is more commonly found."

The longest ongoing cardiovascular epidemiological study in India found that over a 20 year period, BMI and being overweight increased in urban middle-class populations.

More education was significantly associated with an increase in being overweight. The authors then concluded: "The process of

disease transition has started in the Indian middle class and a decline fueled by socioeconomic changes and increasing education is inevitable in this group."

The APCSC found that Western risk factors act similarly in Asia and Australasia as in other parts of the world, meaning that risk reduction strategies are equally important here – if not more important given the vast population. – *Phuket Gazette*



STRAP A PAIR ON: Though it's not necessary to dive sidemount with two tanks the air supply redundancy is one of the many advantages of the system. Photo: Kiwidivers.com



TAKE A LOAD OFF: By unclipping the back clip on the tank it's possible to swing them forward and slide through narrower swimthroughs. Photo: Kiwidivers.com

Sidemounting a revolution

"CLICK, click"... with both tanks unclipped and held in front of us it is possible to make our way through the small window of the little dive-boat wreck sitting at a depth of about 18 meters off the coast of Racha Yai.

Tanks still stretched out in front of him, Kevin from Kiwidivers pushes through the small window on the other side, a spot that would be too tight if he had on a "standard" BCD vest with a tank strapped to his back, but this was sidemount – not a tech sidemount, PADI's recreational sidemount.

"Tech diving, where one tank isn't enough," is a slogan that has been circulating in the dive community for years, and appears to be no longer applicable as recreational divers start to strap on two tanks themselves and continue to demand more out of their dive experiences. With every dive, we, as a community, push to explore beyond what thousands of divers before us have already seen, and we want more time to do so.

After a simple but thorough theory course and one day of feeling completely disoriented and lost in the pool, I was unsure if the fledgling PADI sidemount course was everything I was told it would be – thankfully, there is no harm in being wrong.

Sidemount consists of a "wing" BCD and

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

Since there are two regulators, many of the drills in the pool are to help divers remember which tank they are breathing from. With a long hose going to the right tank and a short hose hanging around your neck going to your left it takes a little practice.

Checking the pressure on each gauge I look up to find Kevin giving the out-of-air sign, his hand calmly sliding back and forth across his throat. Slowly my mind starts to go through the process of remembering which tank I am breathing off and which regulator I need to give him... looking down I realize that my "out-of-air buddy" is still at the bottom of the pool, but I, completely distracted, have already floated to the surface – frustrated, I make

in many cases two tanks, each with its own regulator and pressure gauge hanging down underneath a diver's arms.

my way back down to him and try again, this time paying a little more attention to my buoyancy.

After a good night of sleeping on it and dreaming of manta rays, there is a transformation.

On our third dive in open water, just outside the wreck, Kevin signals out of air. Without hesitation I pull the long hose regulator from its secure position on the tank

under my right arm and stretch it out to him. I'm hit with a mouthful of bubbles as Kevin talks through his regulator, all smiles.

Nothing contributes to improvement more than patience and practice... and

nothing is better than building the skill sets that bring you one step closer to being the first to pass into unexplored realms.

Tucking the regulator away I feel a warm rising sense of accomplishment somewhere inside, a feeling lost to many divers after they

complete their open water course. I resist the temptation to spread my arms, close my eyes and imagine myself as a manta ray slowly gliding through the water.

Streamlined and positioned perfectly flat, the sidemount kit seems to give us the same effortlessness in the water that is so awe-inspiring to see in the denizens of the deep blue.

The effortlessness isn't just from being streamlined. There is no need to make thousands upon thousands of the micro-adjustments necessary to keep a tank balanced on your back. These tiny adjustments are made without a thought by even the most inexperienced divers, nothing a diver notices until they're not there. Now, however, I am aware of having shed the "keel" from my back.

Back at the surface, we unclip one tank and pass it up to a boat-boy before unclipping our second tanks, each tank sitting with 120 bar...the next dive will have to be a beach dive, so we can take full advantage of all that extra air, maybe using the additional time to follow up on the unconfirmed rumors of all the unusual, unique critters that are floating around Kata Reef.

This is the final part of a four-part series on PADI's new specialty diving certifications.

Italian sets national record at Andaman Freediving comp

SIX national records were set this year at the annual Andaman Freediving Challenge hosted by Blue Planet Divers. The multi-day Association Internationale pour le Developpement de l'Apnee (AIDA) freediving event comprises six disciplines: constant weight; constant weight without fins; free immersion; dynamic with fins; dynamic without fins; static apnea.

Impressively, Italian astronomer Andrea Richichi set a new Italian record during his 8:02 minute static apnea breath-hold.

"Freediving has a long tradition in Italy, making Andrea's record highly significant," said



Judges and competitors at the event. Photo: Christophe Rouziou

Richard Wonka from Phuket-based We Freedive.

Another contestant, Azam Hamid, set five new Malaysian national records.

– Isaac Stone Simonelli

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Putting it all on the line



Live Wire

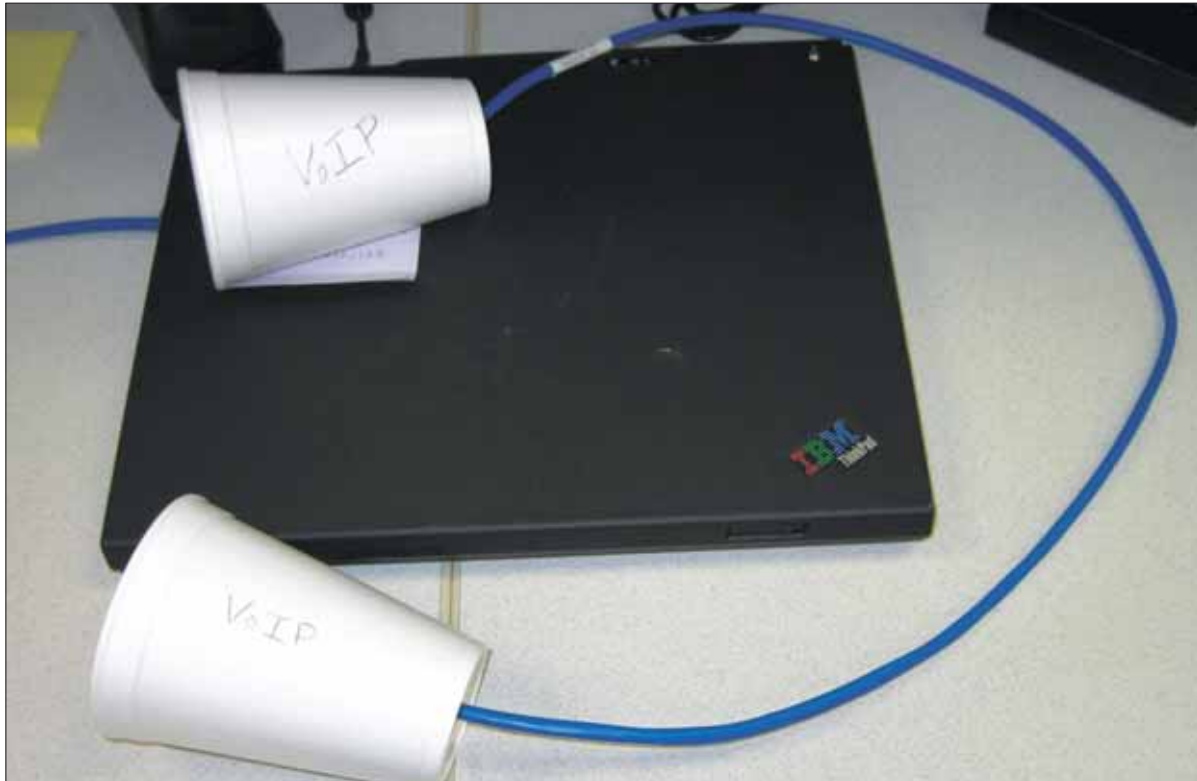
By Woody Leonhard

WITH renovations running full-tilt on my new digs in Kathu, it's time for me to stop hypothesizing and analyzing, pays my money, and takes my chances. That's what this week's *Live Wire* is all about – taking chances on a new internet land line.

Two weeks ago, I broke down the internet services in Phuket into three very broad (and admittedly poorly defined) categories.

The ultra-premium services include the well-known TOT Fiber 2U and True's DOCSIS cable internet (which they call "Ultra"). Lesser-known packages include CAT's fiber-based ON Net and 3BB's new fiber FTTH, which are only available in a few condo complexes in Phuket. All of those packages have the potential to provide better-than-average service. Unfortunately, at least judging by the numbers we're seeing at phuketinternetspeed.com, TOT Fiber 2U has taken a big dive in speed since late last year. True DOCSIS is holding up reasonably well, but their speeds aren't anything to write home about, and as I explained last week, the DOCSIS 20 Mbps service all over Thailand has been up and down all month.

The ultra-premium lines are only available in specific locations in Phuket. I was a bit disappointed to find that, although I'm moving into one of the older housing developments on the island – splitting the distance from both the Kathu Waterfall road and Loch Palm Golf Course – TOT doesn't run fiber to the area, and True



TAKE YOUR CHANCES: You're never sure just what you'll get when getting a land line in Phuket. Photo: The Eggplant

doesn't have a DOCSIS line. Since 3BB only runs fiber to (sniff) about six different condo complexes, and they're all in Phuket Town, that left me with just one choice, in the may-be-very-fast-some-day category, CAT ON Net.

I talked with the people at CAT on the middle floor of Central Festival, and they're positive about the location – although, I'm not sure if that means they already have a line nearby, or if somebody figured it's all of 50 meters from the house to the cable-rich road to Kathu Waterfall. I've been assured that CAT will run a fiber optic line to my house. It will take a while, but at least it's available. I'll keep you posted on the results.

The next level down, which I

call premium ADSL services, for lack of a better term, include the TOT, True, CAT and 3BB ADSL packages that run a bit faster than the bargain-basement packages.

Or, at least in theory, they run faster. In practice, I'm not entirely sure that's true. Since all of these services are based on ADSL, and ADSL runs over every phone line on the island (to a greater or lesser extent), I could pick and choose, which service I wanted.

So I pored over the reports and finally settled on TOT's nominal 15 Mbps ADSL line, which currently lists at 1,290 baht/month. I'm skeptical that the line won't run any faster than TOT's 10 Mbps ADSL line at 590 baht/month, but based on phuketinternetspeed.com test results, I'm willing to roll the dice.

It's important to keep in mind that many outside forces influence your internet speed. The rated speed of the line ("10 Mbps, 15 Mbps") is complete fiction, using any test other than the service provider's. But higher rated speeds do often mean that your line is jumbled in with fewer other lines, and in theory fewer people will be using the higher rated line at any given time.

Many years ago, TOT offered two different ADSL services: the Gold package was considerably more expensive than the Silver package. In the very early days of the phuketinternetspeed.com site, we discovered that many Silver subscribers were actually seeing faster speeds than Gold subscribers. Why? My guess is that most TOT customers figured it was worth a few hundred extra baht to get the "better" line, and then when everybody piled into the Gold service, they brought it down. Kind of like a 2-rupee bus in India.

So I'm paying my money and taking my chances. I'll go for a fancy Fiber line (CAT's ON Net 20 Mbps line runs 1,500 bt/mo), and an upscale ADSL line (TOT 15

Mbps at 1,290 bt/mo). That puts me at about US\$90 a month for internet, which is pretty typical for high speed access in the US. Of course, in the States, the lines run ten times faster, but I digress.

If my CAT line doesn't come in, I'll dump the ultra-premium class, and go for a cheap line – probably a 3BB nominal 10 Mbps line, for 590 bt/mo. Then I'll start chipping away at TOT and True, to see if they can get me a fiber or DOCSIS line. Persistence counts, and it doesn't hurt if you can find neighbors who will sign on a waiting list. Note how I've chosen two different lines from two different providers.

When I have the lines installed, I'll only ask for a single-plug "modem" router from the internet service provider, with no WiFi. As I described in an earlier *Live Wire*, I set up my own fast router and plug a WiFi station into my router, so I can "hot swap" from one internet provider to another in a matter of seconds. Besides, the routers that the internet service providers use are generally, uh, not the best quality.

Internet speed is important to me, and it'll be increasingly important to you, too. I've found that I can save thousands of baht a month by

choosing a less-expensive satellite TV package, and hooking up my TV so that it runs off the internet. That, combined with some judicious downloading of TV series that aren't available in Thailand, and connecting to services that are only available overseas, both improves my limited time in front of the tube, and lowers my monthly expenses. You may not have Hulu or Netflix yet, but I'm betting you will soon – or Vudu or the BBC iPlayer, or an internet TV service in your home country. And if you're still paying for long distance phone calls, you should wake up and smell the Skype.

A reliable, fast internet connection can make all the difference.

This news just in: one of the people on phuketinternetspeed.com is getting outstanding service – the fastest speeds I've ever seen in Phuket – with a 5,500 baht/month TOT Fiber 2U package. It's listed in TOT's brochures as a 40 Mbps "Infinite Basic" line – I just love the names they come up with for internet packages – but he says it's rated at 65 Mbps. Regardless of rating, he's seeing a reliable speed of 12 to 25 Mbps for international downloads, using multiple testing sites. It's by far the fastest line I've seen. Of course, TOT won't run a fiber line to my house, and my wife would probably shoot me for spending 5,500 baht a month on internet, but it's comforting to know that some packages really do stand up.

Our regular weekly computer clinic roundtables continue every Sunday morning, 10am at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong (in English) and 11am at Sandwich Shoppe Patong (in German). 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/SandwichShoppe](https://www.facebook.com/SandwichShoppe).

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- Research-based search engines can help you speed up the research process. Learn how Google Scholar, Cui, Zotero, and Connotea are making research easier. – *Phuket Gazette*

A classic urban legend

This is quite an old story, reckoned by folklorists to date back at least 70 years. It's a comedy staple, in fact, having turned up in numerous recordings, radio shows, movies and novels since the 1930s.

It was published as a "True Fact" by National Lampoon in 1986, when it also happened to be circulating as "office faxlore". More recently it has been sighted on email joke lists and Websites.

A BRICKLAYER working on a three-story-tall chimney had set up a pulley system so that his helper could raise the bricks up to where he needed them.

As he was working, his helper complained about how difficult it would be to get the last of the bricks up to the flat roof of the building. Just then another contractor had some material delivered and it was placed on the roof by a fork lift brought to unload it. The bricklayer asked if the driver would load the rest of the bricks up there as well and the driver agreed. The bricklayer realized that he would not need his helper any more and sent him home.

When the bricklayer had completed the chimney he noticed that he had quite a few bricks left over and that the fork lift was no longer at the job site. Now he had to figure out how to get the left-over bricks back down by himself. If he dropped them, they would surely break. So he decided to use the pulley he had set up earlier to lower them down.

First he went down to the ground and raised a large metal

bucket up to the roof level using the rope and pulley. Next, he tied the rope off onto a railing and climbed back up to the roof and loaded the bricks into the bucket. Then he went back down to the ground. He knew that the bricks would be heavy, so he wrapped the rope around his hand a couple of times and then untied the end of the rope with his other hand. Well, the bricks were heavier than he imagined and with physics being as it is, he was immediately launched upwards at a high rate of speed.

As he was racing up towards the roof he encountered the bucket full of bricks coming down at an equally fast rate. He collided with the bucket and broke his nose and his shoulder. The bucket passed him by as he sped upwards. He reached the pulley just before the bucket hit the ground and broke a few of his fingers as they were pulled into the pulley. When the bucket hit the ground, its bottom fell out and all of the bricks spilled onto the ground.

As the now light bucket sped upwards, the mason took a shot to the groin when one of his legs slipped into the empty bucket.

He then tilted enough to fall out of the bucket and continued with his gravity experiment. Eventually he landed on top of the pile of bricks and broke both feet. He collapsed in pain there on the bricks, but was glad to be alive. He let go off the rope and cried out for help.

It was then that the bucket hit him in the head.

Your weekly pith:

"At age 20, we worry about what others think of us.
At 40, we don't care what they think of us. At 60, we discover they haven't been thinking of us at all."

— Ann Landers

These quotes were taken from Ian Hewitt's book 'Quotes' for prosperity.

Some more questions about that ever complicated language that is English

- Did you know that "verb" is a noun?
- How can you look up words in a dictionary if you can't spell them?
- If a word *is* misspelled in a dictionary, how would we ever know?
- If two mice are mice and two louses are lice, why aren't two houses hice?
- If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?
- If you wrote a letter, perhaps you bote your tongue?
- If you've read a book, you can reread it. But wouldn't this also mean that you would have to "member" somebody the first time in order to later remember them?
- If you are "disgruntled" is the opposite "gruntled"?
- Is it a coincidence that the only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is "uncopyrightable"?

- Is there another word for a synonym?
- Shouldn't there be a shorter word for "monosyllabic"?
- What is another word for "thesaurus"?
- Where do swear words come from?
- Why can't you make another word using all the letters in "anagram"?
- Why do overlook and over-see mean opposite things?
- Why do people use the word "irregardless"?
- Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?
- Why do we say something's out of order when it's broken but we never say in of order when it works?
- Why does "cleave" mean both split apart and stick together?
- Why do "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?
- Why do flammable and inflammable mean the same thing?
- Why does X stand for a kiss

and O stand for a hug?

- Why doesn't "onomatopoeia" sound like what it is?
- Why is "crazy man" an insult, while to insert a comma and say "Crazy, man!" is a compliment?
- Why are a wise man and wise guy opposites?
- Why is abbreviation such a long word?
- Why is dyslexic so hard to spell?
- Why is it so hard to remember how to spell mnemonic?
- Why is it that no word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple?
- Why is the alphabet in that order? Is it because of that song?
- Why isn't "palindrome" spelled the same way backwards?
- Why isn't "phonetic" spelled the way it sounds?
- and finally.....
- Why is it that the word "gullible" isn't in the dictionary?

Compiled by Marc Mulloy



BRIGHT IDEA: Gets your sheets and teeth whiter than white. Photos: AdiMeyerhofer



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TOILET HUMOR: Not too sure what it means though. Service with a snore (left) Photos: AdiMeyerhofer

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Two Chefs keep on expanding

By Marc Mulloy

WHEN the original Two Chefs Billy Ågren and Daniel Shamir opened the first Two Chefs restaurant in Kamala in 2000 they probably never imagined how popular their brand would become or how many chefs would eventually be working under the Two Chefs' name.

The Two Chefs' motto is "We make it happen" and 13 years on the Two Chefs family includes five restaurants, a catering company, a bakery, eight head chefs and dozens of sous-chefs.

In 2001, the business moved to the Kata-Karon area and co-owner Henrik Öjelind came on board.

In 2007, a second Two Chefs restaurant opened in the north of Karon beach with co-owner Billy in charge, then, in 2008, a third opened in Kata center operated by the newest partner in Two Chefs: Krister Westberg. Their reputation as being a great place to dine and enjoy live music was by then well established.

In July last year two new 'bistros' were added to the list; one on Patak Road in Karon and one on Koktanod Road in Kata. Whereas, the first three incarnations of Two Chefs catered mostly to tourists, these latest additions offer a simpler and slightly cheaper model aimed at local Thai and

Advertorial



foreign residents. Despite the Swedish origins of the original team, the cuisine on offer here includes staples from all over Europe, as well as authentic Thai cuisine.

As if operating five restaurants were not enough, Two Chefs is also synonymous with catering and has its own smoke-house, deli and bakery. If you've ever hankered for a smoked salmon sandwich on gluten-free bread, then not only can you order one here for breakfast, lunch and dinner but both the bread and the smoked salmon are made in-house. At a recent meeting with

Henrik, and Catering and Bakery Manager Joanna Ruckenstein, the *Gazette* learned that Ciabatta is the most popular bread sold at the bistros and that they supply not only the Two Chefs restaurants but also other restaurants in the area. For those with allergies, the gluten-free bread and some lactose-free products are also well worth knowing about.

Open seven-days-a-week from 7am to 11pm, the daily fresh bread and pastries include everything from fresh croissants and baguettes to Montreal bagels, tekaka buns and cream cakes. Freshly-made cakes are in fact another area Two Chefs excel in and children's birthday cakes and wedding cakes are available on order and are some of the best cakes on the island.

In fact, for special events such as private parties, weddings and birthdays, Two Chefs catering can take care of everything from starters to supplying the chairs and plates. They even offer customers expertly prepared food at their homes, with the services of personal chefs and professional waitstaff.

All of these additions to the Two Chefs business model just go to show you that you can never have too many chefs.

For more information visit: twochefs-phuket.com



SELLING LIKE HOT CAKES: Catering and bakery manager Joanna Ruckenstein with the popular Ciabatta (below). Photos: Marc Mulloy



FroYo: The cool new trend in healthy snacks

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

THE latest Korean craze to hit Thailand, after TV dramas and the Gangnam-style dance, is soft-serve frozen yoghurt, also known as "FroYo".

Opened recently in The 6th

shopping mall in Patong (just across the road from Jungceylon and next to the White Tiger Bar), Bang Frozen Yoghurt offers a healthy alternative to traditional full-fat and sugared ice cream.

"Although frozen yoghurt is very popular in the USA, Australia and Europe, it actually originated from Korea," says Sujin Lyu, the Korean-American owner of Bang Fro Yo.

Sujin, an English teacher who has lived on the West Coast of USA and is married with two young children, travelled across

Thailand last year. In Phuket she couldn't help noticing the lack of frozen yoghurt here.

Hoping to capitalize on this business opportunity, Sujin, instead of opening an English language school in Korea as planned, opened Bang Frozen Yoghurt.

Situated in one of the colorful Sino-styled shop houses in The 6th, the light green façade of the establishment leads inside to a modern and playful interior decorated with cut-out stencils. The atmosphere is carefully created to be "cool, hip and friendly," in an effort to entice young people. An L-shape sofa lines one corner of the room, while a few tables and chairs on the terrace provide additional seating. There is also free WiFi and laptop stations.

From the soft-serve ice cream machine, customers fill their cups with frozen yoghurt (at the moment the flavors are: plain, and mixed wild berries, but more flavors are coming soon). You then select your fresh fruit and cereal toppings and add flavor with either jam or chocolate sauce. Toppings such as colorful sweets prove popular among young children who, according to Sujin, love to play with their dessert. Bang Frozen Yoghurt is priced at

70 baht per 100 grams.

"Live yoghurt is a good source of calcium. It contains good bacteria or probiotics, which are known to be beneficial for our health by warding off germs and helping boost immunity. And they don't die through the process of freezing," assures Sujin.

Although frozen yoghurt is a generic term, Bang is Sujin's own creation made from live yoghurt and real fruit. It is low in fat, sugar and sodium, making it a perfect snack for people with a weight problem or health-related issues.

Along with frozen yoghurt and in an attempt to feature things Korean, Sujin stocks two types of Korean Soju or rice wine: a strong Hong Cho drunk all over Korea and a sweeter version called Yaku Soju. "These drinks are hard liquor, and I strongly recommend people not to drive after drinking them," warns Sujin.

"Frozen yoghurt is a popular snack of choice for many Americans," says Sujin. Leonardo DiCaprio was once booked for stopping in a No-Parking area in Beverly Hills. Rumor has it that he flouted the law waiting for his FroYo."

Well, if it's good enough for DiCaprio...



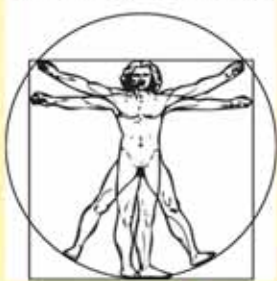
FROYO STYLE: Sujin Lyu, right, owner of BangFroYo with her team. Photo: Nanthapa Pengkasem

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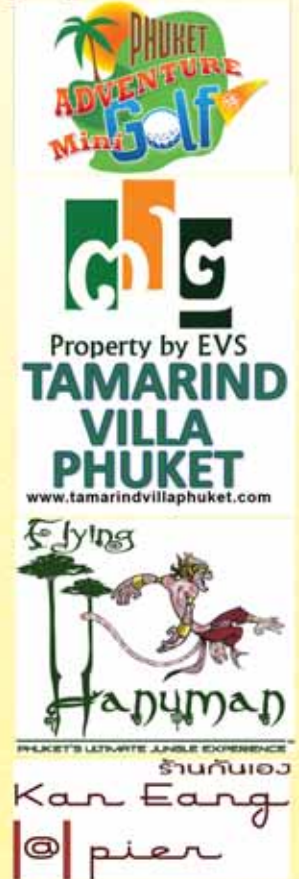
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SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE break

Across:

9. In re cast off vessel (8)
10. Whip the animal (3)
11. Rubbed out note, completely destroyed (6)
12. Implant in list possibly (6)
13. Many mar wild country up the coast from Phuket (7)
14. Sounds like I'll make the island (4)
15. Squeeze or something that increases pressure (10)
17. Pinion almost moving whole, e.g. (8)
18. About the rental contract, let go! (7)
19. Vegetable satisfactory river article (4)
21. Idiots second to evaluate (6)
24. Aims of world as far as one

can go (3,4,2,3,5)

27. Maybe frets about the East. Rot! (6)

29. Bring in each British service (4)

30. A tonic maybe, note from

poisonous plant (7)

33. One who is speculative for

others, it could be (8)

35. Opposites against these

second (10)

36. Girl in goal! (4)

37. Possibly sat it on the base (7)

38. Note French gala is

pretentious (6)

40. Except when turn North not

so much (6)

41. Song for those not in the

clergy (3)

42. Revile former wife, create

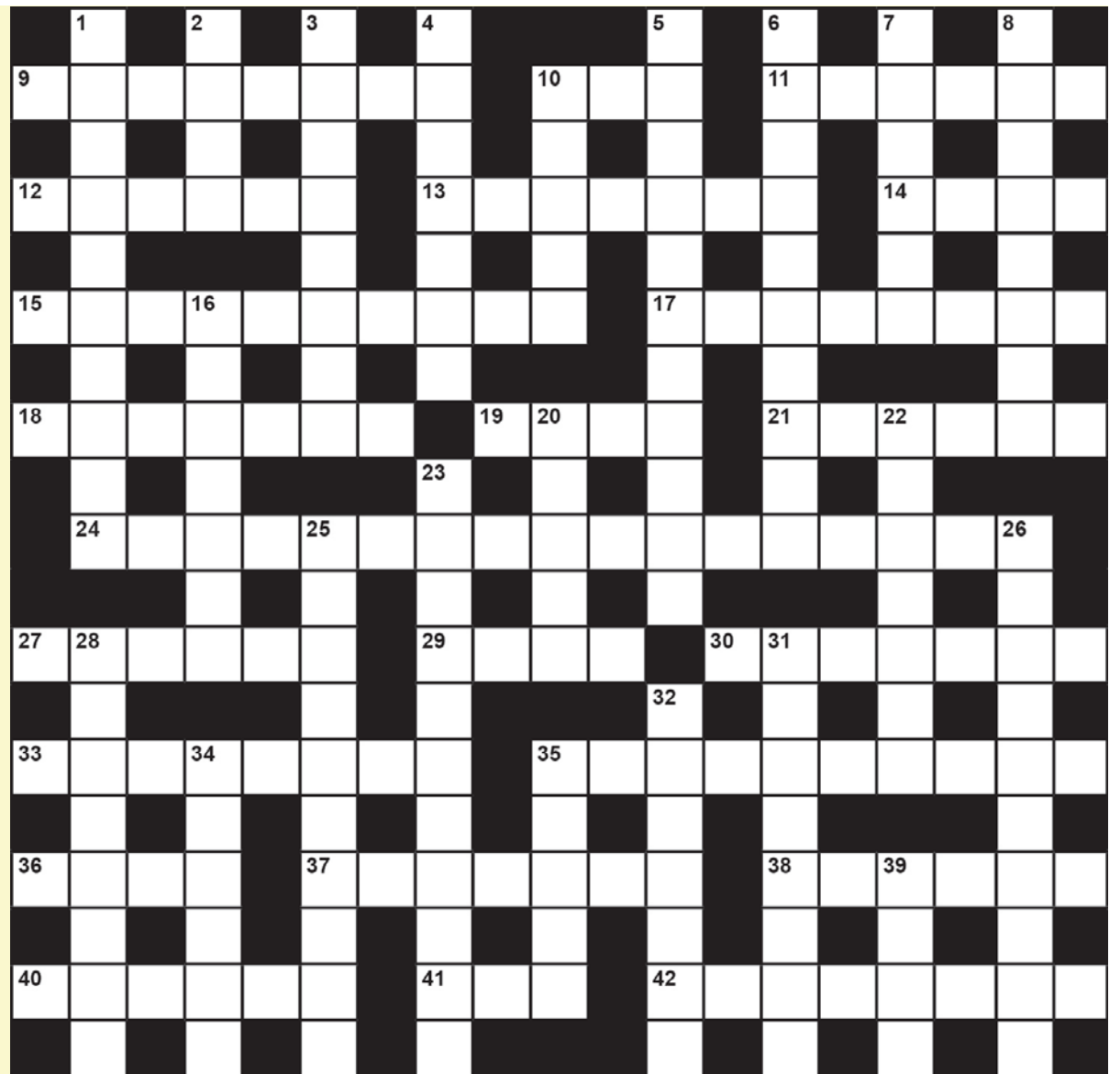
disturbance (8)

Down:

1. Wet weather may be set for

Khao Sok woods (4,6)

2. Pristine aromatic plant (4)



3. Trek, lass, around deer hunters (8)

4. Swear to sip more carefully (7)

5. Possibly most account hot pain

as abdominal discomfort (7,4)

6. Redo garret ineptly, going back

to an earlier state (10)

7. Not right varnish becomes

invisible (6)

8. Sell news about freedom from

disease (8)

10. A rich sort of convener (5)

16. Stop Public Relations

happening (7)

20. Fakir could be infidel (5)

22. Curious, good man has wild

anger (7)

23. Basically, it's seen ally has

new structure (11)

25. Characteristic of Facebook

and Flickr users, crams in sis

somehow (10)

26. To then move children of

indigenous S. Africans (10)

28. Troop formations carefully

chosen around the Spanish (8)

31. Surgical device could be for

cat there (8)

32. Resting from a smart painful

blow (7)

34. Wild donkey could be orange! (6)

35. May it lead to friendly relations

(5)

39. Create shape (4)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 31

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):



The stars support your attempts to make a breakthrough at work. Recent success may encourage Pisceans to rest on their laurels, but another burst of energy can lead to more doors of opportunity opening. Where romance with another water sign is concerned, it could be hard to say what you really feel this weekend. Those with a birthday in the coming days are forecast to enjoy more financial security in the year ahead.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):



Your talents for making things happen can be called on this week. The month of March promises to be a busy social time, with emphasis on work and pleasure combining well. An air sign friend has the right contacts to help you expand business and another fire sign's skills can be useful. In the realm of romance, the stars advise against trying too hard to make a good impression this weekend.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):



Your down to earth approach towards work and finances can motivate friends during the month of March. Another earth sign will appreciate tips and guidance, but an air sign

could expect too much input this week. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, family demands could make some Taureans see a red flag this weekend. Those who are single can connect with a water sign in an interesting way.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



The stars suggest that Geminis could find themselves in unusual situations or places during the month of March. Last minute invitations will be worth following up and your appetite for adventure should be well satisfied. On the romantic front, your sense of humor may not be shared by a partner this weekend. Those seeking a soul mate can learn that another air sign friend is keen to get closer.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



There are hints that disagreements in the world of work can be put in the past during March. An earth sign is ready to raise a white flag and the stars advise calling a truce so you can move forward. Astral influences are supportive this month for those Cancerians who have been searching for ways to improve their financial situation. Jealousy can affect romance with a fire sign.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):



The stars advise that Leos will be pushing to reach their full potential during March. This could mean that you are tempted to interfere with other people's business and another fire sign is forecast to react strongly. Concentrating on your own affairs is recommended this week. Romance with a water sign can become rocky when that person's past comes back to haunt them. Love with an air sign is well starred.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):



Your energy can be intense this week and the stars indicate that colleagues could find it hard to relate to overcharged Virgoans. Avoiding confrontations with air and water signs would be wise as this may cause unnecessary problems in the world of work. Catching up on domestic chores may seem like a boring option, but this will help to ground you. Another earth sign partner will appreciate quiet time at home this weekend.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



Your instincts for knowing the truth could cause an awkward situation early next week. The stars suggest that a water sign has something to conceal and the sooner Librans show that they won't be deceived, the better. In the world of work, constructive conversation helps put a positive spin on a stale idea. A shaky romantic relationship with an earth sign settles down, but a fire sign's reluctance to commit is all too obvious.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



Forcing issues is not recommended during the first half of March, particularly where property matters are concerned. Those Scorpions who are planning to relocate are advised to wait until later this month before making concrete agreements. In the realm of romance, there is a lesson to be learned from a heated discussion with a fire sign partner. Lost items are likely to turn up early next week.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Where work is concerned, an offer from a water sign leaves you cold, but there are hints that another fire sign is about to make a worthwhile proposition. Lucky days for money talks are Wednesday and

Thursday. In the realm of romance, single Sagittarians can be instantly attracted to a mysterious air sign this weekend. Those already committed should enjoy their partner's plans for some quality intimate time.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



Responsibilities are forecast to be lifted from your shoulders during the first half of March. Those Capricorns who have delayed travel plans will now be free to plan a getaway – if this involves long distance romance, the stars suggest that the relationship will grow stronger once you have been reunited. Finances are well starred during March; your creative thinking can prompt a successful saving scheme to be started.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



Those born under the sign of Aquarius should enjoy smoother working relationships in the month of March. Being on the same wavelength with colleagues will be a relief after recent upheavals. In the realm of romance, the stars advise against pretending to feel more strongly than you do where another air sign is concerned. There are hints that this person could put pressure on for you to commit.

International Sport

Ronaldo batters Barcelona

CRISTIANO Ronaldo crushed Barcelona's treble hopes with two goals in a 3-1 away win for Real Madrid in their King's Cup last four, second leg on Tuesday to set up a showdown against Atletico Madrid or Sevilla in May's final.

The Portuguese forward became the first player to score in six straight 'Clasicos' away from home when he picked himself up after being felled by Gerard Pique in the 13th minute and struck a powerful low penalty into the corner past Jose Manuel Pinto.

Barca dominated possession but rarely threatened and Ronaldo doubled the lead when he collected a rebound from a 57th-minute Angel Di Maria effort and stroked the ball calmly into the net with Pinto stranded.

The Portuguese has been criticized in the past for failing to perform in important games but it was his 12th goal in 18 appearances against Barca since joining Real in 2009 and his second double in as many games at a stunned Nou Camp.

Real rubbed salt in the wounds of their arch-rivals when Raphael Varane, who scored the equalizer in the 1-1 draw in last month's first leg at the Bernabeu, rose above the defense at a 68th-minute corner and sent a header arrowing into the net off the crossbar.

Jordi Alba pulled one back in the 89th minute but it was far too late for Barca who conceded three goals to Real at home for the first time since a 3-3 draw in March 2007.

They had not lost to the Madrid club by two goals at their giant arena in more than a decade.

"We are coming away with the feeling

that we have done a very good job," Real captain Sergio Ramos said in an interview with Spanish television broadcaster Canal Plus after his side went through 4-2 on aggregate.

"You always suffer against Barcelona because they look for the spaces and they make things hard for you but we fought very well," the Spain international added.

"I have always said that he (Ronaldo) is the best in the world and he always does the business in these games."

Real's thumping victory will give them a huge boost ahead of Saturday's La Liga clash at home to Barca and Tuesday's Champions League last 16 second leg at Manchester United.

Barca, 12 points clear of Atletico at the top of La Liga but facing Champions League elimination after losing 2-0 at AC Milan last week, need to pick themselves up for Saturday's trip to the Bernabeu and the return leg at home to Milan on March 12.

With Real four points behind Atletico in third in La Liga, Ronaldo acknowledged their hopes of a second successive title were slim and said they would be concentrating on the Cup and the Champions League.

"It was a very good match for us and we played very well from the first minute to the 90th minute, very serious and with a great attitude," he told Canal Plus.

"We were the better team and scoring three goals at the Nou Camp is extremely difficult," he added.

"We have played very well recently in the games here and we are playing better here than at home."



KING: Cristiano Ronaldo is congratulated by team mate Alvaro Arbeloa after scoring his second goal against Barcelona during their Spanish King's Cup semi final. Photo: Reuters

"The league is difficult as Barca have a big lead and we have to focus on the Cup and the Champions League now."

Barca's World Player of the Year Lionel Messi went close early in the first half with a snap shot and sent a low free kick whistling just past the post but otherwise cut a forlorn figure and barely mustered a shot on goal.

It was another lackluster Barca performance in both defense and attack and it was the 12th game in a row in all competitions they have failed to keep a clean sheet.

Assistant coach Jordi Roura, standing in for Tito Vilanova while he recovers from throat surgery, acknowledged Real had been highly effective in attack and Barca had made mistakes in defense.

However, he complained that his side

should have had two penalties for what he said were clear fouls on Pedro.

"When you lose it's clear that you think about changing things so we are planning to play in a different way against Milan," he told at a news conference.

"We have to forget this defeat as quickly as possible," he added.

"The league is key and we must be focused on that while preparing a decisive game against Milan."

"We have to be optimistic and there is no reason to criticism the team, we will pick ourselves up."

Real are through to the final for a record 38th time. They have won the Cup 18 times. Atletico Madrid played at Sevilla on Wednesday.

—Reuters



GOLD: Usain Bolt at an event in 2011. Photo: Stephen Lawkin

Bolt to race in Paris

SIX-time Olympic champion Usain Bolt will race over 200 meters at the Paris Golden League meeting on July 6 as part of his buildup for the Moscow world athletics championships the following month.

The Jamaican world-record holder will compete against France's Euro-

pean 100 meters champion Christophe Lemaitre in the final race of the evening. Lemaitre finished third in the 2011 Daegu world championships 200 meters, which was won by Bolt.

Bolt, 26, who became the only man to win the 100 and 200 meters double at successive Olympics

during last year's London Games, will compete in a 150 meters race on Brazil's Copacabana beach on March 31.

His only other confirmed race this year is over 200 meters at Oslo's Bislett Games on June 13.

—Reuters

Manchester United march on

THE match of the weekend was played on Sunday, February 24, when Manchester City hosted Chelsea at the Etihad Stadium. Both set of managers are constantly under pressure to do better in the increasingly demanding Premier League. Manchester City's Roberto Mancini is feeling the strain of potentially ending the season without a trophy and interim Chelsea manager, Rafa Benitez, is struggling under the pressure of being in three competitions – Europa League, FA Cup and the battle for fourth place in the league.

Chelsea were only one point behind second place Manchester City going into this game, but a penalty save by Joe Hart to deny Frank Lampard his 200th Chelsea goal was followed by second half goals from Yaya Toure and Carlos Tevez, which ensured Manchester City claimed all three points.

The evergreen Ryan Giggs scored on his 999th appearance for club and country but his goal was overshadowed by Rafael's wonder strike that sent Manchester United on their way to a 2-0 win at QPR. The Brazilian full back pounced on a parry by goalkeeper Julio Cesar to smash the ball into the top corner from just over 20 yards to give Manchester United the lead against a spirited QPR side. Ryan Giggs sealed the win for United in the 80th minute.

Newcastle won for the first time this season in the league after conceding the first goal in their 4-2 victory over Southampton. A 25-yard screamer from Papiss Cisse put Newcastle into a 2-1 lead just before half time. Rickie Lambert equalized for Southampton but a Yohan Cabaye penalty and an own goal by Hooiveld gave Newcastle the win over their relegation rivals.

Santi Carzola scored twice to ease the pressure on Arsene Wenger, who watched his Arsenal team get well beaten by Bayern Munich in the Champions League and knocked out the FA Cup by Blackburn prior to this game against Aston Villa. Paul Lambert's Villa team dropped back into the bottom three after this 2-1 loss.



Other results:

Norwich 2-1 Everton
Reading 0-3 Wigan
West Brom 2-1 Sunderland
Fulham 1-0 Stoke
West Ham 2-3 Tottenham

In the League Cup Final, Swansea won their first major trophy in their 101-year history to end League Two Bradford's cup fairytale. Bradford knocked out Arsenal, Aston Villa and Wigan en route to the final, but they were no match for a determined Swansea side, who ran out 5-0 winners.

—Andrew Scott

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES	
SATURDAY, 2 MARCH 2013	22:00
Everton vs Reading	
Southampton vs QPR	
Stoke vs West Ham	
Sunderland vs Fulham	
Swansea vs Newcastle	
Chelsea vs WBA	SAT, 2 MARCH 2013 22:00
Man Utd vs Norwich	SAT, 2 MARCH 2013 22:00
Wigan vs Liverpool	SAT, 2 MARCH 2013 00:30
TOTTENHAM vs ARSENAL	SUNDAY, 3 MARCH 2013 23:00
Aston Villa vs Man City	TUESDAY, 5 MARCH 2013 03:00

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE

	TEAM	GD	PTs
1	Man Utd	33	68
2	Man City	26	56
3	▲ Tottenham	15	51
4	▼ Chelsea	25	49
5	Arsenal	22	47
6	Everton	7	42
7	WBA	2	40
8	Liverpool	15	39
9	Swansea	4	37
10	Stoke	-6	33
11	Fulham	-5	32
12	Norwich	-14	32
13	▲ Newcastle	-10	30
14	▼ West Ham	-10	30
15	Sunderland	-7	29
16	Southampton	-11	27
17	Wigan	-18	24
18	Aston Villa	-26	24
19	Reading	-18	23
20	QPR	-24	17

International Sport

Review of Six Nations so far

By Patrick Campbell

BEFORE the Six Nations began the pundits were, as usual, making their predictions about the destiny of the championship. After their stunning autumn victory over Australia, France were strongly fancied to win "Le Grand Slam".

Wales, despite being current Six Nations champions, had lost seven games on the bounce and seemed to be out of contention. Ireland, so strong at regional level, were beginning to show their age, and, despite the perennial genius of Brian O'Driscoll, were conceivably past their best. England, the youngest team, and fresh from an emphatic autumn victory over the All Blacks, were the dark horses.

As usual, events have proven the pundits wrong. England, with three wins from three games, stand at the top of the table. Not achieved without some alarms and excursions.

The win against Scotland (38-18) at Twickenham was conclusive, despite the home team conceding two breakaway tries, the triumph against Ireland (12-6), ground out in the Dublin drizzle, showed self-belief, resolve and an ability to adapt to very different conditions.

Against a revitalized France, England lost the first half to a team whose scrummaging, lineout work and general tactical "nous" were superior. Wesley Fofana's side-stepping, blind-side try was sublime. But in the second half, and partly as a consequence of some strange substitutions by Philippe Saint-André, England's youthful and ultimately fitter team came back from the dead, inspired by outstanding individual performances by Manu Tuilagi and "Captain



France's Thierry Dusatoir (top right) and England's Geoff Parling jump for the ball during their Six Nations rugby match at Twickenham stadium. Photo: Reuters

Courageous" Chris Robshaw. Stuart Lancaster, surely the coach of the year so far, talked proudly of "composure".

Second in the table, on four points, are two unlikely candidates, Scotland and Wales.

Few gave Scotland a chance this year, especially after their early defeat by England (38-18), but they have shown resilience in overcoming first Italy (34-10) and then Ireland (12-8) at Murrayfield. This recent victory must rank as one of the great escapes of the tournament, especially after a first forty minutes in which Scotland were totally outplayed, were shackled in their own territory, and gained hardly any possession. Had Ireland taken their chances, they would

have been out of sight by half time. But Scotland battled tenaciously in the second period and, urged on by a near flawless performance from scrum-half Chris Laidlaw, absorbed a late Irish surge to grind out an unlikely win.

Though few Welshmen would agree, their win against France in Paris (16-6) ranks as the upset of the campaign. Plagued by injuries, a lapse in form and the loss of their coach, Warren Gatland, to British and Irish Lions duties, a depleted side held on to beat France.

A sensational result.

More recently, and in the rain at Stadio Olimpico, Wales showed superior fitness and fire-power to subdue an Italian side (26-9)

RBS SIX NATIONS TABLE					
	Pos	Team	P	PD	Pts
	1	England	3	36	6
	2	Wales	3	19	4
	3	Scotland	3	8	4
	4	Ireland	3	-2	2
	5	Italy	3	-36	2
	6	France	3	-25	0

that lacked its best player and captain, Sergio Parisse. Wales have a powerful pack, and their juggernaut back line with youthful wings Alex Cuthbert and George North, is beginning to fire on all cylinders. At full-back, Leigh Halfpenny has hardly missed a kick or a tackle all campaign. A certain Lion in waiting.

Meanwhile, "Les Bleus" have lost all three games, a situation unthinkable at the start of the championship. After all, France have a greater pool of talent to choose from than any other Northern Hemisphere nation. However, and despite a rock-like scrum and consistently heroic performances from Louis Picamoles, the team has failed to gel. More changes in personnel can be expected.

Thoughts are now turning to the crucial March clash between Wales and England, which may well decide the winner of the Six Nations – unless either team slips on the banana skin laid down by Scotland or Italy. The presence of seventy-four thousand spectators in the Millennium Stadium, mostly Welshmen baying for England's blood, will present England's emerging young team with their greatest challenge yet. Bring it on...

Prost backs Vettel to equal title tally

FOUR-times Formula One world champion Alain Prost has backed Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel to equal his tally of titles this season.

Frenchman Prost won his championships with two teams over nine years but Vettel is aiming for four in a row, a feat achieved before only by Argentine great Juan Manuel Fangio and Michael Schumacher.

Only three drivers have ever won four or more titles since the championship started in 1950.

"Oh yes, although I hope he doesn't have a start to the season like he did two years ago when he

won four or five races in a row," the 58-year-old told reporters at a Renault engine event on the outskirts of Paris, when asked whether Vettel would chalk up his fourth crown.

Vettel won five of the first six races in 2011 when he romped to his second title but he had a much tougher time last year, being taken down to the wire in Brazil by Ferrari's Fernando Alonso.

"He is still the favorite. Behind him, it's hard to say," said Prost who won his titles with McLaren and Williams.

"Will losing (Lewis) Hamilton

and having a young driver in his place be destabilizing (for McLaren)? Mercedes will not be challenging for the title, I don't think so. Alonso could be the most dangerous behind Vettel and why not an outsider like (Lotus's Kimi) Raikkonen or (Romain) Grosjean?"

Prost's son Nicolas is a development driver with Lotus.

Asked what conclusions he had drawn from the first two pre-season tests in Spain, Prost said Red Bull were still clearly the team to beat while Hamilton's Mercedes team would be fighting to catch the other front-runners.

"Red Bull are still there and certainly better than last year at the same time," he said. "Ferrari are also good. McLaren will be certainly among the top three and Lotus also up there."

"There's a little question mark over Mercedes, we still don't know their level. They were a long way away at the end of last season so I don't see them suddenly returning to the front. But they will be up there at certain tracks."

"It could be a very even field, we'll see some good races."

– Reuters



World champion Vettel. Photo: Reuters



Ronnie playing at German Masters snooker final. Photo: Derhexer

Rocket Ronnie ready to return

WORLD snooker champion Ronnie O'Sullivan will defend his title this year after announcing on Tuesday that he was returning to the sport after growing bored in his 10-month break.

The 37-year-old Englishman announced last June he was taking time off from competitive snooker and had spoken of quitting altogether due to the pressure to compete in an increasing number of tournaments around the world

before his change of heart.

"I've had a nice year out, I've enjoyed it, had a lot of fun, I needed the rest but I just thought it was time to get back to doing what I've done for a lot of my life," the four-times world champion told a news conference in London.

"Three or four months ago I was sitting there thinking I'd take being beaten 10-0 at Sheffield just to be back playing rather than just sitting there, not really having much going

on in my life other than getting up and going out for lunches and dinners and chilling out.

"I got a bit bored of that to be honest."

O'Sullivan, one of snooker's most charismatic players, will have his work cut out to sharpen his game before the April 20 - May 6 world championship in Sheffield, England, as he has played in only three or four exhibitions during his break.

"I'll be very match rusty...it's going to be a tough call to go in there with no match practice behind me... it's going to be a massive challenge but I just see this as the start of the bigger picture really," he said.

"I'm used to being written off and coming back. I love the challenge, I love the game, I know how good I am, I know what I'm capable of and I hope some people do write me off as that will make me even stronger." – Reuters



SCENIC: The 18th hole at Red Mountain Golf Club, Kathu. The course is based on a 1,400 rai former tin mine site.

From the PGA to Phuket

By Andrew Scott

GOLF is a sport that has surrounded Michael Brasier, 27, all his life. His father Brett Brasier, is a PGA professional and growing up, Michael would watch him teach golf at various clubs around the world, including the Vines in Australia. It was only natural that Michael would follow his father into the sport: playing on the PGA tour, teaching golf and managing golf courses.

The *Phuket Gazette* spoke to Michael recently at the Red Mountain Golf Club, where he now works as the sales and marketing manager/head PGA professional.

Phuket Gazette: Why choose to move into golf as a career?

Michael Brasier: Initially, I didn't. I was playing tournaments once I turned professional, trying to earn a living that way and it wasn't easy. You really have to be able to shoot a 69 with your eyes closed and that should really be a bad day. After about two years of trying to make it on the tour I turned to teaching. I did a one year teaching course in Lithuania. Then I came back to manage a golf course in Bangkok called Lotus Valley golf course when I was 22. It was an old course that was being redesigned and I was involved during the construction stage, training the staff, which gave me an insight into golf management. I came to Phuket about five years ago with my father on a golfing holiday. Red Mountain was not

officially open at that time, but we were able to play it and that was how I came to play Red Mountain.

What's your proudest accomplishment in golf to date?

About two weeks ago, I was on the third hole at Red Mountain. I had my eight iron, the wind was softly coming in from the east and the ball landed three feet behind the hole and rolled straight in. It was my first hole in one, so I was very happy.

Which is your favorite club in your bag and why?

Probably my five iron. It's normally a very easy 190 or a strong 200 yard shot and I feel very confident with that club. I wish I felt that comfortable with a wedge because I would probably finish a round with a much lower score.

What's a typical day for you and how much does your job change from day-to-day?

Basically, the hospitality business changes. One day I might be on the golf course with the superintendent dealing with problems on the turf such as drainage issues; the next day I could be preparing for a big tournament, sorting out the caddies and arranging the F&B. In terms of the day-to-day operations, it changes based on the volume of golfers we have. My job as sales and marketing manager is looking for new clients and we

tend to target corporate groups from Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Australia.

What's the hardest part of your job?

Managing staff and keeping everyone happy. It is the most difficult and time consuming part of the job, but it is also the most rewarding if you can do it correctly.

If you could change one aspect or rule about golf what would it be and why?

I would say the ruling on miscalculation of your score. There have been a few cases where professional golfers have submitted their score cards, and not because they wanted to, but mistakenly wrote an incorrect score and therefore a penalty was given. I feel that is a bit harsh. With the scoring officials on the course and TV, technology pretty much takes care of scoring now. The aspect of having to physically write down your score should not be binding to your final score.

What's golf's greatest asset?

Integrity. The game definitely has some great traits: respect, being gracious whether you win or lose. But I would say integrity.

If you only had one round of golf to play in your life, which course would you play and why?

St Andrews, just because of the history.



Michael Brasier, sales and marketing manager/head PGA professional.

What do you enjoy doing outside of golf?

I love wake boarding. I love being out on the water on a boat or surfing.

How would you classify your golf teaching style?

A lot of professionals try to correct the mistakes of their students straight away and try to make them look like Tiger Woods, with the help of a video camera and computer. That's definitely not my style. No one's swing as an amateur is going to be perfect. Build on their strengths and try to minimize their faults. If you look at some golfers, Jim Furyk for example, does not have a picture perfect swing, but he can still hit the ball and have a great round of golf. Drills and exercises are a good way to see the motion a person's swing takes. Muscle memory and putting the student into a certain position and trying to get them to feel the movement also helps.

What's your favorite hole at Red Mountain? Why?

Hole 17, which is Red Mountain's signature hole. It's about 150 yards and has a 150-foot drop from tee box to green. Golfers hit down the valley to the green and it's quite spectacular.

Why choose to work in Phuket and at Red Mountain?

Why Not? I feel very privileged to

have been here since the beginning of Red Mountain. Phuket itself is a great place to live: great beaches, great people, the traffic is getting worse but it's not nearly as bad as Bangkok. The air quality is great.

Who's your favorite golfer at the moment and why?

Rory McIlroy. His swing looks unbeatable. It's the Tiger-Rory rivalry which everyone is talking about. I personally feel that Tiger still has a lot of great golf left and we will see that sooner or later but Rory is up for the fight and he won't roll over.

Who's your favorite all time golfer and why?

My father Brett Brasier. He taught me everything I know about golf so it would have to be him.

What do you hope for the future of Red Mountain?

Building on the brand. It's been very successful since 2008. More golfers come every year. The next step is to build on that and maybe improve our current hotel facilities. We are adding on a swimming pool, fitness center and bar to create more of a resort feeling, along with developing residential properties which has been something that we have put on hold. Over the last two years, we have added an on-course hotel. It's a 47-room hotel located on the first hole at Loch Palm. We are pushing to market it as Phuket's best golfing hotel.

Worawi to run for Asian Football Confederation presidency this year

THAILAND'S Worawi Makudi seems to have a head start on his rivals for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) presidency.

Bahrain Football Association President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa has also joined the race for the AFC presidency.

Qatari bin Hammam was banned for life by FIFA for corruption and bribery and China's Zhang Jilong has held the role of AFC acting president since May 2011.

FIFA Executive Committee member Makudi looks to have stolen a march on his rivals for the May 2 election after securing the support of 11 Southeast Asian countries on Monday.

Considered a bin Hammam ally,



the Thai would be backed by the Football Federation of Australia as well, the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) said in a statement.

AFF President Sultan Ahmad said: "...we examined our unity and solidarity and have decided to be united in choosing a leader for Asia."

"I am sure Dato' Worawi Makudi will do everything he can to further the needs of the AFC and their member associations."

Worawi said he was "extremely honored" with the nomination.

— Reuters

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