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# Phuket Gazette



## Shooting for transparency

Human Rights Watch calls for inquest into alleged Rohingya killings

**INSIDE TODAY**

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March 16 - 22, 2013 | [PhuketGazette.Net](http://PhuketGazette.Net) | In partnership with [The Nation](http://TheNation.com)

■ GOVERNOR: 'I SUPPORT THIS SERVICE; IT IS A PUBLIC NECESSITY'

# New bus to run island gauntlet

■ Battle lines being drawn as only some taxi drivers cross over to support new airport-to-beaches buses

By **Chutharat Plerin**

PHUKET Governor Maitri Inthasut has confirmed that he will approve the long-awaited bus service to start serving tourists arriving at Phuket International Airport.

The new bus service – to launch with six buses departing the airport to provide a “hop on, hop off” service to the major tourist beaches down the west coast – has one final hurdle to clear: it must be approved at a provincial transportation committee meeting on Tuesday.

“I will not be here for the meeting, so I will have Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada chair the meeting and confirm the launch date with the operator – and approve the service,” Governor Maitri said.

The governor said he had been assured the island's taxi drivers, long known for their intolerance of any interference in their lucrative trade, will not be affected by the new bus service, to be called the Phuket Airport Bus Express.

“This will not affect the taxi drivers. It is a different...

*Continued on page 6*



Hop on, hop off bus ready to roll between Phuket Airport and beaches. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

## Search for entangled manta ray

A TEAM of marine-rescue workers stand at the ready in Singapore and Bangkok if Phuket divers are able to find the manta ray spotted entangled in ropes near Koh Racha Noi earlier this month.

*Full story on Page 8*

## Foreign IT team faces legal issues

SIX foreigners working illegally at a software development company in Rawai were netted in a Phuket Immigration raid on Monday.

All members of the group were taken to Chalong Police station for further questioning.

*Full story on Page 2*

## Life's work stolen from shutterbug

DANISH professional photographer offers a 100,000-baht reward for information leading to the recovery of his MacBook Pro and hard drive containing 36 years of processed images from 170 countries.

*Full story on Page 5*

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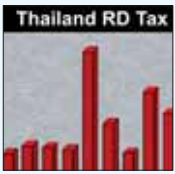
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## This Week



### Business

The April 9 income tax return filing deadline is near. **Page 11**



### Health

Reducing stress will improve your overall well being. **Page 36**



### Tech

Competing with the 'Lion City' in the race to 4G service. **Page 38**



### Explore

'Blazing Baz' decides to go crawling around Krabi on his bike. **Page 40**



### Diving

The long and short of a short tale about longtail boats. **Page 42**



### Sport

A look ahead to the upcoming Formula 1 season. **Page 47**

Saturday



35 - 24

Sunday



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Monday



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Tuesday



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Wednesday



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Thursday



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# Illegal operators

## Six foreign IT workers nabbed for tapping keys

PHUKET Immigration officers on Monday raided a software design office in Rawai, where they arrested six foreigners, half of them Russian, for working illegally.

Phuket Immigration Investigator Chidchanok Sakornyen led the raid, which saw his team of officers enter the site at 12:30pm.

"We found six foreigners working as software and web design consultants and operating a website. We questioned them and asked to see their visas and work permits," he told the Gazette.

"Marin Batura, the managing director, 33, and Nikolay Evdokimov, the director, 32, both from Russia, had the correct visas, and work permits, but the workplace address cited in their work permits did not match the place where they were found working," Lt Col Chidchanok explained.

Marina Efremova, the web designer, 43, from Russia; Denys Kravchenko, the web coordinator, 30, from Ukraine; and two from Belarus, Aleksandar Lyah, the financial officer and Sergey Kazei, the programmer, 26, were all found working without work permits, Col Chidchanok added.

"Ms Batura and Mr Evdokimov were both charged with working at a place not listed in the work permit. Ms Batura was also



Illegal IT team hits escape, but is still doing the work permit shuffle.

charged with hiring foreigners without work permits," he said.

"Ms Efremova, Mr Kravchenko, Mr Lyah and Mr Kazei were all charged with working without work permits," he added.

All six suspects were taken to Chalong Police Station to have the charges against them recorded and for further questioning. According to Col Chidchanok,

Phuket Immigration did not have the authority to process the charges and investigate this case by themselves.

Through negotiations between immigration officers and the lawyer representing the foreigners, it was agreed that reporters could name the suspects but not the company they were working for.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Arboreal disaster strikes, crushes trucks in government parking lot

THE chief of the Phuket Provincial Social Security Office (PPSSO) has denied any liability for a tree – believed by locals to be about 100 years old – that fell and crushed five cars in the Social Security car park Tuesday morning.

No injuries were reported in the incident.

"It was an accident; the tree was here before the building," PPSSO Chief Phuma Thammakul said.

"I would say the car owners



The tree was about 100 years old.

must deal with their own insurance companies as we have no part in this," he added.

Wilfried Widerschein narrowly escaped being crushed by the falling tree.

"I had just parked my pickup and we had got out of the truck... we were able to run clear of the area just before the tree fell," he said.

The cab of his pickup was crushed by the tree.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Police catch six children in Patong beggar bust

SIX children were part of a group of Cambodian beggars rounded up in Patong on March 8 as police continue to crack down on beggars from abroad.

Police took six children into custody, aged between 5 months and 8 years, in addition to arresting six adults. None of the adults had a passport or work permit, police said.

"There are too many foreign beggars here, especially in Patong," said Phuket Immigration Superintendent Sunchai Chokkajayki.

Though police caught 12 members of the group, the group's leader was not found at the house



A total of 12 people were caught.

and is being sought.

An agent was paid 4,000 baht per person to bring them to Phuket, Col Sunchai explained.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Aussies dive in to boost beach safety

THE Phuket Lifeguard Club (PLC) announced it has joined with the renowned Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) to develop world-class public education programs that aim to improve water safety and reduce the number of drownings on Phuket's beaches.

Last week, six senior lifeguard trainers from Phuket beaches and resorts worked with SLSA Community Education Manager Anthony Bradstreet to adapt the successful Australian Surf safety Program ("Surf Ed") to local Phuket conditions, the PLC explained in a press release.

The program is one of a series of initiatives from the new Phuket Lifesaving Education Unit. The main objective is to provide a sustainable program with Thai people having ownership of the water safety initiatives.

Phuket Lifesaving Education Unit project manager Jayne MacDougall proposed the program be developed to educate school students about how to enjoy the ocean safely. An adult education program is also being developed.

— Phuket Gazette

## Dokset murder trial postponed for want of a court translator

THE murder trial of Stein Havard Dokset was due to continue on March 8 but was postponed until August 22 after it was discovered that no court translator was available.

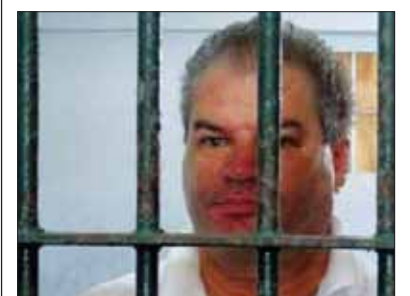
Mr Dokset, accused of murdering his ex-girlfriend Runnapa Sukdong and leaving her remains in a trash bin for months, appeared at Phuket Provincial Court at 9am.

After a six-hour wait, the judge informed the court that an English-Thai translator was not available.

"We have had a heavy caseload and neglected to book a translator in advance. We tried to find one this afternoon, but could not," the judge said.

"The case is postponed to August 22, at which time the case investigators will be called in to give their statements in court again," he added.

— Orawin Narabal



Stein Havard Dokset

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Juggy was thrown from the motorbike and run over.

## Cement truck strikes, crushes 5-year-old boy

A CONCRETE mixing truck ran over a 5-year-old Burmese boy in Thalang on March 8.

The boy, "Juggy", was on a motorbike with his 35-year-old mother, Mrs Namprik, and his 3-year-old sister.

The truck, allegedly being driven at a high speed toward a construction site in Patong, struck the motorbike at around 9:45pm on the Baan Don-Cherngtalay Road, Roonnaphum Permphon of the Thalang Police told the *Gazette*.

"The bike fell down and Juggy, who was riding on the back, was thrown from the bike onto the road, where the truck ran him over," Sub Lt Roonnaphum said.

"Mrs Namprik, who was the only one wearing a helmet, and her daughter received some scratches and bruises," he added.

The truck driver, Suphat Pornjan, 26, was charged with reckless driving causing death.

There was no alcohol found in his system, Sub Lt Roonnaphum added.

— *Thawit Bilabdullar*

# Rights group demands probe of alleged Rohingya shooting

NEW YORK based Human Rights Watch (HRW) issued a statement on March 13 calling for the Thai authorities to investigate reports of Royal Thai Navy sailors opening fire on a boatload of Rohingya off the Phang Nga coast, north of Phuket, allegedly killing at least two of the refugees.

"Rohingya fleeing Burma should be given protection, not shot at," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

"The Thai government should urgently investigate why sailors opened fire on boat people helpless in the sea and prosecute all those found responsible."

According to the press release, survivors of the incident told HRW that on the morning of February 20, Thai fishermen helped their drifting boat ashore on Surin Island off the coast of Phang Nga province.

On that same day, at about 6:30pm, Thai navy patrol boat TOR214 arrived at the island and towed their boat out. The patrol boat and the Rohingya boat arrived near a pier in Kuraburi district, Phang Nga, at around 5am the next day.

According to the survivors and Thai villagers on the shore, navy personnel from the patrol boat began to divide the Rohingya into small groups in the boat and ordered them to get ready to board smaller boats.

At that point, the Rohingya became uncertain whether they would be taken to immigration detention on the mainland or be pushed back to sea. When the first group of 20 Rohingya was put on a smaller boat by the Thai navy, some panicked and jumped overboard, said the report.



A group of Rohingya boat people arrested at gunpoint by the Thai Royal Navy in 2007. Photo: Gazette file

"Navy personnel fired into the air three times and told us not to move," one survivor told Human Rights Watch. "But we were panicking and jumped off the boat, and then they opened fire on us in the water."

Four Rohingya who swam to shore were rescued by local Thai villagers. Thai security forces searched the area for two days after the incident, but the villagers kept the survivors hidden.

The bodies of two Rohingya reportedly showing bullet wounds were later pulled from the sea and buried in a Muslim cemetery in Kuraburi district, said HRW.

Thai fishermen told Human Rights Watch they saw more dead

bodies in the water but had no more information. The fate of the remaining passengers on the boat remains unknown after it was towed away by the Thai navy.

Human Rights Watch called on the Thai government and the National Human Rights Commission to conduct thorough and transparent investigations into the shooting. If unnecessary or excessive force is found to have been used, all those responsible, including officers who gave orders to fire, should be prosecuted, Human Rights Watch said.

"Whenever the use of force is unavoidable, they must use restraint and act in proportion to the seriousness of the offense. The

intentional lethal use of firearms may only be made when strictly unavoidable in order to protect life," said the press release.

## DENIAL

Vice Admiral Taratorn Kajitsuwan, Commander of the Third Naval Area, who is responsible for all naval operations along the Andaman coast, declined to comment on the story to the Phuket Gazette.

One media report quoted him as saying that he refused to comment because the story only served to "tarnish the reputation..."

*Continued on Page 4*

## Dutch tourist retracts Phi Phi rape report

A DUTCH woman who reported to police that she was raped on March 3 while on holiday on Phi Phi Island, near Phuket, recanted her story three days later.

The 25-year-old woman told police that she and a friend arrived on Phi Phi on March 3 and checked into a hotel.

"She then went alone to a bar by the beach," said Krabi Provincial Police Commander Nantadech Yoinuan.

"She said she got very drunk. The next thing she knew she was lying on the beach and a man was raping her. She screamed and he ran away," Maj Gen Nantadech said.

The woman returned to her hotel, then filed her complaint with police on March 4.

"Police took her to get a sexual assault medical test," Gen Nantadech said.

Over the next couple of days, police escorted her to several locations to help her identify where the incident had happened, but she was unable to remember the lo-



Thousands of tourists travel to the party island Phi Phi every year.

cation or what the man looked like. "We are starting from the last place she was drinking so we can check the CCTV footage and move on from there," he added.

The results of the sexual assault tests did not indicate that she had been raped, police told the *Gazette* on March 7.

The woman's inability to remember where the incident

happened, along with the test results, caused her to start doubting herself, police said, and she retracted her complaint.

Recurrent rapes in Krabi have made police "heavy-hearted", said Krabi City Police Chief Thaksin Phochakorn five months ago. "In many cases the victim is a tourist," he said.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

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## Baby bovine in hit-and-run, owner takes fall

A PICKUP truck struck and killed a young buffalo north of Phuket Town last Saturday night and then drove off, but authorities say the buffalo's owner was at fault.

"In this case, the owner of the buffalo must pay for the damage to the pickup truck," Phuket City Police chief Col Sermphan Sirikong explained to the *Gazette*.

"He is at fault because he did not keep his buffalo from wandering onto the road.

"However, we cannot press charges since no person has claimed ownership of the herd," he said.

Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation workers received a call at 12:30am that a baby buffalo was wounded on Pracha Samakee Road.

"Witnesses said a herd of buffalo were crossing the road and the pickup driver stopped his truck to let them pass. As he started to drive off, a baby buffalo ran across the road. The driver could not stop in time, and so he hit it," a rescue worker explained.

"He drove off... after that," he added.

Rescue workers arrived to find a female baby buffalo lying on the road. She was bleeding from the nose and her horns were broken.

"We tried to save the buffalo, but failed," the rescue worker said.

— Kraitsada Mueanhawong

# Land dispute: slicing the course

CONFLICTING descriptions of property boundaries on the land titles for a plot beside the Loch Palm Golf Course and for the course itself has prompted Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak to launch an investigation into which title deed is accurate.

Vice Governor Somkiet visited the site in person after Rattana Bunyoungpongler filed a complaint that Loch Palm had built a wall on her land.

However, Theera Wongsawanon, a representative of Loch Palm Golf Club, said, "We built the wall on our land according to the borders stated on our title deeds."

In her complaint, Ms Rattana explained that the club had also installed a gate at the end of the paved lane to her land, which she said blocked her access to Kathu-Koh Kaew road.

"The gate is manned by a security guard, and sometimes the guard won't let vehicles through, especially big trucks," she said.

The gate was apparently installed two years ago. Ms Rattana said she filed a complaint with the local municipality, but received no response.

"The *NorSor 3* deed that Ms Rattana holds was issued in 2006 and says that the street that joins Kathu-Koh Kaew road is public, but the *NorSor 3* that the golf club has was issued in 2001 and does not say the road is public," Vice Governor Somkiet explained.



Mr Theera (in green) explains that according to Loch Palm Golf Club's land titles, the wall was built on the club's land. Aggrieved landowner Ms Rattana (holding umbrella) looks on.

"I assigned the Land Department to examine both land title deeds again and confirm whether or not the street is a public thoroughfare and report the result to the Damrongtham Center [the provincial

ombudsman's office]," he said.

"The relevant officers will be called in to discuss the case after we learn the results," he added.

— Kraitsada Mueanhawong

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## Alleged Rohingya shooting sees international outcry

From page 3

...of the Royal Thai Navy".

ABC News in Australia reported receiving a statement from Vice Admiral Taratorn denying that navy sailors opened fire on the refugees.

Likewise, one of the top-ranking officers at the Kuraburi District Police declined to comment in detail about the incident, saying, "I am aware of this story. It is only a rumor to discredit Thai officers. There was no such shooting."

The officer, who asked not to be identified, did not disclose how he became aware of the story. He also offered no explanation as to what investigation – if any – had proved the rumors to be untrue.

Surin National Park Chief Rattanachart Noikondee told the *Gazette* he received no reports from park rangers or from villagers living within the park of any shootings.

Phang Nga MP Kantawan Tanthien, quoted by one news report as recently as Monday confirming that the shooting took place, was unavailable to confirm the report to the *Gazette*.

MP Kantawan would be "unavailable for days to come", the *Gazette* was told.

### BODIES

However, the senior Kuraburi District Police officer the *Gazette* spoke to did confirm that two bodies were pulled from the water in the same area at about



Members of the Royal Thai Navy apprehend a group of Rohingya in 2007. Photo: Gazette file

the same time as the alleged naval shootings.

The condition of the bodies made it impossible for police to determine whether or not the men were shot, said the officer.

"In fact, we are not sure if the bodies were Rohingya or Burmese fishing boat crew," he said.

The bodies were sent to Kuraburi Chaipat Hospital for further examination. Hospital staff there told the *Gazette* that post-mortem examinations, including x-rays, failed to produce any evidence of bullet wounds.

"The bodies were then handed back to the authorities," one staffer who declined to be identified, said.

— Phuket Gazette

# Photographer offers reward

## Travelling shutterbug returns home to find entire life's work stolen

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

A PROFESSIONAL travel photographer and boutique resort owner in Phuket is offering a 100,000-baht reward for any information leading to the return of his MacBook Pro and backup hard drive – which contain his life's work.

Brian Skyum, owner of Coco Palace Resort in Rawai, returned to Phuket after five weeks in the Philippines to find his maid was the only staffer still working for him and electronic items worth reportedly more than 500,000 baht were stolen from his room.

Among the items reported missing were an Apple MacBook, two Canon cameras, a tripod, a Panasonic home theater, a 2-terabyte hard disk, a Canon L series lens, a Sony DVD camcorder and a Samsung TV.

On the MacBook Pro and hard drive were 36 years of Mr Skyum's processed photography from over 170 countries – now all gone.

"I could survive without the half-million baht of monetary value; the photos are all that matter," Mr Skyum told the *Gazette*.

The widely published Danish photographer is the self-proclaimed "widest-travelled person in the world" and, up to this month, he had the photos to prove it.

"My photography is pretty much *National Geographic* style documentary. I presented public slideshows for 16 years, so I covered everything in each country," he said. "It's not just marking countries off a list."

If Mr Skyum is unable to regain his life's work, he plans to sell what equipment he has left.

"It's difficult to stop something that you've done since you were 20 years old. I've committed my life to this. I have no family, no children and no wife. I am married to my job and the planet Earth."

Though two-thirds of Mr Skyum's photographs are backed-up in his homeland, they are saved only in "raw format", meaning years of editing and fine tuning each photo is lost – with one-third of his photos completely gone.

Following Mr Skyum filing a complaint with the Chalong Police, Sub Lt Kraisorn Boonprasop is now investigating two main suspects: a Burmese handyman who was staying in Mr Skyum's room while he was out of the country; and the Coco Palace Resort manager, who quit four days before Mr Skyum returned from his trip.

"Mr Skyum allowed 'Mr Dam' and his family to stay in the room while he was travelling. He gave him the key," Lt Kraisorn said.



One of thousands of meticulously processed images created by Mr Skyum that were on his computer and hard disk. Photo: Brian Skyum

When Mr Skyum returned from his trip, his maid, the only staffer still working for him, told him that she had found the key to his room still in the door several days after Mr Dam had returned it to the resort manager and left.

The Coco Palace Resort, which has been on the market for eight years, was originally built for

about 25 million baht, all of which Mr Skyum said was derived from his photography business.

Any person who believes he has seen Mr Skyum's stolen equipment is urged to call the Chalong Police Station at 076-381247 or Mr Skyum at 080-8831040.

Additional reporting by Saran Mitratat



V/Gov Somkiet carries the Phuket Provincial sword.

## Phuket celebrates 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HM the King's visit to the island

A CEREMONY to mark HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's visit to Phuket 54 years ago was led by Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosutthirak on Monday.

A merit-making ceremony with nine monks at the Governor's residence started the proceedings at about 7am, after which V/Gov Somkiet carried the Phuket Provincial sword through the streets of Phuket.

The revered sword was presented to Phuket by King Vajiravudh (Rama VI) during his visit in 1917.

"The event is held to honor HM the King, HM Queen Sirikit and the royal family, and to commemorate their visit from March 8 to March 12, 1959," V/Gov Somkiet said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



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The men were caught with about 45 kilograms of kratom leaves.

## Black plate taxi driver nabbed: drug smuggling, offering bribes

A PHUKET-bound “black plate” taxi was caught doing double duty on March 9 as it hauled 45 kilograms of kratom leaves back from Surat Thani after dropping off a group of Russian tourists at a resort in Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

The drug-running duo in the car have been charged with intent to sell a category five drug and for bribery after allegedly offering cash to the investigating officers.

Mr Suriya and Mr Fuen were transferred to Plai Phraya District Police office for further investigation, Maj Manaporn added.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

# Protesters protect Muslim teacher from being sacked for joining Hajj

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

ABOUT 100 parents, students, community leaders and other Muslim residents from across Phuket gathered in front of Muslim Wittaya School on Thepkra-sattri Road in Koh Kaew on March 7 to protest a teacher being sacked for taking unapproved leave to join the Hajj.

The protesters called for the school board to rescind their decision to sack Parinya Payadsub, a respected Arabic language teacher at the school.

Samarn Kanungkarm, Imam of the Muslim community at Baan Para, in Pa Khlok, told the *Gazette*, “We want Mr Parinya to keep his job at the school. He is a very good teacher and he knows Arabic very well.”

Mr Parinya has joined the Hajj three times in the past five years. Muslims are required to make the journey to Mecca at least once during their lives, but many devotees make the journey more often. Pilgrims have 45 days to perform the rituals required to complete the Hajj.



Samarn Kanungkarm, Imam of the Baan Para Mosque, called for the school board to reinstate Mr Parinya as the Arabic teacher at the school.

However, the school board maintains a rule that teachers and other staff at the school are allowed to take time off to perform

the Hajj only once within any five-year period.

Last year, Mr Parinya again joined the pilgrimage from Phuket,

but without the approval of the school board.

On November 9, the school board set up a committee to review Mr Parinya’s unapproved leave.

The committee found that Mr Parinya’s actions were in breach of the school rules and his employment was ordered to be terminated, effective March 31.

However, the protest today has given the school board a moment of pause.

“We will still maintain the rule of school staff being allowed to take leave to join the Hajj only once every five years, but the board will review Mr Parinya’s circumstances again,” Srirat Ketmuang, chairman of the board, told the *Gazette*.

“I cannot make any promises that he will keep his job, but we will look into this as a special case,” he said.

The *Gazette* notes that Muslim Wittaya School is the largest Muslim school in Phuket and is home to the Islamic Council of Thailand’s Phuket office.

## ‘Necessary’ bus service causes friction

From page 1

...service that appeals to a different type of tourists. People will still use taxis to go to and from the airport,” Governor Maitri said.

“I support this new service. It is a public necessity. We need to have it,” he added.

Phuket Land Transportation Office (PLTO) chief Teerayut Prasertpol confirmed, “Once the bus service has been approved, the PLTO can issue the appropriate license within a week.”

The operator of the new bus service told the *Gazette*, “As soon as we have the permits, we are ready to roll.”

However, the Kata-Karon Taxi and Tuk-tuk Driver’s Co-operative, the same group of drivers who staged a blockade of the Karon beach road in January, had one simple message for the new bus operator: “Just try it.”

The person who said this asked not to be named, and told the *Gazette*, “I do not believe that local taxi and tuk-tuk drivers will be okay with this. The bus will take money from us. We are just local people trying to make ends meet day by day.”

Patong Taxi Association president Settasak Buason was more convivial.

“I don’t know about other taxi drivers, but our 500 members do not have any problems with it,” he said.

“I think we are looking at this in different ways. Of course taxi drivers will be affected, but the government has their reasons for developing public transport in order to give people another option.

“Our drivers understand that.

## Phuket Airport Bus Express

Airport									
50									Baan Muang Mai
50	50								Thalang
60	50	50							Tha Reua / Heroines Monument
60	60	50	50						Boat Lagoon
80	60	60	50	50					Tesco Junction
100	80	60	60	50	50				Kathu Junction
120	100	80	60	60	50	50			Patong (Jungceylon)
150	120	100	80	60	60	50	50		Karon Beach
150	150	120	100	80	60	60	50	50	Kata Beach

## The proposed scheduled fares for the pickup and drop off points.

Some other drivers may not,” Mr Settasak said.

At the airport, one operator who owns 15 taxis voiced his support for the new bus service – albeit on the condition the *Gazette* not publicly disclose his name.

“We have to look at the immediate future for Phuket. This is good for people and good for Phuket’s image,” he added.

Phuket Transport chief Teerayut asked the *Gazette* not to reveal the bus operator’s identity.

Although the contract to run the bus service is a government concession – meaning that all information relating to the terms of service and the company that will provide the service must be publicly available – Mr Teerayut asked the *Gazette* not to name the

man behind the new service until it is launched.

Regardless, the new bus service operator himself agreed to reveal that he has been running taxis at Phuket Airport for years, and that his taxi associates at the airport had no problem with him launching the new service.

“My fellow taxi drivers understand the bus service is needed and are happy to see Phuket progress,” he said.

The company has spent 6 million baht on refitting the buses to make sure they adhere to the standards required and have the appropriate luggage space.

“They have also been fitted with CCTV cameras in case there are any disturbances on the bus,” the operator explained.

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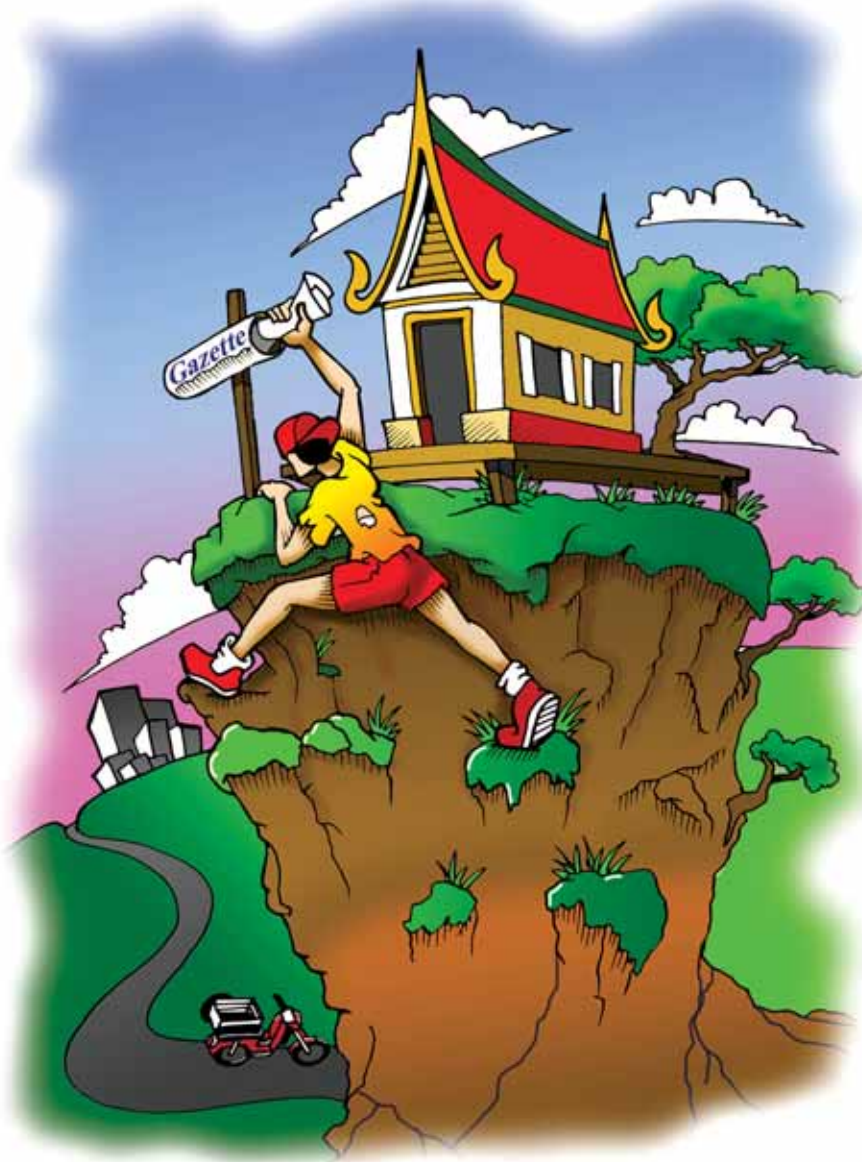
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OrBorTor President Ma-ann Samran holds up a license proving that a local business catering to Russian tourists in Phuket is operating legally. Photo: Christian Mouchet

## Gazette Poll: Russian cash not landing in Phuket pockets

IN THE latest *Phuket Gazette* online reader poll, asking whether the tourism infrastructure in Phuket is sufficiently developed to handle all the Russian visitors, 44% said it doesn't matter, because very little Russian money reaches the pockets of Phuket residents anyway.

The remaining responses were evenly divided between those who believe the infrastructure for Russian tourists is sufficient, those who think we need more Russian-focused businesses and speakers, and those who think all we need are more Russian speakers.

When results were broken down per respondent group, a difference of opinion emerged between local foreign and Thai residents.

Foreign residents felt twice as strongly as Thais and tourists that Phuket needs more Russian-speaking staff.

Thai residents, however, believe Phuket needs more than just additional Russian speakers. They outvoted foreign residents and tourists 2 to 1 in saying that Phuket needs more businesses to cater to Russians as well as more Russian speakers.

— *Phuket Gazette*

# Rescue team ready to fly out to save entangled manta ray

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THE sighting of a 5-meter manta ray entangled in heavy ropes off Koh Racha Noi has galvanized marine experts from as far away as Bangkok and Singapore to come to its rescue.

Nantarika Chansue, the director of the Veterinary Medical Aquatic Animal Research Center and faculty of Veterinarian Sciences at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, has called on the entire Phuket community for help, suggesting that community members post comments on "Save the Manta" Facebook event if the pelagic animal is spotted again.

Once Dr Nantarika is notified of another sighting, she can coordinate her team, staff from the Marine Life Park in Singapore and relevant Thai government bodies to launch an emergency rescue mission.

Photos taken by Zylane Lee of the manta ray on February 12 started to circulate on Facebook within the Phuket dive community last week.

"It was swimming alright to our untrained eyes," Ms Zylane's mother, May Yuen Wu, who took video footage of the manta ray during the dive, told the *Gazette*.

"This was our first time to see a manta and we were very happy to see it as that's our purpose for returning to Phuket for diving every year," she said.

"It only dawned on us that the manta was having problems at the very end [of the dive] when it swam closer to me. We wished we could do something, but we couldn't. We were sad and heartbroken to see such a beautiful creature in such a state," she said.

Dr Nantarika told the *Gazette* that she hoped it wasn't too late to save the manta ray.

"I'm not sure if the animal is still alive, because the rope went across his mouth. So it depends on whether he can eat or not... If he can eat we have more time to



The manta ray's survival depends on whether the ropes prevent it from eating or not. Photo: Zylane Lee

get the rope out," Dr Nantarika told the *Gazette* last Friday.

"The first thing to do is find the animal," she said.

Staff at the Marine Life Park on Sentosa Island in Singapore are reportedly ready to come to Phuket to help in the rescue mission as soon as the animal is spotted.

The Marine Life Park, the world's largest oceanarium, houses the world's largest collection of manta rays, including the only giant oceanic manta ray in captivity.

"Members of the Marine Police and the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) from Bangkok as well as Phuket are also ready to take action," Dr Nantarika said. "Everybody is ready, we just need to know the current location [of the manta ray]."

Even Phuket fishing boats have been put on alert and are ready to respond if necessary according to Dr Pinsak Suraswadi, Acting Director of Marine Resource Conservation and Restoration Division, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources.

Dr Nantarika explained that the rescue effort might require an enormous net 300 to 400 meters across.

"I would prefer not to give it [the manta ray] a tranquilizer, but if it looks like it will be dangerous for the people working with it we might consider the option," Dr Nantarika said.

"This is a huge animal, it's not like a dolphin where you can go in and cut the rope, a manta can actually flip you over," she added.

Dr Nantarika thanked the Phuket diving community, especially Darren Gaspari from Aussie Divers Phuket, who has been a driving force behind the movement to save the entangled ray.

Heads of relevant departments are in Bangkok for the 16th Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora discussing a variety of wildlife issues including the protection of sharks and manta rays.

Dr Nantarika took the opportunity to bring the top brass together to discuss the establishment of a Marine Endangered Animal Stranded Network, which would be a contact point for sightings of stranded and distressed animals like the recently sighted manta ray.

## Officials shine spotlight on touts toting illegal slow lorises

A SEVEN-DAY educational campaign against profiteering from slow lorises and other wildlife on the streets of Patong came to its conclusion on Thursday.

To kick off the campaign, about 30 government officers handed out English-language brochures on the illegal use of wildlife in one of the most tourist-dense areas of Phuket, between Loma Park and Soi Bangla in Patong on March 5.

The officers were from the Khao Phra Thaeo Wildlife Conservation Development and Extension Centre, Natural Resources and Environmental Crime Suppression Division and other relevant departments.

Patong's popular walking street, Soi Bangla, has over the last year seen frequent raids on touts offering tourists slow lorises for photo opportunities. Despite the

crackdowns and the threats of more *Gazette* readers frequently write in claiming to have seen touts toting the small protected creatures through the bustling nightlife.

Slow lorises are listed in Appendix II (animals strictly measured and monitored to ensure their numbers do not decline) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). They are also protected by the Thailand Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act BE 2535.

"There have been a lot of tourists complaining about touts offering different types of wildlife, especially slow lorises, for photo ops. They say that the situation sometimes causes problems and that the animals look like they are suffering," said Awat Nitikul, chief of the Environmental Conservation

Unit based at Phuket's Khao Phra Thaeo wildlife sanctuary in Thalang.

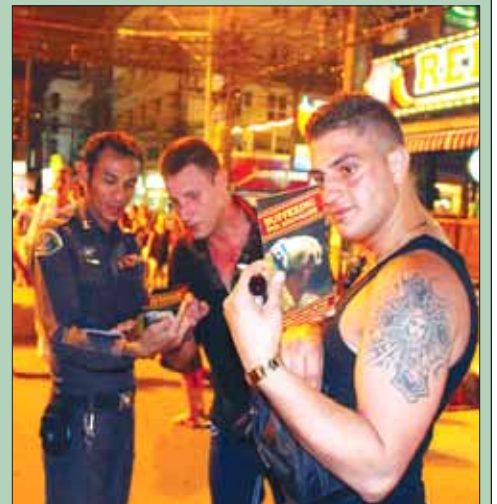
"From the beginning of 2012 to the present, 17 slow lorises have been rescued in Patong and taken to the Phang Nga Wildlife Nursery Station to be treated and protected," Chief Awat added.

The possession of a protected species without a permit carries a penalty of up to 40,000 baht or up to four years imprisonment, or both, Chief Awat explained after a slow loris raid in October last year.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



A slow loris



Officers passed out pamphlets about the illegal use of slow lorises in Patong.

# Central World blaze 'not terrorism'

## AROUND THE nation

THE burning of the Central World shopping mall following the end of the 2010 red-shirt protests was not an act of terrorism, a civil court has ruled.

The decision by Rachadaphisek Civil Court has raised the spirits of 24 red-shirt leaders facing terrorism charges over their alleged roles in the Central World and other arson attacks.

Nonetheless, Chief Justice Thawee Prachuabarlarp, head of the Criminal Court, said the facts heard or testified to during civil lawsuits would not affect trials involving the 24 red-shirt leaders and members of the Democratic Alliance Against Dictatorship.

The civil lawsuit ruling was made in a case filed by the Central Group, which owns the torched Zen Department Store section of the mall, against Deves Insurance.

The insurance company had



Central Group, which owns the torched Zen Department Store section of the mall, filed a civil lawsuit against Deves Insurance after the company failed to pay out for the damage in the riots. Photo: The Nation

refused to pay compensation to Central, claiming that acts of terrorism were not covered in its policy, causing the mall group to file a lawsuit demanding 1.712 bil-

lion baht from Deves.

On March 5, the court ruled that the arson attack on Zen happened after the red-shirt leaders announced on the rally stage

their decision to end the demonstration.

The arson attack stirred up the crowd, which went out of control, fitting the definition of a

riot, hence the defendant must pay compensation of 1.647 billion baht, the court ruled.

The court also said the plaintiff had paid insurance premiums of more than 10 million baht per year to the defendant. Since Deves had intentionally neglected to respect consumer rights and refused to accept its responsibilities by not paying the compensation, the court ruled the insurer must pay a penalty of 329 million baht, or one-fifth of the damage incurred.

Red-shirt lawyers are now seeking a copy of the court ruling to fight the terrorism case filed against the organization's leaders at the Criminal Court.

However, the situation is complicated by cases also filed against the leaders at Southern Bangkok Civil Court by people whose houses were burnt down in arson attacks.

The court ruled in August 2011 that these attacks were terrorism because they aimed to oust the government.

As a result, Southeast Insurance did not have to pay compensation as terrorism was not covered by the plaintiffs' policies.

## Thaksin's 'courageous' talks created insurgent admiration

FORMER prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra won "much admiration" from the Deep South's separatist movement for initiating talks with insurgents, a former member of one of the groups has told the media.

Thailand's National Security Council signed an agreement to hold talks with insurgent group the Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN) on February 28.

The former fighter told Isra News Agency that Mr Thaksin was involved in talks with BRN leaders a few years ago, when he met with group leader Hasan Taib in Dubai.

"He was the first person to have the courage to talk with the BRN. This has made the world community aware that the Thai government acknowledges the existence of this movement," said the man.

The former BRN member said

the group trusted Mr Thaksin more than the opposition Democrat Party to heed its demands.

"The Democrats will in no way agree to the movement's proposal, but Thaksin can avoid rules and skip loopholes. When Thaksin agreed to talks, the [BRN] leaders trusted him and agreed to talk with him," he said.

The source said that insurgent attacks had not stopped in the South despite the deal because there were other groups operating in the area.

"Incidents have not completely gone in the area because it is not only the BRN that carry out the attacks," he said.



Mr Thaksin

## Polar bear protection struck down

A PROPOSAL to ban cross-border trade in polar bears and their parts was defeated last week at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Bangkok.

Inuit hunters were celebrating the failure of the move by the United States, pointing out that the bear provided a livelihood for many of their people.

"We respect the polar bear. We don't want to see it disappear. So we manage it very well," Terry Audla, president of an organization that represents many of Canada's Inuit, said.

"Inuit people rely on polar bears

for food and money," Mr Audla said.

Meanwhile at the same summit, Thailand failed to gain support from members to downgrade the protection for Siamese and salt-water crocodiles.

The two crocodiles are included in the list of 600 species threatened with extinction, and international trade in them or their parts is prohibited under CITES Appendix I.

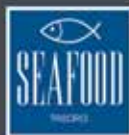
The Thai Fisheries Department unsuccessfully called on the 129 nations present to downgrade the two species from Appendix I to Appendix II so the Kingdom could continue exporting crocodile parts and products.



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## In brief...

## Alleged ringleader in India gang-rape case found dead

THE man police say was the ringleader in a gang rape on a New Delhi bus in December that outraged India hanged himself in his cell on Monday, prison authorities said, raising questions about jail monitoring and security.

Ram Singh made a noose from the mat he slept on and hanged himself just before dawn from a grille in the ceiling of the cell he shared with three others, prison spokesman Sunil Gupta said.

## Homemade booze kills 51 in Libya – health ministry

At least 51 people have died since Saturday after drinking homemade alcohol, most of them in the Libyan capital Tripoli, with more than 300 others suffering from alcohol poisoning, the health ministry said on Monday.

## Rebels in Central Africa seize two towns, threaten new offensive

CENTRAL African Republic rebels have seized two eastern towns and may resume an insurgency against the central government if it fails to free hundreds of political prisoners as agreed in a peace deal, a rebel spokesman said on Tuesday.

## Mining and China are central issues in Greenland election

VOTERS in Greenland's capital will stream into the town's one polling station on Tuesday in a national parliamentary election in which mining, Chinese influence and the environment are core issues.

With sea ice thawing and new shipping routes opening in the Arctic, the former Cold War ally of the West has emerged from isolation as a geopolitical interest for governments seeking a share of untapped minerals and potential offshore oil and gas.

## Snow disrupts transport across northwestern Europe

AN OVERNIGHT snowstorm in northwestern Europe forced the closure of Frankfurt Airport, caused record traffic jams in Belgium, and left British and French drivers sleeping in their cars.

Take-offs and landings at Europe's third-busiest airport were halted at around noon on Tuesday to clear snow from the runways.

In France, a Tunisair plane slid off the runway on landing at Orly airport, forcing the closure of a runway at Paris's second hub while 140 passengers were evacuated.

In Belgium, the breakdown assistance association Touring said the total length of tailbacks on highways and major roads at

their rush-hour peak hit 1,670km, beating by far the previous record of 1,285km set on February 3 last year.

"There was too much snow at the wrong moment. If it snows a lot at night, the salt doesn't work as there aren't enough cars to spread it around," said Touring spokesman Danny Smagghe.

The high-speed Eurostar train service connecting London with the French and Belgian capitals and the Thalys line linking Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam in the Netherlands and Cologne in Germany were both suspended.

Brussels' two main railway stations were closed.

– Reuters



Heavy equipment is used to clear snow at the Frankfurt Airport. PHOTO: Reuters

## North Korea severs Red Cross hotline with South

By Ju-min Park

NORTH Korea has cut off a Red Cross hotline with South Korea as it escalates its war of words against Seoul and Washington in response to a military drill in the South and UN sanctions imposed for its recent nuclear test.

The North had threatened to cut off the hotline on March 11 if the United States and South Korea did not abandon their joint military exercise.

The Red Cross hotline is used to communicate between Seoul and Pyongyang, which do not have diplomatic relations.

"We called at 9am and there was no response," a government official from South Korea said. The line is tested each day.

Pyongyang has also threatened to cut off a hotline with UN forces in South Korea, at the border "truce village" of Pammunjom.

Tensions on the Korean peninsula have risen since the North conducted a third nuclear test on February 12, prompting new UN sanctions.

South Korea and US forces are conducting large-scale military drills until the end of April, while the North is also gearing up for a massive state-wide military exercise.

North Korea has accused the United States of using the military drills in South Korea as a



North Korean soldiers with weapons attend military training in an undisclosed location in this picture released by the North's official KCNA news agency in Pyongyang on March 11, 2013. PHOTO: Reuters

launch pad for a nuclear war and has threatened to scrap the armistice with Washington that ended hostilities in the 1950-53 Korean War.

The North has threatened a nuclear strike on the United States,

but such a threat has been dismissed as rhetoric by analysts, as the North does not have the military capacity to reach the United States.

The North is viewed as more likely to stage some kind of attack

along a disputed sea border, if it does anything at all, rather than risk a war with South Korea and the United States, which it would lose, according to most military assessments.

– Reuters

## Myanmar copper mine told to compensate for land grabs

PEOPLE whose land was seized to allow the expansion of a copper mine in northwestern Myanmar, prompting protests that were crushed by police, should be compensated before the project goes ahead, according to an official report published on Tuesday.

The report, led by opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, also found that inexperienced police fired smoke bombs containing

harmful phosphorous into a protesters' camp at the Monywa copper mine last November, causing serious injuries.

The heavy-handed raids on protesters called into question the sincerity of Myanmar's reforms, kicked off in 2011 by a quasi-civilian government that replaced a military regime that had run the country for half a century.

Land grabs are increasingly

contested by residents exercising new-found freedoms and no longer afraid to speak out.

"The commission does not think the project should be allowed to continue as it is," the report said regarding the US\$1 billion expansion of the mine. It said a "lack of transparency" was the main reason for events leading up to the violence.

– Reuters

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# Tax filing deadline nears

Thai and foreign employees have until April 1 to file their personal income tax returns

WITH the peak of Thai hot season fast approaching, the Personal Income Tax (PIT) return filing deadline is also nigh.

Usually, the filing deadline is on March 31, but since the last day of March this year falls on a Sunday, income earners in the Kingdom have been given until Monday, April 1 to file their paper returns, or until Tuesday, April 9 if they file electronically.

Speaking at a recent seminar for Thai and foreign tax payers, Dr Satit Rungkasiri, director-general of the Revenue Department (RD), announced that tax forms and respective instructions are available in English language via the RD's website (see end info).

Dr Satit stated: "The Revenue Department has introduced the English version of PIT return forms PorNgorDor (PND) 90 and 91, as well as a guide explaining how to fill in these forms.

"This will help to facilitate the tax filing process for both Thai and foreign taxpayers who work in Thailand."

Meanwhile, the RD has amended the rules of personal income tax filing for married couples, allowing spouses to file all types of income separately.

Although a wife could previously file her salary income separately, she was required to file other types of income, such as passive income from assets, jointly with her husband.

Applicable to income received in the 2012 tax year and onwards, this is the first time that the RD has allowed each spouse to choose to declare all of their personal income separately; file separately but only for employment (and jointly for other income sources); or file everything jointly.

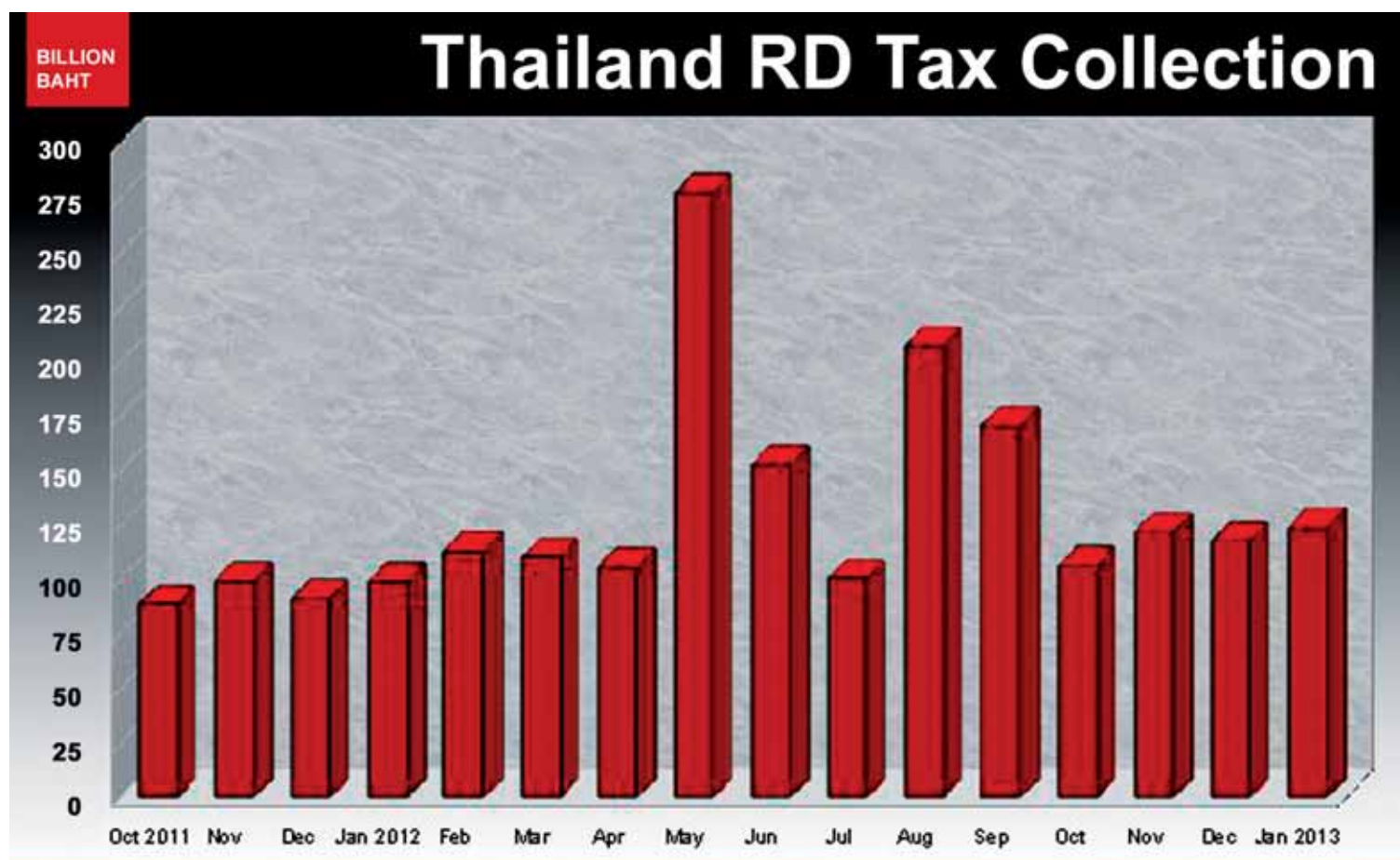
How a couple should file will depend on their specific circumstances.

When filing separately, and the couple cannot identify whose income it is, the husband and wife must include one half of such income in their own return.

However, if the unidentified income falls under Section 40(8) of the Thai tax code – including income derived from business, commerce, or transport – the couple can agree upon the proportion of such income allocation, provided that the combined income remains the same.

If the proportion is disagreeable, each of them must include one half of such income in their own return.

There are a few deductions spouses can claim. These include a child allowance of 15,000 baht per child, per spouse. The maximum amount per child is 34,000 baht



**BECKONING THE TAX BASE:** Although the Revenue Department collects tax year round, its biggest month is May. Photo: Gazette Graphics.

per child, which includes a child education allowance of 2,000 baht per child, per spouse (17,000 baht per spouse, per child in school). The other type of deduction is the home mortgage interest allowance of 100,000 baht per spouse (a combined maximum amount of 200,000 baht).

Ms Jitmanee Suwannapool, principle advisor on Tax Base Management and RD Spokesperson said that the RD encourages e-filing because it is fast, convenient and available 24 hours everyday."

She added that owed tax payments can be made with credit cards through some participating banks such as Siam Commercial Bank, Kasikorn Bank, Bangkok Bank and Krungthai Bank, which effectively extends actual payment from between 45 to 51 days.

The spokesperson concluded: "Our experience has shown that the most common mistake in filing personal income tax return is income understatement.

"The RD can easily crosscheck with the withholding of income by the payer. Therefore, taxpayers should keep their withholding tax certificate."

Mistakes in reporting can result in additional liability, she said. – *Phuket Gazette*



Source: Revenue Department

For more information in English language about tax filing, including forms and instructions, go to the RD website ([rd.go.th](http://rd.go.th)) and click the English button in the top horizontal menu bar, then click "Personal Income Tax: Fileable Tax Return For Tax Year 2012" link in the 'What's New' section on the left hand side.

## Phuket Revenue Department contact numbers

Phuket Town 1: 0-7621-2360

Phuket Town 2: 0-7628-3199

Kathu: 0-7632-1403

Thalang: 0-7631-1493 ; 0-7631-1494

## Government to collect B2.1tn

THE Fiscal Policy Office (FPO) has estimated that the government will collect 2.1 trillion baht in taxes in the fiscal year of 2013.

The 2.1tn projection for the 2013 fiscal year (October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013) is expected to be a result from the nationwide 300 baht minimum daily wage policy.

According to FPO Director-General Dr Somchai Sujjapongse the newly implemented minimum wage will lead to an increase in value-added-tax (VAT).

The FPO, however, has not come up with the figures for 2014, but it expected to see a deficit of around 225bn baht; 75bn baht lower than that of the 2013 projection.

Dr Somchai went on say that the Revenue Department (RD) would see 1.75tn baht in revenue, 21bn baht or 1.2% lower than its original target; as a result of the decrease in corporate tax rate, from 30 to 20%.

In addition, the RD would collect 4.6bn baht a year less than

it did in the past since the government has allowed married couples to file separate returns (see story above).

However, the Excise Department should collect around 441bn baht this year, 28bn baht or 6.8% higher than anticipated; thanks to the first-car-buyer scheme and the rise in alcohol and tobacco taxes.

Dr Somchai also estimated that the Customs Department would collect around 125bn baht in tax this year. – *Phuket Gazette*

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# Phuket to be Thai Smile hub

The Kingdom's 'light premium' carrier launches new routes to India, Malaysia

THAI Airways' subsidiary airline, Thai Smile, is making Phuket its regional hub with plans to connect the island to three new destinations – Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Mumbai and New Delhi, India, with services commencing April 1.

Formerly announcing the new routes, Prasert Tanhansa, manager of the THAI Airlines (TG) district sales office in Phuket led a press conference last week from the TG sales office in Phuket Town.

Mr Prasert commented: "At present, competition in the airline business is really intense, especially [for] airlines which have low base costs.

"Thai Airways, thus, created Thai Smile to be able to compete in the mid-tier market, giving much importance to Phuket as a hub to connect to both domestic and international routes.

"So we're going to launch three new routes connecting Phuket with Kuala Lumpur, New Delhi and



**HOT HOT:** Prasert Tanhansa says that competition has gotten intense.

Mumbai – starting in early April."

The routes will be serviced by Airbus 320-200 aircraft with 166 seats available – 150 economy and 16 business class. The schedule is as follows:

Phuket – Kuala Lumpur service starts April 2, with four flights per week in each direction, on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday, departing Phuket at 9:20am, to arrive at KL 11:40am,

while flights depart KL 12:30pm.

Phuket – New Delhi service starts April 1, with two flights per week in each direction, on Mondays and Thursdays, departing Phuket at 10:05pm, arriving to ND 12:55am, and departing ND (as of April 2) 1:55am, arriving to Phuket 7:55am.

Phuket – Mumbai service starts April 3, with two weekly flights in each direction, from Phuket on Wednesdays and Saturdays, departing 10:30pm and arriving in Mumbai 1:10am. The return flights (starting April 4) depart Mumbai on Tuesdays and Sundays at 2:20am, arriving to Phuket 8:20am.

Mr Prasert said that from March 15 to May 31, Thai Smile will offer a special promotional price of 4,000 baht round trip between Phuket and Kuala Lumpur.

He added that only 10 economy seats per flight will be offered at this rate.

Reservations made 14 or more days in advance can take advantage of an all-inclusive rate of 5,180 baht, and 5,395 baht for reservations of 7 days.

Mr Prasert said that since launching sales on February 29, the company has had a good response for the two Indian routes.

"Phuket is a popular destination among Indians, who like the island for its shopping, delicious food, beautiful beaches and night-life entertainment."

The response for the Kuala Lumpur route hasn't yet met expectations, however.

"Other airlines already had established this route [Phuket – KL] before [us] already. In any case, Thai Smile is launching these new routes so as to connect to India and to make Phuket a hub," he concluded. – *Phuket Gazette*

*Inquires about schedules and fares can be made by calling the THAI Phuket sales office on 076-360-444.*

## Doha flying high in 2013

QATAR Airways is preparing for the opening of the brand new Hamad International Airport.

The iconic facility, built at a cost of over US\$15.5 billion, is set to open in phases, beginning April 1 with a select-few airlines moving from the current Doha International Airport.

Qatar Airways Group, which will manage and operate the new airport, will move to Hamad International towards the end of the year.

Speaking last week at a press conference at the ITB tourism trade

show in the German capital, Qatar Airways Chief Executive Officer Akbar Al Baker spelled out the exciting developments taking place in Qatar with the national airline playing a pivotal role in the nation's airport infrastructure developments.

Showcasing the latest updates at ITB Berlin was a perfect platform for Qatar Airways to provide travel, aviation and business journalists from around the globe with an update on the world's newest aviation hub.

Al Baker also spoke of how

Qatar Airways looked forward to becoming a fully fledged member of *oneworld*, the first of the major Gulf carriers to announce intentions to join a global airline alliance.

And he elaborated on an exciting new association, set to begin this summer, when Qatar Airways becomes a strategic partner with football giants FC Barcelona.

"The opening of Hamad International Airport, our new home, will be a formidable milestone in the country's relatively short history in the aviation industry.



**A MAN WITH A PLAN:** Qatar Airways CEO Akbar Al Baker addresses media during a press conference on the opening day of ITB Berlin.

## Thai scented rice gets EU patent

THAILAND's Hom Mali Rice has become the first ASEAN produce to win the geographical indication patent in EU.

Director-General of the Department of Intellectual Property Pajchima Tanasanti said that the "Khao Hom Mali Thung Kula Ronghai" rice of Thailand has been carrying the "Protected Geographical Indication" label, granted by the EU, since March 4.

Mrs Pajchima stated that the approval of the Geographical Indication (GI) patent has made this famous Thai rice the first in ASEAN to receive such certification by the EU.

The Intellectual Property Department chief said that the GI patent will be an effective marketing tool in adding more value to the Hom Mali rice while enabling traders to raise its price.

She added that the Intellectual Property Department in preparing to apply for the same patent for

the *Khao Sang Yod Muang Phatthalung*, which has been known for its high nutrition and effectiveness in helping diabetics. This rice is now available in some

European markets.

Moreover, Thailand is planning to apply for the GI patent for silk yarns from the Northeast, added Mrs Pajchima. – *NNT*



**A VALUABLE COMMODITY:** A rice farmer on a paddy somewhere outside of Chiang Mai in Thailand's Northern region. Photo: Darren Johnson

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# PROPERTY Gazette

# More than half of Laguna Shores already reserved



**POPULAR:** Laguna Shores offers affordable apartments in the heart of Laguna. Photos: Laguna

LAGUNA Property, Phuket's largest developer of high-quality resort residences, has started selling units in the third wing of its landmark Laguna Shores holiday apartment development.

Almost 120 Laguna Shores units – more than 50 per cent of the total 229-unit building – have been reserved, since its market debut on December 15, 2012.

The stylish one and two-bedroom apartments, ranging in size from 40 to 88 square meters have various layouts that utilize space, and prices starting at 3.7 million baht.

Laguna Shores will be built on a lagoon view site at the heart of the Laguna Phuket resort and provide owners with access to a range of the resort's renowned lifestyle benefits.

Buyers who have reserved apartments represent a broad range of nationalities with British, Russian, Thai, Singaporean, Australian and Chinese being the main buyers. Seventeen per cent of the buyers are existing Laguna Property owners.

"We're delighted that Laguna Shores has received such an enthusiastic response from buyers who clearly



The apartments will range from 40 to 88sqm and will have sunset views.

recognize the secure investment and lifestyle qualities this development offers," said Stuart Reading, deputy managing director of Laguna Resorts and Hotels.

"It's very pleasing that our decision to proceed with Laguna Shores, which represents a new direction and character for our property portfolio, has been vindicated by this positive response."

The apartments are sold leasehold and will be made available in a rental pool managed by a new brand under the prestigious Banyan Tree Group. Investment and lifestyle rental programs provide

maximum flexibility and choices to investors.

Construction of Laguna Shores is due to begin during the second half of this year, with completion expected in 2015.

Show units of three different apartment layouts are on display in Laguna Phuket's Canal Shopping Village.

Its other branded luxury properties available, include Banyan Tree Residences, Dusit Thani Pool Villas and Laguna Village.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For further information visit: [lagunaproperty.com](http://lagunaproperty.com)



## A NEW ANGLE ON LIFE

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

# Koh Samui puts on a game face

Photo: Mikiane

## Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

WAR is hell. While the opinion on developing tourism often ranges from heaven to hell or somewhere in-between those luxury hotel 400 thread count fine Egyptian bed sheets (as usual I can't help but take a quick detour off into the realms of upscale bedding).

Apparently there is an ongoing controversy over thread count linen and whether the claims of ultra luxurious 800 or 1,200 count sheets are just a marketing ploy. Apparently the baseline for the good stuff, sheet wise, is a 200 count. Anything under that mark and you risk counting sheep or saying "hello"

and "goodbye" to the moon on a beach mat.

But we are here to talk about Koh Samui, that 'other' resort island over in the Gulf of Thailand. We've just completed our 2012 C9 Hotelworks' *Hotel Market Update* and the upswing in trading is impressive.

Rattling off the roll call of facts and figures, last year hotel-wide occupancy hit a historical high of 68 per cent.

Most of us already know that their gateway airport is unlike Phuket, which is operated by the government's Airports of Thailand (AoT) administration, along with most every other key facility in the country. There is of course, the alter ego DCA (Department of Civil Aviation) which runs tertiary airports including Trang, Surat Thani and

Krabi. The latter has continued to spill an ocean of red ink in operating losses each year.

But Koh Samui's airport was privately developed by Bangkok Airways and opened in 1989. At the time the airline was an early pioneer in promoting tourism to the area and has over the years continued to evolve into a profitable and, at least in my opinion, well-run business.

National flag carrier Thai came into the picture late in the game with limited flights from 2008 onwards.

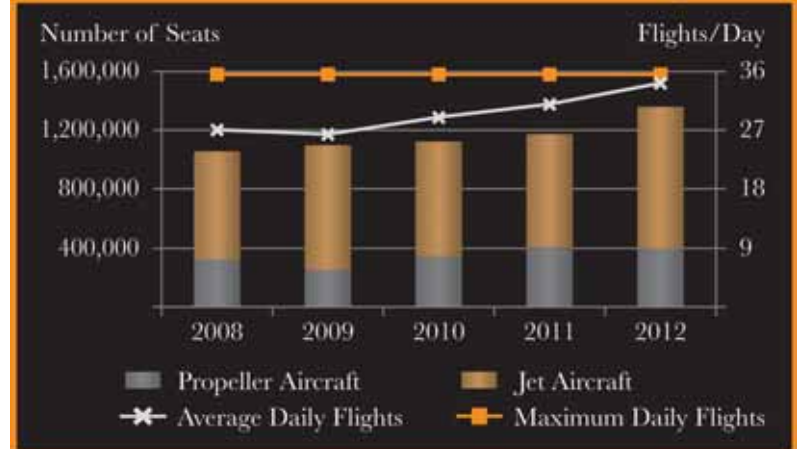
In a way, luxury hotel development leapfrogged Phuket over the past five years and the brand stable now includes such well known names as Four Seasons, W, Conrad, and InterContinental. Another driving force has been strong design-led independent properties such as The Library (pictures of its red swimming pool continue to circle the globe at the speed of light).

From a *Field of Dreams* perspective, they built it and hoped "they would come". By the numbers they did just that. Passenger arrivals, which remain a key metric, have seen a compounded annual growth of 8 per cent from 2004 through 2008. Year on year growth in 2012 over the previous year was 15 per cent, with international arrivals surging by 40 per cent.

There is one key defining difference between our own Phuket airport and Koh Samui, which has a restriction on daily flights and a limitation on operating hours – Koh Samui has a ceiling of 36 flights per day, due to an environmental restriction on noise impact. This is, and has continued to be a spoiler for broad tourism growth.

Our research into the trends showed hotel occupancy rates going up, despite the limitation, which was perplexing so we drilled down into the data. A significant shift has been Bangkok Airways upgrading its aging ATR 72 fleet and the acquisition of more modern Airbuses. Looking at the airline seat capacity in 2012 versus 2011, more than 189,000 new seats were available to and from

## Seat Capacity and Number of Flights at Samui Airport



Source: Samui Airport Property Fund and C9 Hotelworks Market Research

## Top 10 Source Markets



Source: Surat Thani Provincial Office of Tourism and Sports and C9 Hotelworks Market Research

Koh Samui. Bingo! The answer is of course airlift.

Another aid to the growth has been a new international service to Kuala Lumpur, more Hong Kong flights and the introduction of Singapore Airlines regional carrier SilkAir from the Lion City. Visitors from long-haul destinations are able to smoothly transit via Changi.

Europe continues to be a key source of tourists with the top 3 markets for the island being Germany, Thailand and the UK. This trio commands 27 per cent of the pie.

Scanning the horizon of the remainder of 2013 and beyond we ask what is in store for Koh Samui? Bangkok Airways is currently

having the authorities review the environmental restrictions, given the new aircraft are less noisy and the impact is softened.

An increase of daily flights from 36 to 50 would be evolutionary as direct flights from emerging markets such as China could be accommodated.

Presently the tide has turned positive and great things may very well be out there within reach. It is doubtful though, that any international flights will be coming directly from Egypt, bearing 1,200-thread cotton sheets. But you just never know.

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

### LaGuna

PROPERTY RESALE

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- 2 beds 3 baths Condominium
- lagoon view • freehold
- fully furnished

**3 Laguna Fairway-Townhome II THB 19.5 M**



- 3 beds 2.5 baths Townhome
- golf view • leasehold
- fully furnished

**4 Laguna Village-Townhome II THB 21.7 M**



- 4 beds 3 baths Townhome
- lagoon view • leasehold
- fully furnished

**5 Laguna Village-Residences III THB 35 M**



- 4 beds 3 baths Residence
- lagoon view • leasehold
- unfurnished

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# Princess Yachts prepare for PIMEX

**LUXURY**  
living

BOAT Lagoon Yachting, the sole distributor of Princess Yachts SEA, is giving away a free yacht charter at the annual PIMEX yacht show.

Having served the boating community since 1995, the company is probably best known for being the exclusive authorized dealer for prestigious Princess Yachts.

Joining in the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Phuket International Marine Exhibition (PIMEX), Princess South East Asia will raffle off an exclusive yacht charter for eight people on the exciting Princess 60 Motor Yacht.

Joining the raffle is as simple as it gets, fill in one of the forms distributed throughout the show or visit the Boat Lagoon's "yachting on water" display to get one. Then hand the form to one of the Boat Lagoon Yachting Staff (who can be recognized by the Princess marque on their shirts) or drop it in the provided collection box and you could find yourself on a state of the art luxurious motor yacht in no time.

The draw will be held by the owner of the yacht a few days



**ON THE MOVE:** The Princess 64 sails the Andaman Sea towards Phuket.

after the show and the winner will be contacted directly as well as announced through Phuket local media.

Jeremy Tutt, General Manager of Boat Lagoon Yachting is looking forward to this year's PIMEX with excitement and anticipation. With a mere three weeks to go, the preparations are in full swing.

"PIMEX has always been one of our favorite shows because of the opportunity to connect to the local yachting community and this year we have prepared an especially exciting display," Jeremy said.

Princess South East Asia will display at least five yachts out of the 13 in the Flybridge range. These include, the Princess 78, two Princess 72, the Princess 64 and the Princess 60. The often talked about grey hulls offer a variety of different interiors including light oak, serotina cherry and walnut.

Another first from Princess during the show will be the Asia launch of the new Princess 56.

If you are in the market for a yacht in this range, you shouldn't miss this yacht. According to Jeremy: "The new 56 combines a spacious and exquisitely



**Jeremy Tutt, MD of Boat Lagoon Yachting.**

finished interior with exhilarating performance and is destined to become the new benchmark for her class. As with all Princess craft, the interior is crisp and contemporary and finished to the highest quality to create an interior ambiance of a much larger vessel."

As a highly successful brokerage company, Boat Lagoon Yachting is planning on bringing a few additional yachts to the show.

The largest yacht, available for viewing to select clients, will be Moon Sand, a 41 meter (135ft) Sovereign Superyacht built in New Zealand.

Completed in 2003 her recent interior design reflects the endowment of the design work of Deus Design and gives this yacht her very own character.

Another big fish is the Astondoa 102 GLX. Known for their high level of customization, the 90-year-old Astilleros Astondoa shipyard is building truly exceptional yachts. This particular model is in excellent condition and awaiting visitors to marvel at her.

No lineup of yachts would be complete without the opportunity for charter guests to choose their next holiday home on the water. Between the Astondoa 102 and a wide variety of Princess Yachts there is a charter for everyone.

To cater to the ever increasing number of return guests, Boat Lagoon Yachting recently appointed Mr Rico Stapel as the dedicated contact person who personally caters for the wishes and needs of every charter guest. Rico Stapel has come from Northrop and Johnson, where he acted as Charter Manager for Asia.

*The Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) is proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette, PGTV and the nationally televised Phuket Today show on True Visions. Phuket Today runs on True HD, channel 99 and 58.*

**- Phuket Gazette**

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# The Emerald Terrace stands out in Patong

THE uniquely designed Emerald Terrace will cover 1.3 rai of land on a hillside in Patong. The 7-storey, low-rise condominium, will have 133 units comprising 98 studios; 21 one-bedroom apartments – eight of which will have private rooftops – and six two-bedroom apartments with private roof tops.

Owners can use the swimming pool or relax in the distinctive pod-shaped seating area overlooking the pool. There is also a fitness center, jacuzzi, garden, internet and cable TV.

*The Phuket Gazette* spoke to Sawit Ketroj, managing director of Phuket Future Development Co Ltd about the Emerald Terrace.

## Phuket Gazette: Why did you choose to build your development in Patong?

Sawit Ketroj: We chose to build the Emerald Terrace Condos in Patong because of our close relationship with many of the agents in that area, who, along with us, decided Patong is the center of Phuket's tourism and economic development. We studied Patong's sales and rental market, met with many clients and property owners to get to know the interests of the people, what's needed and what's wanted in Patong. Finally, Patong is a beautiful area in a perfect location, ideal for all types of lifestyles.

## What other developments do you have in Phuket?

Our other development is located at the Phuket Country Club Golf Course, Kathu. These modern style luxury condos are 100 per cent sold out.

## Do you have any plans for more developments in Phuket?

We have plans to build a very unique condo which will break ground around April 2013. We have an interesting concept for this condo as it is going to be very different from our other projects and those available on the market today.

## What does Emerald Terrace offer that's different to other condominiums in Phuket?

The Emerald Terrace is a project created under the concept of "Quality Living, Quality Condo". Our plan is to provide a quality lifestyle for all of our clients. Emerald Terrace condo is only a short walk from the beach, with sea views from many units. The condo is perfectly located in a quiet area on the side of a mountain giving guests a relaxing and peaceful feeling all year round. The material and design were chosen because of their quality. The project only has 133 units making the Emerald Terrace Condos one of the less crowded condos.

## Has construction started and when will construction finish?

We have already started the project with a show unit and sales office, now we are awaiting approval for an Environmental License. That's expected to take a few months, but as far as the building construction, we expect this to be completed around the end of 2014.

## How will Emerald Terrace affect or benefit Phuket?

Customers are given options as far as owning or renting out units. The materials have never been used by any other developer, which gives the project a fresh look. Our vision is to help maintain the natural beauty

of the island by using eco-friendly recycling bins to help keep pollution and waste down to a minimum.

## What's the vision/objective of Phuket Future Travel Ltd?

Our vision is to produce quality projects and keep our focus on the customer. By providing condominiums and quality living to our customers, we feel that they will give back to Phuket Future Travel Limited, as well as to Phuket. Right now we are a small company but we are growing quickly with high sales and increased customer relations.

## Who are your target market?

Our target customers come from all over the world. Now we have customers in Europe, Australia, China, Singapore, among others. As far as our market in Asia, the main two are China and Singapore. We don't have a large number of customers in Thailand at this point but we are beginning to develop the market for Thai people so they can benefit from our developments.

## What inspired the unique look of the Emerald Terrace?

We wanted to make a project based on the natural tropical look of Phuket. We used natural materials: trees and stones to help give the condo its distinctive look. Together with the colors and atmosphere of Patong we have created a new style of luxury condominium. We also added some modern age looks to the common areas of the condominium that can only be seen from inside the condos.

## What do you think are the project's key selling point?



DIFFERENT: A computer generated image (CGI) of the Emerald Terrace.

For the vast majority of buyers, the three most important criteria when choosing to purchase a property are: Price, quality and location.

We like to think that The Emerald Terrace Condos have met all three criteria, in what can only be described as a unique opportunity for prospective buyers. We have designed our condos and made the purchase price to match today's economic standard. We also offer a difference in the quality of materials used. Some of the materials have never been used in Patong before and we hope it will help to preserve Phuket's natural tropical beauty.

We have chosen to stay in the residential area of Patong for convenience but we also have a key location on the side of the mountain with amazing sea views and quiet quality living standards. Owners will have a full range of amenities and services available to them.

We can't wait to meet our customers in person so we can present them with their new condominium, that we are sure they will be more than satisfied with.

– Andrew Scott

For more information or inquiries: [emeraldterracecondopatong.com](http://emeraldterracecondopatong.com).



A CGI of the view over Patong from the Emerald Terrace condominium.



A CGI of the pool area and pod-shaped seating area.

# Why Google is still the best

Five years after the crash that sent shockwaves through global markets, one company fares better than most

THE word 'Google' is a household name, synonymous with the word 'search' or even 'research' for most people around the world. The name itself originated from the word 'Googol', coined by Milton Sirotta, meaning the number 1 followed by 100 zeros; basically an extremely large number. It represents the vast universe of information that Google makes available to the world.

Starting with a simple search interface in 1996 (formerly known as Backrub), the Google we use today is a diversified internet services company, providing services that range from internet searches to communications software.

The company took the world by storm with its fast, simple search engine, later adding on services such as Google talk, Gmail, Google Checkout and Google Earth. One of its latest products, the Android, is an open source mobile platform.

One of the greatest breakthroughs made by Google was Google AdSense, its revolutionary 'matching' technology, which enabled advertisers to target specific keywords that defined its audience in terms of subject matter and geography.

Today Google is the undisputed

## Island Investor

Don Freeman

global leader in search engines, with an estimated market share of 71%, up from about 60% in 2006. Its competitors such as Yahoo!, MSN and AOL lag far behind, primarily on account of its sheer simplicity and speed.

Since Google went public in 2004, investors have made an absolute return of over 600% through February 19, 2013.

very healthy growth in a short period of time, capturing an estimated 34% market share and the highest number of apps for any mobile platform, including Apple and BlackBerry.

Google has been involved with a large number of acquisitions and is pegged to acquire a new company every 2 weeks.

The management has clearly identified this as a part of their business strategy, with social media at the forefront of their priorities.

Technically speaking Google's price action is acting very well.

After going public in 2004, Google climbed up 400% before correcting in the 2007-2008 bear market. From the November 2008 bear market low, Google has now climbed over 200% reaching a high in February 2013 of US\$808. It now trades higher than the 2007 level, which occurred just before the US Financial Crisis in 2008. Google

trades above its 50 and 200-day moving averages, which is also a positive technical sign.

Google and many other technology related stocks currently have all the characteristics of past winning stocks: annual earnings increases, price at new highs, institutional sponsorship, and new innovative products.

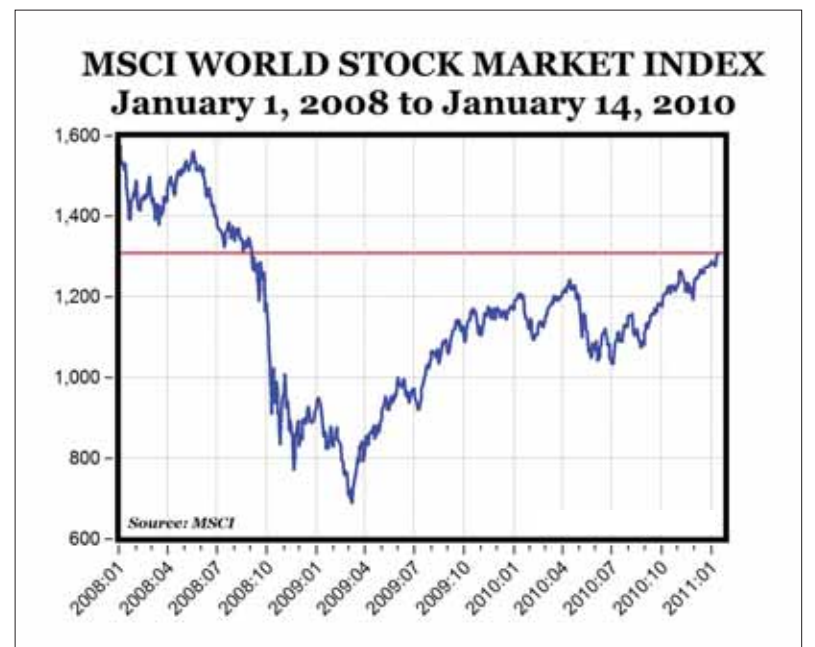
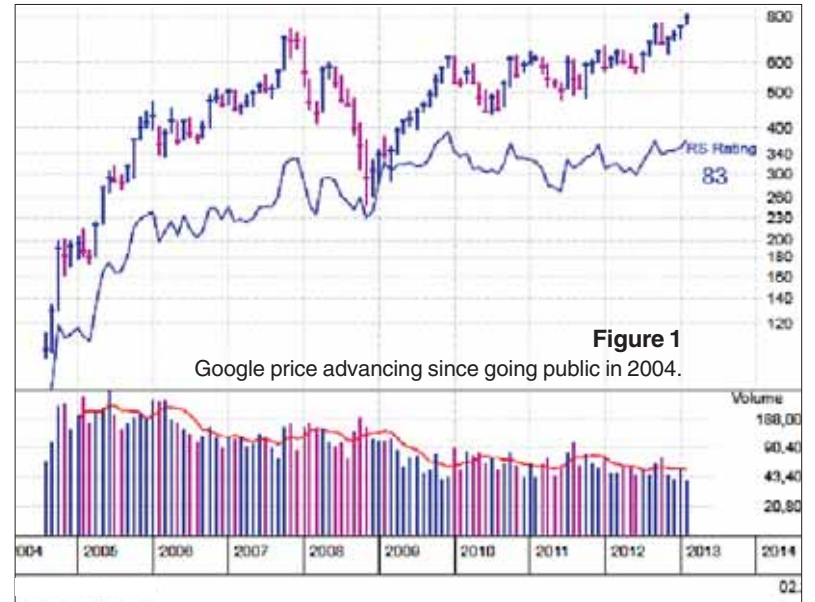
Does your portfolio need exposure to Google? Consider



It's good to be on top. Photo: Wynn Flynn

During this period, Google has consistently provided growing returns as measured in terms of earnings per share. Its profit margins are relatively stable and revenues are growing at a healthy rate.

Despite its obvious diversification, its search engine is its bread and butter, with about 90% of revenues coming from Adwords. It is important to note that its Android platform has seen



The MSCI stock market index, which measures a select group of top trading corporations, crashes amid the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, then deeper again in 2009, before eventually rising to present levels.

investing in the following Exchange-Traded Funds which have at least a 5% weighting: First Trust DJ Internet Index Fund (FDN), PowerShares

NASDAQ Internet Portfolio (PNQI), iShares Goldman Sachs Technology Index Fund (IGM) and Vanguard Information Technology Fund (VGT).

## DIAMOND BEACHCLUB

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March 30, 2013  
From 20:00 onwards

Come and celebrate with us the Grand Opening of **Diamond Beachclub** located at the northern end of Surin beach...

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Diamond Beachclub is located on the northern end of Surin beach...  
...a prime location for the hipest parties you'll never see!

# Get on the bus

THERE is only one way that breakthrough projects such as Phuket's first airport-to-beaches bus service get up and running, and that is if everyone in the community gets behind it and supports it. That means: use it. Get on the bus and go to work, to the beach, to see a friend, a movie or even spend a night on the town – just use it.

The more people who use the buses, the more buses there will be and the cheaper the fares will become. It really is that simple.

At 50 baht each way for an air-conditioned trip between the major beaches, there is no excuse. And no parking hassles when you reach your destination.

The buses are scheduled to start at 9am and continue past midnight each day. This of course means they are of little value for office workers, but Phuket is a tourism destination. Thousands of hospitality staff will be able to use the buses to commute.

It also means far fewer tourists need to risk life and limb on motorbikes to get over the hills between Patong, Karon and Kata. It also means no excuse for drunk driving along the west coast. At 50 baht a journey, those who injure themselves inebriated while the buses are still running only have themselves to blame.

As this issue went to print, the sides of the buses were still blank. Anywhere else in the world, businesses would be queuing up to get their advertisements on the sides of buses with such public exposure.

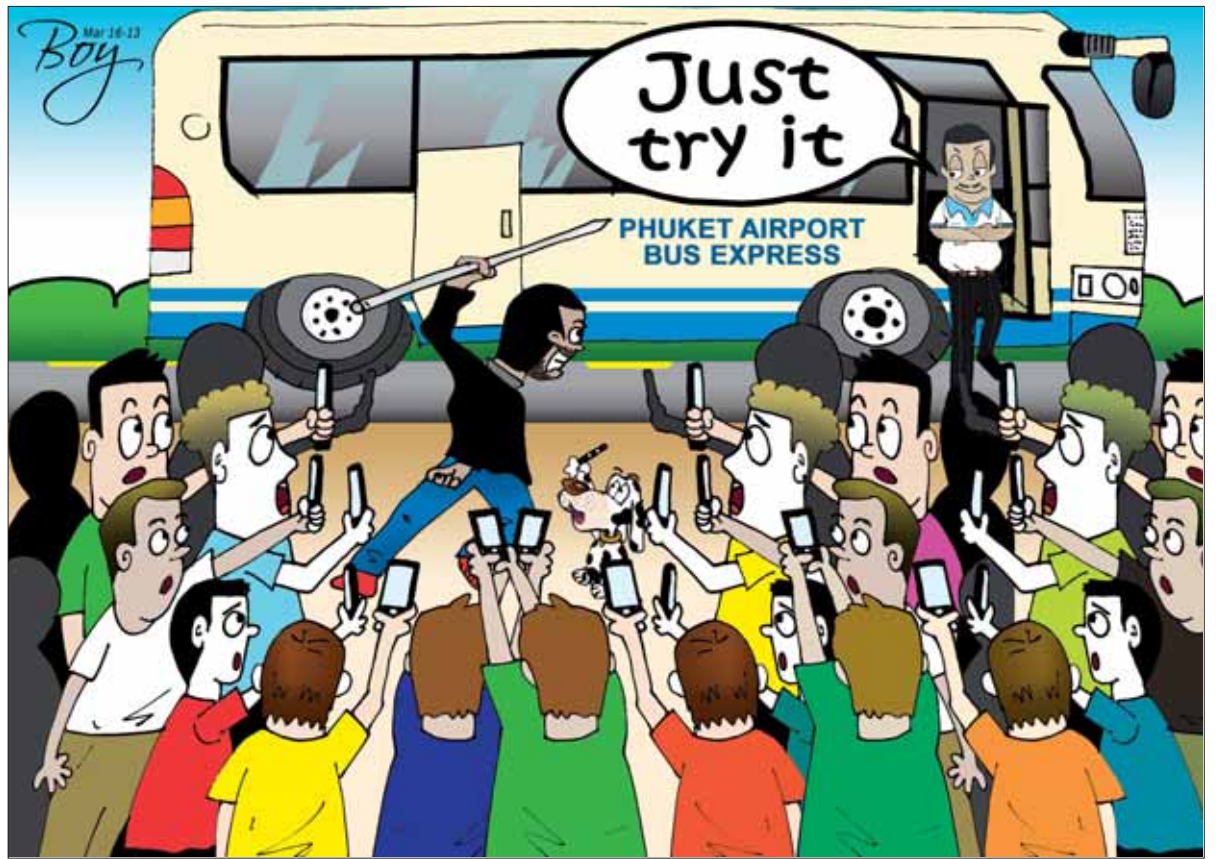
These new Phuket buses will be seen all the way from the airport to one of the southernmost beaches on the island, and right through the heart of Patong, the tourism heart of the island with a catchment area of about 70 per cent of all guest rooms in Phuket. It's difficult to think of any billboard on the island that offers more exposure.

For Phuket, the real sticking point is the taxi drivers, as the Kata-Karon taxi and tuk-tuk driver plainly warned about launching the new buses: "Just try it."

If everyone uses the buses as people do elsewhere in Thailand, and the world over, these drivers will pick up the short-haul travellers of the kind envied by taxi drivers everywhere. Short journey, large percentage gain. This will preserve the drivers' jobs and alleviate any angst about the new buses. It's hard to rally a mob when you're busy making money.

In our desire to support this landmark development, we urge everyone to report any acts of violence or intimidation against this new public service. In this new era of citizen journalism, nearly every person on Phuket with a mobile phone can photograph or even video record any event at a moment's notice. Let us know about any incidents and we will report them to the police.

Whether or not we have cheap, reliable transport the likes of which people across the globe enjoy is really down to us. Get on board. Just try it.



## Common sense sunk in Chalong Bay

Re: Gazette online, Chalong Bay's sunken dangers, March 10

What Mr Phuripat is saying does not seem to make much sense.

If a boat can hit a mooring at lowest tide, then the mooring shouldn't be there.

If someone ties their boat to the mooring at high tide and leaves, at low tide the boat could hit the mooring and sink!

This is very well known to anyone with even the slightest knowledge of boating. And now Mr Phuripat says he is only "thinking about" addressing the problem, or even seeking the budget with which to do so. Amazing!

Anon  
Gazette Forum

### Letters to the Editor

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

his students by frequently going on the Hajj. However, by breaking school rules to do so, he is setting a poor example.

A local imam said he is a good teacher. If so, it would be a pity to lose him. However, if he doesn't want to follow the rules, he should either try to change them properly or find another place to work.

Sharon  
Ao Po

such attention. It was my TOT bill from Bangkok dated January 16.

I was so relieved to receive this. After all, TOT had threatened twice to cut off my internet access for non-payment of this very bill – for an account to provide 3G services so I can have internet access wherever I travel in Thailand. A pity I can't pay the bill with such ease.

Well done TOT and Thailand Post! You truly are a pair!

Damian Evans  
Chalong

### Free the Lorises, capture the handlers

Re: Gazette online, Phuket tourists warned about illegal slow loris touts, March 8

I have complained about this many times, but authorities are unwilling to address the problem. On my last visit to Patong I saw five lorises within the first 10 minutes. They should be confiscated and the handlers punished with a large fine and possibly, especially if caught for the second time, jail time.

Resident  
Gazette Forum

### Round up dogs for their own good

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Poll: Time to round up the dogs? March 9

You forgot an option in the poll. Collect the dogs for their own safety, whether they are dangerous or not. Shelters are to help the dogs get into good homes. Thank god they don't put dogs to sleep here, like in the USA. Dogs are wonderful animals. No dog is born mean. It's all about how the dog is raised.

Bruce  
Gazette Forum

### How to disentangle a manta ray

Re: Gazette online, Entangled manta ray ensnares international attention, March 9

I've removed lines from manta rays several times in the past. Upon sighting an entangled manta ray, one or two experienced scuba divers should quietly hover and let the animal approach them.

Often the animal will then come close and start to hover as well. The divers should then slowly approach the animal from the side or front and carefully remove the lines. Other divers should stay well away.

Bowmouth  
Gazette Forum

### School was right to sack teacher

Re: Gazette online, Phuket protest delivers possible reprieve for Muslim teacher sacked for joining Hajj, March 7

It may be that Mr. Payadsub sets a good religious example for

### A life too short

Re: Gazette online, Phuket concrete-mixing truck kills 5-year-old boy, March 9

What a tragedy, but sad to say this will come as no surprise to anyone who has witnessed the driving standards around the island. Has anyone in Phuket ever been charged with reckless driving before killing someone? Phuket police need to get serious on this. Rest in peace, young chap. What a terrible waste of a young life.

Jim  
Gazette Forum

### Men of letters

I have to compliment our esteemed post office here in Phuket. There I was enjoying my Sunday morning coffee in front of my modest home last weekend when up rode a postwoman on a motorbike to deliver mail directly to my door.

The poor woman was even working on a Sunday morning to make sure my mail was delivered.

She handed over one envelope, obviously so important it deserved

## Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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# New housing is making snail mail even slower

## FIRST PERSON

THE number of housing estates, condominiums, resorts and hotels in Rawai and Chalong has grown dramatically recently and we are now responsible for about 35,000 addresses. The rapid development of the area has created a lot of challenges for us and has slowed down delivery times.

In big housing estates such as Phuket Villa or Patak Villa, there are so many houses that it takes a long time to deliver the mail. In some condominiums, postmen have to go upstairs to distribute the mail to each condo in the building.

Another problem is numbering. Some house numbers are not in order – a house that should be located next to another house is on the other side of the road instead, and some houses don't have numbers at all. Both of these cases lead to confusion and slow the delivery process.

Many foreigners and Thais in the area are well-off, so stores and malls target them and send brochures to promote their goods. The volume of this type of mail keeps growing.

There is a geographic problem too – some neighborhoods in Chalong and Rawai are on hills, and it takes the postman a long time to travel there.

One of our postmen devised a solution. A few months ago, he talked to the owner of Chalong Center Condominium and asked if the owner could provide a mailbox for all the condos at the entrance of the building so that he would not have to go upstairs to deliver the mail.



**Boonsong Maneechai, 52,** from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, served as Postmaster of the Thaweewong Post Office in Patong for four years before becoming the Postmaster of the Rawai Post Office in 2009.

Here, he talks about why residents of Rawai and Chalong have been experiencing mail delivery delays, and outlines the steps he is taking to correct the problem.

The condo owner was very helpful, and agreed. Now the postman can quickly deliver the mail to the residents there. This solution also helps protect the mail, because the postman no longer has to leave his motorcycle untended before going upstairs.

If other places set up similar systems, residents would get their mail faster.

The other big problem is that we have only 13 postmen. For the past two months we've worked on Sundays to deliver mail that we couldn't deliver during the week.

When we announce a vacancy, only a few people are interested and most of them quit after a few days.

It is quite hard work and we can't offer them government benefits until they've worked here for three years and passed a test.

A postman who is not a per-

manent officer receives 350-400 baht per day, a budget for three liters of gas, and 20 baht per day for motorcycle maintenance, since they have to use their own motorbike.

I have asked the Regional Postal Bureau (Region 8) to raise the daily wage and to allow new staff to take the test to be permanent staff after just one year.

If they approve this, I am sure more people will be interested in working with us.

We've already seen one improvement – the Regional Postal Bureau has

increased our budget so we can hire more staff. We hired two new postmen in January and we are going to get four more soon. I hope this will help us do our job better.

Anyone who has delayed or missing mail, please come to see me at Rawai Post office or call 076-381393.



Sorting mail at the Rawai Post Office. Photo: Orawin Narabal



The British pound can't buy what it used to. Photo: Hotel du Vin and Bistro

## Hi-so holidays harder for tourists to afford

OVER the years, a number of my friends have made the journey from England to visit Phuket and enjoy a well-earned holiday. The recurring theme of their time here used to be how cheap the island was compared to the UK, but that has now changed.

When I first moved to Phuket, years ago, the exchange rate from baht to British pound was around 64:1. This gave my friends every reason to claim that Phuket was an absolute bargain and a number of them lived like kings during their two-week holiday.

Today, the baht is 44:1. To put that into perspective, if someone comes to Phuket on a two-week holiday and they bring 1,000 British pounds spending money, when the exchange rate was 64:1 their 1,000 British pounds was worth 64,000 baht. Today, the same amount of British pounds is worth 44,000 baht.

If you then compare drinks and food – these prices have stayed roughly the same over the years – a bottle of beer that costs 70 baht (just under two British pounds) is now close to the same price you would pay for a drink in England.

If you go to an upscale area like Surin – where a beer can cost 150 baht – you're now paying close

## Island View

By Winston Gunn

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

to four British pounds for a drink, which is more than you would pay in England. These bars will argue that customers are paying for the location and setting but it's still a lot of money. Street food will always be cheap but tourists don't tend to eat street food. They go to restaurants in their hotel or a restaurant that has been recommended in a book or online.

Around the Laguna area, one of the cheapest three course meals in a popular restaurant will set you back just over 500 baht (11 British pounds). Add in a few drinks of any description and the bill could be closer to 880 baht (20 British pounds). And that's at one of the cheaper restaurants.

Once you start to factor in tours, taxis and souvenirs it becomes shockingly clear that 1,000 British pounds doesn't go far. On the plus side, people living in Phuket who go back to England benefit when they convert their baht to British pounds, but who wants to go on holiday to England?

## Issues & Answers...

...asking the questions that affect you...

### Noisy Neighbors

Last week a large building was built close to my house at Nai Harn lagoon to manufacture speedboats. The noise from power tools and fumes of fiberglass resin make my home unpleasant.

Is there anything that can be done to have the owner move to an industrial area? I have a long lease on my home and do not want to move.

Edgar  
Nai Harn

### Rawai Mayor Arun Solos replies:

We have already sent out a team to look for the large building you described, but we couldn't find it. Please come in to our office and fill out a formal complaint with the exact address.

We cannot order a business to move simply because it is industrial, as land use is not zoned

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

Submit your issue at

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

specifically into residential and industrial areas.

What we can do is make sure this business follows environmental standards. For example, we can check the noise level, and if they are exceeding it, or making noise outside of permitted times, we can order them to stop.

We can also check to make sure they have a valid building permit.

For more information, please call us at 076-613801 ext 103.

## Where to buy European Food on Phuket

Can you let me know where I can buy German or European foodstuff? I'm interested in dark bread, crispy bread (*Knäckebrot*), cheese, ham, salami and so on.

Anu Hey  
Chalong

**Panuwat Takod, branch manager of Central Food Hall at Central Festival Phuket, replies:**

We have imported dark bread, crispy bread, cheese, ham, salami and a variety of other products.

Most of our products are from Europe, but we plan to have more from the US in the near future.

For more information, call 076-249980 or 076-249966.

**Watcharaporn, Bocconcino Bartender, replies:**

We bake pastries and breads



Imported cheese can be found at Central Food Hall. Photo: Panuwat Takod

daily and have sausages, bacon, canned goods, several types of pasta, olives, balsamic vinegar, cheeses and coffee.

For more information, call 076-386531.

**A customer service officer at Villa Market in Chalong replies:**

We've been selling international products in Thailand for over 38 years.

Our products are imported from all over the world and include meat from Australia, America and Japan.

For more information, call 076-381888 or 076-381294.

# YOUR Phuket

# PHUKET INVITATIONAL CAR RALLY 2013



The Notley family were the overall winning team

A family car treasure hunt – the annual rally took 45 cars over 153 kilometers of some of Phuket's lesser known roads including some secluded scenic routes seldom travelled., all the time with safety and careful driving being foremost in mind.



## "LIFESTYLE WORKSHOP WITH CENTRIO"

Centrio condominium hosted a party and invited their guests to participate in a cooking workshop given by well-known Phuket chef Mr Chavarit Rattana-chinkorn, owner of Saneha Restaurant, who showed the guests how to cook finger foods.

Mr Chavarit  
Rattanachinkorn



## MCOT AT THANYAPURA

Runner-up of Miss Thailand Universe 2009 (Am) Chonticha Supphai-boonlerd, sports host for MCOT Channel 9 Morning Show "Kui Kamong Khao Chao!", came to visit and join in activities at Thanyapura, introducing the complex as one of Thailand's new upcoming lifestyle destinations. The facility caters to all aspects of health from sports, mind centre programs and healthy dining to anti-aging programs. The episode will air the mornings of March 15-16, 2013.



→ → → →

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

# ISLAND TRADER

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ME  
OUT!

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

March 16 - 22, 2013 | [PhuketGazette.Net](http://PhuketGazette.Net)

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

## PROPERTY of the week

### Cheapest Seaview Land



See page 23

## JOB of the week

WINE  
&  
TASTE

See page 27

## BOAT of the week

SIMPSON  
MARINE



See page 31

## PROPERTY SERVICES of the week

One Stop  
for perfect house hotel resort



See page 25

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## Properties For Sale

### LAGUNA AREA MAGNIFICENT PARCEL



6 rai land near Banyan Tree Golf Course, 10 minutes to the beach. Electricity and road access, 65 million baht. Contact Maiy. Tel: 090-030 9007, 081-895 4811. Email: maiy2412@gmail.com

### 15-ROOM GUESTHOUSE

15-room guesthouse, bar and restaurant with motorbikes. Excellent bookings and income. Call 076-292816, 085-218 6375, 081-569 9933 (English & Thai) for details. Email: dmatot@hotmail.com

### LAYAN LAND FOR SALE

11 rai of beautiful flat land for sale close to Layan Beach. 3.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-813 1447 (English & Thai), 081-927 4027 (English). Email: atrennie@yahoo.com

### QUICK SALE - TEAK HOUSE 6MB



3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, private pool, furnished. 480sqm land, near Rawai Beach. Tel: 081-691 3029. Email: kris\_silanachai@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

### KHOK KLOY 8.5 RAI LAND



Beautiful land, 1km to beach, 2km from Sarasin Bridge. 750,000 baht per rai. From owner. Tel: 083-388 8036.

### HOUSE PATONG

House on the hill, nice view, 240sqm, 3 bathrooms and 3 bedrooms, 2 terraces plus 3 separate apartments. 8.8 million baht. Tel: 081-824 1385 (English). Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

### 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: kurzinv@yahoo.de

### HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

### 3 GORGEOUS LOTS, CLEAN TITLES

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

### PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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

### 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.

### KAMALA HOUSE FOR SALE



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

### NEW CONDO: URGENT SALE/RENT



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

### LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

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).

### HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

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

### 30 RAI IN TOWN

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

### 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

### 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.

### 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

### 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.

### 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

### RAWAI - VERY PRIVATE HOUSE

Set behind high walls, superb spacious house, pool, bright, first to see will buy. 16.9 million. Open to offers. Tel: 076-615905, 090-875 3683 (English), 081-892 6353. Email: sdm@wmalexander.com For further details, please see our website at www.wmalexander.com

### 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.

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### 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.

### 3-BEDROOM PATONG HOUSE

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

### LAND FOR SALE OR RENT

85 rai in two lots (split possible). Flexible terms and/or price. 15 mins to airport (from Phang Nga). Will suit any use. No agents. Email: phuketmark@yahoo.co.uk

### HOUSE KAMALA

2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, nice quiet area. 5 minutes to beach. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 080-320 0426.

### CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

### PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



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

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## Properties For Rent

### SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, at Pa Khlok, fully furnished, quiet area. Rent: 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-690 0626. Email: bcarrent@hotmail.com

### HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



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

### NAI HARN HOUSE FOR RENT

Long term, fully furnished, 2 beds, 2 baths, aircon, fans, cable TV, WiFi internet, 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-292 5309, 087-464 3769. Email: devizes@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

### LOFT STYLE FLATS - KATHU

Secure, quiet, great location for exercise. Long-term rental. 10,500 baht per month. Tel: 086-664 5575. Email: hkguy789@yahoo.com

### HOLIDAY RENTAL, BEACH 3MINS

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

### PATONG DELUXE CONDOS

Seaview, quiet, pool, 37+57sqm, long term. Tel: 087-819 2162. Email: caltirol@hotmail.com

### POOL PENTHOUSE SEAVIEW

Holiday rental. 1, 2 or 3 beds, kitchen, rooftop pool, deck, gazebo, 3 minutes walk to beach. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

### PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



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

### 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

### 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

### SEAVIEWS EVERYWHERE

3 to 4-bedroom villa. Minutes to beaches and heart of island. Pvt guesthouse and pool. Low season price. Tel: 085-237 1007. Email: patrick oconnor2929@gmail.com

### NEW CONDO FOR RENT



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

### 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.

### POOL VILLA FOR RENT

4 bedrooms, pool, 5 bathrooms. Bang Tao. Also bungalows, houses and apartments available. Tel: 081-538 2110, 087-279 6532.

### 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

### 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

### 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.

### SURIN CONDO

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

### LUXURY POOL VILLA

Big saving 6 months lease, only 25,000 baht per month, has all, near Laguna. Tel: 089-594 4067.

### NEW HOUSE FOR RENT PATONG

1 bedroom with bathroom, living-room with full western kitchenette. All extras, aircon, internet, LCD, IBC. Modern furnished. Quiet setting near Na Nai. 12,000 baht per month. Please call 084-185 8536 for more information.

### 1-BED APARTMENT FOR RENT



New fully furnished apartment. Fitted kitchen with golf view in Chalong. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-922 2800. Email: simonchinner@yahoo.com

### 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

House in Phuket

houseinphuket.com

Rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Wellta

### PATONG CONDO PRIVATE RENTAL

2-bed apartment available now, fully furnished, WiFi, cable TV, gym, swimming pool, park, washing machine, 800m to beach. Tel: 085-069 0938 (English). Email: nnorthwo@hotmail.com

### HOLIDAY RENTAL BEACH CONDO

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

### POOL VILLA NEAR B.I. SCHOOL

If privacy, convenience and light-filled spaces are what you are looking for. This villa is available for long term rental. 3 large bedrooms, 2 with ensembles. 3 bathrooms. Master with huge walk-in closet and large bathroom fitted with a bath. Fully equipped kitchen. Office. Maids' quarters plus extra family room. 18 meter pool with Jacuzzi. Double bay garage. Private fully landscaped gardens. Outdoor dining and living area. Contact didee51@yahoo.com.au or 089 4698100. Not available 22nd - 10th April. For further details, please see our website at https://smore.com/r5ts

### OCEAN VIEW CONDO

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

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**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.

**ARCHITECT**

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

**WEBSITE/SOFTWARE PROGRAMMER**

Bayshore Group is looking for Web or Software Programmer/Developer (Java, C#, 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, C#, net) as well as Ajax, JQuery.
4. Good understanding of frameworks and IDE in (Java, C#, net)
5. Fluent English. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Please send CV to f@bayshoreprojects.com

**COOKS, MAIDS, MANAGERS**

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

**ARTICLE WRITER**

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

**MANAGER - PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

Experienced manager required to manage 30 private residences 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:*

**SUB-EDITOR**

- 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

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**

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

**Phuket Gazette**

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

**REPORTER**

- Thai national (able to read, write, speak fluent Thai)
- Ability to communicate clearly in English
- Clear thinking in order to identify what makes a good news story
- Initiative and enthusiasm to track down a story
- Photography skills
- Able to manage own time effectively
- Knowledge of Burmese an advantage
- Driver's license

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to Um@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

**CONSTRUCTION MANAGER**

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

**RECEPTIONIST PATONG**

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

**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

**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

**SWEDISH / FINNISH TOUR GUIDE**

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

**GUEST HOUSE STAFF**

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

**Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:****CHALONG**

- 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

**CHERNG TALAY**

- Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: 076-325586

**RAWAI**

- The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: 076-388144

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- EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

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**RESTAURANT MGR**

Russian Mgr Required with good English and experience. Tel: 082-4154546 Please contact by email: lizunov.o@mail.ru

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Stylish Thai woman, 35-45 years old, to recruit and supervise all female bar staffs in new 5-star VIP club. Must speak English and have employment references. Great salary + percentage of turnover + stylish accommodation on site. If you are trustworthy, stylish, and enjoy working with Farangs call us. Tel: 090-876 9687, 087-881 7600. Email: cocodiorster@gmail.com

**GENERAL MANAGER ON KOH LANTA**

50-bungalow charming resort located on Koh Lanta, is now seeking a General Manager. The ideal candidate will have had a successful asian career in the hospitality industry, and be a naturally strong team leader; young-at-heart with the enthusiasm required to succeed in a lively, yet eco-friendly beach resort. Tel: 081-750 7072 (English & Thai). Email: stephane@stelcorpo.com

**TEAM LEADERS AND SUPPORTERS**

Bayshore is looking for team leaders and supporters for online social networking. Must have good communication skills, spoken and written. Must be able to handle the customer database, and support tickets and news. We expect 3-5 team leaders with 10 supporter assistants each. Salary after qualifications. Tel: 088-445 2800 (English), 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

**FOREIGN STAFF WANTED**

Secretary needed for online support and marketing. Fluent in English writing, computer literacy. Able to plan and organize your day to achieve results. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bayshore projects.com

**MAINTENANCE MANAGER NEEDED**

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

**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: kokakat@gmail.com

**British International School, Phuket**

British International School, Phuket is looking for candidates to fill positions in the following areas:

**• Accountant (General Ledger)**Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting / Finance / Business Administration or related field
- At least 2 years experience in accounting
- Experience in A/P, G/L area and closing account is preferable
- Knowledge in SAGE AccPac Accounting System would be an advantage
- Familiar with Thailand taxation and accounting system
- Computer knowledge in MS office
- Good command of English

**• Secretary to Administration Office**Qualifications

- Female, Thai nationality
- Bachelor's degree in related field
- Excellent English, computer literate and good people skills
- Able to coordinate with other departments

**• Teacher's Assistant**Qualifications

- Thai nationality, bachelor's degree in related field
- Teaching qualifications and experience in child care, teaching preferable
- Good command of spoken and written English

**• School Driver**Qualifications

- Excellent driving record with 3 years of experience
- Have knowledge of safety rules and regulations
- Professional attitude / Good organizational skills

Interested candidate please submit your cv and recent photo to



**British International School, Phuket (BISP)**

59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200

Tel: 076-335555 # 2113, 2110 Fax: 076-335573

E-mail: patcharakornr@bisphuket.ac.th or sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th

**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

**ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER**

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

**STAFF WANTED**

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

**NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER**

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

**THAI STAFF**

Thai staff wanted for kindergarten, must speak English, enjoy working with children. Tel: 084-442 3671 (English). Email: millingtonjackie@hotmail.com

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT**

Native Thai with good command of English, computer and administrative skills. Email: forsale.phuket@gmail.com

**FOOD STORE MANAGER**

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

**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

**WINE & TASTE**

**International Wine Importers Co., Ltd.**

Wine & Taste sales division  
www.wineandtaste.com

**Assistant to the office manager / Accounting officer**

- ▶ **Details:** Organizing paperwork, documents and computer files.
- ▶ **Education:** Bachelor's degree.
- ▶ **Language skills:** English.
- ▶ **Computer skills:** Excel / Word.
- ▶ **Finance skills:** Basic accounting, knowledge of QuickBook is an advantage.

**Thai national woman 20 - 26 years old.**

Email: info@wineandtaste.com

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

**SALESPERSON/ ASST. TO MD**

2 years experience. Thai or foreigner. Must be fluent in written and spoken English. Area: Phuket, Samui, Krabi. Send CV to info@macraetrading.com

**CUSTOMER SERVICE RECEPTIONIST**

Female for Villa Resort in Rawai. Part time, full time. Computer skills are essential. Tel: 089-289 1502. Email: jittraming@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

**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 details, please see www.phukettravel.co.th/recruitment.html

**SALES & SERVICE MANAGER**

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

**RUSSIAN SALES**

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

**STAFF**

Level- free school, Boat Lagoon. Top salary guaranteed for top qualification. 6-month internship required: Thai or foreign female, fluent written and spoken English, enthusiastic and challengeable in learning, hard working, dedicated, possible abroad. Great opportunities and future will be offered. Send applicant's resume with photo to geniusskj@daum.net

**Employment Wanted****SALESPERSON**

Food importer and distributor based in Rawai is seeking a salesperson. Sales background and experience in food industry are preferred. Applying foreigners must have their own company. Salary and commission scheme offered. Tel: 087-264 9695 (English). Email: eb@ebnetwork.it

**Looking for a job?**  
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## Bar &amp; Restaurant Equipment

## BISS FLAPPER

Circuit integrity cross-checked by UL, SafeAsia and iFARD every four months. Documentation available. Certified by Thai OOC within two weeks of import. Can be blarfed into any properly wired restaurant kitchen in Thailand. Purchased new in Dijon, Nov 2010, for 82,000 baht; selling now for just 55,000 baht. Three-pole snard beans (4) with lithium backing plates. Gooze and Himmelman pork whistles, milled and graded in July last year. Insured through November this year (2013). Happy to demonstrate for serious buyers at Le Montage, Rawai, any night except Mondays (restaurant closed).

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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## BOXING MACHINE

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8-house resort: 6 houses with 2 bedrooms, living and kitchen. 2 houses with 3 bedrooms, living and kitchen. Tel: 085-789 1773 (English). For more info use email: hakan.se derholm@gmail.com

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RENT GUESTHOUSE  
PATONG

12 rooms, cheap rent, perfect location, Na Nai Road. Price: 1 million baht. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

7TH FLOOR SUITES  
(HOTEL) BUILDING  
FOR SALE

Kata Beach Center. 9 apartments and a 300 sqm penthouse on the roof plus fully equipped restaurant and pool with terrace are free of rent and now available. Price: 38 million baht (950,000 euro) includes Chanote and Thai company. Tel: 081-788 8280. If seriously interested please email thewhitehousekata@gmail.com For Russian contact Oxana. Email: phuket.lux@gmail.com

## BAR FOR SALE

One of the most successful entertainment venues in the new Tiger Complex. In Soi Bangla. This bar is on sale due to personal reason. For more information please call 085-796 6144. Email: dteph patong@hotmail.fr

## TOUR SHOP PATONG

Busy beach location with existing clients. Long lease: 180,000 baht. Tel: 080-690 8978.

## PARTNER WANTED

For a new discotheque in Patong, Phuket, Soi Bangla. Best location. Great profit. Opening very soon. Tel: 081-895 7597, 081-892 8526.

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

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PATONG

In the heart of Patong. 20 rooms well furnished, fully operational with very good occupancy rates. 6-year lease for 10 million baht + rental fee 150,000 baht per month. Tel: 088-765 0165.

## Business Opportunities

## PROJECTS FOR SALE

Rawai Construction Company, full service company, 7 years, Phuket. Design + drawings, engineering, land for sale. 97/37 Sai Yuan. Contact Construction manager: Ron Kite. Tel: 083-636 7147.

## BAR FOR SALE

Patong, central location, beside busy hotel, toilet, kitchen, TVs, pool table. For more information please call 081-606 2918 (English).

FITNESS CENTER  
FOR SALE

A well-established fitness center with a large membership base situated in Phuket Town. Now for sale. Price: 9 million baht. Tel: 087-275 3614 (English), 080-698 5021. Email: tradexpat@hotmail.com

## NAIL SPA

Great business opportunity in central Patong. Fully equipped nail spa for sale at 1.2 million baht. Email: forsale.phuket@gmail.com

## HOTELS IN PHUKET FOR SALE

Please contact info@luxuryphuketholidays.com

SOI TIGER BAR  
FOR SALE

Bar for sale. 30 months, second line, very good location. For more information please call 087-675 8357. Email: morganphuket@hotmail.com

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Perfect location in commercial area at The Royal Place, Tesco Lotus, bypass road. 3 floors for living home and business office, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons. Ground floor install with glass frontage, granite floor and kitchen area. Sale or long-term rental 35,000 baht per month. Call now. Tel: 084-293 7923 (English & Thai), 081-854 0061 (English). Email: mrgeoffcurry@yahoo.com

PRIVATE  
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Near Nai Harn. A beautiful home for a retired couple in a quiet and secure private park. Living room, 2 bedrooms, modern kitchen, TV, internet, swimming pool, covered car park. Long-term rent: 30,000 baht per month. For more information please call 081-777 3607. Email: bi@inauengroup.ch

COMMERCIAL SHOP  
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Right next to the beach on Swadarak Road, 18x5m size, fully furnished. Please call 076-342109, 081-892 7480 (English & Thai), 081-607 5716 (English & Thai). Email: Nanz86@gmail.com

BANGLA RESTAURANT  
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On the rooftop of Bangla Mall. 350sqm, open air, seaview, elevator, ready to move in. Please call 081-895 7597, 081-892 8526. Email: peter@phuket-besthomes.com

BANGLA BARS  
FOR RENT

5 new bars on the rooftop. In front of a new discotheque. In the center of Bangla. Reasonable price. For more information please call 081-895 7597, 081-892 8526. Email: peter@phuket-besthomes.com

## SHOP IN SURIN

Shop in Surin, great location on the main road in Surin, this 50sqm shop is just 200m from Surin Plaza (towards the beach). 25sqm storage, bathroom with toilet and shower. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-190 6107 (English). Email: terece@loveforever.se

BAR FOR SALE  
NEW TIGER

High Roller Bar. Third row from the front. Two-year contract. Books available. 4 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 085-654 8510. Email: typhoon\_stjames@hotmail.com

SURIN BEACH CLUB  
FOR SALE

Prime real estate; approx 900sqm of beach front property with sunbeds. Full service kitchen; seating capacity of 100. No key money or rental required. Contact for details. Tel: 091-034 1200 (English). Email: issam.tawil@gmail.com

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**PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB**

Full family membership. Annual dues paid up to end 2013. 650,000 baht. Tel: 089-908 2454 (English). Email: evan.burford@gmail.com

**COUNTRYCLUB GOLF MEMBERSHIP**

Phuket Country Club Golf Membership (Family). Price: 600,000 baht (excluding transfer fee of 60,000 baht) - 2013 annual maintenance fee (25,000 baht) to be proportionally split based on timing of purchase. Tel: 087-895 8160. Email: faserio@gogoltd.hk

**BLUE CANYON GOLF MEMBERSHIP**

Blue Canyon golf lifetime membership for sale, excellent saving only 975,000 baht! Tel: 084-052 2277 (English). Email: samverow@gmail.com

**LAGUNA GOLF MEMBERSHIP**

Expires on January 2024 (11 years). Price: 385,000 baht. Contact Sumalee. Tel: 087-468 5125.

**LOCH PALM MEMBERSHIP**

For sale or trade membership plus money for Blue Canyon Family Membership. Price: 550,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 081-090 4113. Email: ohmer13@hotmail.com

**PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB**

Golf membership. Price: 700,000 baht. Transfer included. For more information please call 081-089 1407.

**Dive Gear****DIVE EQUIPMENT**

Tanks, compressors, and boats for sale. Tel: 088-760 3770.

**20 NEW SCUBA TANKS**

Unused 12-liter scuba tanks with valves, all cheaper than trade. Sale: 6,000 baht. Please contact Will. Tel: 080-595 0458.

**MARES BCD FINS AND BOOTS**

Mares BCD Hybrid like new. Sale: 6,000 baht or nearest offer. Scuba Pro boots UK Size 8-9: 800 baht. Mares Avanti Quattro Black: 1,000 baht. Tel: 085-260 2576 (English). Email: chrisgraham2@mac.com

**Education****LEARN THAI**

From an experienced Thai teacher. Tel: 084-447 5257. Email: mikeroper2003@hotmail.com

**Pool Tables****SOCCER/FOOSBALL TABLES**

Brand-new "Heavy duty" soccer/foosball table for rent and sale. Suitable for bars and hotels. Call us now. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-797 0202, 085-797 0303. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

**Miscellaneous For Sale****BISS FLAPPER**

Circuit integrity cross-checked by UL, SafeAsia and iFARD every four months. Documentation available. Certified by Thai OOC within two weeks of import. Can be blarfed into any properly fitted restaurant kitchen in Thailand. Purchased new in Dijon, Nov 2010, for 82,000 baht; selling now for just 55,000 baht. Three-pole snard beans (4) with lithium backing plates. Gooze and Himmelman pork whistles, milled and graded in July last year. Insured through November this year (2013). Happy to demonstrate for serious buyers at Le Montage, Rawai, any night except Mondays (restaurant closed).

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

**SNUFFLERS**

Set of five. Rounded edges with alloy spleen tables. Only 3 yrs old, no glinkle. Can be used without bessors or BRTs but not in tandem with cleester bins. Price new: 4,200 baht each. Will sell now at 12,000 baht for full set. Located Rawai, pics available. Email: jackmartin3@gmx.com

**Personals****BACKGAMMON**

Players wanted. Tel: 081-577 8443. Email: phuketconnection@yahoo.com

**Surfboards****SURFBOARDS NEW AND CHEAP**

Several surfboards for sale. 5 new items and 3 used items. Also 4 soft top boards. Email me at lantapaddle@gmail.com or call 082-278 8055 if interested.

**Pets****PEDIGREE DOBERMAN PUPPIES**

Born on February 2, two males (brown and black) available after March 30. Dewormed and first vaccinations done. Tel: 076-226611, 080-040 2013 (English), 089-877 0579 (Thai). Email: baantommy@hotmail.com, see our website at http://baantommy.npage.de

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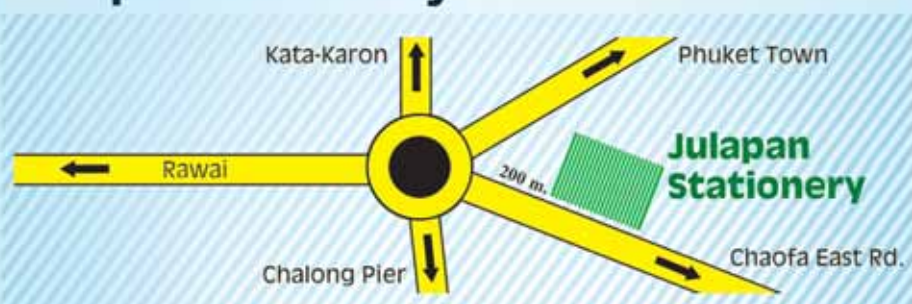


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Hobie 16 with masthead float, two trapeze harnesses, 2 paddles, trolley-road/launching. New sheets and halyards. For sale at 175,000 baht. Quick sale. Tel: 081-560 4390 (English). Email: jacksonrosemary99@gmail.com

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Cheap price for quick sale, fully restored, excellent condition, very reliable and cheap to use. Contact Peter. Tel: 085-253 4429.

### BOAT SHARE

1/4 share in two boats: one Riviera 48 and one Gulfcraft 34. Fully equipped for diving, fishing, touring. Professional management and crew. Boat Lagoon. Tel: 076-271629, 081-8951724. Email: smuldersos@hotmail.com

### NEW ALESSANDRO MARCHI

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

### BOAT FOR SALE

Semi-rigid 150hp, 2 stroke, trailer, aluminium tank 100 liter, GPS, Sonar. Price: 650,000 baht. Tel: 089-289 8628 (English), 080-144 6022 (Thai).

### NICE BOAT

26 foot center console. Good condition twin outboards, trailer, and more. Email for more pics and info. Tel: 085-691 1837, 076-054 4141. Email: mangoelsson@hotmail.com

### 13 METER CRUISER



Our boat has served us well but now we need a bigger one, so sadly we have to let her go. This boat is registered for 17 people. It has a wooden hull, is 3.5 meters wide, draws 1.5 meters and has a diesel engine that generates 123KW. We use it to slowly cruise around 1 hour a day at about 5 knots. Set up for fishing or day tours it is fitted with Fish Finder and GPS. Originally wanted 1.5 million baht, but have now reduced to 1 million baht. Must sell this month. Tel: 086-944 1623 (English), 087-382 9163 (Thai). Email: phil@krabikconnect.com

### A STEAL FOR A QUICK SALE



2007. Italian demo yacht. Cranchi 47ft. Hard top. Fully loaded with tropical aircon, genset, electrical winches, garage, roof. Ray Marine premium navy, BBQ, ice maker, 3 fridges, "Bose" sound, neon light. Twin 570hp with reliable shaft drive, under 300hr. Brand-new condition. 385,000 euros. Tel: 089-971 0278. Email: eddyelan@yahoo.com

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Deep V Hull, 140hp 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and marine heads. 1,299,950 baht. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

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### NEW ALESSANDRO MARCHI

"Carenalunga 21". Hypalon RIB (LOA 24'). Composite construction, strong and fast. 140hp 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and trailer. 1,795,000 baht. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

### RIVA HULL

10 meters long, marine plywood hull (not completed) for sale. Tel: 081-968 3118 (English & Thai). Email: info@procarpentering.com

### 43-FOOT CRUISING CATAMARAN

Built 2012, 2 sails, 15hp outboard. Ready to sail! 850,000 baht. Tel: 087-461 8089 (English). Email: peter.duengel@gmail.com

### MOONSOON FOR SALE



28ft, registered for 15 passengers. 200hp V6 Mercury motor, only 240 hours, recently totally restored. Perfect for snorkeling, diving trips, island hopping or water taxi. Navigation system + fishfinder. 5hp spare motor. Boat and motor in very good condition. Located at Boat Lagoon. Priced for quick sale at 330,000 baht. Tel: 086-747 9292. Email: claudstrey@gmail.com

### KAYAK WANTED

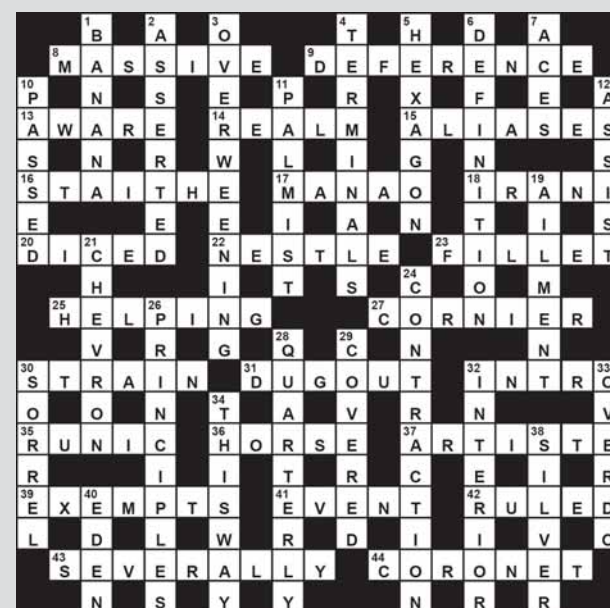
Secondhand 2-man kayak. Tel: 088-381 5725.

**Looking for a boat?**  
See more classified ads  
at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)

### SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S

### CrypticCrossword

### COFFEE break





# "A HISTORY OF PHUKET" BOOK LAUNCH



The Phuket Chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) proudly promoted the island's heritage with the launch of Colin Mackay's new book, *A History of Phuket and the surrounding region*.



# MISS THAILAND WORLD 2013 FINALISTS PROMOTE PHUKET TOURISM

20 gorgeous contestants prepare for the pageant at Cape Panwa Hotel in Phuket.

# 4<sup>th</sup> THALANG MINI-MARATHON

Runners' smiling faces, looking fresh after their 10.5k race through a historical route at the 4<sup>th</sup> Thalang Mini-Marathon, held on Sunday, March 10, in honor of the Two Heroines' victory.



# เพราะอนาคตที่ดี เริ่มต้นจากวันนี้... Your Prosperous Future Begins Today

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Ready...for modern living with quality amenities  
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สัมผัสชีวิต "พร้อม" ใช้ กับโครงการใหม่ inizio เกาะแก้ว ก่อเกิด สหกรณ์ความทันสมัยในบ้านเดี่ยว Modern Style ท่ามกลางสวนสวย ในสังคมที่ "พร้อม" เริ่มต้น มาตราฐานความสุขที่คุณก็เป็นเจ้าของได้ จากศูนย์ แอนด์ เฮาส์

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\*เงื่อนไขการรับประกันและข้อมูลด้านอื่นๆ กรุณาติดต่อ ศูนย์บริการลูกค้า หรือ โทรหาเราได้ที่ 076-615-121-2 สำหรับข้อมูลเพิ่มเติม กรุณาดูรายละเอียดในเอกสารโครงการ และแบบแปลนอาคาร โดยไม่มีผลผูกพันใดๆ การโฆษณาเป็นเพียงข้อมูลเบื้องต้นเท่านั้น ไม่สามารถนำมาใช้เพื่อวัตถุประสงค์อื่นใดได้ทั้งสิ้น

# 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 16-31, 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 18, 6pm to 1am: Surf Night at Two Chefs, Kata Beach**  
Every Monday at Two Chefs Kata Beach (opposite the Boat-house), we are setting up a big BBQ buffet, live music and cocktails to die for. Great food, great fun and only 495 baht, with no extra costs added to your bill. For more info visit [twochefs.com](http://twochefs.com).

**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-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).

**March 22, 29; 7 to 11pm: Indian Curry Buffet at the 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 30-31, 7:30pm to 1am: Shipwrecked Party at The Green Man, Chalong**  
Come Join the Festivities at our Shipwrecked Party. Another Theme Party organized by the Phuket party Boyz. All proceeds will be donated to the Phuket Sunshine Village Foundation ([phuketsunshinevillage.org](http://phuketsunshinevillage.org)). Price: 999 baht (includes Western and Thai buffet plus three drink coupons). Don't miss this opportunity to help children in need, simply by celebrating with us at the Shipwrecked party. Bring your friends, the more the merrier, and the more we can help the Phuket Sunshine Village children.

**April 1, 15; 6pm to 1am: Surf Night at Two Chefs, Kata Beach**  
Every Monday at Two Chefs Kata Beach (opposite the Boat-house), we are setting up a big BBQ-Buffet, live music and cocktails to die for. Great food great fun and only 495 baht, with no extra costs added to your bill. For more info visit [twochefs.com](http://twochefs.com).

**April 6, Chakri Memorial Day**  
Chakri Day commemorates the origins of the Chakri dynasty, founded by Rama I, who established Bangkok as the nation's capital. HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej is the ninth monarch of the Chakri dynasty.

**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 by pouring water on other people to wish them good luck for the New

Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the 6<sup>th</sup> lunar month, which usually falls in 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 lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his disciples after attaining Enlightenment.

**August 12, Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday**  
Her Majesty's Birthday is a public holiday in the Kingdom.

**October 23, Chulalongkorn Memorial Day**  
Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

**November 17, Loy Krathong Festival**  
Traditionally performed on the full moon night of the twelfth lunar month, which usually falls in November. A Krathong is a banana-leaf cup, which will be floated in a canal or river.

**December 5, 2013: His Majesty the King's Birthday**  
His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's birthday is a public holiday in the Kingdom.

**THE SPONSORSHIP EXPERTS**  
[WWW.PAULPOOLE.CO.TH](http://WWW.PAULPOOLE.CO.TH)

**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. *We're moving Sandwich Shoppe Patong to Kathu in the next few weeks, and starting a new Sandwich Shoppe Express in Kata in the coming months. Stay tuned for more info about our new locations, and computer gatherings, as events unfold.*

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](mailto:Woody@KhunWoody.com) or visit [KhunWoody.com](http://KhunWoody.com)

**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**

<b>TrueVisions HD Channel 99</b> 8 shows a week - MCOT World Monday: 05:10am Tuesday: 11:10pm Wednesday: 10:10am Thursday: 01:10pm Friday: 04:10am & 07:10pm Saturday: 01:10pm Sunday: 06:10pm	<b>Phuket Cable Company (PC)</b> Covers all Phuket. <b>Channel 1 - 19 shows a week</b> Monday - Friday: 10:30am, 6:00pm, 9:00pm. Saturday & Sunday: 10:30am, 9:10pm.
<b>True Freeview Channel 58</b> 8 shows a week - MCOT World Monday: 05:10am Tuesday: 11:10pm Wednesday: 10:10am Thursday: 01:10pm Friday: 04:10am & 07:10pm Saturday: 01:10pm Sunday: 06:10pm	<b>Rawai Cable</b> Covers Rawai, Chalong, Kata, Karon. <b>Channel 1 - 28 shows a week</b> Monday - Sunday: 10:00am, 1:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm. <b>Channel 43 - 8 shows a week</b> Monday: 05:10am Tuesday: 11:10pm Wednesday: 10:10am Thursday: 01:10pm Friday: 04:10am & 07:10pm Saturday: 01:10pm Sunday: 06:10pm

Online: [www.phuketgazette.net/tv](http://www.phuketgazette.net/tv) | [www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket](http://www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket)  
And in 4,600 hotel rooms around the island, international hospitals and Phuket Immigration Office.

# Live stress free

IT IS obvious nowadays that 'stress' seems to pop up everywhere. More traffic, increased cancer rates, another



Health with Hayden  
By Hayden Rhodes

economic crisis, too many pairs of jeans to choose from... And during all of this stress we often forget to just be present. They say that being present is the best present of all. Now, I don't know who 'they' are, but I agree with them.

Being present means taking a chill pill from time to time, getting some quality time out and reflecting on what is really important in your world. It means being grateful for each day and finding the beauty in the small things while looking at the bigger picture. We get so caught up 'living' and 'reacting' that we forget there are many things that we can control in our lives and thus enjoy each day a lot more.

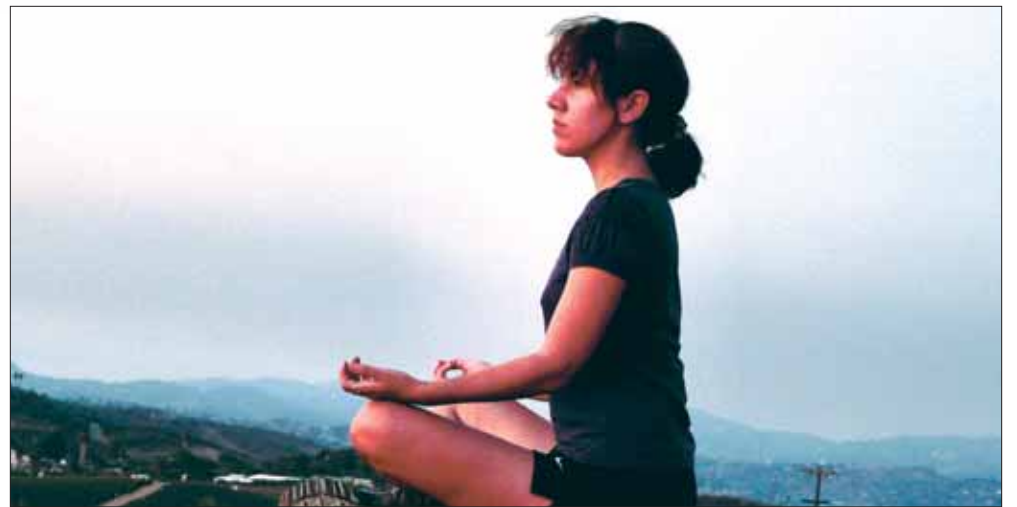
Andres Agassi's coach taught him, "Control what you can control." This means focusing on what you can do, rather than

reacting because you can't do something. This gives you power. We cannot control the external world and all the

people that we come into contact with each day. We can however, become more present and accept the fact that, at times, we cannot control everything – even if we think we should.

A classic example: Driving in Phuket. I can get frustrated and upset when driving around the island or I can simply accept that there are lots of bad drivers. At least I can drive with a little bit less stress. By accepting what is, without the need to control it (or others) means I become less reactive. Being less reactive helps dissipate what potentially could build up as more stress entering my life.

Stress is not always a bad thing, we need stress to improve us, make us think, make us learn how to control our responses. Yet, we often only think of 'stress' as something



CALM: A less reactive person is a less stressful person. Photo: M Dolly

that happens to us. "The traffic was stressful, my work is stressful, that person stresses me out." Now while there is some truth to this, it is our reactions more than the actual event or person that stresses us out.

By contemplating 'stress hits' when they arrive, rather than reacting instantly to them, we gain control over our health and wellbeing. This is especially true for our mental wellbeing. Anxiety, nervousness, worry, anger, depression are all mental states often triggered

because we feel 'out of control'.

So learn to control what you can control, accept the rest and flow with life rather than battling against it. This will help to keep the 'bad stress' at bay. More on good stress and bad stress next time, until then, chill out, find some quiet time, and enjoy.

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

## Don't worry, be happy

MOST of us worry about our health from time to time, but for some people, this worry never goes away and becomes a problem in itself.

Health anxiety (hypochondria) is obsessive worrying about your health, usually to the point where it causes great distress and affects your ability to function properly.

Some people with health anxiety have unexplained physical symptoms, such as chest pain or headaches, which they assume are a sign of serious disease despite the doctor's reassurance.

Others may just be permanently anxious about their future health, worrying about things like 'What if I get cancer or heart disease?'

This article aims to explain how health anxiety comes about, what keeps the worries going, and the help that is available.

### What causes health anxiety?

There are many reasons someone worries too much about their health.

You may be going through a particularly stressful period of your life. There may have been an illness or death in your family, or another family member may have worried a lot about your health when you were young.

Personality can play a role; you may be vulnerable to health anxiety because you are a worrier generally. You may find it difficult to handle emotions and conflict, and tend to 'catastrophize' when faced with problems in your life.

Sometimes, health anxiety can be a symptom of a mental illness, such as depression or anxiety disorder, which needs recognizing and treating in its own right.

### Why health anxiety is a vicious circle

Conditions such as low back pain, irritable bowel syndrome and eczema are known to be triggered



Constantly checking for signs of illness is unhealthy. Photo: Phil and Pam

or made worse by psychological problems such as stress or anxiety. When physical symptoms are triggered or made worse by worrying, it causes even more anxiety, which just worsens the symptoms. Excessive worrying can also lead to panic attacks or even depression.

Health anxiety is a vicious circle in other ways, too. If you constantly check your body for signs of illness, such as a rash or bump, you will eventually find something. It often won't be anything serious – it could be a natural body change, or you could be misinterpreting signs of anxiety (such as increased heart rate and sweating) as signs of serious disease. However, the discovery tends to cause great anxiety and make you self-check even more.

You may find yourself needing more and more reassurance from doctors, friends and family. The comfort you get from this reassurance

may be short-lived, or you may stop believing it, which only means you need more and more of it to feel better. Seeking reassurance just keeps the symptoms in your head, and usually makes you feel worse.

People with health anxiety can fall into one of two extremes:

Constantly seeking information and reassurance – for example, obsessively researching illnesses on the internet and booking frequent GP appointments or avoidant behavior; avoiding medical TV programs, GP appointments and anything else that might trigger the anxiety, and avoiding activities such as exercise that are perceived to make the condition worse (when in fact many people find that exercise helps.)

Neither of these behaviors are healthy, and need addressing if you are to break the cycle of health anxiety.

– NHS

## Lack of a silent night

MOST children snore on occasion, and about 10 per cent snore most nights. Snoring is a noise that occurs during sleep when the child is breathing in and there is some blockage of air passing through the back of the mouth.

The opening and closing of the air passage causes a vibration of the tissues in the throat. The loudness is affected by how much air is passing through and how fast the throat tissue is vibrating. Children aged three years or older tend to snore during the deeper stages of sleep. Primary snoring is defined as snoring that is not associated with more serious problems such as obstructive sleep apnea syndrome (OSAS), frequent arousals from sleep, or inability of the lungs to breathe in sufficient oxygen.

Loud and regular nightly snoring is often abnormal in otherwise healthy children. Sometimes it is a sign of a respiratory infection, a stuffy nose or allergy; for others it might be a symptom of sleep apnea.

About one to three per cent of children not only snore but also suffer from breathing problems during their sleep. When snoring is accompanied by gasps or pauses in breathing, the child may have OSAS. Children's muscles normally relax during sleep, but they can become so relaxed that the airway is narrowed or obstructed and sufficient air cannot pass through.

This interferes with breathing, causing a pause in breathing that can last only a few seconds or as long as a minute. The brain is then alerted and signals the body to make an effort to start breathing again. This effort results in the child gasping or snorting, waking up and starting to breathe again. Because of these repeated arousals to breathe, the child may



Baby snoring. Photo: Janet Mck

not get enough quality sleep and is likely to be sleepy or tired during the day.

Contributing factors to sleep apnea can include the following, obesity, allergies, asthma, GERD (gastroenterological reflux disorder), an abnormality in the physical structure of the face or jaw as well as medical and neurological conditions. In children, the most common physical problem associated with sleep apnea is large tonsils.

Young children's tonsils are quite large in comparison to the throat, peaking at five to seven years of age. Swollen tonsils can block the airway, making it difficult to breathe and could signify apnea.

Undiagnosed and untreated sleep apnea may contribute to children suffering from daytime sleepiness and behavioral problems, including difficulties at school.

Following a night of poor sleep, children are also more likely to be hyperactive and have difficulty paying attention. These are also signs of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. Apnea may also be associated with delayed growth and cardiovascular problems.

– The Nation

# Piyawan Songsawas

WITH the Phuket International Boat Show (Pimex) just around the corner, Piyawan Songsawas is busier than ever.

As the deputy show director of Andaman Marine Consultants, Piyawan is part of the specialist team who has organized this international marine and lifestyle show successfully for ten years running.

Considered one of the most important marine shows in the region, Pimex exudes luxury – yachts, iconic cars and top goods.

“This year we are in for a treat. We may yet see a few fancy super yachts. And the beautiful Royal Phuket Marina is a fantastic backdrop for showing off these magnificent machines,” says Piyawan, clearly excited about the prospect.

Piyawan has all it takes to drive the show to success. Phuket-born but educated in England, Piyawan is poised, hard working, dedicated and well connected. Her five-year sojourn in England and Europe has broadened her outlook and prepared her well for the many international positions ahead.

Having completed an MSc in management from the University of Surrey, England, Piyawan returned to Thailand, and was intent upon building a career in Bangkok. After a brief visit to her family in Phuket, she decided to stay having realized that the lifestyle in Phuket was far more attractive



than living in the capital.

After a couple of years in the training department for the Banyan Tree Resort, Piyawan switched course and became the event manager for Sheraton Grand Laguna (as it was called then), and later at the Blue Canyon Golf Club where she was involved in many international golf tournaments, such as the Johnny Walker Classic, BMW International World Final and Thailand Open, among others.

From late 2008 she then joined Informa Yacht Group to assist with their yachting events in South East Asia that include Pimex, the World Marina Conference, the Asia Super Yacht Conference and the Singapore Yacht Show.

“It was such a great opportunity to be involved in these world-class events. At the same time I had a chance to extend my marine knowledge, keeping abreast with the industry and expanding my contacts,” says Piyawan.

Having thus established herself as one of the most experienced and knowledgeable marine show organizers around, Piyawan, now brings her experience and knowledge of this

niche market to bear on Pimex, one of the biggest marine events in the region, now handled by Andaman Marine Consultants.

“Having focused experience helps but organizing a show of this scale is still a stressful and highly demanding activity. We deal with top-notch products and clients who only want excellence. We have to be highly professional and deliver the goods.”

While working hard to entice both tradesmen and visitors to subscribe to the show, Piyawan still believes there’s a gap to be filled, not least by the authorities concerned.

“Phuket will benefit from this high-spending niche industry. We are in an excellent position – great marinas, beautiful beaches, excellent Thai food and hospitality. Nonetheless, we need more marinas and facilities to accommodate the growing number of super yachts visiting the island. Lack of facilities means that many yachts turn to Singapore, Malaysia or Indonesia, who boast better equipped marinas.”

As the exhibition draws near, there are many pressing issues to tend to, Piyawan takes it all in her stride: “When Pimex opens (on March 21), the show will be a personal triumph of sort. You see the fruit of your labor while wandering around admiring gleaming yachts of all shapes and designs. Don’t take my word for it, come and join us for a fantastic day out.”



## About Thai Gallery

The individuals profiled in “Thai Gallery” are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket as an *international* community, and, often, for having made those contributions through successful social and/or working relationships with foreigners. This implies some foreign language skills and an interest in interacting with different cultures. They are people who in our experience, help make the lives of expats far more enjoyable here than might be the case without them.

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THE LION CITY: Singapore's business district sits in the shadow of the Marina Bay Sands, left. Photo: Nichola Lannuzel

# Sit still Singapore



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

I WAS in Singapore last weekend, and frankly am surprised by the way "4G" technology is being marketed in all sorts of places: the tops of taxis, television ads, magazine and newspaper ads, radio and TV. Everybody, it seems, wants to know more about 4G, and how Singaporeans can get it.

It's not just Singapore. All over the world, companies that can build their 4G (more accurately, LTE) networks faster than their competitors are seeing not only a huge influx of new business, but also increased stock prices.

Conversely, the companies that are having trouble building out 4G – or the ones that are simply stalling – have lost an enormous amount of money. Some even face bankruptcy because they haven't yet locked down 4G frequencies or started building the antennas and associated infrastructure.

Of course, Thailand doesn't have 4G, although there are some experimental networks going up now. Phuket wouldn't know 4G from a dead cow.

The reasons for 4G's explosive growth are only partly technical. LTE (4G), if set up correctly, really can run two or four or six times faster than "3G" HSPA+. But if those fast new towers are hooked into the same old, tired wired

networks – if the "backhaul" hasn't been upgraded (in communications-speak) – real-world 4G speeds aren't considerably faster than 3G.

Technology's nice, but I'm convinced that the reason why demand for 4G is growing through the roof in Africa, in particular, depends primarily on a simple bit of marketing: People who use 3G tend to be a bit, shall we say, self-impressed with the technology they're using (present company included, of course).

4G, simply because of the name, sounds infinitely better and more in tune with the world than that old, tired 3G. People who can afford 3G will, in general, shell out a few more shekels for 4G, if only to see and be seen with the latest and greatest.



TECH TOYS: At the "4G Thailand: The First 100 Mbps" conference last January.

In other words, 4G is a surefire marketing miracle, if Thailand's government manages to get its act together and auction off the frequencies needed to make a 4G network happen. Hey, the 3G auction only took about a decade. Maybe this next auction will turn around faster.

More surprises from Singapore: the newspaper ads for StarHub home broadband fiber optic in Singapore compares the company's "Fibre Broadband International (US) Average Peak Download Speed" with comparable speeds from M1 and SingTel, the other two large fiber optic companies in Singapore. Imagine that. The newspaper ads talk about real-world international download speeds to the US, instead of fabricated speedtest.net runs to the local switch. What a refreshing change!

Speaking of which, StarHub says its average peak download speed to the US is 45 Mbps. The best speeds we're seeing in Phuket run about 2 Mbps, on a good day with a strong tailwind.

SingTel's charges for a new fiber optic line are quite reasonable: 1,200 baht/month gets you a 150 Mbps line. Bump that up to 1,900 baht/month and you will get their 200 Mbps (no, that's not a typo) fiber broadband line. And as a bit of lagniappe, they also toss in an Acer Aspire V5 Touch tablet, a Windows 8 tablet that's been relatively well received.

While in Singapore I had a chance to spend some time at Sim Lim Square – and I was more than a little bit disappointed with what I saw. Sim Lim used to have row after row of computer vendors: monitors over here, peripherals over there, desktops and laptops galore.

While I wouldn't go so far as to say that Sim Lim's turned into a pale version of its former self, I would note that the aisles aren't so busy, the selection isn't as good, and in general there aren't nearly as many people as there used to be.

Of course, that's a problem everywhere, with traditional desktop/laptop/Ultrabook computer sales way down in practically every city in the world. Panthip Plaza in

Bangkok isn't immune. There's so little business in Panthip that most of the shops are wide-open and anxious to see paying customers.

PC sales have been declining for the past couple of years, and I see no indication that trend is going to change any time soon. Tablets and phone sales are way up. So, as you might imagine, the number of shops in Sim Lim that carry traditional PCs has declined sharply, while business in the shops that carry tablets has gone up.

I guess what worries me most about Windows 8 is the lack of remarkable hardware to run it. If you really want to run Windows 8 on a PC, you need a touch screen. The vast majority of PCs available in Sim Lim are Windows 7-era (but new!) laptops and Ultrabooks, with no touch screen, and Windows 8 pre-installed. That's the worst of all possible worlds, and likely the reason why places like Sim Lim and Panthip just aren't as busy as they once were.

Let's see if the Thai regulators are capable of rolling out 4G. Who knows, we might start catching up with Singapore. At least, if they would sit still for a few years.

*Our regular weekly computer clinic roundtables continue every Sunday morning, 10am at Sandwich Shoppe Chalongs. 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. It's always free. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.*

**We're moving Sandwich Shoppe Patong to Kathu in the next few months, and starting a new Sandwich Shoppe Express in Kata in the coming months. Stay tuned for more info about our new locations, and computer gatherings, as events unfold.**

*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.*



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# Doctor's delight: more cover-ups



THIS week opens the 'last chance saloon' door to a few more multicolored foliage shrubs. And in fact, two or three are consistent performers and might rightly feel miffed if not given a mention. Indeed one, *sanchezia nobile*, prompted an enthusiastic Floridian to write on the web as follows: "Does anybody know about this plant? I saw it here in town and I just had to get a cutting." I don't know if he found what he wanted, but the good news for Phuketians is that not only will it grow readily from cuttings, but that it is readily available in plant nurseries here.

Sometimes confused with the *codiaeum* (croton), its leaves are quite similar, since *sanchezia* has similarly deep green, oval foliage with deep yellow or white veining.

Glossy and leathery, the spectacular leaves, produced in opposite pairs, are comparable in size to those of the croton – up to a foot long in the right conditions.

And the right conditions mean good soil, a consistent supply of water and full or filtered sun. Potted specimens, for example, will wilt rapidly if the soil is allowed to dry out.

While it does not have the spectrum of colors possessed by the croton, this tropical American native named after a certain Dr Sanchez, has other compensations. It is a fast grower, makes a sizable bush (up to five feet)



## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

and has quite showy yellow flowers with bright tubular red bracts. Right now, it is blooming away in my patch.

Our Floridian friend said these blooms looked like hibiscus flowers, but I put that observation down to an aberrant memory – or an excess of enthusiasm. But the shrub is well worth a try and makes an unusual addition to your flower bed. If you want a bushier plant, remember to pinch out the growing tips.

The next plant comes with a health warning. Its common name, "the blindness tree", affords a clue – the sap is toxic and may be injurious to the eyes, though it does also have medicinal uses.

The shrub that's in question, *excoecaria cochinchinensis* (the latter epithet is simply an old word for Vietnam), is a bushy, woody shrub, with masses of shiny, papery leaves.

What make it distinctive is that the upsides of the leaves are dark green (sometimes with white or pinkish variegations), but are deep maroon underneath. It is becoming increasingly popular here: one cultivar, "firestone", has strongly contrasting leaf coloration. Its dense habit means it can be used as a hedge or border plant and will

tolerate clipping. Distinctly useful.

Last through the swinging doors is *polyscias*, sometimes referred to as *panax*. This is another shrub that can be brought into service as a hedging plant and is often employed in this fashion by Thai gardeners. Strictly speaking it is more a two-tone variegated plant than a multi-colored one, rarely deviating from green and white patterned foliage.

*Quercifolia* (oak-leaved), the commonest variety here, has smallish, wavy-edged foliage and a vertical habit. If you intend to use it for a barrier or border you will need to put the young plants close together. Trim the top growth if you want a bushier specimen.

*Polyscias* is hardy, and will tolerate low levels of moisture. Moreover, it is evergreen and there are increasingly attractive varieties available. *Marginata*, for example, has dramatic blotches of bright yellow on the leaf edges. The shrub has achieved a new lease of life as a house plant, especially in America, where there are many cultivars with varied leaf shapes. "Ruffles", "parsley" and "spinach" should give you a clue.

Enough to be going on with? I think so.

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



SHOW STEALER: *sanchezia nobile*, above, and *excoecaria cochinchinensis* "Firestorm," above left. Photos: Daniel Ramirez and Erick Lux

## Tip of the Week

### Controlling pests



Photo: jetsandzeppelins

EMPLOY chemical controls, including pesticides, only as a last resort. If you maintain good cultural practices and if your plants are consequently robust and healthy, they are less likely to be attacked, or to succumb to disease.

Choose plants that are right for a tropical climate, select plants for specific conditions in your garden such as shade or sun, prepare planting beds well with plenty of organic matter, and water, fertilize

and prune as required. Check your plants regularly to ensure they are healthy and vigorous.

You can limit pest problems by the simple expedient of hand-picking. In this way, you can remove caterpillars, snails and insect egg masses. Look for tell-tale damage to leaves caused by caterpillars or grasshoppers, and inspect for droppings under your plants. Always inspect beneath the leaves.

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# Crawling around Krabi



**BIKE AND HIKE:** Koh Yao Noi in Phang Nga Bay. Right: a large Buddha image atop the 300-meter high Tiger Temple in Krabi. Photos: Baz Daniel



PHUKET'S ever-expanding traffic makes cycling trips off the island all the more enticing. This week, we join Amazing Bike Tours for their three-day adventure to get away from it all by "Krawling Around Krabi".

Amazing Bike Tours is an innovative company that lives up to its inspirational name by providing exciting, well-managed and good value group cycling tours, not only around Phuket itself but into the less turbulent cycling territories around the region.

It was already heating up to be a blistering hot March morning when their big white people-mover hove into view, emblazoned with its hugely-visible advertising for an Amazing Bike Tour.

Big white vans are about as common in Phuket as men wearing stilettos, but this one was immediately recognizable because of the array of swaying mountain bikes perched precariously on its roof.

Loading my own trusty and slightly rusty wheeled steed onto the roof, we were soon away up the island, collecting a motley crew of Lycra-clad cycling enthusiasts of varying nationalities and vintages along the way.

At Bang Rong's east coast pier, our bikes were man-handled onto the waiting longtail boat ferry and in a trice we blasted off into the heat haze for the hour's crossing to the Koh Yao islands.

Koh Yao Noi is a parallel universe of quietude, laid back Muslim villages and steamy rubber tree groves surrounded by stunning views across Phang Nga Bay's karst topography. James Hembrow, the MD of Amazing Bike Tours, told us that if we saw ten cars during our day's ride around the quiet island roads, we'd had a "busy day." We saw eight!

Our first night's billet was at excellent beachside cottages on



## Blazing Saddles

By Baz Daniel

the island's east coast, where, after wolfing down seafood and cold beers, we ended up swinging in hammocks on the beach watching the squid boat lights dance on the horizon until bed claimed us at 10pm.

Day two began with a hectic post-breakfast ride to catch a 9am longtail ferry across the rest of Phang Nga Bay to a little pier north of Krabi Town. There we were picked up by our white people-mover with bike rack, which had magically re-appeared to meet us. We drove about an hour to the signposted turning off the main Trang Highway 4, which led via a 20 kilometer ride along quiet back roads through the Sra Morakot sub-district east of Klong Thom, to the Emerald Lake.

This dazzlingly green freshwater pool was reached by a hike through the hot woods along a wooden walkway that follows and then bridges the cascading stream. During the walk you might spot the rare Pitta Gurney birds thought to be extinct until they were discovered solely in this forest 15 years ago.

Arriving poolside there were plenty of tourists on hand, plus a coterie of venerable Thai ladies taking the waters, and so we dispensed with our sweaty Lycra and plunged into the refreshing pool to join them for an hour's frolic followed by a Thai lunch nearby.

Mid-afternoon saw us rather reluctantly creaking along further steamy back roads to the Klong Thom hot waterfalls, which we reached via another short forest hike through the national park.

Here there were several levels to the falls with attendant pools in which to soak in the 37 to 39

degree waters of the mineral-laden spring. It was a perfect hydrotherapy bath and had the amazing effect of removing every bodily ache and pain from our day's riding. After a huge seafood dinner and a few cold ones near our hotel in Ao Nang that evening, it was perhaps no surprise that the 'arms of Morpheus' again claimed us by about 10pm.

Day three of our adventure started with some not particular pleasant main road riding out of Ao Nang up to Highway 4 and south-east towards Krabi Town itself. We stopped at the huge reclining roadside Buddha at Wat Sai Thai for a drinks break and then things became more interesting as the cliff-top temple of Wat Tham Sua (the famous Tiger Temple) hove into view near Ban Phnumat.

After a few more kilometers we reached our prize – Wat Tham Sua – one of the most famous temples in Southern Thailand. It is located on top of a rocky limestone karst about eight kilometers northeast of the Krabi Town.

As we walked into the temple compound, we spotted the huge stupa on the right with steps leading up inside, but this was NOT the Tiger Temple!

This was at the top of a near vertical mountain some 300 meters up a vertiginous cliff. There is a stairway with some 1,237 steps, which one has to climb in order to see a tiger's footprint within the Buddhist monument on the top. After the morning's cycling, this of course offered us the opportunity for a sensational burst of masochism, which we exuberantly seized.

Forty minutes later we breasted the apex and were rewarded with stunning 360 degree views of the region we had cycled through in a fitting climax to our Amazing Krabi adventure.



**STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN:** Climbing up the 1,237 steps that lead to Tiger Temple. Below: frolicking in Klong Thom waterfall.





From left: John Magee (Phuket Gazette), Gulu Lalvani (RPM), Colin Mackay (Author), Judy Benn (AMCHAM) and Bill Barnett (C9Hotelworks) at the book's recent launch. Photo: danmilesmedia

# Phuket book launch makes local history

By Chris Husted

IT WAS standing room only as more than 250 people crammed into the auditorium next to Les Anges bakery at Royal Phuket Marina (RPM) on March 8 for the launch of Colin Mackay's potentially seminal work, *A History of Phuket and the Surrounding Region*.

More than six years in the making, the book references more than 800 texts detailing the arrival of man onto the Malay Peninsula and the developments thereafter that produced what is known today as the tourist haven isle of Phuket.

With the event organized by the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) Phuket Chapter, Bill Barnett of C9Hotelworks introduced the speakers, beginning with respected local historian Assistant Professor Pranee Sakulpipatana, who generously donated many of her prized historical photographs for use in the book.

In true Phuket style, Prof Pranee delivered pictorial and narrative descriptions of Phuket's yesteryear with tales recounted down the

generations by her forefathers, stories annotated with bare facts and punctuated with comical notes that had the audience repeatedly breaking out in laughter.

Mr Mackay, known to nearly everyone in the room for the Thailand and Phuket specific books he has written over the years, took the podium next, thanking all present, most notably those who contributed to the production of the book.

Special thanks went to Prof Pranee for her "outstanding energy and enthusiasm" and to Royal Phuket Marina's Gulu Lalvani for providing the venue for the event.

Mr Mackay, originally from Tanzania, travelled around the world to gather information for the book, collating more than 1,000 quotes from historical figures across three millennia – all about Phuket.

Noted top among his inspirations for embarking on such an epic research journey was the fact that Phuket, an island that attracts millions of visitors from around the globe year after year, has been unique in its failure to offer these visitors any coherent, detailed

description of its past through museums or other establishments.

"There is a symbiotic relationship between tourism and history. Major tourist destinations around the world tell visitors about their past. Phuket has been unable to do that," he said.

Also lacking has been any single comprehensive publication focused purely on Phuket's history. Mr Mackay noted that previous attempts to chronicle the island's past were made in 1905 by an Italian police chief and in 1985 by a Thai.

His book, the third focusing on Phuket's history, is by far the most comprehensive due to internet access to vast amounts of information unavailable to his predecessors.

"I welcome all comments and criticisms of any facts in the book. It all provides a better forum to define Phuket's history," Mr Mackay said.

"I hope this book starts something that Thais and foreigners can work on together. Phuket has an amazing history."

For more info visit: [historyofphuket.com](http://historyofphuket.com)

## Diary of budding existentialists

Three young artists from a recent BIS Visual Arts class discuss their work, due to be put on display at an upcoming exhibition March 25-29, sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*



By Peeraya Koykul

I EXPERIENCED an existential crisis at the end of year twelve, which was a hard time for me to get back from. During this phase, a lot of my pieces used mediums such as pencil, charcoal and pens. I think that monotone is simplistic, but expresses my distress at the time fairly well.



By Shela Riva

I FOUND a central topic that interested me and has been a recurring theme throughout my recent pieces: beauty, and the social standard to be 'beautiful'.

This was a topic that was fascinating to stem pieces from, [and I was] provided with inspiration all around me. The course allowed me to not only broach themes of social reflection from my perspective but also very personal topics close to my family and myself.

By Juliana Huber

MY ARTWORK is based on the theme of nature. Initially, the influence was observable: trees, the ocean and insects.

However, as I continued to experiment and explore ideas, I became influenced by abstract nature. Predominately, nature in the larger sense: human nature, decaying nature and the causes and effects of both. Nature is perhaps the most predominant thing in the world, it is in everything.



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## Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

# The short tale of longtails

THE roar of a well-oiled second-hand car motor destroys any hope of silence, despite there not being a road or traversable land for kilometers around us. Originating in and still dominating the waterways of Southeast Asia, longtail boats are the most unique way to reach a dive site from Phuket and other Andaman areas.

However, diving from a traditional Thai longtail boat is sadly overlooked by many holiday divers.

Falling into familiar patterns, we book trips on big boats heading out to the better known dive sites off Phuket, such as Anemone Reef, Shark Point, The King Cruiser or one of the Koh Rachas. Those with the money and desire for a more boutique experience charter smaller modern craft.

There is nothing wrong with getting to a dive site by either of these methods, and in many ways they are preferable. Most boats are comfortable, provide a healthy array of food and offer plenty of deck space for bronzing up between underwater explorations.

However, these boats are missing something unique, something that can in many ways create a dive experience that is nearly impossible to re-create outside of Southeast Asia.

With a foot on the tiller, our boatman swings the boat around the northern tip of Phi Phi Don, slicing through the calm water.

Sitting near the back, not far from the massive motor, it is impossible to talk.

Our wooden-hulled boat zips between the ancient uplifted coral reefs that were once part of the world's largest reef system, covering a great deal of central Thailand and stretching beyond the border of modern day China.

Well-worn through weathering and ocean erosion, what's left of the ancient system is now the classic karst towers of Krabi, most topped with little dangling toupees of dense green jungle.

In the boat, with our gear



**GETTING THERE:** Although noisy and with fewer creature comforts, longtails make getting to dive sites half the fun. Photos: Isaac Stone Simonelli

packed into the wooden bow, there is a buzz of excitement coming from the divers.

From our vantage point in the low lying craft – the wooden plank seat – we see the colorfully wrapped stemhead and salt water spray kicking up as the bow slaps into a small wave, and feel very much like we are part

of a long-ago adventure.

No doubt the Moken and other Sea Gypsy populations who settled the Andaman waters hundreds of years ago were paddling similarly hulled crafts as they fished, traded and freedived off Phi Phi, Phuket and the rest of the coastline.

Unlike most dive trips, where

the adventure doesn't begin until you splash in, ours is well underway.

The boat glides to a rocking stop not far from one of the limestone towers in Nui Bay. Masks pressed firmly against faces and regulators held in place, one by one members of the small dive team roll back off the wooden

rail of the longtail and splash into the warm water.

A quick 'okay' sign to the boat boy and the team takes the plunge.

Although Barracuda and Shrimp Fish show up on the dive, as well as hundreds of mating Blue Dragon nudibraches – they are all icing on the cake.



**BEING THERE:** It's an exciting ride getting there but once under the waves it's a dive like any other. (From left: A Blue Dragon Nudibranch, Shrimp Fish and a school of Barracuda.

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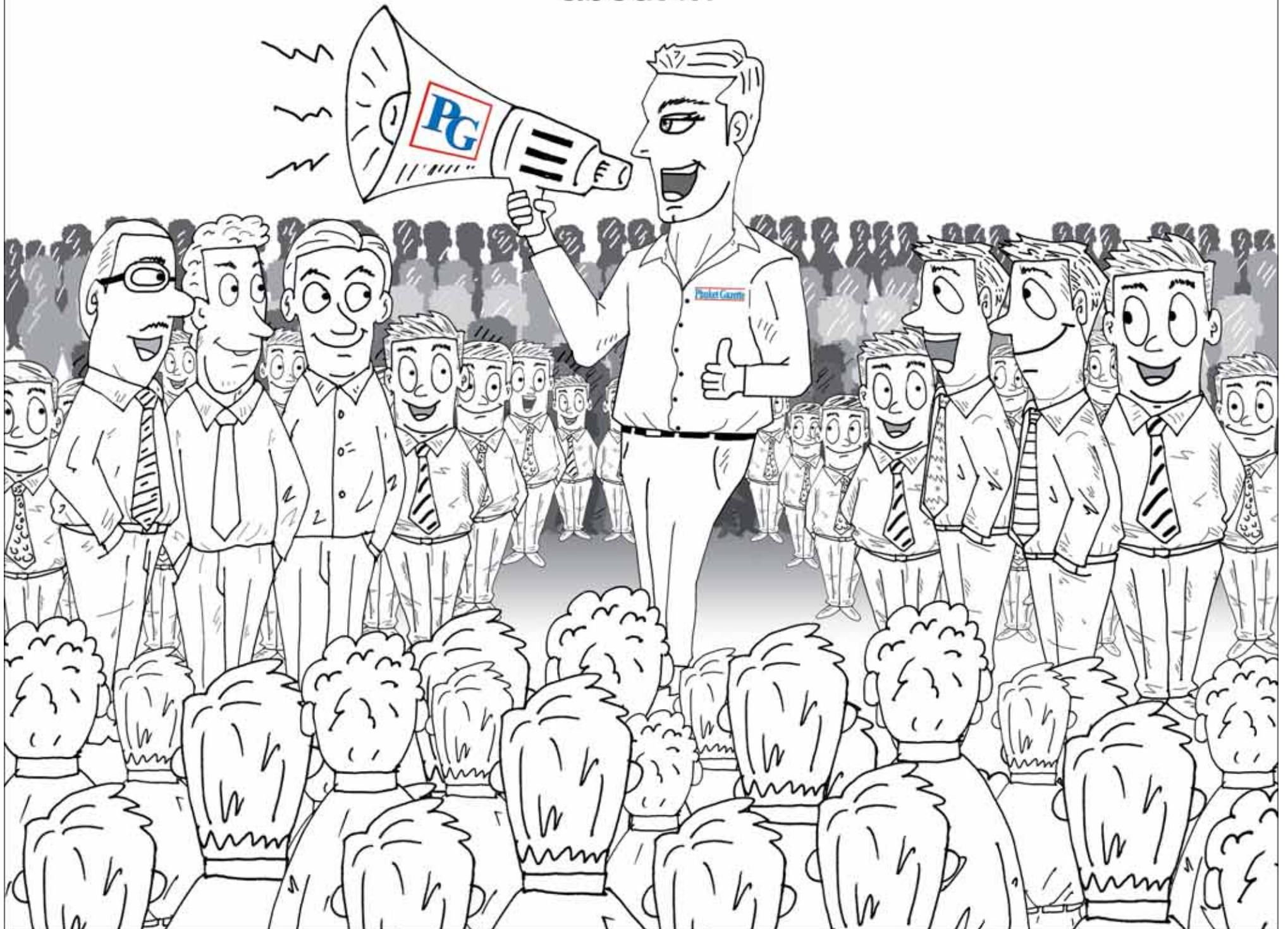
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Gazette Online \*Google Analytics

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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:

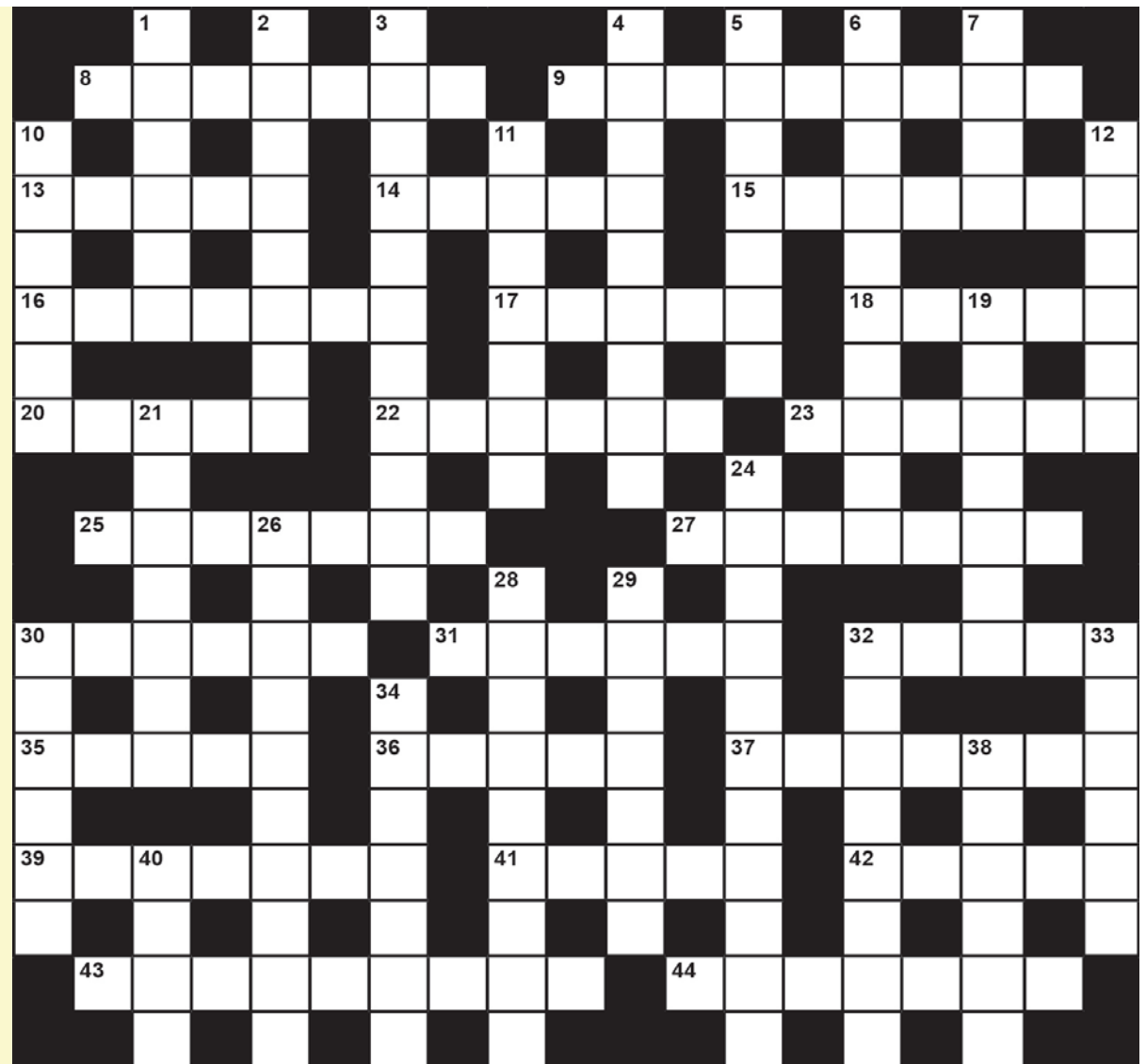
8. Mighty liturgy I have abbreviated (7)  
9. Respect new deer fence (9)  
13. Conscious of a raw deal, note (5)  
14. Royal male moves into kingdom (5)  
15. A lassie selected pseudonyms (7)  
16. Is at the new cargo jetty (7)  
17. Upset, moan about a sour Thai fruit (5)  
18. I managed island for up-to-date Persian (5)  
20. Gambled, died about one hundred (5)  
22. Possibly sent the French to

settle (6)

23. The Italian felt upset about the fish off the bone (6)  
25. Passing servant mixed gin (7)  
27. Strangely, I corner the more banal (7)  
30. Star upset in stress (6)  
31. Unearthed primitive boat (6)  
32. I, torn, wrecked opening bars (5)  
35. Go quickly in charge relating to ancient characters (5)  
36. Mount her, so move (5)  
37. Performer to tie star in knots (7)  
39. Frees from excuses (7)  
41. Equal time in the competition (5)  
42. Judged right turn was first (5)  
43. Each in turn cut friend (9)  
44. Coo! Rent out a peer's crown! (7)

### Down:

1. Graduate Anna may produce



- fruit (6)  
2. Deters as wrongly declared (8)  
3. Arrogant, we go in, never out of control (11)  
4. Last miner moves the ends of the lines (9)  
5. Wish bad luck on, go an unusual shape! (7)  
6. Meaning do infinite wrong (10)  
7. Successful fighter pilots can be cards (4)  
10. Overhauled and got through the exam (6)

11. Date, e.g., first for hand-reader (7)  
12. Help the idiot first (6)  
19. Upset male in time makes complaint (7)  
21. Church may be over new service symbol (7)  
24. Tightening of agreement I forward (11)  
26. Clips in, per arrangement, basic rules (10)  
28. Two pints, note, on the railway four times per annum (9)

29. Hidden chap communist (7)  
30. Herb for a horse (6)  
32. Or I rent, maybe, one hidden in the inside (8)  
33. Exaggerate, drove out nothing (6)  
34. What is maybe unknown in similar fashion (4,3)  
38. Distort sliver of metal (6)  
40. Note lair in the first garden (4)

**Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 31**

### PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):



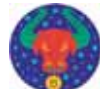
This weekend can be an emotional rollercoaster for Pisceans. The stars advise avoiding unnecessary confrontations, particularly where earth and air signs are concerned. Where work is concerned, it would be best to tread a familiar path; April is better starred for taking risks. Those celebrating a birthday in the days ahead are predicted to achieve important goals in the coming year. Your lucky number this week is three.

### ARIES (March 21-April 20):



Strong leadership qualities are forecast to put Arians firmly in the picture at work. Those who have been waiting for promotion stand better chance when an air sign reveals that their sights are set elsewhere. On a personal level, there could be some awkward moments this weekend when it becomes apparent that an old flame hasn't lost hope of rekindling romance. Number six can be fortunate this week.

### TAURUS (April 21-May 21):



You should be more in the mood for socializing during the second half of March and this can be combined well with work. Where romance is concerned, if following

through on an introduction to a fire sign doesn't fill you with thrills, it would be best to politely retreat. The stars suggest that this person has high expectations of a relationship. Number five comes alive for Taureans this week.

### GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Organization can be a weak point for those born under the sign of Gemini, but the stars advise that you will need to plan carefully during the second half of March. In the world of business, a scheme that seemed impossible can now become the secret to success. Another air sign has the right experience and mindset to help make this happen. Number eight appears important this week.

### CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Less work and more play are on the agenda for Cancerians this week. A slower pace where business is concerned will come as a relief if your social life was on the back burner during the first half of March. A more lighthearted outlook on life enhances the charisma of those who are single and seeking – expect a fire sign to send out sparks of interest this weekend. Number nine shines this week.

## YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

### LEO (July 24-Aug 22):



A former work colleague is forecast to make an appearance in your life and the stars indicate that they will have news that can make your day. Leos who have been at a loose end should soon leave boredom behind. In the realm of romance, there are hints that an earth sign partner would like to have more financial independence. The number four can open a lucky door for Leos this week.

### VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):



Watching an air sign friend take too many risks with money can be painful for some Virgoans. If your words of wisdom have fallen on deaf ears, there's nothing left to do. In the realm of romance, out of sight doesn't necessarily mean out of mind where a new water sign partner is concerned. Communication is better starred during the second half of March. Your lucky number this week is seven.

### LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



Where work is concerned, Librans are advised not to give free rein to other air sign colleagues; the stars suggest that one is likely to take steps that you won't approve of. On a social level, spending time with a more affluent water sign friend can be depressing for those with resources at a low ebb. Sparkling days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday. Number one can bring good fortune this week.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



It will be important to send clear messages during the second half of March. There are hints that what seems obvious to you will be a gray area for others. Where romance is concerned, efforts to get noticed by another water sign should pay off this weekend. Those hoping to impress a fire sign will soon see that this is a waste of time. Number two appears special for Scorpions this week.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Chasing after a hot tip can keep some Sagittarians occupied early next week. By Wednesday you should be ready to take action and the stars forecast sudden changes to your schedule as you try to keep

up with all that needs to be done. In the realm of romance, a heart to heart conversation with an air sign can give deeper understanding of this person's problems. The number nine can be lucky this week.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



Good news travels fast and Capricorns are forecast to be celebrating around the middle of March. Those who had financial worries should see their circumstances rapidly improving. In the realm of romance, a water sign partner can be going through a moody phase; putting important decisions on hold is recommended until the air clears. Single Capricorns see a chance with a fire sign. Number two stands out this week.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



In the world of work, the stars advise those born under the sign of Aquarius to get a firmer grip before valuable control is lost. An earth sign is poised to benefit from your lack of attention and this may be hard to see coming if you are not on the ball. There are hints that a romantically related issue is preventing your full concentration. Aquarians' lucky number this week is three.

# International Sport

## Truth, tyres and tall tales

THE 2013 Formula 1 rules are much the same as last year, so slower teams have had a better chance to copy and catch-up in the off-season rather than have faster teams increase their lead with innovations. But the new *Pirelli* tyres are going to degrade even faster than the 2012 versions. So I expect a very close season.

Pre-season testing of the teams' new cars in Spain is over. The top ten results in order were: Nico Rosberg (Mercedes), Fernando Alonso (Ferrari), Jenson Button (McLaren), Nico Hulkenberg (Sauber), Kimi Räikkönen (Lotus), Paul di Resta (Force India), Pastor Maldonado (Williams), Sebastian Vettel (Red Bull), Valtteri Bottas (Williams), Charles Pic (Caterham).

What to make of it? Are the results and comments to the media indicative of relative rankings or of crafty camouflage? They are both. F1 teams play their cards so close to their chests that they are nailed on. They may not have used their latest gizmo's to keep progress up their sleeves, and they could have over-fuelled their cars to slow themselves down. One thing is certain; we are in for some shocks. Following is what I guess.

Red Bull was slower than Mercedes and Ferrari in Spain, and Red Bull faces looked very worried. Perhaps they had taken excellent



**Formula 1**  
**By The Digby**

acting lessons, but I think they are terrified by Ferrari's progress. I think Vettel will be lucky to make the podium in Melbourne.

Ferrari looks like the team to beat in Australia, and maybe for the season. If they really have a car to match Alonso's skill, they will be formidable. Barring accidents, he should be on the podium.



**VERY BUNNY:** Vettel may well be the tortoise in this year's F1 season. Photo: Reuters

McLaren had difficulty with the new Pirelli tyres in Spain. The 2013 tyres have been designed for hot circuits, and Spain was cold. I would not be surprised to see Button on the podium in Melbourne with Alonso.

Despite Nico Rosberg being fastest in testing, I would be surprised if Mercedes managed a

podium finish in Australia. They were far behind last season. Lewis Hamilton is a great driver, but I fear that history will say that in changing his colors he cashed in his birthright for a mass of Euros.

Kimi Räikkönen and Lotus will be asking tough questions too. They were not at their technical best in Spain, but expect them to be in the points in the first race, and Kimi would be a good outside bet for a podium position.

Sauber may not have their tyre wear sorted out for Australia. I suspect Williams and Force India will both be happy if they end Melbourne with two cars each in the points. And a newly revamped Caterham would love a point.

Melbourne is a cool street circuit. The cars run with high down force, and it has a bit of mystery about it. Practice sessions tell little; the track starts very green, and evolves fast over the weekend as rubber gets laid down.

After Melbourne, the circus will head to Sepang, where the track is notorious for flooding and upsets. But Alonso, Vettel, Button and Räikkönen all feel at home, and Sergio Pérez did so well last year. Shanghai was Schumacher's only win for Mercedes last season and then it's Bahrain where politics overshadow sport, but both are hot. At Catalunya, the race last year



**RED HOT FAVORITE:** Alonso testing his new Ferrari F138. Photo: Reuters

looked like a dodgem circuit littered with broken cars. Then it is Monaco where anyone can win who qualifies well, and it's the high point of the social calendar. Silverstone is at midsummer, and that's always a great race.

Nürburgring is early July. Initially announcing 20 races for this year, the FIA then scrapped the New Jersey Grand Prix. The circuit will not be ready to host its inaugural race. There was talk of filling the space with Turkey, dropped in 2012 following a disagreement over fees. Austria and Portugal were also mooted. But we now know that the July 21 date will not be filled, leaving a three-week gap between the German and Hungarian Grands Prix.

Neither of these races inspires me much, but the next three are magic: Spa in August, Monza in early September, and Singapore later that month. Spa and Monza are fast

hard tracks that can change the face of the championship. Monza is also the jinx circuit – win at Monza and lose the championship! And Singapore is becoming a circuit to rival the social position of Monaco.

Then it's a mediocre Korean GP and on to Suzuka for the Japanese GP, always one of the great races of the year. India tends to disappoint, but Abu Dhabi in November will be splendid. And if the season is as tight as I think it will be, the winner will not be decided as they head to Austin for the US GP. That was wonderful last season, entertaining and classic. The year ends as always in Sao Paulo. That will be November 24.

A whole year to look forward to. Lies now, truth by Sao Paulo – a splendid prospect!

*The Australian Grand Prix starts at 1pm on Sunday and will be shown at The Green Man.*

## European football roundup



**Chelsea's interim manager Rafael Benitez congratulates his players.** Photo: Reuters

CHELSEA came from two goals down at Manchester United to draw 2-2 in a thrilling FA Cup quarterfinal on Sunday that capped a bad week for the Premier League leaders who were knocked out of the Champions League on March 5 by Real Madrid.

Manchester United and Chelsea drew 2-2 on Sunday as the quarter-finals of the FA Cup took the spotlight and there was a thrilling Premier League match at Anfield where Liverpool came from behind to beat Tottenham Hotspur 3-2.

United raced into an early 2-0 lead before holders Chelsea fought back to draw at Old Trafford and force a replay.

The winners of the replay will face Manchester City in one semi-final at Wembley after the Premier League champions beat Barnsley 5-0 on Saturday.

Wigan Athletic beat Everton 3-0 in their quarter-final to reach the semis for the first time where they will face either Millwall or Blackburn Rovers.

Queens Park Rangers boosted their Premier League survival hopes with a 3-1 win over Sunderland, although they stay bottom of the table.

Barcelona stretched their lead at the top of La Liga to 13 points when Lionel Messi scored for a world record 17<sup>th</sup> straight league game in a 2-0 victory at bottom side Deportivo La Coruna on March 9.

Atletico Madrid lost their perfect home record when they were beaten 1-0 by Real Sociedad on March 10 and city rivals Real leapfrogged them into second after Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice in a 2-1 success at struggling Celta Vigo.

Barca fielded a weakened side against Deportivo and Messi came off the bench to score with a delightful late chip after Alexis Sanchez had put Barca ahead in the first half.

Barca said Messi had surpassed Polish forward Teodor Pewterek, who scored in 16 straight outings for Ruch Chorzow at the end of the 1930s.

### PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE

	TEAM	GD	PTs
1	Man Utd	37	71
2	Man City	27	59
3	Tottenham	15	54
4	Chelsea	26	52
5	Arsenal	21	47
6	▲ Liverpool	20	45
7	▼ Everton	9	45
8	▼ WBA	2	43
9	Swansea	4	40
10	Fulham	-5	33
11	Stoke	-8	33
12	West Ham	-9	33
13	▲ Newcastle	-10	33
14	▼ Norwich	-18	33
15	▼ Sunderland	-9	30
16	Southampton	-12	28
17	Aston Villa	-26	27
18	Wigan	-22	24
19	Reading	-21	23
20	QPR	-21	23

With 11 matches left, Barca lead on 71 points, with champions Real on 58 and Atletico on 57.

Bayern Munich's record-breaking season showed no signs of abating as they twice came from a goal down to beat promoted Fortuna Dusseldorf 3-2 and set a Bundesliga record for the best start after a winter break with eight straight league victories.

Goals from Franck Ribery in the 73<sup>rd</sup> and Jerome Boateng four minutes from time turned the game in favor of the Bavarians,

### PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES

<b>Everton vs Man City</b> <b>SAT, 16 MARCH 2013</b> <b>19:45</b>	
<b>SATURDAY, 16 MARCH 2013 22:00</b>	
Aston Villa	VS QPR
Southampton	VS Liverpool
Stoke	VS West Brom
Swansea	VS Arsenal
<b>SATURDAY, 16 MARCH 2013 00:30</b>	
Man Utd	VS Reading
<b>SUNDAY, 17 MARCH 2013 20:30</b>	
Sunderland	VS Norwich
<b>SUNDAY, 17 MARCH 2013 22:00</b>	
Tottenham	VS Fulham
<b>SUNDAY, 17 MARCH 2013 23:00</b>	
Chelsea	VS West Ham
Wigan	VS Newcastle

who have now won all ten of their matches in all competitions this year.

Bayern are 20 points clear at the top of the table and with nine matches to play, they only need three more wins to take the title.

Champions Borussia Dortmund suffered a renewed setback in the league, slumping to a 2-1 defeat in their Ruhr valley derby against Schalke 04 to stay on 46 points, but hold on to second place after Bayer Leverkusen remained a point behind following a 1-0 defeat at Mainz 05.

– Reuters

# International Sport

## Wales play England in decider

FLYHALF Owen Farrell has been passed fit to return to England's lineup for Saturday's Six Nations title decider against Wales in Cardiff, and is likely to start despite Toby Flood kicking six out of six penalties in Sunday's 18-11 victory over Italy.

The news was not so good for number eight Ben Morgan, who has lost his fitness battle after missing the last three games with an ankle injury.

Coach Stuart Lancaster said on Monday that Farrell was available for selection and that he was also hopeful that locks Geoff Parling, Joe Launchbury and Courtney Lawes would all recover from minor knocks for the Millennium Stadium decider.

Farrell missed Sunday's game with a thigh strain and though Flood proved an able deputy, Farrell's ice-cool temperament makes him ideally suited for what is certain to be a high-octane encounter.

Wales will retain their title if they win by at least eight points, or seven points as long as England do not outscore them by three tries. A seven-point Welsh win combined with a two-try swing in England's favor would see the championship shared.

A narrower Welsh victory would give England their second title in three years while an England win would bring them their first grand slam since 2003.

"We've got plenty to work on. I don't have to remind the players that we need to take the opportunities," Lancaster told *Sky Sports News* on Monday, having reviewed Sunday's nervy Twickenham win. "We got to 15-3 and should have pulled away. We have to learn the lessons from that but our character at the end was positive."

While many of the Welsh side



**BRUTE FORCE:** England's Tom Croft (2nd right) tackles Italy's Antonio Pavanello (center) during their Six Nations rugby match at Twickenham stadium in London, March 10. England won the game 18-11. Photo: Reuters

have experienced grand slam deciders and a World Cup semi-final, many of England's have not even played at the Millennium Stadium.

Lancaster, however, did not feel the difference would play a part.

"We've still got a pretty inexperienced group but they have confidence and character," he said.

"I'm confident in all our players. What we need to do is have a good plan and focus our attention on performance. If we get that right we know we are a very difficult team to beat.

"A lot of our players haven't played there before, so going to that type of environment is exactly the test we want.

"For a team to get that type of experience now and go up there and try to win a grand slam will be a special occasion."

Wales captain Ryan Jones will miss Saturday's Six Nations championship finale against England at the Millennium stadium after breaking a shoulder bone during last

weekend's win over Scotland.

Loose forward Jones underwent a scan on Monday, after leaving the field in obvious pain during the match at Murrayfield on Saturday, and his arm was in a sling as the team boarded their flight from Edinburgh.

"Ryan is not going to be available," Wales assistant coach Robin McBryde told reporters on Tuesday. "He has broken a bone in his shoulder. It looks as though he will be out for six to eight weeks."

Jones confirmed the bad news on his twitter feed.

"So, so disappointed not to be involved Saturday but thanks for all your messages," he said.

Sam Warburton, captain of the grand slam side, is the obvious candidate to take over from Jones after winning the man-of-the-match award against Scotland. British and Irish Lions lock Alun Wyn Jones, who has returned to the side after injury, is another possibility.

Warburton missed the second round win against France

through injury and started on the bench in the subsequent victory over Italy. McBryde said a decision about the captaincy would be made on Thursday.

Wales could select two specialist opensides with Justin Tipuric partnering Warburton. Tipuric started against Italy ahead of Warburton and took over from Jones at blindside flanker against Scotland.

"I thought Sam and Justin worked very well together in Scotland," said Wales defense coach Shaun Edwards. "Sam got a couple of turnovers after Tips had done the chop tackle beforehand.

"They worked in combination and that is what you need your back row to do, one will chop and the other get on the ball."

McBryde said Aaron Shingler or Andrew Coombes were other options on the blindside.

Lions loosehead prop Gethin Jenkins, who missed the trip to Edinburgh with a calf strain, has returned to training and will contest the starting position with



Paul James.

Scotland lock Richie Gray, a leading candidate for the Lions tour of Australia this year, will miss the trip to France for the final weekend of the championship after tearing a hamstring against Wales.

Gray was stretchered off the field and Scotland doctor James Robson said he would be out of action for eight weeks.

Ireland flyhalf Jonathan Sexton and wing Craig Gilroy have been passed fit to play in Saturday's other match against Italy but both centers Brian O'Driscoll and Luke Marshall are doubtful because of concussions sustained against France last weekend.

Sexton missed the games against Scotland and France because of a hamstring injury and Gilroy was unable to play against France because of a groin strain.

Scrumhalf Eoin Reddan has undergone surgery after breaking a leg in the France match and right wing Fergus McFadden will be out of action for at least three weeks after fracturing a rib.

Ireland, who started the tournament by beating Wales in Cardiff before suffering two losses and a draw, have had 15 players either injured or suspended over the course of their campaign.

— Reuters

## Bolt, Ennis win top awards

JAMAICAN sprinter Usain Bolt and British heptathlete Jessica Ennis won the Laureus World Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year Awards on Monday following their success at the 2012 London Olympic Games.

The team of the year award went to Europe's Ryder Cup team after their stunning victory over the United States at Medinah last September.

Bolt, who also won the award in 2009 and 2010, won gold in the 100, 200 and 4x100 meters relay in London to repeat his medal haul from Beijing. He was not there in person to receive the award at Rio's *Theatro Municipal* but appeared via a hologram.

Wearing a suit and tie and holding the trophy in his hands, Bolt promised to defend his Olympic titles at the 2016 Rio Games.

Phelps was given a new award for Exceptional Achievement, which he collected at the gala ceremony in the 2016 Olympics host city just hours after participating in a swimming class for children at a Rio slum.

"Being able to be given an award from athletes who are icons in their sports, it's

just a tremendous honor," Phelps said at a news conference. "My life just keeps getting better and better."

Also nominated for the top sportsman award were British Olympic champions Mo Farah and Bradley Wiggins, Formula 1 triple world champion Sebastian Vettel and Barcelona's Lionel Messi.

Great Britain won three prizes with Ennis, Andy Murray and Sebastian Coe.

Ennis dominated the Olympic heptathlon and won the gold medal despite carrying the enormous pressure of home hopes at the Olympic stadium, while Murray won the breakthrough award after winning his first grand slam at the US Open as well as Olympic gold and silver medals in London.

Coe, the chairman of the Organizing Committee of the London Olympic and Paralympic Games and also a Laureus World Sports Academy Member, received the lifetime achievement award.

Dominican Republic's Felix Sanchez received the comeback of the year award after winning the Olympic 400 meters hurdles gold medal in London, eight years after winning it for the first time in Athens.

— Reuters



**EFFORTLESS:** Usain Bolt won the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award. Photo: Reuters



Jessica Ennis won the Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year Award. Photo: King

# Trouble on the terraces



**FOOTBALL CRAZY: A Phuket FC fan takes aim at an official he believes made a bad decision.** Photos: Steven Layne

By Steven Layne

THE Thai Premier League Co Ltd (TPL) – the mother company of the Yamaha One league (Division 1, or YL1) – collected a total of 230,000 baht in fines in the first two weeks of the YL1 2013 season.

Of this amount, Phuket FC were fined 5,000 baht for only having one ambulance at its first home match against Bangkok FC last Sunday (see match report on page 51).

The TPL requires the home team to have at least two ambulances readily available.

YL1 newcomers, Rayong FC were fined 10,000 baht for their players accumulating six yellow cards in their match against Ayuthaya FC last weekend.

Ayuthaya, the 2012 division 2 champions, were also fined 20,000 baht after their fans threw bottles onto the pitch during that same match, which finished 0-0.

Rayong's 10,000 baht fine adds to another separate fine of 135,000 baht, which the TPL had dished out in the previous week.

Following Rayong's season opener, a 1-2 loss to Airforce Utd, Rayong FC fans physically assaulted an official when he tried to leave the stadium, also causing

damage to the official's car.

In addition to the fines, Rayong FC will also be held accountable for damages to the official and his car, on top of fans being banned from attending the team's next two home matches.

The TPL requires teams to



**A Phuket FC fan shows disbelief at a decision against his team.**

have on hand at least 10 security officials for every 1,000 fans.

Last week, the TPL also fined Khon Kaen FC 20,000 baht for its

fans using vulgar language aimed at the officials. Khon Kaen, who drew 1-1 with Trat FC in that match, were also given a warning letter stating that its stadium was not up to the required standard for league competition.

Also fined 20,000 baht because of the foul-mouth behavior of their fans last week was Navy FC in their 0-1 loss to Saraburi FC.

Sing Tha Reua FC – formerly Thai Port FC – were fined 10,000 baht in their 0-2 away win to Ayuthaya after receiving 8 yellow cards; Nakhon Pathom Utd were fined 10,000 baht for their players picking up six yellow cards in a 1-1 away draw to Krabi.

It should be noted that bottle throwing and rowdy, sometimes violent fans, are most commonly seen in teams that only recently got promoted from the highly competitive Division 2 regional leagues.

Even Phuket FC had similar problems with its fans in the 2011 season (as FC Phuket), when it first got promoted to Division 1.

After being bombarded with fines, and enforcing a ban on bottles and cans being brought inside the stadium, those flying bottle days are a thing of the past.



One of the Thai favorites, Wisut Artjanawat.

## Date with destiny

ASIAN number one golf player, Thaworn Wiratchant, is flying halfway around the world to keep a date with destiny at the US\$1 million Thailand Open, the season-opening tournament on both OneAsia and the Japan Golf Tour Organization.

The Thai veteran, who was the only Asian in the elite field at the WGC – Cadillac Championships won by Tiger Woods in Florida on Sunday, is a multi-time tour winner, although the Thailand Open has so far eluded him.

He hopes to change that at the Thana City Golf & Sports Club where he faces one of the strongest Asia-Pacific line-ups ever assembled, including 13 winners on the Japan Tour last year.

"The Thailand Open is special to me and I would love to win the King's Trophy. I have been a spectator at the event, caddied in it and played regularly since turning professional but I have never won," he said.

Last year the Thai became the oldest player to be crowned Asian number one at 45, after a glorious season which saw him win three times on the Asian Tour and take his career tally to a record 15 titles.

Thaworn played at last week's WGC event, where he

opened brightly with back-to-back 69s before fading with a pair of 77s, and has also been invited to the Masters at Augusta National next month.

He placed in the top-50 on OneAsia from three starts last year and triumphed in the Luang Prabang Lao Open, his second title on the ASEAN PGA Tour.

"For a Thai, you have to deserve to win the trophy," said Thaworn in an attempt to explain why just two Thais – Suthep Meesawat and Boonchu Ruangkit – have won their national Open since 1965.

"It is more than playing well... you have to have a pure heart as well."

Among the likely challengers, Thaworn leads a strong contingent of local players into the Thailand Open with in-form Prayad Markaseng, course specialist Wisut Artjanawat and Pavin Ingkharadit, the best placed Thai at joint fifth in last week's SAIL-SBI Open in India.

International players include three-time Major champion Padraig Harrington of Ireland, former OneAsia money list winner Stolz and defending champion Wood and Ireland's Paul McGinley, named recently as Europe's team captain for the 2014 Ryder Cup.

– *Phuket Gazette*

## New hope for Thai badminton

THE country's top badminton official hailed the historic leap made by Thai shuttlers at last week's top-flight All England Open and is confident the Thais – and teen prodigy Ratchanok Intanon in particular – can pull off something special in the Swiss Open, March 12-17.

Charoen Wattanasin, president of the Badminton Association, praised the players for booking quarter-final berths at the All England Open in all categories, then winning three semi-final places – a first for Thailand at this level.

Eighteen-year-old Ratchanok, three-time world junior champion and last year's Thailand Open runner-up, also showed talent beyond her years when she stormed past world No 3 and second seed Saina Nehwal of India to become the first Thai woman ever to make it to the final in the tournament's 113-year history.

"It's a new chapter for Thai badminton history. Thai players

have never come this far in the prestigious All England Open. I'm very pleased with their performances. It's the greatest success our players have managed so far," said Charoen. "I'm also happy with the way Ratchanok played her final against Tine Baun, despite the fact that she finally went down to the Danish veteran.

"Ratchanok is still young, but has been loaded with great experience. Her form has been improving by leaps and bounds. Actually, I think Ratchanok should have beaten Baun... she showed great form with well-placed shots, but didn't have enough left in the tank in the third game.

"We [Thailand] will host the World Junior Badminton Championships this year.

"I can't say now whether [Ratchanok] will take part, because she is now world No 8 [and] might be considered too strong for a junior tournament."

Ratchanok and local ace

Boonsak Ponsana will lead the Thai charge in the Swiss Open. Rising star Tanongsak Saensomboonsuk, semi-finalist in the All-England Open and world No 37, was due to take on German Tobias Wadenka recently, with Singapore Open champion Boonsak to play Bulgarian Stillian Makarski.

Ratchanok played her opening match on March 13 against Japan's Kana Ito, while team-mate Busanan Ongbumrunpan faced German Karin Schnaase. In the men's doubles on March 13, Bodin Issara and Sudket Prapakamol took on Indians Jerry Chapra Pranaav and Dewalkar Akshay, while the women's doubles saw Artima Setithammarak/Peeraya Munkitarn host Celine Burkart/Simone Von Rotz and fourth seeds Duanganong Aroonkesorn Kunchala Voravichitchaikul took on qualifiers. Sudket Prapakamol switched to partner Kunchala Voravichitchaikul to play qualifiers in the first round.

– *The Nation*

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# TNT blow Jabudays out of the water



**SWING AND A MISS:** TNT'S Neil Culpan misses the ball. Photos: Michael Way

AFTER a thrilling win against Patong last week, Jabudays were looking to continue their good run of form and move to the top of the table by beating a TNT side that has not lived up to expectations this season.

At the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG), on Sunday March 10, TNT cruised to an easy victory after bowling Jabudays out for 156 runs and then reaching their target of 157 in the 24<sup>th</sup> over for the loss of only three wickets. TNT moved up to joint 3<sup>rd</sup> in the JLL Hotels League after match 13.

After winning the toss, Jabudays chose to bat, hoping to set a big target and possibly pick up some valuable bonus points. However, they were soon questioning their decision as the in-form Deepak Mehra was dismissed for a golden duck. The nightmare didn't end there as Imtiyaz Mushtaq was also bowled for a duck in the same over

and then Barry Buck bowled Shah Nawez.

Jabudays were struggling until captain Anand Chand (17) and Naeem Ul Haq (46) managed a 61 run partnership. Jabudays went into the clubhouse at the 10 over drinks break three wickets down for 81 runs.

On the very first ball after the break, Neil Culpan trapped Chand in front lbw and then followed this up in the next over dismissing Ul Haq in the same manner. Ali Khan (12) failed to make an impression, as did the normally reliable Surrender Kumar (2). However, Ravi Naik (19) and Balesh Dessai (26) showed some resistance for Jabudays with a 43 run partnership, until Naik exited in the 26<sup>th</sup> over. Dessai then fell shortly afterwards and the players adjourned to the clubhouse in the 28<sup>th</sup> over with Jabudays being bowled out for only 156 runs.

Pick of the bowlers for TNT



**GRANDSTANDING:** TNT'S Andrew McMillan gives the crowd something to cheer about. Photos: Michael Way

were Neil Culpan (3 for 20), Barry Buck (3 for 45) and Carl Baxter (2 for 7).

Despite dismissing Jabudays for a low score, TNT needed to get off to a solid start and not lose any early wickets. Openers Andrew McMillan (66 not out) and Neil Culpan did just what the captain ordered, returning to the clubhouse undefeated with 50 runs on the board at the 10 over drinks break. After a fine opening stand of 122, Culpan was eventually dismissed in the 19<sup>th</sup> over.

TNT were looking to sail to victory and perhaps even secure a bonus point. Simon Wetherall (12) then joined McMillan but fell in the 22<sup>nd</sup> over. Jabudays quickly struck again as Roshan Jayasuriya (1) was run out only 2 balls later with the score on 144. However, it was too little too late for the Jabuday's side, and McMillan brought TNT home to victory in the 24<sup>th</sup> over.

Pick of the bowlers for Jabudays was Pares Borkar (1 for 34).

– *Phuket Gazette*

JLL HOTELS LEAGUE 2012-2013				
Team	Played	Won	Lost	Points
Patong	5	3	2	22
ICC	6	3	3	21
TNT	6	2	4	20
Laguna	4	3	0	19
Village	5	1	3	10



**Above and below:** Action from the under-11 game between England and Brazil. Photo: Phuket Soccer School



## Fun and exciting FPL

THE penultimate round of matches in the 2013 Fair Play League were held Sunday, March 10, at British International School.

The Under-11s started proceedings with a strong Brazil side proving too strong for a weakened England in the opening game, confidently winning 9-3 and picking up two bonus points for conceding zero fouls.

At the same time, the top two, Spain and Thailand, competed in a highly anticipated match up. With

both teams vying for the top spot, the game was tight and finished 1-1. Spain edged past Brazil 2-1 and Thailand beat England 6-2 in the second round of matches.

The Under-14 division then took center stage as the six competing teams played two matches each. In a repeat of their opening game, Thailand Green and Argentina played out a thrilling 6-6 draw. Spain proved too strong for England, winning 8-1 and Brazil managed to hold on to claim

3 points with a 2-1 win over Thailand Blue. After a short break, Thailand Green claimed their first win of the competition with a 5-2 win over England. Thailand Blue put up a spirited display but two late goals gave Argentina a 3-1 win and Spain managed a 4-2 win over an improving Brazil side.

The league is now set up nicely for the final week's matches next weekend with all final places still to be decided.

– *Phuket Gazette*

## Ready to sail

AO CHALONG Yacht Club (ACYC) has announced the 2013 ACYC Keel Boat and Multihull Club Championship Race Series 1 – FCI Watermaker Series.

The second race is on March 17.

**Eligibility and entry:** The series is open to all keel yachts and multihulls with an overall length greater than six meters.

Eligible boats may enter by completing an entry form on each race day and by paying the racing nomination fee to the Race Officer or appointed ACYC representative.

**Fees:** There is no entry fee for boats. Crew fees are 100 baht per person for ACYC members, 200 baht for non-members. Crew fees no longer include food.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Crew fees are applicable to ALL participating crew.

**Classes:** Racing monohulls, cruising monohulls, racing multihulls, cruising multihulls.

**Course:** Ao Chalong Bay and surrounding area, details announced at race briefing pending prevailing conditions.

**Rules:** The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing 2009-2012.

**Handicap system:** Performance handicap system as

managed and monitored by the ACYC.

**Prizes:** Overall series prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each class.

Individual race prizes will be awarded to podium finishers on race day pending the number of entries.

**Course:** To be announced, pending conditions on the day.

**Insurance:** Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance to a minimum cover of twenty million baht, or the equivalent, for all races entered.

**Disclaimer of liability:**

Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See rule 4, Decision to Race. The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage, personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

Series 1 – Race 2

Date: March 17

Preparatory signal: 12pm

Starting signal: 12:05pm

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information, call Scott Duncanson on 081 958 6879. To see the complete 2013 racing program, visit the Club's website: [acyc-phuket.com](http://acyc-phuket.com).

# Sea Warriors unable to oust Iron Bulls

PLAYING in their first Yamaha League One (YL1) home match of the season, Phuket FC drew against Bangkok FC 2-2 in a close and exciting match at Surakul Stadium.

The Southern Sea Warrior's Kritsada Sakaew opened the scoring in the 24<sup>th</sup> minute, beating Bangkok's Cameroonian keeper, Jean-Marc Engoulou Beyeme, at his near post with a free kick just outside the 18 yard box.

The 2012 YL1 golden boot winner, Lee Tuck, equalized for Bangkok FC five minutes into the second half.

The match was evenly poised with both teams spurning a number of chances to take the lead until Phuket FC's striker Chana Sonwisetm crossed the ball to Luiz "Dudu" Percino, who scored on his YL1 home debut for Phuket. The lead was short lived, as four minutes later Pirawit Litsriboon pounced on a mistake by Phuket's goal keeper to equalize for Bangkok FC.

The match was attended by 5,400 fans, including about 100 Bangkok FC fans who made the journey from the capital.

Former Phuket FC striker and fan favorite Thawin Butsombat, who was sold to Bangkok FC at the end of last season, was not selected by Bangkok FC as a mark of respect.

The result moved Phuket to 8<sup>th</sup> place of the 18-team league, while Bangkok moved up to second with four points.

After the match, Bangkok's striker Lee Tuck said: "It was a hard game tonight. Phuket have many good players... but it was a fair game. They had some chances, and so did we."

"I have to give props to Phuket. They executed their set plays well and our defenders had difficulty retaking possession."

After two games, Tuck is the second top scorer in the league with three goals.

"We look to improve every year, and I would be very happy if I can get the golden boot award again."

Tuck trails BBCU's Pichet In-bang, who scored his side's goal in last week's 1-1 draw with Phuket in Bangkok, and also scored a hat trick this weekend against Sri Racha.

Bangkok FC coach Apisit Kaigaew told the *Gazette*: "I'm satisfied with my team's performance, we played our systems and we were able to draw some fouls and execute our tactics well. Overall, I'm satisfied with the result."

Asked what his goal for the season is, Coach Apisit said that he also aims for promotion to the Thai Premier League (by finishing in the top three): "We have our ambitions, but will need to take it match by match," he concluded.

Phuket coach Panipon Kerdyam wasn't happy with the result.

"We didn't get three points. We took the lead twice, and then conceded equalizers both times. I have to give credit to Bangkok. They are a very good team, especially their foreign players, who are [playing] in good form. We should have closed the game on several opportunities, but made some mistakes. Overall, the players played hard, and we'll look forward to our next match against Si Racha."

The match against Suzuki Si Racha FC will be played tonight, Saturday, March 16, at Surakul Stadium. Then, they break for two weeks before playing TTM Lopburi in an away match on March 31, then return home to play Royal Navy at home on April 7.

Kickoff for the Si Racha match is at 6:30pm. Adult tickets are 100 baht, while small children get in free

- Steven Layne & Andrew Scott



Nonthapan Jiensathawong, right, and Isarapong Lilakorn. Photos: Steven Layne



Phuket's Luiz "Dudu" Percino with possession in the midfield.

# Andaman Pearl shine in last six



UNITED: Phuket listen to a fan tribute. Inset: Anurak Phetluan makes a gesture after assisting Marcos score on Saturday. Photos: Steven Layne

By Steven Layne

PHUKET United won their sixth match in a row after defeating Bangkok FC (2-3) in an away match played at the Fashion Island Futsal Arena in the Thai capital on Wednesday evening.

The Andaman Pearl's leading scorer, Jackson Santos, scored twice - in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> minutes, putting him immediately in 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the golden boot race with 33 goals this season.

Also scoring for Phuket was Akadet Chuaiklai in the 29<sup>th</sup> minute. Bangkok made a commendable come back effort with Navin Rattana-wongsawat scoring back-to-back goals late in the game, but it was not enough.

The win follows Phuket United defeating Samut Prakarn Futsal Club 4-1 in their final home match last weekend in Phuket Town.

Played at the 4,000-seat Saphan Hin Indoor Sports Complex, the match was attended by about 1,000 energetic fans.

Jackson Santos scored his 30<sup>th</sup>

and 31<sup>st</sup> goals of the season to put Phuket into a two goal lead early in the match.

Phuket scored two more goals in the second half through Teerachit Jantamat in the 35<sup>th</sup> minute and a counter attack that led to Marcos converting a pass from Anurak Phetluan in the 36<sup>th</sup> minute.

The visitor's consolation goal was scored by Sumin Booncharoen in the 36<sup>th</sup> minute.

The latest two wins compliment three previous home wins against Nonthaburi, Surat Thani and Prachin, as well as another away win to Samut Songkhram, bringing the island's pro futsal team's winning streak to six in little over a two week period.

Phuket's 'Action' Jackson Santos now trails fellow Brazilian, Si Saket's Ramualdo Namorato, who had 37 goals at the time of going to press.

With 48 points from 16 wins and 13 losses, Phuket were sitting in 5<sup>th</sup> place of the 16-team Thailand Futsal Premier League, which

gmm sport futsal			
THAILAND PREMIER LEAGUE 2012-2013			
LEAGUE TABLE ON MARCH 14			
Rank	Team	GP	Pts.
1	Chonburi	27	74
2	Thai Port	28	59
3	Si Saket	27	54
4	Bangkok	28	50
5	Phuket Utd	29	48
6	CAT	27	47
7	Lampang Utd	28	45
8	Surat Thani	27	45
9	Royal Navy	28	40
10	Nonthaburi FC	28	39
11	Samut Songkhram	27	32
12	Samut Sakhon	28	30
13	Prachin FC	29	30
14	Samut Prakarn	28	18
15	Leo Bang Seu	27	13
16	Highways Dep	28	11

TOP SCORERS		
Rank	Scorer	
1	Romualdo Namorato (Si Saket)	37
2	Jackson Santos (Phuket Utd)	33
3	Jessada Chudet (Royal Navy)	32
4	Natee Tusiri (Samut Sakhon)	32
5	Jose Airtton (Si Saket)	27

\* Some matches were being played at time of going to press

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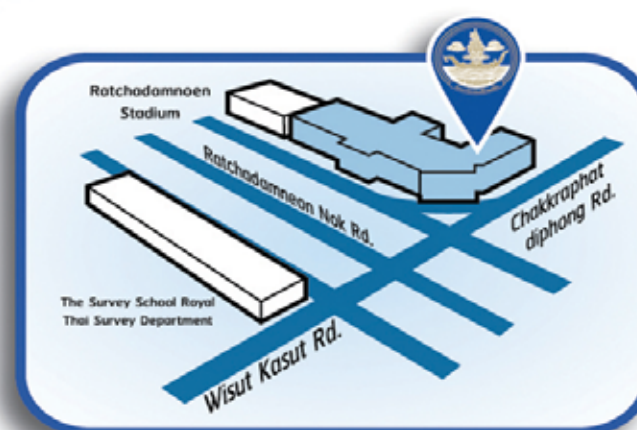
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# PHUKET PROPERTY REVIEW

March 2013

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## Will Eastern European buyers drive Phuket's property boom?



By Bill Barnett

Phuket's property expert  
and Managing Director  
of C9HotelWorks.com

COMMENT

IN THE south of the United States religious evangelists often talk in tongues that are nearly incomprehensible. Part of the fervor often comes with the handling of snakes. It's pretty arcane and more than a little scary.

As we move into top gear in 2013, which is the Year of the Snake, one of the top storylines on the island is the meteoric rise of Eastern European tourists visiting Phuket.

Last year the combination of Russians and travelers from the former Soviet states was well over 600,000. This year the number is set to go even higher.

Turning the pages back for a moment, we have to look back a decade to when tourism was a prime mover in the island's great property boom, impacting real estate transactions.

It was not so much a case of sunburned tourists crawling off the beach into the arms of a waiting broker and signing a deal then and there, but more the building of a foundation of island-loyal repeat visitors.

At the time I was working at the



**LAGUNA SHORES:** Phuket's property developers turn back the pages as tourists become the boom drivers again.

island's leading destination development Laguna Phuket and more often than not property buyers were visitors who had repeatedly stayed in one or more of the multiple hotels located there. While many came and went, a number of them eventually became converts, not to the oddities of a

religious order, but to the resort housing estates or tropical apartments.

Certainly the dark days of the global financial crisis brought an abrupt end to the party and, for the last four or five years, the headlining acts have been domestic property buyers and inland low-cost units.

Sentiment is one of those intangible selling tools for almost any consumer good, or service including real estate. Over the past six months overseas buyers have started to flock back to the market in increasing numbers.

*Continued on page 15*



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# Hoteliers go mobile

The explosion of social media and mobile devices in recent years is having a profound effect on the way hotels do business.

SOCIAL media is redefining the relationship between hoteliers and online travel agents.

Social media campaigns and mobile applications are the latest business tools being used by today's hoteliers to break free from the proverbial chains of commission-based bookings through online travel agents (OTAs), which conventionally charge commissions up to a quarter of room rates for their third-party service.

However, with almost every traveller toolled up with a smart phone or mobile device to organize their daily life, hoteliers are waking up to the powerful income-earning potential of guests booking directly through their hotels' own websites and independent booking engines, as well as through websites for tablets, mobile applications ("apps") and social media sites such as Facebook.

Pioneering Phuket-based internet marketing consultancy Wide Discovery Dot Com is the first company in Thailand to develop premium internet-marketing solutions for

hotels that include online booking engine apps for smart phones and mobile devices.

Phuket hotels already enjoying the freedom of getting more exposure and direct bookings through the WD Facebook app and the upcoming WD hotel mobile application, which allows users to book rooms directly through their smart phones and tablets, include: The Kee Resort & Spa, Patong; Cape Sienna; Aquamarine; Sugar Marina and the recently opened Kalima Resort.

As well as allowing the hotels to accept direct online bookings, the mobile applications developed exclusively by Wide Discovery gives hotels the tools to create their own guerilla marketing campaigns, such as online photo contests for discounts and prizes, independent of conventional online travel agents.

According to Kee Resort & Spa Executive Director, Tanapong Somnam, their hotel on Patong beach has seen a "significant and steady increase in direct online bookings" since adopting Wide Discovery's social media and mobile applications.



## Charity and collaboration key to building success

THE arrival of 2013 marked five years of building success for award-winning Phuket architectural firm Able Architects.

More than 100 top Thai architects and construction industry specialists flew into Phuket to join the celebrations; a fundraising event held at the Blue Elephant Restaurant in Phuket Town.

The fifth anniversary 'white corporate' fundraiser aimed to promote the success of Able Architects' business model in which managing director Pakhin Aunggulsant (*above*) said transparency, corporate social responsibility (CSR) and local-global collaboration were key components. Money raised for charity at the event totalled 162,000 baht.

Able Architects was awarded the BCI Asia Green Leadership Award in 2010 for Phuket's only self sustainable museum dedicated to preserving the island's Sea Gypsy culture: the Orang Laut Cultural Centre.

"We have already embarked on nine new projects since the beginning of the year in five provinces in Thailand as well as the Philippines, which equates to 2,410 key rooms covering a GFA of 153,343sqm with a total construction value of Bt4,732 million in the first half of January," said Khun Pakhin.



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# Sansiri see a smaller future

Uthai Uthaisangsuk is the Senior Executive Vice President of Sansiri PCL's Business Development and Project Development Division (high rises). Speaking exclusively with the *Phuket Property Review*, Khun Uthai offers some valuable insights into current and near future trends of the island's studio-sized condominium segment.

## Can you explain Sansiri's cross-over between 'studio' and 'one bedroom' units?

Due to pricing and value factors, studio sized apartments have become more attractive in the market. With rising construction costs and land prices, it's no longer practical to offer 45 to 50 square meter one-bedroom units in this price range. With our optimal space utilization designs, we are able to offer 30 sqm one-bedroom units, and thus better meet the demand of the studio segment. We do this by effectively separating living and utility areas.

## How does the increase of the daily minimum wage to 300 baht affect land prices?

About 30% of construction costs come from labor, while 20% come from the materials... But even the materials must be produced by labor. Therefore, smaller sized units will become extremely popular in the near future. Our projection is that the average price per square meter will go up at least 10% this year.

## How is Sansiri different from other developers in Phuket that have similar offerings?

People know that there is a difference between Sansiri and other brands – not just in Phuket, but all over Thailand. Our offerings are different in design and material quality. To save on costs, many developers will apply one design to many areas and products. If you go to Bangkok, Phuket or even Chiang Mai,

you will see the same building, same product. But Sansiri is different.

We not only differentiate among the brands, but even within the same brand. No one dCondo project, for example, will be the same as another. At each location, and in each area, the facade will be unique, designed especially for that area. In having a unique design every time, you have to pay the architect for each design. So, many developers skip this and just use one universal design across several projects in different areas.

Other than design, another area developers try to save in is by using the same materials in all of its projects. They do this to take advantage of bulk savings, since you wouldn't be able to reduce costs if using different materials for each project. Sansiri does not sacrifice the design or quality of building materials in order to save costs. We emphasize on the design, and are continually improving it with each project. For each project, we aim to make the design better than the previous one.

The other main area we differentiate ourselves is in service. Anyone who has experience with our sales representatives will know that we have highly trained sales personnel that can support our customers needs. Our customer sales reps will continue to offer support to customers post sale, and even post transfer.

## Who are Sansiri's customers?

We classify our customers into two groups: Long term residents and short term residents.



**STUDIO TRENDS:** Uthai Uthaisangsuk believes small is Phuket's next big trend.

Long term could be local Thais or foreigners who stay here, work here, live here and pay taxes here. In this respect, foreigners aren't different from Thais – they have the same living needs and we understand this.

The other group is short term residents who might come to stay in Phuket for one to three months of the

year, and then live somewhere else the rest of the year. This group includes investors who prefer to rent out their property when they're not here. So, for this group, we offer property management services, through our local subsidiary companies, such as Plus Property in Phuket, for example, to better meet the needs of all our clients.



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## COMO goes east

COMO Hotels and Resort is to develop and manage Point Yamu, the northeast coast development overlooking Phang Nga Bay

The key partners in this project are property development company Campbell Kane, the KS Group and Hotel Properties Limited. COMO's multi-year management role encompasses full branding, sales, marketing and operational responsibilities. COMO is also playing key roles in the concept, development and execution of design and cuisine, to bring the signature COMO experience to guests.

Point Yamu will have 106 rooms, including 30 private villas, with panoramic views of the cape and the surrounding Andaman Sea. The development will also have a 100-metre swimming pool, a COMO Shambhala Retreat featuring 8 treatments rooms as well as a yoga studio, an Italian and Thai restaurant (pictured above) featuring COMO Shambhala's healthy cuisine, as well as access to a secluded beach.

The interior aesthetic will be by Italian designer Paola Navone. In 2000, she was named Designer of the Year by the German magazine Architektur & Wohnen. In 1983, Paola was honored with the important International Design Award. Her customers have included Abet Laminati and Gervasoni (where Navone is Art Director), Armani Casa, Piazza Sempione, Cappellini Mondo, Driade, Orizzonti, Pomellato, and Casamilano.

"We are pleased to be working with COMO Hotels and Resorts on this venture," said Peter Hamilton, Managing Director at Campbell Kane and developer of the new hotel. "COMO's range of properties and the experiences they offer continue to redefine luxury travel."

**GROWTH!** With a huge population of Thai citizens, international corporations, business owners – both Thai and foreign – and retirees living, working and owning property in Phuket Town, the real estate market for the island's capital city has seen a huge rise in demand this past year.

The prime markets are the 2.5 to 5 million baht range for townhouses or condos, the 5 to 10 million baht range for a single two-storey house with/without pool, and the 15 to 20 million baht price point for a single family dwelling with custom design on a bigger plot.

Buyers have a better selection in Phuket Town. They will pay a premium for a good location, new design, a well-known developer and after-sales services.

They feel secure and this is also supported with the attitude that Phuket, after all, is an island, and a rare investment, with a strong mercantile and tourist base, as well as an ever-growing local and expat work force requiring services and lodging. These aspects all support growth predictions for the Phuket Town area, as well as other areas of Phuket.

As mentioned earlier, the number of people moving to live and work in Phuket is growing each month. These new arrivals need rental properties and some need to purchase homes for their families.

**Plus Property's Nitchapak Panjamakitti takes us on a tour of old and new Phuket Town.**



For those who have already invested in property, their expectations are to provide lodging and services for relocating clients. New investors are keeping their properties for rental income or resale, or to pass on to the next generation.

Unfortunately, we don't find much of old Phuket design atmosphere in more recent real estate. Many developers are trying to keep European-Sino-Thai style, but modern style or resort style seems to be trendy for the new generation of developers.

With the bustling growth of the modern Phuket City, the old architectural quarter is often overlooked. The main attractions in Old Phuket Town are the Sino-Portuguese buildings (the Chinese row houses), the Sino-Colonial mansions, the elaborate Chinese and Thai temples, and the public markets.

The best way to appreciate the architecture is to walk the streets. You will see some of the mansions and shophouses that are beautifully restored, with many still inhabited by local families, restaurants, cafes and guesthouses.

Phuket Town – now Phuket City – is a gem that is becoming a polished stone in the landscape of the Pearl of the Andaman.

*Nitchapak Panjamakitti is Phuket branch manager at Plus Property Co. Ltd. [www.plus.co.th](http://www.plus.co.th)*



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	PG272	10.20	11.45
	PG276	12.15	13.40
	PG274	14.50	16.15
	PG909	16.45	18.10
	PG278	19.45	21.10
BKK-HKT	PG280	21.55	23.20
	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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# The economics of condo choices

PHUKET had been hit by the global decline in economic fortunes like all other property markets, but entering 2013 the island is enjoying a huge increase in visitor arrivals and many of these travelers are also looking to buy property.

Going forward, the most popular residences are condominiums and, as a result of increasing Thai entrepreneurial activity there are many projects being developed. Over the past few years Phuket land prices have soared and so the developers are concentrating on vertical rather than horizontal construction. Condominiums also match the modern lifestyle needs of many buyers and many quickly hit their 100% sales target as Phuket has a great inflow of Thai and foreigners moving here both to work and retire.

The demands of the foreign and the Thai segments are rather different.

Thais tend to like to live in a town area, not far from their office and buy from one to three million baht.

Foreigners prefer to live near natural and tourist facilities and they seek larger room sizes. Prices start from about a million baht but can go much higher depending upon the exclusivity of the development. As the maintenance fees are less for condos than for a house, some foreigners are now selling their house and moving to a condo.

Supply is certainly growing and has turned Phuket into a pretty favorable “buyers’ market” and customers make their selection depending on the quality and reliability of the project developer.

Other factors driving the Phuket market are the growth in direct flights from many parts of the world and many are speculating that Phuket will

be the center of ASEAN in the next few years. Many property agencies are reporting increased investors from Singapore and Hong Kong diverting funds from other markets.

One thing that makes Phuket more interesting for buyers are the strict environmental laws and strong enforcement. For example, the height of buildings and proximity to the beach have limits, and new projects cannot be constructed which damage the environment. All this drives up property costs in Phuket compared to other locations, but it is worth it for sustainability and the future of the market.

There are also pressures on public services, roads and utilities etc., but the government is very aware that they need to invest heavily in infrastructure to sustain the growth in the property and the tourism sectors.

Clearly potential buyers must do their “due diligence” and thoroughly



**GREEN SCENE:** The Emerald Terrace is one of several condo projects around the island to be launched this year.

research the developer, land title, hidden costs and management fees and inclusions (see page 14). A good, reliable and impartial lawyer is essential, of course, particularly for foreign buyers.

“Clients choose the Royal Place Condo for various reasons, especially the design and quality of building materials that we use.

“Moreover, the condo is a popular choice for its ideal and central location, which has potential for much upward development in the near future.”

Located on the Bypass Road, to the opposite of Tesco Lotus, the development is within close

access to leading shopping outlets and other city amenities.

## Fuse Valley

Nature and city hybrids can look forward to the launch of another economically-priced condo on the green hills between Phuket Town and Patong.

Bangkok-headquartered Pruksa Real Estate PLC’s inaugural condo launch outside of the capital is Fuse Valley (Kathu-Patong).

Emphasizing the value of location by offering convenient access to nature and amenities, the development will rise on the hills behind Kathu, just a short drive to Patong.

Metha Chanchamcharat, Director and Deputy Managing Director of Pruksa Real Estate, explained: “We’ve had good reception to our three Fuse brand condo launches in Bangkok – the Fuse Chan-Sathorn, Fuse Mobius Ramkhamhaeng

Klongtan and Fuse Sense Bangkai.

“The condominium market is getting more popular due to changing consumer behavior, in which there is a greater emphasis on the need for convenience in commuting, making condominiums the ‘first home’ or even investment.”

Fuse Valley in Phuket will be designed around a ‘modern nature’ concept, with the development to integrate into the natural setting, while also offering a modern city lifestyle through its wide array of amenities, including a swimming pool, fitness room, clubhouse and personal relaxing spots.

The condo will be within a short drive to Central Festival Phuket, Makro, Big C and Tesco Lotus. Basic units are priced at just under a million baht.

## The Emerald Terrace

The Emerald Terrace is located on a lush and tranquil hillside, situated well above the much sought after west coast beach community of Patong, just a few minutes away from a plethora of world class amenities, including shopping, fine dining and a world-renowned vibrant nightlife.

Developed by Phuket Future Development Company, best known for Kathu Golf Condominiums, they are now offering competitively priced elegant low-rise condominiums in a high occupancy area of Patong.

By Steven Layne and Baz Daniel

Supply is certainly growing and has turned Phuket into a pretty favorable “buyers’ market” and customers make their selection depending on the quality and reliability of the project developer.

## RPC’s third phase

Underscoring Phuket’s current condo craze will be the launch of the Royal Place Condominium’s third phase. Manassanan Thiensawangkun, Assistant Vice President of VS Group (Phuket) Co. Ltd., said that the real estate market in Phuket is continuously expanding. This is especially true for the condominium sector, he said.

Demand, he insists, is on the up for all types of condo developments – those with a sea view, near the coast and especially near the city.

The developer has started taking reservations for its third phase, or project three, which will feature modern design condos with integrated functionality.

Featuring small, medium and large units, starting as low as 1.5 million baht, the Royal Place Condominium sufficiently meets the needs of consumers.

Khun Manassanan comments:

## Erawan property fund for Phuket

THE Erawan Hotel Growth Property Fund will be launched in the second quarter of this year with a focus on Phuket and Pattaya properties.

Erawan Group PLC have filed documents with the Stock Exchange of Thailand to set up the fund, which will be managed by Siam Commercial Bank. The long-term plan is to use the fund for expansion by acquisition of three- and four-star properties around the country, but will initially focus on Thailand's top tourist destinations, including investment in the Ibis Patong property.

Use of the fund for the Ibis Patong came after the company was unable to raise sufficient funds for the Phuket property through its standard asset disposal exercise.

A new subsidiary Erawan Growth Management Co., Ltd. has been formed to support the planned property fund.

In related Phuket news, the Erawan Group reported 2012 operating results for The Naka Resort, in Phang Nga Bay, with a 17% increase in year-on-year occupancy.

Rebranded as part of Starwood's Luxury Collection, last year the resort achieved 43.8% occupancy with an average room rate of 8,928 baht per night.

The property fund sector looks to see further Phuket moves this year as luxury Phuket resorts optimize capital though funds. In December, Songkran Issara, of Charn Issara, developers of Sri Panwa, told the Gazette's television show, *Phuket Today*, that his company was also planning to set up a fund this year.

# Expectations high at the top of Phuket

Engel and Voelker's Phuket sales manager *Amy Koh* gives us the low-down on what's hot up north.



NORTH Phuket is still the hottest growing area on Phuket island in terms of the increasing number of international & local branded hotels and residential projects.

The new "boys" on the block are mainly in Nai Thon & Mai Khao, as well as the northeast area close to Heroines Monument.

The latest addition to the northwest area finds one of Thailand's most established and respected property developers launching its first beachfront residential project. Sansiri's Baan Maikhao will feature studio, 1-3 bedroom and penthouse units ranging from 60 to 265 sqm per unit.

The northeast has Phuket's most popular deep water marina – the Yacht Haven (*above*) – with berthing capacity for up to 200 vessels with on-site facilities befitting an international port-of-call.


With escalating land prices in Phuket Town, many local Thai developers have also chosen to develop local housing communities in the northeast, with improving infrastructures including a four-lane highway for easier accessibility to the airport, west coast and Phuket Town. Also calling the north their home are three golf clubs, two marinas, an international school and sports complex.



Land prices especially beachfront land in Mai Khao and even across Sarasin Bridge into Phang Nga Province have been steadily on the rise with investors, both local & foreign, banking for future residential and commercial projects.

Both the east & west of North Phuket are growing rapidly, as the spillover development from Phuket Town continues. Expectations are high for North Phuket with a bright & promising future.

*Amy Koh is sales manager at Engel & Voelkers Phuket.*  
[www.engelvoelkers.com/th](http://www.engelvoelkers.com/th)




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# South down, but looking up

Based in the south of the island, My Phuket Properties executive *Peter Notley* discusses the challenges ahead for the local real estate market and some of the choice homes he has come across on his travels.



**GOOD MORNING RAWAI:** Views like this give the south a special charm.

REAL buyers still seem to be pretty thin on the ground here in the south of Phuket, though there are distinct signs of movement. This is mainly in low-cost condos and cheaper houses (under 10 million baht). Other local brokers I've spoken to seem to agree.

However, there certainly have been sales in recent months in the well-established and/or well-managed projects. The Title condo on Rawai beach and Two Villas come to mind. Both projects seem to be selling well. The Title has a good number of Bangkok buyers and investors, in addition to a fair number of local foreign buyers.

Another new project, Plunge Tropic in Nai Harn, sold all eight villas of their first phase within six months. Many of the buyers are Russian. This project seems to have what buyers are demanding right now, namely good design, good location and a very good price.

Other new projects are also in the pipeline and so the mid- to long-term market does not appear to be bearish.

My Phuket Properties have a number of villa and condo resales on our books, but only the cheapest ones are selling, and any perceived or actual hold-up in the sale has proven to be a deal breaker. Thai-owned units are

proving a very hard sell to foreigners. It's sea view and foreign freehold that most of our enquirers are wanting.

Currently, our top listing is a spectacular 4- to 5-bedroom villa in the hills behind Rawai. Superbly fitted out internally, it has a huge pool overlooking the Rawai-Chalong coastline and eight islands.

To me, this is more interesting than a bland horizon and, of course, it's nice to wake up with the sun – if you can tolerate it that early. While not a distressed sale, the owner has priced it well below its real value.

At the other extreme, Jindarin Beach Resort over on Coconut Island, just northeast of Phuket Town, is a little eco-resort that provides a modern-day Robinson Crusoe-type getaway location. There are a few land plots still available at just 1.5 million baht on which small bungalows or larger thatch-roofed houses can be built for as little as 1.2 million baht.



**Peter Notley of My Phuket Properties.**

Jindarin is already home to a handful of retired pilots and over-worked Phuket executives. With its thatch-roofed restaurant and bar, large beachside pool and private wooden jetty, this little project represents terrific value. It's a great little place, sitting in a time warp, yet only 15-20 minutes from Phuket Town. Very handy.

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



**TIME WARP:** Jindarin Beach Resort is just 15 minutes from Phuket Town.



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# High returns expected Amari moves into Patong condo market



ZCAPE and Zcape X2 condominiums on the west coast of Phuket are on track to bring high returns to investors seeking long-term earning potential from the affordable high-quality accommodation, launched in Phuket by Thailand's leading urban lifestyle developer Tri Property.

Located next to the new Boat Avenue shopping complex in Cherng Talay, near Laguna Phuket, the launch of Zcape Condominium in July last year marked a highly successful debut in Phuket for Tri Property. All 198 of the trendy one-bedroom and studio units had sold out by the end of July.

Following this sell-out success, Tri Property went on to launch the Zcape X2 Condominium in December with similarly successful results, reporting 80 per cent of the 191 units already snapped up.

Adisorn Vivakanond, Tri Property's

CEO, said both condominiums are ideal long-term investment opportunities in one of Phuket's most prestigious and dynamic mixed-use areas on the west coast.

"The Zcape condos are a very cool concept in a much sought after spot near Bangtao Beach that promises very substantial returns with a very low outlay for investors seeking long-term rental returns," said Mr Adisorn.

"Tri Property's focus on building affordable accommodation for today's global lifestyles in a prime location has proved to be a perfect combination for investors with long-term vision," he said.

Available freehold for foreign investors starts from 1.98 million baht. Show units are open for viewing at the Zcape X2 on-site sales gallery on Baandon-Cherngtalay Road.

For more information, visit [www.z-phuket.com](http://www.z-phuket.com) or call 084 444 0707-9.

## Amari moves into Patong condo market

THE CONDO craze continues on the west coast with the recent announcement that Amari Estates will be bringing its successful Residences brand to Patong.

Built up into the hills around the Amari Coral Beach Resort, the new Amari Residences Phuket will have up to 190 1 and 2-bedroom condominium units and 10 3-bedroom pool villas.

With prices for the condo units starting from just 7 million baht, the Residences will be among the best value properties in the resort town, although the high-end pool villas will run up to 50 million baht each.

Amari Estates has been building itself a solid reputation as a property developer. The company already has two Residences properties in Bangkok and three more, including Phuket, in the pipeline; Amari Residences in Hua Hin will complete two hundred and ten properties next year; and The Oriental Residence in Bangkok.

Amari Estates goal is to manage fifty-one properties by 2018, with plans to expand into China, Hong Kong, India, Sri Lanka, Australia, the Middle East and Vietnam.

In Phuket, all of the Residences will



come with full access to the private 24-hour clubhouse, swimming pool and sun deck, a fitness center and a pool bar. Residences residents will also have access to all of the services and amenities at Amari Coral Beach Phuket, including restaurants, kids' club, two swimming pools and pool bar.

The units will be managed by Amari's recently launched Onyx Hospitality brand, which will offer a managed leaseback rental program, allowing owners both usage of their units and a guaranteed 6% per annum rental yield.

"Phuket continues to stay ahead of its competitors as the tourist destination hotspot of Southeast Asia and the value of well-managed properties in prime locations continues to appreciate," Amari Estates & ItalThai Group's CEO, Yuthachai Charnachitta said. "The launch of Amari Residences Phuket will set a new market benchmark for turnkey holiday home investments by offering residences with a strong rental performance in a sought-after prime coastal location."

Living with nature



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Shivalai consists of 8 three-storey ocean view condominium Buildings, with only two units on each floor and 5 luxury pool villas. The landscaped hillside includes a swimming pool, parking, jacuzzi and lobby.

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EXPLORING Phuket isn't complete unless you can get out to the beautiful islands surrounding the Pearl of the Andaman. Phang Nga Bay alone can take literally weeks to properly reconnoiter. Every karst and quiet bay has its own unique ecology and atmosphere.

So, to do the job properly, one requires some serious water-borne kit, and international brokerage Lee Marine will most likely to have something to suit your exploring needs.

Top of the local explorers wishlist should be the new Riviera 45 Open Flybridge (*right*). Lee Marine has been selling Riviera around the region for the past 15 years and broker Martin Holmes is more than pleased to be able to offer this latest addition to the Riviera stable.

The 45 has been handcrafted to suit the balmy climes, with exotic wood flooring and accommodation suitable



to the tropics. The 45 also has a raft of new features, like propeller tunnels that provide greater forward thrust and an underwater exhaust system that minimizes engine noise and fumes.

Other features contribute to the overall appeal of the 45. One example is the recessed cleats in the aft corners of the cockpit with their optional clip-on covers; a design that creates a smooth profile and prevents fishing lines getting caught. Yes, though the 45 is not ostensibly a fishing boat, it does it rather well – just like everything else.

If sailing is more your thing then the new Jeanneau 50DS (*left*) is where you

should be looking. The latest in the Sun Odyssey stable from the French design team maximizes the interior layout for comfort and opens up to more natural light. The interior design features white upholstery for a pleasing contrast with the warm tones of solid wood and teak woodwork.

The Lee Marine team is most excited about the new range of Cantiere Delle Marche (CDM) motor yachts. These sturdy steel and aluminum vessels have something of the retro tugboat look to them but are built for 21st century cruising. The Nauta Air 86 (*inset above*) is a classic

cut whereas the Darwin 86 is being touted as a new species of cruising motor yacht with some very sexy, modern lines.

Martin Holmes is motoring up to the PIMEX 2013 boat show in a new CDM and can hardly contain his anticipation. "These are great ocean-going yachts. They'll go anywhere – arctic exploring, Pacific crossings – and they're built to make trips like that comfortable. If you're out in Phang Nga Bay and fancy nipping to the Maldives for a party, you can do that on a CDM. No problem."

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



# THE VIEW

## The Condominium with the best view in Phuket



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The View is conveniently located on a private elevated position overlooking the 3 cosmopolitan beaches of Kata, Karon and Kata Noi, on the prestigious sunset western coastline of Phuket; just about 800m away from the beach.



# Tropical super-cars

SPEED demons take note: the latest Porsche Boxster and Lamborghini Gallardo are now available to burn up the highways of Phuket, courtesy of AutoExpress Dot Com.

The mid-engined Boxster has been a fan favorite among the Porsche family since its introduction in the mid-nineties. Perhaps surprisingly, the two-seater Boxster was the first roadster that the company designed since the 550 Spyder in the 1950s.

If Italian is more your taste, then

you will probably fall deeply in love with AutoExpress Dot Com's latest Lambo Gallardo

The LP560-4 Spyder is the most popular Lambo ever, with over 10,000 built in the first seven years of production and gets its name from the Gallardo breed of fighting bulls. It's hard to stand out when you are surrounded by the tropical beauty of a place like Phuket, but if it can be done, then a canary yellow super-car is definitely the way to do it.

[www.autoexpress.co.th](http://www.autoexpress.co.th)



## Discover Luxury in a Rare Location

Bluepoint offers a touch of serenity in one of the last available sea view plots on Phuket's desirable west coast. The multi award-winning condos are surrounded by five stunning beaches and overlook the glittering Andaman Sea. Bluepoint is comprised of just 20 spacious homes all sophisticated in style and designed

with environmental preservation in mind. Bluepoint offers an unrivalled lifestyle choice in a truly magical location.

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Currently under construction. The developer reserves the right at any time to make changes to the project at its own discretion. Show-unit now open.

# Is sustainable architecture really achievable in Phuket?

BLUEPOINT Condo's principal designer Paul Raff believes in sustainable buildings. Bluepoint's unique collection of condos, all with sea views, is located south of Patong and has won several coveted architectural awards for its louver facade system.

This system allows privacy without losing the view and reduces cooling costs by shading the homes from the tropical heat and reducing carbon emissions. In this way, Bluepoint is pioneering green design strategies to reduce the overall carbon footprint for property development in the region.

## **How did your aims for incorporating green design and architecture into the Bluepoint project begin?**

Our green design strategies actually started by thinking from a user perspective in terms of comfort and lifestyle.

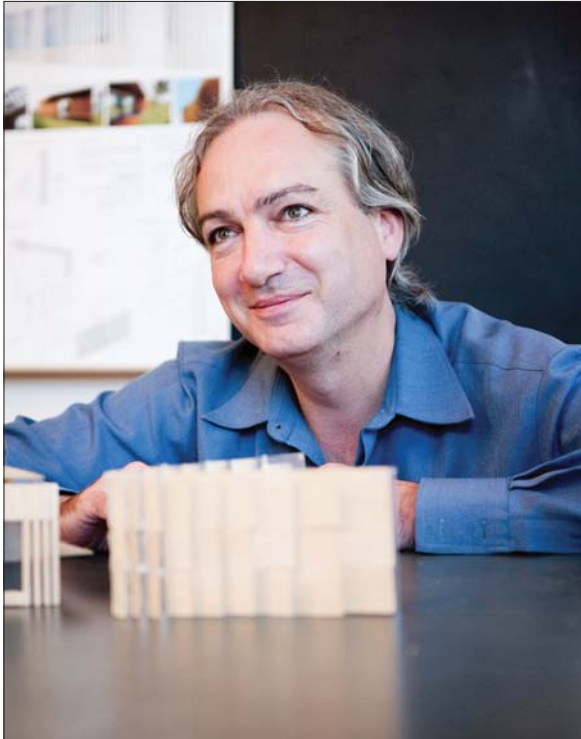
Part of the comfort has to do with temperature and fresh air, and some of the lifestyle has to do with indoor/outdoor living and being connected to the glorious surroundings.

We immediately saw that passive cooling was the key; that is designing the building to maximize comfort with the windows wide open rather than relying on air conditioning.

## **What was the developer's reaction to your ideas?**

The developers immediately saw the benefits in terms of marketing to an increasingly ecologically conscientious public, but also to those sensitive to ongoing operating costs.

*Phuket Property Review* talks to Paul Raff, Principal Designer for Bluepoint Condos.



FROM VISION TO REALITY: Architect Paul Raff. [www.bluepointcondos.com](http://www.bluepointcondos.com)

## **Do you believe that there is a target audience for this type of building in Phuket and Southeast Asia?**

Bluepoint has been well received, so I believe so.

## **Did you have to adapt your original ideas due to either budget or acquisition challenges?**

None of our original ideas have been significantly altered to work with budget challenges.

## **Is it a realistic goal to expect homes in the near future to incorporate sustainable design and interiors, or is it just for those who can afford it?**

Environmentally sustainable design principles can be applied to any project large or small, high-end or low-end. So it is a realistic possibility that all homes could deploy green thinking to a degree.

That being said, thorough process and advanced thinking take time and investment in expertise. This makes it currently only accessible for high-end projects. Also, if we ideally target zero carbon consumption that can only be achieved with very significant capital costs. This is something we tend to work on with individuals or organizations with appropriately deep pockets.

## **What is the biggest reward in designing with ecosystem preservation in mind?**

The biggest reward is knowing that the location we build on will be respected and even enhanced.



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# Taking a look at The View

The message is crystal clear from the developers of the Kata condo project, The View Phuket. All systems go!

AFTER a few rain soaked delays towards the end of 2012, contractor DCM has now added a twilight shift to push construction forward at The View Phuket.

"There is a real sense of excitement as the construction builds in momentum, we have now completed about 80% of the superstructure. Every day we see more and more of the architect's stunning designs come to life," sales manager Mundo Smellini said.

Atta Studio's dynamic young team have created an architectural masterpiece in a stunning location on Phuket's trendy west coast. "We have seen a significant increase in both enquiries and sales, the buyers are happy in the knowledge that the project is funded by Krungsri Bank. We expect to launch our new branding initiative at the start of Q2 2013," Mundo explained.

The name for the development was conceived from its natural surroundings, perched high on a hillside overlooking a pristine bay. This exclusive low density estate has just 53 condo units that have been designed for discerning buyers that appreciate the difference between a product that simply offers "a view" and those that appreciate the optimum: namely "The View."

The View's architects have also drawn inspiration from nature to produce a simple yet stunning building form that is modeled on the shape and mass of ocean waves. The tiers of units and blocks represent the graceful curve of a wave and its continual evolution from base to crest.

The low-density low rise style is a modern tropical contemporary design with strong and deliberate emphasis



**A GROWING VIEW:** Construction is moving along at The View in Kata and the managing directors, Alexander Grabowski, Sasipa Khankew and Nabile Graidia (*below*) are obviously pleased with progress to date.

employed to maximize the view, while protecting personal privacy. Careful selection of appropriate materials helps to ensure the practicality and durability of the construction without compromising the aesthetic or function of the units. Each block is constructed in light bright white allowing excellent natural light, while the generous windows and full height doors allow reduced reliance on air conditioning.

The View is conveniently located on a private elevated position overlooking the cosmopolitan beach district of Kata on the sunset coastline of Phuket

Starting from 11.5 million baht, The View has a range of high quality sea view one-bedroom units at 116sqm to opulent six-bedroom penthouses at 674sqm. The units are designed to achieve both significant rental returns and capital growth.



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# Purchasing a dream home in Phuket

AS THE real estate industry here is largely unregulated, a purchaser should consider the following prior to purchasing a dream home in Phuket.

## Due Diligence on the Developer

When buying a property, especially off-plan as there is nothing for a buyer to initially see beyond the glossy marketing information, a prudent purchaser should investigate the property developer and his track record. Until construction is completed the purchaser is always under some degree of risk, but risk can be managed to an acceptable level or the buyer may simply purchase a completed property instead.

## Due diligence on title and the property

A proper due diligence should always be conducted on the land title and building permit for any structure, and verification of road access should be made. Further, a surveyor should verify the size and particulars of the location of the land as there are certain areas where construction is prohibited by law.

## Legal information on purchase and holding rights to property

Subject to limited exceptions, freehold title to land is generally not available to foreigners, although foreigners may hold the ownership of buildings and condominium units. Therefore, acquisition of an interest in land in a foreigner's personal capacity must be by leasehold, usufruct, or usage rights for land.

As a result, while houses can be purchased or built in the name of a foreigner the developer/seller will

Want to put a piece of paradise in your property portfolio? *Sam Fauma* looks at the legal aspects of buying a home in Phuket.

remain as the land owner and will be the purchaser's lessor under a land lease.

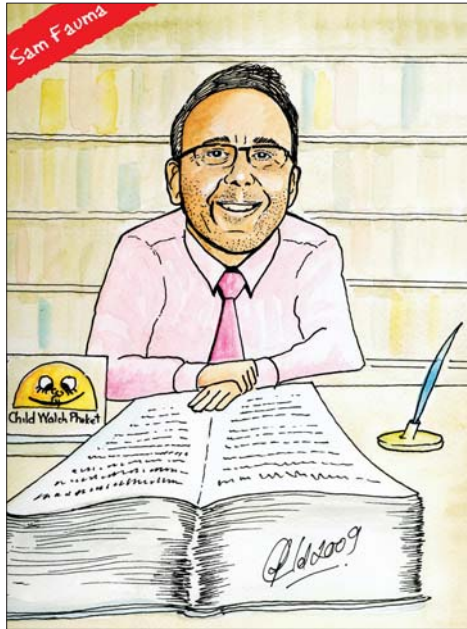
## Payment

Property under construction generally requires payment through instalments determined by milestones in completed construction stages. The payment schedule should accommodate both the purchaser's budget and the milestones themselves to ensure that the payments fairly reflect the value of the works completed at each stage and are not unduly front-loaded – thus leaving insufficient funds for the developer to complete the structure.

## Contract signing

After the purchaser has made his decision to buy, the next step usually requires a reservation through the execution of a Reservation Form and payment of a small deposit. This commits both parties to the process and triggers a defined time within which the contract terms should be settled.

The reservation fee should be



refundable in certain circumstances, for instance in the case it is discovered that there is a defect in title or other material infirmity in regards to the property. Ideally, its best to sign a proper agreement package with a small deposit held by an escrow agent or trustee until due diligence is completed.

Having made a reservation, the parties will need to agree on the sales contracts. The contracts will need to be carefully drafted according to the best interests of both parties. Competent developers will have all necessary base documents in place to ensure a smooth transmission for the purchaser and his lawyer to review.

For purchasers, a local attorney or advisor is beneficial and need not be expensive as it's common to agree to a fixed fee rather than an hourly rate basis. A reputable firm will have no hesitation to provide an initial free consultation.

## Ownership or rights to property

A properly drafted contract is the purchaser's best security, and it's

best if the contract provides that the purchaser will hold ownership of the house. As for the land, a land lease in Thailand can be registered for a term of 30 years (50 years for commercial purposes).

Purchasers' should require that their long term land lease contracts be renewable and may be transferred to a third party, and that the lease rights are inheritable.

Lesser known vehicles with which to acquire land interests in Thailand such as Usufruct can extend for the life of the purchaser. Your knowledgeable local attorney can further advise.

## Warranties

Any property will suffer small defects after construction is completed and a good developer will promptly remedy the same. While new condominium unit purchases carry a statutory one-year warranty by law, the purchaser of a villa will have to rely on his contract.

Typically, the structure itself will have a two-year warrantee, with non-structural items (water pumps and appliances, for example) guaranteed for one year. The supplier or manufacturer should provide separate warranties for swimming pools.

The laws in Thailand do not provide protection against latent defects (those defects which might appear at some later stage but which previously were undetectable to the naked eye) so these need to be provided for within the construction contract itself.

*Article courtesy of Friedrich Sam Fauma, Senior Partner, Director, advisor at International Law Office.*



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# Speaking in tongues

*Continued from page 1*

WHAT is a bit different is that, in a similar way to tourism, the rainbow effect of many nationalities is also a part of the transactions.

A domino effect has seen the smallish domestic type condos now being replicated into a bit larger and more flash resort units. Price is key and, again, most of the sales action is taking place at the top or bottom ends of the market.

One sure sign of the changing times is the shifting sentiment of property developers who are now specifically looking at overseas buyers. Recent product launches that support this fact are the Amari Residences in Patong (see page 9), Bangtao's Laguna Shores and the upcoming Sansiri project at Mai Khao.

What's key is that many of the new upscale resort area projects are structured on leasehold versus condominium title, so they are clearly directed at foreign audiences as Thai's generally tend to look for freehold property.

Another key driver of demand is that both Laguna and Amari are offering hotel management schemes that are slanted toward investors and not necessarily only those looking at long term capital appreciation. Sure, lifestyle is a perk, with free room nights, but the drivers here are regular yields through hotel-type operations and capturing Phuket's booming tourist trade.

In much of our talks with property developers another dimension to the new island storyline is more regional buyers versus those from traditional markets, like the UK. A potent punch of increasing short haul airlifts, a rising upper middle class and strong Asian economies are delivering a new type of investor to our shores.

**"Having Russian speaking staff is one key way of addressing the growing demographic."**

*Prakaipeth Meechoosarn,  
CBRE Thailand.*

As most of us know, the true changing landscape over 2012 was a staggering number of Russian and Eastern European tourists. I wondered what impact was being felt, if any, in the property sector. So I spoke to a few key players.

Lyndon Philips, Director of Sales at Banyan

Tree and Laguna said: "We've had a surprising pick up of sales to Russian buyers opting for the investment option of the purchase."

Agents are also seeing the numbers, Amy Koh from Engel and Voelkers talked about what type of properties were seeing the pick up.

She commented: "We have continued to have Russian investors in the market and this number has been steadily increasing."

"Their main preferences are for beachfront properties, or those very close to the beach or developments with facilities. They are looking at a very diverse range of the market, from 2-

bedroom apartments to 4-5 bedroom pool villas."

Language issues continue to be a key for both tourism and the knock-on property sector. "Having Russian speaking staff is one key way of addressing the growing demographic," CBRE Thailand's Prakaipeth Meechoosarn said.

As I gaze off into the distance at things past, present and future, my bets for the remainder is that while the omnipresent potential bubble of the domestic property surge hovers high overhead, there continues to be too much momentum in Asia Inc at the moment to see things simply stall out.

Mitigating an over-leveraging in the domestic sector this year is a return to a more solid footing as we see wider foreign demand that will offset local risk.

While it's yet to be seen if the Eastern European effect will hit the island's real estate developments with the same momentum it has hit tourism, there is little denying that it's picking up speed.

*Bill Barnett is Managing Director of the property development consulting firm, C9 Hotelworks.*



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**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....

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