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# Phuket Gazette

## Holding out hope



Friends and family pray for Russian teenagers in devastating motorbike crash

**INSIDE TODAY**

April 6 - 12, 2013 [PhuketGazette.Net](http://PhuketGazette.Net) In partnership with [The Nation](http://The Nation)

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■ 'WE DO NOT WANT VIOLENCE. WE WILL TRY TO FIND A WAY TO COMPROMISE'

# Kata tuk-tuks to stand alone

■ Tuk-tuk and taxi drivers in Kata-Karon vow to protest new bus service

By **Orawin Narabal**

PRESSURE is mounting on the Kata-Karon taxi and tuk-tuk drivers who have declared outright they will protest if Phuket's new bus line, providing a hop-on, hop-off service between Phuket International Airport and Kata Beach, goes ahead.

Key figures representing about 90 per cent of tuk-tuk and taxi drivers in Patong confirmed this week they will stand aside if the provincial authorities support and approve the new bus service, and Karon Police, while sympathetic, urged drivers to consider the bigger picture.

Long known for using fear and intimidation as negotiation tactics, the drivers at the southern resort beaches of Kata and Karon on January 3 staged a blockade of the Karon beach road to protest Russian tour operators not using local drivers to transport tourists. Among the complaints were claims that the Russian tour operators were undercutting local tuk-tuk and taxi fares.

Their reputation this week remained intact after a promotional journey for the new bus service – from Provincial Hall in Phuket Town to the site of the proposed bus stop....

Continued on Page 2



Tuk-tuk and taxi drivers in Patong will not protest the new bus service. Photo: Gazette file

## Booze ban on Bangla to rein in Songkran

PHUKET officials may have just thrown a wet blanket on party plans for residents and locals alike with the announcement that the sale, purchase and consumption of alcohol will be banned on Patong's famous Soi Bangla on April 12 as part of a slew of new precautions to make Thai New Year festivities safer.

Full story on Page 2

## Plans laid to stave off drought

TOP water officials unveil plans to ensure water supplies keep flowing as the island suffers longest dry spell for 10 years.

Full story on Page 5

## Marine chief proposes new sea taxi

Growing traffic congestion prompts Phuket Marine chief to propose a cunning plan to launch a "sea taxi" to ferry tourists by boat from Phuket Airport down to Patong.



Full story on Page 4

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## This Week



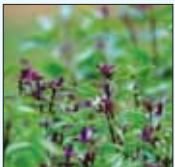
### Business

Modernizing Thai money with the new 20 baht banknote. **Page 11**



### History

The story of Thailand's prison paradise on Koh Tarutao. **Page 36**



### Gardening

Spice up your life with a few tips from Patrick Campbell. **Page 38**



### Arts

Students from BIS wow audiences with The Lion King. **Page 41**



### Health

Baz Daniels writes about what it's like to really be 64. **Page 42**



### Sport

Down and dirty with Phuket United's 'Action Jackson'. **Page 50**

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# Booze-free water play zones set for Songkran

By Chutharat Plerin

THE sale, purchase and consumption of alcohol will be banned on Patong's famous Soi Bangla for Songkran on April 12 as part of a slew of new measures being introduced to make Thai New Year festivities safer.

Phuket officials on Wednesday established six main "water play zones" – the only places where water play will be legal – and outlawed alcohol in those zones.

Alcohol may not be conveyed into the areas, sold in the areas, or consumed there.

The zones are as follows:

- Saphan Hin Park
- Kata-Karon beachfront
- Soi Bangla and Patong beach road
- Kamala Park
- Surin Beach
- Sirinath National Park

Revelers caught drinking and driving will be charged, as will those found drinking alongside public roads.

Police will also charge people for throwing water "impolitely", for using colored water, and for touching women inappropriately when applying powder, said



Engaging in water battles from the back of pickup trucks will be illegal, as will be drinking alcohol within the play zones. Photo: Gazette file

Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Sakchai Limcharoen.

In addition, police will be manning 15 checkpoints throughout Phuket during the Seven Days of Danger, April 11-17.

Water play areas are being set up on a national level, with zones set at the provincial governor's discretion, announced Deputy

Interior Minister Chat Kuldilok on March 29.

Water play from the back of pickup trucks has also been forbidden at the national level.

"The number of road accidents during Songkran is much more than normal, so this year we have launched new road-safety plans," Mr Chat said.

## Kata-Karon drivers alone in bus protest

From page 1

...at Karon – was called off at the last minute on Wednesday after the organizers realized that Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut would not be on board for the trip.

Governor Maitri was busy attending a meeting to outline the alcohol-free water-play zones for Songkran, and to announce the dates of the annual Seven Days of Danger road-safety campaign for the upcoming holiday period.

Calling off the promotional journey may have been prudent, as only days earlier Sommart Homwan, president of the Kata-Karon Taxi and Tuk-tuk Driver's Co-operative, told the *Gazette* bluntly: "You run, we protest."

Mr Sommart said the bus services would directly affect local drivers' livelihoods. "If they are



Prab Keesin and his crew will not protest the new bus service.

going to run the airport bus service, we will surely stage a protest. The airport bus service will definitely affect us. They are going to steal our jobs," he said.

The top representatives of the two largest tuk-tuk and taxi co-operatives in Patong this week told the *Gazette* they feel differently.

Preechavude "Prab" Keesin,

son of Patong Mayor Pian Keesin and head of the Patong Taxi Federation said, "I do not think our drivers will protest the airport bus service.

I believe our 500 members will surely understand if the Phuket Transportation Office explains to them clearly why the bus was approved and how it will be beneficial to the tourism of the island.

"We, Patong people, we are understanding. We live in a tourism destination. What we want is to develop our area to make it attractive to tourists and support the tourism economics of Phuket. We do not want to do anything that will tarnish Phuket's reputation," Mr Prab said.

Setthasak Buason, president of the Patong Taxi and Tuk-tuk Driver's Co-operative, admitted the bus service would greatly affect his members, but also said his drivers were willing to make the sacrifice for the greater good.

"I am sure our 300 members will not protest. If the provincial government approves it, that means it would be beneficial to Phuket as a whole. If the bus service is approved, that means our superiors believe it will bring more advantages than disadvantages to our community, so it will be a good thing," he explained.

However, Mr Setthasak said there were about 100 independent tuk-tuk and taxi drivers operating in Patong not accounted for by the main two co-operatives.

"I do not know how they will react," he said.

## Police on lookout for three drivers in two hit-and-runs

CHALONG Police are looking for the drivers of three vehicles involved in two separate hit-and-runs during the night of March 28.

Late that night, police received a report that a man had died in a road accident near the entrance to Soi Pratana on Chao Fa West Road.

Chalong Police investigator Wuttiwat Liangboonjinda identified the victim as 30-year-old Somsak Faipim.

"Witnesses said Mr Somsak was riding his motorbike and was hit by a van. He fell off his bike and was run over by a pickup truck that was following the van at high speed," Lt Wuttiwat said.

"Neither the van nor the pickup truck driver stopped," he added.

Hours earlier, a 14-year-old boy was knocked off his motorbike and run over by a 10-wheeled truck near the Taweasaman Market in Rawai.

"The accident happened at 7:30pm," said Lt Wuttiwat. "We arrived to find the body of a Burmese boy named Tui lying on the road. Witnesses told police the truck driver fled the scene.

"We are now seeking the drivers in both hit-and-runs," he added.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Chalong Police Station at 076-381930.

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# Teens survive high-speed crash

By Saran Mitrat

RUSSIAN student Vladislav Abrashko, 15, is out of the ICU at Phuket International hospital after the horrific motorcycle accident last Saturday that left him with a broken leg and Sevastian Lukashov, 16, with serious head injuries.

A cast covering his leg, Mr Abrashko was resting in his hospital room on Wednesday morning, accompanied by his father and Simon Meredith, Principal of the Secondary School at British International School – Phuket.

Mr Abrashko appeared to be comfortable, with his iPhone by his side, and told the *Gazette*, “I want to rest. I’m not ready to give any information yet.”

The hospital declined to give an update on the condition of Mr Lukashov.

Meanwhile, the driver of the car involved in the collision, Wannakij Maneerat, was in hospital herself, complaining of pain, Wichit Police Sub Lt Somboon Malai told the *Gazette* Wednesday afternoon.

“She said she didn’t have any wounds, but had internal pains,” Lt Somboon told the *Gazette*.

The headmaster of BIS, Neil Richards MBE, issued a statement on Tuesday, saying in part: “The



The front of the car sustained serious damage in the impact that sent the motorbike flying, bursting into flames.

school is assisting the parents of the boys as much as possible, and the thoughts and best wishes of our entire community are offered to them during this stressful period.”

Meanwhile, sympathies for the two students poured out on Facebook.

Sasha Podgaetskaya posted,

“Pray for Vlad Abrashko and Sevastian Lukashov! They are now in International hospital. Vlad Abrashko broke his leg in 3 places, but he is ok and will get better soon. Sevastian Lukashov is now in coma, he had a 5 hour operation on his head. Especially pray for Sevastian Lukashov!”

Lesya Tyshchenko posted,

“That’s horrible. Saw them today and felt so sorry for them. Hope they would get better soon. Praying for them.”

The accident that sent all three to the hospital occurred at about 1pm on the bypass road.

“Ms Wannakij, 39, was driving her car southbound from [Tesco] Lotus. She slowed to turn right at

the u-turn leading into Soi Bang Yai,” Lt Somboon explained.

“As she was turning right, a big bike was heading north from Big C and the two collided. The impact sent the motorcycle 30 meters into a nearby Sino-Portuguese building, where it burst into flames, destroying the bike and damaging the building,” he said.

Police found the boys 50 meters from the crash site, unconscious. Mr Abrashko’s right leg was broken and he had a wound on his right knee. Mr Lukashov had also injured his right knee and was bleeding from both ears.

They were taken to nearby Phuket International Hospital.

The front of Ms Wannakij’s Honda was extensively damaged, and both front airbags had deployed.

“Ms Wannakij’s insurance will pay the hospital bills and also cover the damage to the Sino-Portuguese building,” Lt Somboon said.

“Both youths are now at the Phuket International hospital. We will question them when they are better, and will then start negotiations with Mrs Wannakij,” he added.

*Additional reporting and photo by Kritsada Mueanhawong*

## Phuket doctors unaffected by health care pay reform

THE Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) today confirmed that the introduction of the new P4P “Pay for performance” system of calculating rural doctors’ remuneration will not affect any public health care services in Phuket.

The news follows at least 146 doctors – among them 11 specialists – announcing they will resign their positions at public hospitals across the country in protest of the new P4P pay system.

The mass resignations follow weeks of protests in Bangkok.

“Previously, public medical workers in rural areas were granted allowances based on the remoteness of their posts and the number of years they had worked. Now the allowances are based on their workload,” an officer at the PPHO explained.

However, “Under the Ministry of Health, no part of Phuket province is classified as a rural area, so the introduction of P4P does not affect us, and no medical staff in Phuket have resigned over this,” the officer added.

## Hotels warned to report foreign guests

HOTELS and other guest accommodation establishments across the island have until May 1 to start filing daily reports identifying their guests to Phuket Immigration before officers start raiding – and charging – the hotel operators.

The news follows Phuket Immigration Superintendent Sunchai Chokkajaykij laying down the law to his officers, ordering them to launch a campaign to get hotels, resorts and apartment residence operators to report the names of their foreign guests to the immigration office each day.

By law, hotel, apartment and resort owners and staff must re-



Immigration officers are visiting hotels to teach staff about the online registration system.

port the identity of each foreign guest to the immigration office within 24 hours of the guest checking in, Col Sunchai said.

“If they do not start filing the daily reports to us, they will be

fined up to 2,000 baht. If they know the foreigner is illegally in the country and still allow that foreigner to stay, they will be charged with harboring an illegal immigrant and face up to 10 years imprisonment,” he warned.

Immigration officer Capt Angkarn Yasanop explained that hoteliers and staff can file the reports online at [phuketimmigration.go.th](http://phuketimmigration.go.th).

To boost the number of hotels using the system, Capt Angkarn and fellow officers have started visiting venues across the island in person to explain the system to hotel management and staff.

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## Gov orders justice over land dispute arson attack

PHUKET Governor Maitri Inthasut has ordered the Chalong Police to take swift action in bringing to justice the three men seen setting homes ablaze in Chalong in the early hours of March 27.

Windy conditions helped the fire destroy three wooden houses in Soi Palai in just 30 minutes.

Sombat Suwit told the *Gazette* he had no time to lose in escaping the blaze. "It was too fast. I didn't have any time to grab anything from my house. Now I have nothing left."

Mr Sombat said he saw three men acting suspiciously nearby. "They took off on a motorcycle, but I cannot remember the license plate number," he added.

"I believe the fire was started over a land dispute. An investor claims to own the land we live on, but we have been living here for a long, long time," Mr Sombat said.

"There are many land ownership problems in Phuket and I want to see justice served in this case," Gov Maitri said.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

# Marine chief floats sea taxi idea

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

TO OFFER tourists another option in getting from Phuket Airport to Patong Beach, the chief of the Phuket Marine Office has proposed launching a "sea taxi" to ferry passengers down the island's west coast.

The project is called "From the boat to the plane", Chief Phuriphat Teerakulpisut told a meeting at the Phuket Treasury Office last week.

"Many tourists visit Phuket each year – last year we had around 9.5 million tourists. Currently, the only way to travel from Phuket Airport to other tourist attractions on the island is by car. Since the population is growing and more and more people are buying cars, the traffic is getting worse," he said.

"We want to help alleviate the traffic problem and offer tourists a better way of traveling by opening a boat route from the airport to Patong Beach," Mr Phuriphat said.

Considering the current state of Phuket's traffic congestion, Mr Phuriphat even ventured that passengers taking a boat from the



One concern was that the existing pier in Patong, seen here at the left, was in water too shallow to receive large boats. Photo: AbovePhuket.com

airport would reach Patong faster than they would if they travelled by car.

"Tourists will arrive at Patong Beach faster by boat because the distance is shorter," he observed.

"Traveling by car usually takes about an hour. In rush hour, it takes 90 minutes. But traveling by speedboat would take only 25 minutes, and by tour boat would be only 40 minutes," he sug-

gested.

"I think this project is a good idea. Phuket is growing and more transport options are needed. It will be more convenient, and more impressive, for tourists arriving on the island. They could save time while enjoying their trip," Mr Phuriphat concluded.

"We could even add more routes from the airport to other places around the island," he

added.

Mr Phuriphat's sea taxi proposal was well received at the meeting, though the other attendees agreed that more research was needed before committing to the project.

Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa's support also came with a few riders.

"I agree with the idea, but the relevant officers have to learn more about the laws involved, such as local planning laws, if they are going to continue the project," she said.

Vice Governor Sommai also pointed out that the area where the pier will need to be built at the airport belongs to the Phuket branch of the national air traffic control authority, Aeronautical Radio of Thailand (Aerothai).

"So the construction of the pier might affect the safety of planes landing and taking off at the airport," she said.

"We also have to consider the current expansion of Phuket Airport. We have to discuss with Aerothai and the airport management [Airports of Thailand] to see if it is possible to move ahead with this project," V/Gov Sommai said.

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HONEY, IT WAS THIS BIG: Khamchit Sangsuwan went out fishing, but landed a baby crocodile. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

## Luckless fisherman lands baby crocodile

DECADES since a freshwater crocodile was last spotted in the wild on Phuket, a local fisherman accidentally landed a baby specimen while fishing in Srisoonthorn last week.

Khamchit Sangsuwan, 32, a resident in the neighboring district of Kathu, went fishing at Baan Bang Jo canal. After two hours of luckless angling, the end of his line suddenly started jerking and there was much splashing where it entered the water.

Thinking he had caught a large fish, Mr Khamchit reeled in the baby croc instead, about 80cm long and weighing about 2kg, just before dusk.

Excitement whipped through the village as people came running to see the animal, but from a safe distance.



Local villagers rushed to see the crocodile, but from a safe distance.

"The villagers tied its mouth shut with rope because the crocodile tried to bite them," Thalang Police Deputy Superintendent Amnuay Kraiwutthianun.

"The crocodile was taken to Phuket Coastal Fisheries Research and Development Center in Wichit for safe keeping and for study," Lt Col Amnuay said.

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**



# Getting ready for the ‘big dry’

**Authorities lay out plans in case island's water reserves begin to evaporate after Phuket's driest first quarter in 10 years**

By Saran Mitrat

THE forecast for isolated, scattered showers across Phuket during the run-up to the Songkran festival will offer little reprieve to the island's ongoing dry spell, which is Phuket's driest January-to-March period in a decade, experts have warned.

"The average rainfall during January to March over the past 10 years is 277.71mm, but this year we received only 63.3mm," said Phuket Meteorological Officer Suchart Yonchamroen.

"That is the lowest recorded rainfall for this period in 10 years," he added.

This year's early quarter contrasts with that of last year, when a record 541.8mm drenched the island, Mr Suchart noted.

As of Wednesday, the Thai Meteorological Department predicted only a 10-20% chance of drizzle across Phuket for the coming week, and the forecast was for temperatures to soar to 36°C.

The annual rains usually arrive in late April, but if they are late, the water situation for some parts of Phuket Town may be critical, Mr Suchart said.

Phuket Municipality Deputy Mayor Thavorn Jirapattanasophon said that water supplies for Phuket Town, Samkong, Chaofa and Sakdidet areas are enough to last until the end of April.

However, he urged residents to save water until the rains arrive, especially those living in the Chaofa and Sakdidet areas.

"These areas are supplied by the Suan Luang reservoir, and that reservoir is dry," he said.

"Normally when we do not have enough water in Suan Luang reservoir, we buy water from a private company. This year that company is selling some of its water reserves to the Provincial Waterworks Authority [PWA], so we won't be getting as much.

"I urge everyone to help conserve water or store water at home," he said.

If need be, affected areas in Phuket Town will be placed on water rations, Deputy Mayor Thavorn warned.

"If the situation becomes critical, we will reduce water pressure, ration the water so it is turned on and off at set times each day, and supply water to some areas with a water truck," he stated.



Dark clouds over Phuket are expected to do little to end the driest early quarter in 10 years. Photo: Saran Mitrat

Mr Thavorn hoped that such drastic measures would not be necessary, as he has a backup plan of buying water from the PWA.

"We have signed a contract to buy water from the PWA, so if they have enough water we should have enough water too," he said.

PWA Manager Pisak Chonlayut confirmed to the *Gazette* that the water on hand in Bang Neaw Dum reservoir and at the Bang Wad Dam is enough to support Phuket Province until the rains arrive.

"Although there hasn't been much rain, we have enough water

to supply the whole province for three to four months," he said.

Mr Pisak is so confident of his water reserves that he told the *Gazette*, "Don't worry. We will have enough water to freely celebrate Songkran."

However, like Phuket Town Deputy Mayor Thavorn, Mr Pisak also has a backup plan.

"In the unlikely event that our water reserves aren't enough, we will buy more from Loch Palm and Chaofa reservoirs. We've already signed a contract with the owners of those supplies," he said.

"We have about 5.9 million cubic meters of water in Bang Niew Dum reservoir to support Thalang, Chong Talay, Pa Khlok, Koh Sireh and Rassada. Last year at this time we had 7.2mn cubic meters.

"There are 2.9mn cubic meters at the Bang Wad Dam to support Phuket Town, Patong, Chalong and Rawai. Last year at this time there were 3.7 mn cubic meters.

"For the Kata and Karon areas, we have contracted a private company to supply desalinated sea water at a rate of about 12,000 cubic meters per day," he said.



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## Series of phone calls rescues lost Italians



The grateful couple advertise the tourist police telephone number on the day after their rescue.

AN ITALIAN couple who lost their way in Khao Phra Thaew wildlife sanctuary in Thalang were recovered safely on March 27.

Meiko Parisani and Valentina Bolognini entered the park at about 3:30pm, hoping to see the Ton Sai Waterfall, but soon lost their way.

"We were very scared and did not know what to do. In our country, the trees are marked, but I did not see marks here, so we stopped and called our rental car company for help," Mr Parisani said.

The car company notified the Phuket Tourist Police.

"We received the report, so we contacted our Italian volunteer to help us," Lt Col Urumporn Koondejsumrit said.

The Tourist Police then called in Awat Nitikul, chief of the Environmental Conservation Unit.

"Our officers found them after an hour and a half," Mr Awat said.

Grateful for the efforts by the officers, Mr Parisani and Ms Bolognini went to the Phuket Tourist Police headquarters in Phuket Town the next morning to thank all involved in the rescue.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

# Call of the wild answered at Mai Khao turtle release

THE Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation and JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa hosted the 4th Mai Khao Turtle Release on the afternoon of March 29.

The important annual event is organized to raise funds for, and awareness of, the plight of Phuket's critically endangered sea turtles.

Supported by the Phuket Marine Biological Center and the Royal Thai Navy, the event released rehabilitated green turtles back into the Andaman Sea.

Local officials, Phuket residents and resort staff enjoyed an afternoon of fun activities and light refreshments and witnessed the rewarding sight of the turtles entering their natural habitat.

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut gave a speech highlighting the importance of the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation before releasing the first turtle to scuttle across the sand.

In total, about 100 turtles were released.

Phuket's sea turtles face multiple threats and their numbers have been severely depleted in recent years.

Commercial fishing kills thousands of them every year. Many more die from eating or becoming trapped in plastic debris littering the ocean, not to mention entanglement in fishing nets and being hit by speedboats.

The work done by the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation (founded by JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa), the Injured Turtle Rehabilitation Program (under the Phuket Marine Biological Center)



This turtle got a helping hand to the sea. About 100 green sea turtles were released in the event hosted by the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation and JW Marriott Phuket Resort. Photo: JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa

and the Turtle Hatchery Program (under the Royal Thai Navy) is possible thanks to ongoing financial support from the Phuket community.

Everybody is invited to help with the protection of the area's endangered turtle population. Financial donations are much appreciated. Every 2,500 baht raised pays for the rehabilitation of one turtle and its release back into the Andaman Sea.

For more information about the foundation, contact Khun Kittipan, Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation Coordinator. Email: info@maikhaoturtlefoundation.com. Tel: 089-7338830.



The event raised awareness in an entertaining way about the plight of the endangered sea turtles. Photo: JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa

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## Blood Bank stocking up for Songkran

THE Phuket Regional Blood Center (PRBC) wants to boost its blood reserves to prepare for higher demand during the Songkran Festival.

"We maintain a daily minimum stock of 200 units of A, B and O blood, and 20 units of Rhesus-negative blood, but during the Songkran Festival we anticipate a higher demand for blood, so we want to have an additional 50 units on hand," said PRBC staff Watou O-ar.

The blood center accepts donations at their headquarters on Rattanakosin 200 Year Road, next to Phuket Provincial Employment Office in Saphan Hin, at these times:

- Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30am to 4:30pm
- Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 am to 8pm
- Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays from 9am to 3pm

The PRBC mobile blood donation clinic's schedule for April is:

- April 1:** La Flora Resort (Patong), 1pm-4pm
- April 5:** Tesco Lotus Phuket



(bypass road), in front of Pizza Company, Midday-7pm

- April 9:** Swissotel Resort Phuket (Kamala), Kamala Room (2nd floor), 1pm-4pm

- April 9:** Tesco Lotus Phuket (bypass road), In front of Homepro, Midday-7pm

- April 10:** JW Marriott Resort and Spa Phuket (Mai Khao), 1pm-4pm

- April 10:** Tesco Lotus Phuket (bypass road), In front of Homepro, Midday-7pm

- April 17:** Phuket Provincial Court (Phuket Town), 9am-midday

- April 17:** PPAO Hospital (Rassada), Administration room (3rd floor), 10am-3pm

- April 19:** Hilton Arcadia Resort and Spa Phuket (Karon), Coconut grove room, 1pm-4pm

- April 22:** Duangjitt Resort (Patong), 10am-3pm

- April 23:** Amora Beach Resort (Bang Tao), 1pm-4pm

- April 24:** The Front Village Resort Phuket (Karon), 1pm-4pm

- April 25:** Phuket International Airport, 10am-4pm

- April 28:** Big C supercenter (bypass road), 2pm-9pm

- April 29:** Jungceylon shopping center (Patong), Robinson department store, 10am-3pm

- April 30:** Moevenpick Resort and Spa (Karon), 1pm-4pm

- April 30:** Centara Karon Resort Phuket (Karon), 1pm-4pm

— Saran Mitrarat

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\*The Charm Residence Project: Pralung Co., Ltd. is the owner of the land, the land allocator and the marketer of the project. Its company registration number is 080552010143, with its registered office at 5/41 Thaveewong Road, Tambon Patong, Amphoe Kathu, Phuket Province. The company's registered capital is THB 58,000,000.00 (based on the company's certification document dated 30 November 2012). The company is developing the project to be a residential condominium, comprises three five-story residential buildings, and one seven-story residential building, with a total of 242 residential condominium units and no commercial condominium units. The company is also developing a residential land allocation project located at Thaveewong Road, Tambon Patong, Amphoe Kathu, Phuket Province. It is being developed on the land under the land title deed number 12177, land plot number 6, page search 980, Tambon Patong, Amphoe Kathu, Phuket Province. The area of the land subject to the development has an approximate area of 3 Rai, 1 Ngan and 15.8 square Wua. The company is the owner of the land. The land is encumbered to Kasikorn Bank PCL. The project is currently being developed. Once the buyer pays the full purchase price under the sale and purchase agreement, the company will be ready to transfer the ownership to buyers within 30 days. The development of the project commenced in April 2011, and the development of the common properties and public services in the project should be completed around December 2013. Once the development is completed, the company will register the condominium. The buyers of the condominium units will be required to pay the common area fees, taxes, and other fees as determined by the developer or the condominium joint person, subject to the law on condominium and the terms and conditions set by the company.



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Rescue workers cut down the coconut tree in the background to free the body of Mr Watthikorn.

## Rolling truck crushes owner against tree

A CONCRETE well ring vendor died in Thalang on March 27 after his crane truck rolled down a slope and one of the outriggers – arms used to stabilize the truck – crushed him against a coconut tree.

Thalang Police were notified that a man had died at a coconut plantation behind Baan Chumpoh Mosque in Pa Khlok at about 4pm.

“One of the villagers wanted to dig a well so he ordered three concrete well rings from Watthikorn Anukulpaiboon, 58,” Lt Chatree said.

“Mr Watthikorn parked his truck and set out the outriggers on each side of the truck to hold it in position. He did not notice that he had parked the truck on a slope,” he added.

After he finished unloading the concrete rings, the truck, now lighter without the rings on the back platform, lifted on its suspension and started to roll. Mr Watthikorn was dragged by the outrigger until it reached a coconut tree and stopped, Lt Chatree explained.

“Mr Watthikorn was crushed between the tree and the outrigger and died. The owner of the plantation and his staff saw the incident but they could not stop the truck or help Mr Watthikorn in time,” he said.

– Thawit Bilabdullar

# Fugitive caught with M16

## Man rams three checkpoints from Khao Lak to Phang Nga Town

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A MURDER fugitive on the run for a decade was arrested in Phang Nga on March 28 after an armed drug binge ended with police shooting out his tyres.

It took about 30 officers to get him into custody.

Phonchai “Bao” Phetrit, from Trang, wanted by Ladprao Police in Bangkok on a murder warrant issued in 2003, was finally placed under arrest after he rammed through three checkpoints.

The pursuit began after police received reports of a man firing an M16 into the air at Baan Bang La On, north of Khao Lak Beach.

“Villagers said that after firing a gun into the air, he jumped into a pickup truck and sped off southward toward Khao Lak,” Phang Nga Provincial Police Commander Chalit Kaewyarat said.

“He rammed through the Khao Lak police checkpoint, then headed to Tai Muang and broke through another checkpoint at the Lamkan Intersection, heading toward Phang Nga Town,” he added.

Phonchai then rammed through another checkpoint at the Nop Pring T-junction, heading toward Phang Nga Town.

“We used a truck to block the



Phonchai ‘Bao’ Phetrit, seated, in custody. He told police shooting guns into the air made him feel better.

road in Thap Pud and gathered all the police officers we could muster from three police stations,” Gen Chalit said.

“Seeing the roadblock and all the officers, he started to turn the pickup around, so our officers shot out his two front tyres,” he added.

Police spent 20 minutes cau-

tiously persuading him to surrender.

In the pickup, they found the M-16 and two magazines containing 11 bullets, as well as a .357 Smith and Wesson revolver and bullets.

“We also seized black magic paraphernalia,” Gen Chalit said.

“The suspect confessed that he took ya ice [crystal methamphet-

amine] the night before.

“He admitted that the guns belonged to him, but claimed he did not want to harm anyone. He said he carried them with him at all times because he believed that if he shot into the air, his pain, through black magic, would disappear,” Gen Chalit said.

## Ongoing trash fires cause evacuations on Koh Lanta

VILLAGERS on Koh Lanta have evacuated their homes because of respiratory problems caused by landfill garbage fires which local authorities say they are unable to control.

The villagers sought to publicize the trash burning problem about three weeks ago by appealing to the Krabi Press Club, saying that local authorities had ignored the issue.

On April 1, villagers again reported to the Krabi Press that smoke from the fire was in areas as far as two kilometers from the landfill.

“We reported our problem to the press last month, but we are still being ignored,” said Wissanu Kokyai, a village headman in the area.

“About 10 households with babies have been

moved to live somewhere else because of respiratory problems caused by the smoke,” he said.

San Wachedi, president of the Saladan Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor), admitted the landfill area was his responsibility, but said, “It is beyond our authority to fix the problem.”

“We tried to put out the fire with water, but it did not work because the landfill is too big.

“We will spread out the garbage and continue spraying water on it,” Mr San said.

“I will take the problem to the district chief and Krabi governor to ask for help in resolving it,” Mr San said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



Local authorities have tried but failed to control this ongoing landfill trash fire on Koh Lanta.

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## Monk impersonator run out of town

A SHAMBOLIC fake monk recently attracted the suspicions of local people in Nakhon Ratchasima Province – and the attention of the police – by trying to collect alms in the afternoon.

Villagers called officers to investigate a man who claimed to be a monk but was improperly dressed, collected alms late and sometimes even asked for money instead of food.

At Phimai Irrigation Reservoir, police found the scruffy figure of Sawaeng Prasertnu, 36.

Mr Sawaeng was wearing a monk's inner garment and trousers – both completely different shades of brown – but had not wrapped himself in an outer robe, as Thai monks are required to do.

Mr Sawaeng told the officer he



had been a monk for one year already at a temple in Nakhon Phanom Province.

However, he couldn't remember the name of the monk he was studying under.

He said he was travelling around the country because he didn't like staying at the temple, preferring to move from place to place on his own.

Local villagers all told Lt Phonphawi the same thing: that the supposed monk showed up to

collect alms in the late morning or even as late as 2-3pm.

Monks in Thailand usually collect alms in the early morning and do not eat after noon.

Sometimes Mr Sawaeng would even ask for money, saying that he did so because he was not allowed to accept food in the afternoon.

Officers decided to take Mr Sawaeng to a local temple but had to grab him by the legs to get him into their vehicle.

At the temple, the abbot was busy with a ceremony, so could not verify if Mr Sawaeng was a real monk.

Police settled for another solution: they drove him out of Phimai District and told him he would be arrested if he ever returned.

– Khao Sod



# High-speed rail draws support, controversy

A GOVERNMENT bill to borrow some 2 trillion baht to finance massive infrastructure projects has sailed through its first reading in Parliament, bringing a high-speed rail link between Bangkok and Chiang Mai closer to reality.

But the plan came under fierce attack by the opposition, who claim it will leave the Thai people indebted for decades to come.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra was widely ridiculed on social media for promoting the plan by claiming the new fast links would allow farmers to transport produce without it rotting.

After two days of fierce debate, the bill authorizing the government to seek 2trn baht in off-budget loans passed easily on March 29 by 284 votes to 152 against.

The plan will entail upgrading the current rail network as well as building high-speed links between Bangkok and Chiang



Mai, Nakhon Ratchasima, Rayong and Hua Hin. The new routes are planned to be in place by 2020.

But Thailand will need to pay back 5trn baht once interest is taken into account, leading critics to claim the plan would bankrupt the country.

The Democrat Party claimed that tickets from Bangkok to Chiang Mai would cost as much as 2,000 baht, saying the plans would benefit only the rich. It also said the Pheu Thai Party was serving its vote base while punishing the people of the South by failing to include a line running to the Malaysian border.



PM Yingluck drew flak for saying the scheme benefited ordinary folk as it would allow vegetables to be transported without rotting. Photo: The Nation

Asked why the project could not be funded by running budget deficits, Finance Minister Kittiratt Na-Ranong said doing so would contradict government policy of running balanced budgets.

Mr Kittiratt added that most of the funds would come from the domestic financial market, so the income from interest payments would end up in the pockets of the Thai people.



## 'I'm still alive' tweets Thaksin

FORMER Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra took to Twitter for the first time in more than a year last week to let his followers know he was still alive.

Mr Thaksin's comments came in response to a rumor spreading on social media that he had died in a car crash in Dubai.

In a sequence of tweets, Mr Thaksin, who lives in self-exile in the Arab state to avoid a two-year jail sentence for corruption, wrote:

"Please allow me to tweet and clarify that I am doing fine. There was no such accident as in the fabricated story. It's April 1, April Fools' Day," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr Thaksin's son Panthongtae made an April Fools' joke of his own, posting on Facebook that his father had returned to Thailand and had registered to run in Chiang Mai MP by-election.

## Leaning tower of Pathum Thani

A NEW seven-story building under construction near Bangkok has been declared off-limits by officials after it started tilting at a perilous six-degree angle.

Public works officials with Khu Khot Municipality in Pathum Thani, who have jurisdiction over the site, inspected the apartment building behind the Zeer department store last Sunday night, *The Nation* reported.

They made the inspection after being hit by complaints from local residents. After visiting the building, they ordered that construction stop immediately.

Thanes Weerasiri, head of the Engineering Institute of Thailand, said the building had tilted at six degrees and should be demolished, or heightened and rebuilt.

The tilting was caused by the foundation not being solid enough,



Construction was ordered stopped immediately. Photo: The Nation

and the stakes being unable to manage the total weight. Heightening of the building could cost the project owner the same amount of money needed to demolish and rebuild it, he said.

"Personally I think it should be

demolished and rebuilt," he said.

Signboards showing details of the project, including its owner, had been removed since the news emerged, except for one notice about the construction firm: Choke Charoen Co Ltd.

## 146 rural doctors to quit over P4P pay

THE Public Health Ministry's new medical salary system has prompted 146 doctors nationwide to resign from rural and urban hospitals, affecting medical services for people in local areas.

Some doctors have chosen to work at private hospitals after learning that the ministry's new medical salary system would cut their additional allowances, they say unfairly.

Among the doctors leaving the public healthcare system are 11 specialists who provide medical care for complicated conditions, according Dr Arak Wongworachart, a former president of the Rural Doctors Society.



Doctors and other public health personnel protested outside Government House. Photo: The Nation

To date, 3,425 doctors work at 723 rural hospitals across the country.

Under the Health Ministry's system – from April 1 this year – 614 of 736 rural hospitals nationwide will cut allowances, based

on remoteness, for their medical workers.

"The resignation of doctors and specialists from rural hospitals has seriously affected the medical services for people living in remote areas – meaning people will have to travel long distances to get treatment at hospitals in [their nearest] town," he said.

The total number of doctors who resigned from hospitals nationwide was calculated by the Rural Doctors Society during February and March, after the ministry initiated its plan to adjust the additional allowance for medical workers.

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## In brief...

### Wikileaks fugitive Assange bids for Australian Senate

FUGITIVE WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, holed up in London's Ecuadorian embassy for nine months, has appointed a high-profile opponent of Britain's monarchy to run his campaign for a seat in Australia's upper house of parliament.

Former Australian Republican Movement head and barrister Greg Barns said on Monday he would be campaign director for Assange's absentee bid for a Senate seat in Australia's September 14 election, which even if successful would not bring him any legal protection.

### Prosecutors seek death penalty for Dark Knight shooter

PROSECUTORS in Colorado will seek the death penalty for accused movie theater gunman James Holmes in the slaying of 12 people during a showing of the Batman film *The Dark Knight Rises*, the lead prosecutor said in court this week.

Holmes, a 25-year-old former graduate student of neuroscience, is accused of opening fire inside a suburban Denver multiplex during a midnight screening of the movie last July in a rampage that ranked as one of the deadliest mass shootings in the United States.

### Indian sex attacks cause drop in female tourists

A SURVEY of 1,200 tour operators across India has indicated that the number of female tourists has dropped by 35 percent in the past three months.

India's Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry, which conducted the survey, on Monday attributed the fall to brutal sexual assaults that made international headlines in recent months.

## Brazilian doctor charged with 7 murders, may have killed 300

A BRAZILIAN doctor who was charged with killing seven patients to free up beds in a hospital intensive care unit may have been responsible for as many as 300 deaths, according to a Health Ministry investigator.

Prosecutors said Dr Virginia Soares de Souza and her medical team administered muscle relaxing drugs to patients, then reduced their oxygen supply, causing them to die of asphyxia at the Evangelical Hospital in the southern city of Curitiba.

De Souza, a 56-year-old widow, was arrested last month and charged with seven counts of aggravated first degree murder. Three other doctors, three nurses and a physiotherapist who worked under De Souza have also been charged with murder.

Prosecutors said wiretaps of De Souza's phone conversations revealed her motive was to free up hospital beds for other patients.

"I want to clear the intensive care unit. It's making me itch," she said in one recording released to Brazilian media. "Unfortunately, our mission is to be go-betweens on the springboard to the next life," she added.

De Souza's lawyer, Elias Mattar Assad, said investigators misunderstood how an intensive care unit works and would prove De Souza's innocence.

More cases are expected to emerge as investigators comb through 1,700 medical records of patients who died in the past seven years at the hospital, where De Souza headed the intensive care unit.

"We already have more than 20 cases established, and there are nearly 300 more that we are looking into," Dr Mario Lobato, the chief investigator assigned by Brazil's Health Minister, said on Brazil TV last Sunday.

If prosecutors prove that De Souza killed 300 patients, this could be one of the world's worst serial killings, rivaling the notorious case of Harold Shipman, the English doctor who was found to have killed at least 215 patients.



The Evangelical Hospital

## China downplays Korea tension

By Ben Blanchard

A SHOW of force by US stealth jets over the Korean Peninsula after talk of war by Pyongyang this week has caused only minor concern in China, a measure of Beijing's belief that the North is to blame for the tensions and that hostilities are not imminent.

The presence of US forces in places such as South Korea and Japan has long worried Beijing, feeding its fears that it is being surrounded and "contained" by Washington and its allies, especially following the US strategic pivot to Asia.

North Korea on Tuesday also announced plans to restart a nuclear reactor that has been closed since 2007, but emphasised it was seeking a deterrent capacity, rather than repeating recent threats to attack South Korea and the United States.

The state-owned KCNA news agency said North Korea would restart all nuclear facilities for both electricity and military uses.

The news prompted an immediate response from United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who on Tuesday publicly stated the North Korea crisis had gone too far and urged dialogue and negotiation to resolve the situation.

"Nuclear threats are not a game. Aggressive rhetoric and military



US Air Force F-22 Raptor stealth jet fighters are now patrolling the border separating North and South Korea. Photo: Reuters

posturing only result in counteractions, and fuel fear and instability," Ban said.

However, the flying of B-2 and F-22 stealth jets in joint exercises with South Korea, bringing US military might virtually to China's doorstep, has barely generated a response from Beijing except for a generic call for calm and restraint.

Last month's announcement that the US would strengthen its anti-missile defenses due to the

North's threats also elicited only mild criticism from China.

"All these new actions from the US side are not targeted at China," said Ni Lexiong, a military expert at the Shanghai University of Political Science and Law.

Another well-connected Chinese military expert, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of discussing Chinese defense policy, said China believed the US presence in Korea acted

as a necessary restraint on troublesome Pyongyang, hence the lack of criticism from Beijing.

China has long been accustomed to living with its unpredictable "frenemy" neighbor, a country valued as a bulwark against the US and feared as a source of dangerous instability.

"It's not the first time North Korea has used such strong language. They often say this. I think they are probably playing a game. It's to do with what sort of person Kim Jong-un is, and his young age," said Jia Qingguo, an international relations professor at the elite Peking University.

"I really don't think they will resort to using their weapons.

Maj Gen (Rtd) Luo Yuan, one of China's most outspoken military figures, expressed a degree of sympathy with North Korea last week, writing that the country was only trying to push the international community to properly guarantee its security and wanted normal ties with Washington.

War was unlikely, Luo added. "Once the joint US-South Korean exercises have finished and with birthday celebrations for [late founder of North Korea] Kim Il-sung imminent, the temperature will gradually cool and get back to the status quo of no war, no unification," he wrote.

— Reuters

## Concerns remain for Mandela

SOUTH Africa's anti-apartheid hero Nelson Mandela, who is being treated in hospital for pneumonia, was visited by members of his family on Monday after doctors had reported an improvement in his condition over the weekend.

A statement from South Africa's president said there was "no significant change" in the condition of the 94-year-old former president, who has been in hospital since late Wednesday suffering from the recurrence of a lung infection.

"Former President Mandela is still in hospital where he is receiving treatment... He spent part of Family Day [Easter Monday] to-

day with some members of his family," the statement from President Jacob Zuma's office said.

In their previous bulletin late on Sunday, the medical team treating Mandela said he had a "restful day" and had shown further improvement after a procedure to drain excess fluid from around his lungs. Doctors had already said he was breathing without difficulty.

Mandela's latest treatment is his third visit to hospital in four months, generating worldwide concern over the health of the revered statesman and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, who became South Africa's first black president in 1994.



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# B28bn worth of 20-baht notes to get exchanged

An initial lot of 200 million new banknotes began entering circulation since April 1

By Steven Layne and Chutharat Plerin

AS PART of the Bank of Thailand's (BoT) policy to make its banknotes more modern and user friendly, 4 billion baht worth of new series-16 20-baht banknotes are being put into circulation.

Until now, the Kingdom's lowest-value, yet most widely used banknotes have not been fraud-proof in synchronizing with electronic finance machines.

"The new design incorporates a range of advanced anti-counterfeit features to facilitate authentication by banknote sorting machines, vending machines and the general public, including visually impaired persons," Tongurai Limpiti, BoT deputy governor, explained last week at a press conference to launch the new banknotes.

Like the new 50-baht bank notes issued last year, the new 20 baht banknotes are marked with braille indicating the value of the note (the braille symbol 2 for 20-baht and 5 for 50-baht).

The new banknotes should now be available for exchange at commercial banks in Phuket and nationwide.

Ms Tongurai said that there are currently about 1.4 billion 20-baht banknotes in circulation (28 billion baht), which represents 35% of four billion – the total number of all types of banknotes in circulation.

Ms Tongurai said that within one year, the BoT will look to replace all series 15 notes, which have been in circulation for as much as 10 years.

She insisted that there would not be a shortage in 20-baht banknotes, adding that the base cost for each new banknote was only 80 satang, about 33% less than the series 15 average cost of 1.2 baht per banknote.

The series 16 banknote is still green, and will be the same size as its predecessor. Among the key security features are a watermark depicting the portrait of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej alongside the number 20 clearly visible when viewed against the light.

"The portrait of King Rama IX in the Royal House of Chakri gown will be displayed on the front of the banknote. On the back will be the images of the royal statue of King Ramkhamhaeng.

"Another security feature is color-shift along the thread located on the back of the note. It is embedded inside the paper and partially emerges to the surface at regular intervals. Its color changes from green to magenta when viewed from different angles, Ms Tongurai explained.

Also, irregular shapes printed on both sides combine to form the numeral 20 when the note is held up to the light.

To help visually impaired people identify the new note, it features raised letters and numerals and two tactile marks in the shape of flowers, which represent the number 2 in braille.

The announcement of the new 20 baht banknote follows the issuing of a new 16 series 50-baht banknote last year.

The BoT will gradually replace all five types of series 15 banknotes – 20, 50, 100,



**FRAUD PROOF:** BoT Deputy Governor Tongurai Limpiti presents the new 20-baht banknote. Top right is a view of the front side, while bottom right is the back side.. Photo: The Nation



**FINANCIAL UPGRADE:** In the near future, Thai electronic finance devices, such as ATMs will be able to authenticate and register the latest series of 20 and 50 baht banknotes. Photo: Tim Moffatt

500 and 1000 notes, Ms Tongurai said.

She explained the reason for starting with 20 and 50 baht notes: "Since ATM machines don't use these banknotes, there has been negative impacts for the financial system as

well as [economic and disabled] minorities.

"The new series can be exchanged at commercial banks. The existing and previous series still remain legal tender," Ms Tongurai added.

## Job fair expected to fill 30% of vacancies

OF THE 6,000 job vacancies offered through the "e-jobs@Phuket 2013" job fair held last weekend at Phuket Rajbhat University, only 118 positions were immediately filled, the *Gazette* has learned.

Phuket Provincial Employment Office chief Yawapa Pibulpol said that a total of 1,578 job applications were submitted.

Of these, she said that 548 were submitted at the fair itself, while the rest were submitted online leading up to the event.

The available positions – in Phuket, as well as in neighboring provinces such as Krabi and Phang Nga – were at more than 100 companies, including hotels, shopping malls, medical clinics and real estate businesses.

"The positions that were filled immediately were [examples of] perfect matches between employers and employees," Yawapa said.

"Before the fair launched, job-seekers could post their credentials online through our website and



More than 1,000 applications were made online. Photo: K Mueanhawong

employers could post details of their vacant positions. It saved time for both parties in finding their 'match' for the job," she added.

As for the remaining vacancies, she explained that employers still need to screen applicants through the interview process.

"We expect that by the end of this month, no less than 30% of the vacancies will be filled as a

result of the job fair, as well as the continued processing of new applications through our website."

Asked to speculate on such a 'low match' ratio, Ms Yawapa said that a lot of the applicants were either over qualified for the available positions, or that benefits and salary did not meet the applicants' expectations.

She noted that many of the applicants were not necessarily unemployed, but were those who may have already been employed, but considering making a career change.

Ms Yawapa went on to give a break-down of the applicants' levels of education: More than half, 834 or 52.8% of applicants had a bachelors degree while only 12 (0.76%) had a masters degree; meanwhile, 240 or 15% of applicants had an advanced vocational diploma (in Thai, commonly denoted as *PorWorSor*).

Another 173 applicants, or 10.9% of the total, had either a general vocational diploma ("*PorWorChor*") or technical diploma ("*PorWorTor*"); while 154 or 9.7% of applicants had obtained a high school diploma as their highest education credential, while another 94 or 5.9% applicants had a 9<sup>th</sup> grade (Mattayom 3) diploma.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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# BigWing takes off in Phuket

By Dean Noble and Steven Layne

HONDA'S BigWing dealership announced its arrival in Phuket on March 28 with drum rolls and engines roaring, as the island's biking community were eager to get their hands on the latest offerings from the Japanese giant.

Following their successes in Chiang Mai, Pattaya, Udon Thani and Bangkok, the island was the natural choice for the brand's expansion into Southern Thailand.

Honda has chosen to launch the BigWing dealership in Phuket now, A.P. Honda President Chiaki Kato said, as the "big bike" market had

shown exceptional growth across the Kingdom.

"When you take on any new venture, everything is about timing. We feel that this is the perfect moment to penetrate this regional market, and are confident in our ability and experience to effectively address the needs of the rider in this segment in Southern Thailand."

The president emphasized that Honda's leading market position is a result of its "5s" business model: sales, service, spares, safety and society.

He went on explain that in addition to serving Thailand's

Southern market, Honda has its sights set on the greater regional market particularly the Singaporean and Malaysian markets.

Indeed, timing is everything. Phuket will host the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Big Bike week from April 14-21, which is themed and oriented toward the Asean community, with Honda BigWing as a national sponsor of the event.

President Kato added that another driving force for the anticipated momentum of the Phuket market is AP Honda's strong, 20-year relationship with Phuket S.T., its local representative.

Chaiwat "Chai" Pornsirianant of Phuket S.T., gave the *Gazette* his outlook for the year ahead: "First, we are hopeful that Phuket residents will increasingly start turning to big bikes, [by using our] outstanding service facilities.

"Then, we want to continue to build and enhance the motorcycle riding community

here, especially one [that emphasizes] safety."

Asked about the sales target for the first year, he said that the dealership expects to sell about 1,200 bikes.

If the numbers of bikes ridden away from last week's launch is any guide, almost topping 100 units, predominately with the eagerly anticipated CB500, in its three versions, it would be of little surprise if BigWing's targets are surpassed, and rapidly. The motorcycles will not only be going to Phuket, but throughout the region, as the new

dealership will serve as a main distribution and service point for the entire Southern region, Mr Chaiwat added.

Honda BigWing Phuket's range of motorcycles start at 205,000 baht for the CB500F, up to the King of Grand Touring, the 1,800cc Goldwing priced at 1.65 million baht.

*The BigWing Phuket showroom and service center is located at 99/9 Thepkasattri Road on the north side of Phuket Town. For more details, see BigWingPhuket.com*



A.P. Honda President Chiaki Kato, center, and Chaiwat Pornsirianant of Phuket S.T. (5<sup>th</sup> from right) presided over the grand opening ceremony.



The King of Grand Touring, the 1,800cc Goldwing. Photos: Steven Layne

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## Bangkok Motor Show expects record sales

DESPITE the conclusion of the government's First Car Buyer program at the end of last year, the Bangkok International Motor Show is serving as a major auto extravaganza that is dramatically helping to boost auto sales.

Organizers of the motor show, which ends on Sunday (April 7) at Muangthong Thani, are confident that more than a record 60,000 orders could be placed at this year's event, which features a large number of new models and concept vehicles.

The biggest seller at the show is expected to be the new Toyota Vios, priced from 559,000 to 734,000 baht, after orders were "discreetly" accepted late last year

for customers to qualify for the First Car tax rebate.

Nevertheless, the Vios sub-compact is so popular that even without the promotion, record sales are expected during the official launch period.

Apart from being the most popular model in Thailand, the Vios is also the best-selling Asean model, and 45,000 of these cars are expected to be exported to 86 countries each year.

Unfortunately, its 1.5-liter engine (109 horsepower and 141 Newton meters of torque) has been carried over from the previous model, but improvements have been made to the engine, which now passes Euro 4 emission standards.



# Resorts help water crisis

ACCORDING to the World Travel and Tourism Council there are around 12.7 million hotel rooms around the world, and another 1.3 million are in development, half of them being built in the Middle East and Africa.

Bottled water is as common a sight in hotel rooms as thin-screen televisions and mass-produced art.

Given that hotels generally charge for bottled water, this represents an important revenue stream. But there is a negative side: hotels must deal with a flood of empty single-use plastic bottles.

In coastal areas, some plastic bottles invariably end up at sea, where they contribute to a marine pollution problem that is turning into a catastrophe for sea life. Shipping water also is costly, generates carbon emissions and most plastic bottles are made using virgin resin, derived from oil.

A forward-thinking hospitality executive decided to rectify the wastefulness of single-use plastic bottles at his luxury hotel properties: Sonu Shivdasani banned the import and sale of the bottles at his Soneva resorts in 2008.

Instead, the company filters, bottles and sells its own water onsite, in bottles that are then collected and reused. This eliminates the emissions associated with transporting bottled water

into the resorts, located in the Maldives and Thailand.

Startup Whole World Water (WWW), which officially launched on World Water Day, March 22, is hoping to bring the practice of onsite water treatment and bottling to the wider hospitality industry.

The effort is the work of Karena Albers and Jenifer Willig.

While Whole World Water is being established as a for-profit, member-based venture for resorts, it has also created the Whole World Water Fund, a charitable organization, through which all participating resorts contribute 10 per cent of their proceeds from the water sales. The fund, administered by Climate Care, will then use the funds to develop water treatment infrastructures in communities around participating resorts.

"We all have to ask ourselves, when did we get bamboozled into drinking bottled water? But we did. It became the thing to do, especially at high-end resorts," Albers says.

She says that Whole World Water is "trying to get people up to speed on what we need to do to protect natural resources."

That said, Albers and Willig believe they will be more successful if they give consumers a better option to plastic-bottled water rather than trying to immediately



Whole World Water has already engaged nearly 20 high-end resorts, including Banyan Tree Hotels.

force a change of habit.

The hope is that consumers will come to find the Whole World Water option a more chic, appealing one. At the same time, perhaps they'll start to think differently about single-use plastic bottles.

Just as local food has captured the attention of travelers, so can water – as long as it is clean and safe. "We're in a big movement over local food," Albers says. "Why did water get taken out of that equation? Why shouldn't water be local? We will get local water councils cognizant of the fact that municipal water has every right to be as clean as bottled water."

WWW has already engaged nearly 20 high-end resorts, including Banyan Tree Hotels, Branson's

Virgin Hotels, Sovena and three Ritz Carlton properties.

These member companies, and others that join in the future, must agree to three basic conditions: paying a US\$1,000 annual membership fee (this covers marketing and promotional expenses); installing a secondary water filtering system to further purify the hotel's tap water and then bottle it in the WWW glass bottle, which is later collected and reused; and donating 10 per cent of water bottle sales to the Whole World Water Fund.

Banning sales of single-use branded plastic water bottles from third parties is not a membership requirement. "We are not mandating that they can't sell bottled water in plastic," Willig says, "We have to walk before we can run."

WWW claims hotels and resorts can boost their own revenue by becoming their own water vendors. Based on a case study, the company says switching to onsite bottling can increase a hotel's profits from bottled water by around 22 per cent, since the filtration systems are relatively inexpensive. Plus, the resorts can cut shipments of bottled water by using the onsite system, thereby reducing their carbon footprints and waste generated.

Albers and Willig believe they can attract enough members to WWW to raise \$1bn each year for the Whole World Water Fund, to help the estimated 1 billion people around the world who lack access to clean, safe water sources.

– SmartPlanet



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# Live by the sword, die by the sword

THEY came, they spent, they left. That pretty much sums up the great Russian tropical cold war of this the high tourism season.

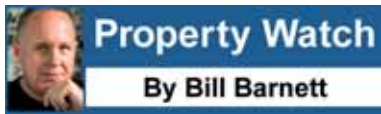
Over the past month or so I embarked on a research project to try to learn more about the surge of visitors from the former USSR to the island of Phuket.

Not content to simply put one nationality under the microscope I wanted to grab a shovel and dig deeper into this mysterious world of the emerging Eastern European outbound market.

So many numbers so little time. Taking a step back and trying not to fall over any sleeping dogs, in 2012 the estimated overseas visitor draw to South-east Asian countries topped 88 million, with 1.8 million Russians falling into immigration lines across the region. Thailand drew 1.3 million with roughly 452,000 coming to Phuket.

Looking beyond the numbers, is the fact that 80 per cent of these travellers come during high season from October to April and the bottleneck at Phuket International Airport has increasingly become a house of chaos. Toss in the language barriers, tour bus mania and an entirely new dynamic to the legacy of the tourism market, and the result has been a sharp local backlash.

For a number of years now the island's hotel rooms have been



Alex Tour was one target of local indignation. Photo: Christian Mouchet

multiplying at a faster pace than imaginable. Local investors have tripped into true blue love affair with the prospect of owning a hotel. One by one, these "same same" properties have risen from hills, valleys, flatlands and beaches.

Despite a series of political hijinks, the country has become an accidental economic success story. Government agencies such as the TAT have rejoiced with nearly religious fervor about year on year double digit growth figures. (Note to naysayers, no doubt they have learned well from their American cousins on Wall Street so don't blame the

Thais on this one).

Asia's rising middle class, mounting consumerism and low-cost airlines (that are the new buses of the sky) are rolling out more and more travellers. The beast of success now sits at our own dinner table, with an empty plate and is hungrily giving us the eye.

Suddenly Phuket's collective face is covered in sweat, with a pulse beating like a jackrabbit, and terror starts creeping into the equation. How did this happen? The roads choked with traffic, failing infrastructure and crowds everywhere you go.

As in all things unexpected, next comes the blame game and we are suddenly adrift in the present day, where suspicion, stress, envy and greed are all trying to plunge out through the in door.

One topic of my local debate is the concept of zero baht tourism. This conspiracy theory somehow conjures up the notion that there is some secret tunnel running underneath the island to other countries and a Full Monty money train is running nonstop exporting cash elsewhere.

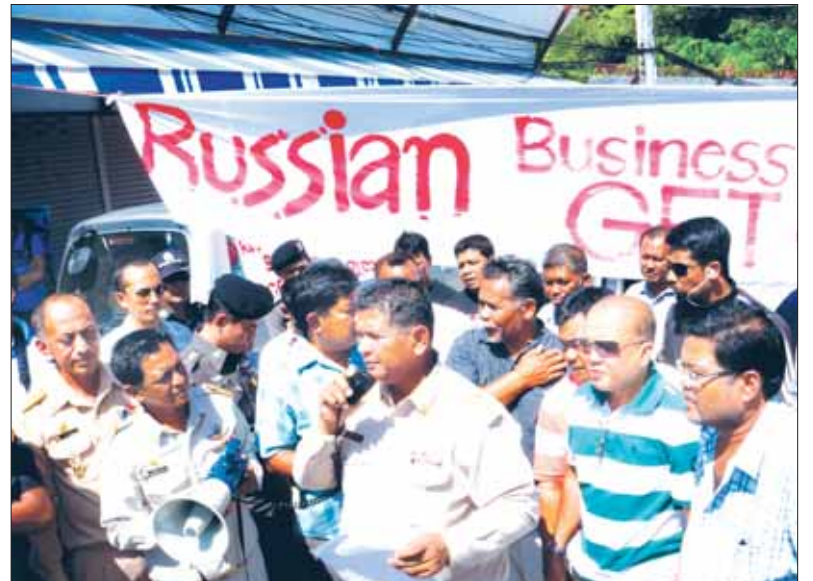
This of course is utter nonsense and those who are inclined to believe it need to return home to their caves before dinosaur feeding time. Last year, Russians brought over 35 billion baht in tourism earnings to this island, and the vast majority of it stayed in the local economy.

Over the past few months we have been looking at the tourism twins of Bali and Phuket. While this island has continued to post growth, the Indonesian counterpart is faltering. Again, look no further then flat trading numbers of Eastern Europeans to our southern shores and it all adds up. The East is the now West, at least for the moment.

Is mass tourism the end of



LUXURIOUS TASTES: Last year Russians spent over 35 billion baht while on holiday in Phuket. Photo: wallpaperweb.org



Local protests this year against alleged Russian-owned businesses near Bang Tao Beach. Photo: Christian Mouchet

Phuket? Absolutely not, we are only at the beginning of the story but some prankster at life's bookstore tore out the last page and we have no idea what the ending will be. What is relevant is to take time to have a forward-looking view of the island's number one economic indicator – tourism.

Master planning, zoning and

addressing infrastructure issues would seem a far more intelligent reaction to the unfolding drama than a dead-end witch hunt.

Is more better? You will have to be the judge of that.

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

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# Central bank fears bubble

THE BANK of Thailand (BoT) might reel in the real estate market after detecting some hot spots, especially in the condominium segment for units priced under 3 million baht.

"A restriction on banks for 0% interest rates is one of the measures to control the market. But the central bank will have other measures such as tightening the loan-to-value ratio from 90% for condominiums to 85 or 80 % if it believes that the condo market shows signs of speculation and may form a bubble in the near future," a source said yesterday.

A team has been sent to meet with the top 10 listed property firms to ask them about the residential market, he said.

The main question concerns the supply and demand situation, as concern grows over indicators of a glut in the market. But most developers believe that the market still has demand to absorb the supply and that the market is still stable without any bubbles.

They admit that some locations may be subject to speculation, but say that does not change the overall property market.

The central bank may not impose any measures on the public but will use internal guidance such as asking banks to rein in lending. They may be asked to report project loans over 200 million baht or to raise the credit score threshold for approving mortgage loans. These are some ways to control the property market without creating any panic.

In 2011, buyers of condos were required to make a down payment of 10% of a unit's value and in 2012 buyers of low-rise residences, both townhouses and single family homes, had to deposit 5%.

Prasert Taedullayasatit, chief business officer of Pruksa Real Estate Plc, said he would meet with the BoT on Friday. It was normal that the authorities will need more information from developers about market sentiment and the size of both supply and demand. This is better for the BoT before launching more measures to control the market.

Srettha Thavisin, president of Sansiri Plc, said he met with the BoT team last week and gave them market data, including the sizes of both supply and demand. The company also showed the team its market research studies. When the company goes into new locations it has to have the information to support its expansion plan.

"They asked if a drop in the loan-to-value ratio to 85% or 80% will impact the market. I said that will impact directly on buyers of residences priced lower than 2mn baht because they do not have enough savings to make a down payment. This will not support low-income people in owning a home," he said.

"In my view the property sector does not have a bubble," he said.

For example, Sansiri now limits sales to its customers. If they want to buy more than five units, the company will not sell them to them. This is one of the measures to reduce speculators in the market, he said.

Chatchai Payuhanaveechai, executive vice president of Kasikornbank, said that if the BoT does not want banks to offer a zero interest rate to customers, then KBank will follow that policy, because it is the responsibility of the central bank to manage the country's risk.



Srettha Thavisin, president of Sansiri Plc, does not believe there is a bubble.

"However, we believe that the property market now is different from 1997 because most property firms and commercial banks have restraints on launches and provide loans for customers based on credit scores.

"When we look in more detail we see less non-performing loans from mortgage loans compared with other loans, so we believe that the real estate market now does not face a bubble. But we have to be careful in some locations," he said.

The BoT will also talk with banks about their campaigns for home loans featuring a 0% interest rate as part of its annual visit to the executives of the banks.

Ruchukorn Siriyodhin, assistant governor for the Financial Institutions

Policy Group, said banks can launch this kind of zero-rate campaign but they have to clearly inform prospective customers about the effective interest rates throughout the loan term to give them complete information for decision-making.

The central bank has been monitoring the banking industry and found that their lending has met the standard and that their non-performing loans (NPLs) have not increased. Bankers said they have been informing home loan customers about the effective rates after the 0% rate ends. The central bank raised this concern to prod the banks into being more cautious about bubbles in the property sector, they said.

—The Nation

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# Buy Priceline and book your visa run

JUST the other day I had a client ask me how he can save some money on his next visa run. He wants to explore more of

## Island Investor

By Don Freeman

Southeast Asia and has gotten tired of making the usual trip to Cambodia, Laos or Kuala Lumpur. That's when I told him about Priceline.com. Priceline (PCLN) is the famous "Name Your Price" website in the United States. Here in Asia though, we use the Priceline subsidiary, Agoda.com for hotels and in Europe they use Booking.com.

I have used Agoda.com to explore the Philippines, Bali, Malaysia and Vietnam. Each time I was saving anywhere from 10% to 50% on hotel rooms. The best part is that I got cash rewards for each booking and was able to redeem them on my other trips.

I've gotten free weekends from my reward travel. Those rewards come in handy for an expat that has to make a visa run and is looking to save money. Phuket currently has 1,117 hotels listed on Agoda ranging in price from US\$20 to \$1,800 dollars per night.

Priceline.com operates as a one-stop online destination to serve all your travel needs. You can book flights, hotels, car rentals, vacation packages and cruise trips. The company's Agoda.com provides hotel reviews and lets you know the key attractions for each city before you book.

Personally, I use Agoda.com only for booking hotels. My last trip to Kuala Lumpur found me too busy to book a room in advance. I had the taxi take me to Bukit Bintang and drop me off in front of some moderately priced hotels. At the desk the price was \$90 per night. Standing at the front counter I went online, which took me three minutes, and booked the same room on Agoda for \$52. A 42% savings! The desk clerk had a big smile on his face as I handed him my reservation number.

Actually the best part about Priceline has been the stock performance. Over the past eight years, the stock has risen an astounding 3,000%. I have owned it since 2007 and it has been my best performer after Netflix. I

still think the stock is going higher and here's why: the company is best positioned among the online travel companies

for the international market.

- Priceline.com is acquiring the US travel software company Kayak.com

- The company is trading with a cheap forward P/E (price/earnings) of 15 and has a 35% operating margin

- Priceline has \$103 per share in cash the stock is trading above both the 50 and 200 day moving averages

- Booking.com is the #1 online site for European hotels

- Up to 80% of the company's profits come from international travel the company continues to take market share from Expedia and Orbitz

- Priceline is using pricing power to negotiate hotel rates for customers

- Subsidiaries traveljigsaw and rentalcars.com have strong growth in car rental market

- JP Morgan raised its target on the stock to \$835 and Jeffries upped theirs to \$820

- Priceline has beat earnings estimates for 12 straight quarters

- The stock has a PEG ratio of 0.95, anything less than 1 is undervalued

Priceline.com is currently trading at \$713.50 with a 52-week range of \$553 to \$774. The stock has dipped recently because its Kayak acquisition will close later than expected. Kayak will give a big boost to the company's bottom line due to Kayak's metasearch software.

Metasearch allows users to send requests to other search engines and databases to get a single list of results. This acquisition will put Priceline ahead of its rivals Expedia and Orbitz.

The technical picture looks great. Priceline.com gained over 50% in 2012 and has been forming a quiet consolidation for 12 months. Often leadership stocks will post strong price gains (50 to 100%)



SHATNERED: Who could get a better deal on a hotel than the captain of the USS Enterprise?

then fall asleep for 6-12 months before heading higher once again.

The one uncertainty overhanging the stock is Europe. Many analysts are worried that Europe may stay in recession longer than expected. The recovery that many had hoped for this year has yet to materialize. Uncertainty with the recent Italian elections and Cyprus bail-out aren't helping to calm markets either.

I'm not as concerned as others though, considering the company has weathered the storm very well for the past five years that Europe has been in crisis. Bookings in Europe have been rather consistent and considering that only 25% of the European hotel market is online, there's plenty of room for growth. Priceline has less than 10% of total hotel bookings in Europe. There's considerable room for growth in Europe and people are still traveling to Europe and making hotel reservations.

Besides penetrating the European hotel market further, the fastest growth for

Priceline is in Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. These regions have a burgeoning middle class that want to travel. Among the online travel sites, Priceline is best positioned in the growing \$600 billion international travel market.

So when the time comes to make your next visa run or when you need to just get a break from Thailand, take a look at Priceline.com and one of their sites. They can help save you up to 50% and if you're looking at Priceline for your next investment, give me a call and we can discuss the merits of putting Priceline in your portfolio.

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

## Budgeting tips and concerns for expats

BECOMING and remaining an expat will require careful budgeting to avoid potential minefields or serious financial problems down the road. With that in mind, here are concerns or tips to keep in mind to help you avoid blowing a hole in your expat budget:

### Track your living expenses

Most personal finance software like newer versions of Quicken will have a multi-currency function to track living expenses in any currency along with fluctuating exchange rates. If you have just become an expat, it would be a good idea to record every single living expense or transaction you incur (especially any banking or money transfer fees) for the first few months using such software so you can plan a more accurate expat budget moving forward.

### Learn local price trends

It's a good idea to live on a very tight expat budget for the first few months after becoming an expat and to use that time to learn about local prices and when the best time to buy something is. For example:



FRUGAL: Being an expat requires serious budgeting. Photo: Images of Money

prices tend to rise in Thailand during the tourism high season while countries that celebrate Chinese New Year may have sales up until the celebrations and big prices increases right after that

### Live (well) below your means

The days of cushy expat assignments where all housing and schooling fees are covered, defined pension plans and even stable employment with annual cost of living adjustments are increasingly becoming distant memories – meaning living well

below your means now may help you live a comfortable lifestyle in the future should your financial circumstances suddenly change.

### Budget for inflation

Developing countries like Thailand tend to have much higher rates of inflation than developed Western countries. Ask yourself if you could realistically afford a hypothetical 5% or even 10% across the board annual increase in your current living expenses for items like food and housing. In addition, don't forget that some

living expenses, like the cost of health insurance as you get older, will be subject to much higher rates of inflation or annual price jumps.

### Budget for emergencies

Emergencies for an expat can mean everything from something medical related requiring a medical evacuation to being forced to relocate home. In particular, you will need to have a much bigger emergency fund to cover the possibility (no matter how remote it might appear) that you will need to return home permanently and reestablish your life there – a potentially expensive endeavor the longer you have been away.

### Budget for the loss of government entitlements and for taxes

British expat pensioners have for years complained about frozen pensions after moving abroad while Americans generally need to be a state resident (with a physical address) to qualify for unemployment compensation, work for an American company (or work in a country with a US

tax treaty) to ensure their income is included in future Social Security payment calculations and are taxed on their worldwide income. Likewise, few (if any) western countries will pay disability or pay for medical care to an expat citizen while they live abroad. This means you need to be aware of what government entitlements you stand to lose out on when you move abroad (along with any taxes you may still be subject to) and you will need to budget extra for insurance or be prepared by saving more money.

### Protect your credit score

Many international banks and financial institutions will do a credit check on you back home or abroad before they decide to do business with you – meaning any late payments or unpaid bills you skipped out on paying will come back to haunt you in the future even if you are now living it up somewhere else. Protect your credit score and your reputation at home and abroad by making sure your bills are paid on time.

– Don Freeman





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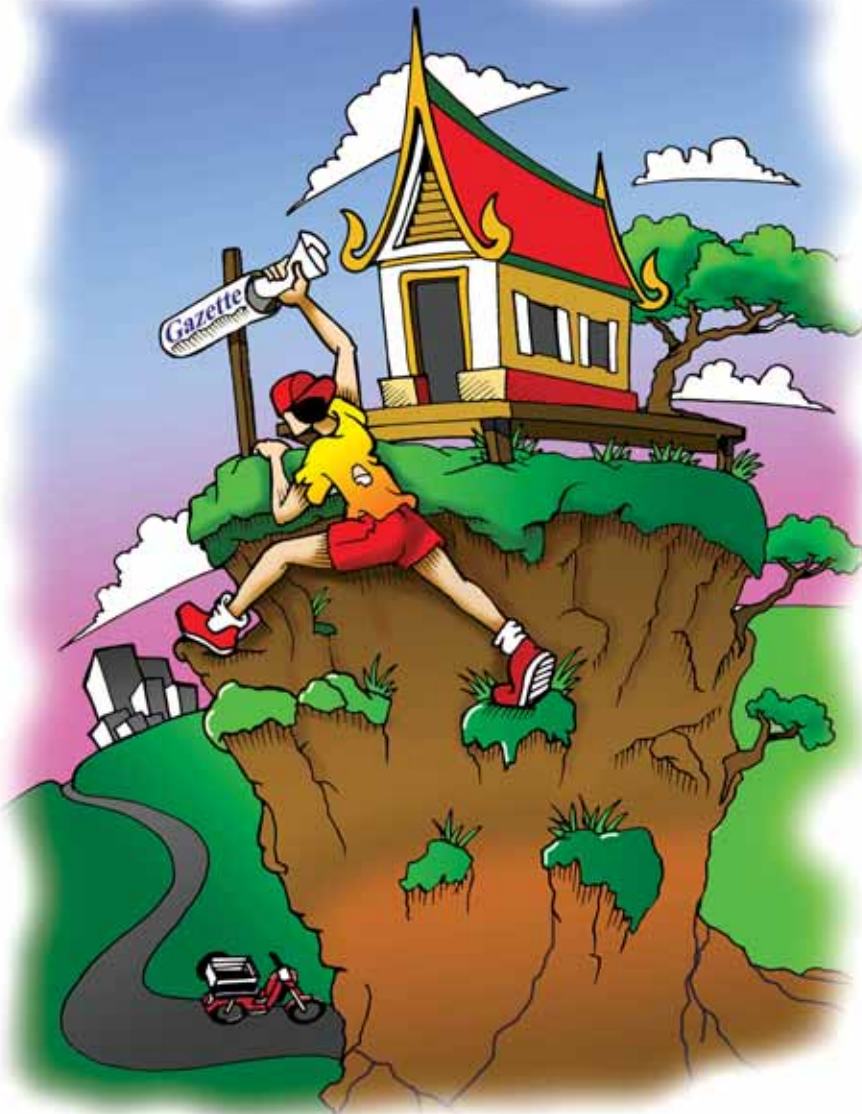
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TAMBON AMPHUR ZIP CODE

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Required) (Required)



# Forever at the mafia's mercy

THE proposal by the chief of the Phuket Marine Office to launch a "sea taxi" to ferry passengers between Patong and Phuket International Airport deserves credit for innovation, but appears somewhat impractical.

There can be no doubt that visiting tourists need – and fully deserve – better public transport options between Phuket Airport and west coast resort destinations. The fact that Phuket Town enjoys not only an Airport Bus service but also the *Po Thong* "pink bus" service is just one reflection of a sad reality: that Phuket's resort areas have developed a reputation among tourists – both foreign and domestic – for being mafia-controlled, rip-off destinations.

No segment of the local economy has done more to earn this dubious distinction than the tuk-tuk and taxi syndicates, which through collusion and thuggish self-entitlement make taxi fares on the island the highest in the country.

The solution to this problem is to deal with root causes head on, rather than try to "work around" them. The "sea taxi" appears somewhat like a tacit admission that these syndicates are, and will always be, here to stay – with tourists forever at their mercy.

We are unwilling to concede this point. Change is not only possible, but fully supported by the vast majority of island residents and visiting tourists who are sick and tired of the status quo. By analogy, if the island's tourism economy were compared with a car, the current situation would be like driving around with the emergency brake engaged. It is a huge drag on an economy that, for the most part, offers excellent value.

It always helps to try and view the issue through the eyes of the end user, the visiting tourist. Sadly, this does not seem to be understood by many of our elected officials and Bangkok-appointed bureaucrats.

Many tourists who touch down at Phuket International Airport arrive deprived of sleep and burdened with baggage after long flights and all the hassles related to Customs and Immigration, security, and so on. All they want to do is get to their hotels safely, at a reasonable rate.

We doubt many of them would be keen to board a vessel for a half-hour speedboat ride during the monsoon rains. After all, many people are prone to seasickness. Unanswered questions include where they would disembark, as the temporary pier in Patong is only moored there a few months of the year. The idea would also open the possibility of an unprecedented maritime disaster if one of the boats were to sink.

The solutions to Phuket transport woes are self-evident: buses, *songthaew*, metered taxis and perhaps light rail. The time for change is long overdue; all that is required is leadership and courage.



## Tarzan, please put some clothes on

Re: Gazette online, *Semi-naked is not an option*, March 30

After 12 years in Phuket, this still bothers me.

Now I can understand what the comments of the Thais are (spoken out loud), and these naked people may not care, but they should.

Because they will be perceived as idiots, just as much as Tarzan was when he walked in the city in his loin cloth. So they will be ripped off, laughed at, and receive the worst possible service.

Tinkerbelle  
Gazette Forum

It is as bad if not worse to see this in a restaurant. I for one do not allow it in mine. I have even had praise from some customers for having this rule. A lot of people don't know it is illegal to walk Bangla bare chested after 6pm as well.

Mick.s  
Gazette Forum

### Fix the potholes

Re: Gazette online, *Lucky escape from injury as Phuket tuk-tuk flips*, March 25

I am glad about the minor injuries these guys suffered; it could have come out much worse.

Hopefully the people responsible for road maintenance read about the reason for the accident and start repairing, between Karon and Patong as well.

Fritz Penguin  
Gazette Online

### A bus by any other name

Re: Gazette online, *Phuket marine chief floats Airport-Patong sea taxi idea*, March 28

It will be an interesting trip in the SW monsoon!

Also Patong longtail mafia will have something to say about it,

## Letters to the Editor

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

backed up by the tuk-tuk mafia. A bus (ferry) on the water from the airport is still a bus.

Then there is the transport from the airport to the ferry terminal who will do that? So that will mean one taxi to the ferry then one taxi from ferry Patong to accommodation. It will cost more than a direct taxi.

Lizardofoz  
Gazette Forum

### Stop hit-and-runs

Re: Gazette online, *Phuket Police on lookout for three drivers in two fatal hit-and-runs*, March 30

The drivers have nothing to lose by fleeing the scene under current laws.

If the penalty for fleeing the scene (which is considered an admission of guilt) was a guaranteed one-year jail sentence, on top of the fine+compensation they would have paid had they not fled, then it would stop the horrendous, cowardly act of leaving a human being to die.

Skip  
Gazette Forum

### No jihad here

Re: Gazette online, *Thailand News: Little optimism for breakthrough in Thailand's forgotten jihad*, March 26

"Jihad" might grab headlines, but does the word really describe the situation in the Deep South?

No. To describe the distance between Phuket and the Deep South as "a few hundred kilometers" is also misleading. It may be 350km to the nearest point in Yala as the crow flies, but there are no flights

to Haad Yai and driving time is a minimum eight hours. Any visa runner will be well aware of this.

Phuketsub  
Gazette Forum

### Unsafe kitesurfing

On Karon Beach there are some areas where the swimmers are protected from jetskis.

Now the wind has changed and the kitesurfers have come back. Why don't the kitesurfers respect these areas (for example, outside the Hilton Hotel)? Does someone have to get injured for them to understand the danger?

Unfortunately kitesurfers believe that they are the coolest people on earth and if you try to talk with them and ask them to respect the marked areas they usually react aggressively.

Please take your camera to Karon beach tomorrow afternoon and write an article about this problem. Thank you very much.

Patrick  
Karon

### Just say yes... to drug tests

Re: Gazette online, *Patrons and staff of Phuket bars, nightclubs subjected to drug tests*, March 27

Well, it should not bother anybody who is not into drugs. In Singapore, Indonesia and other countries it would be much, much worse for drug users.

Who are the people also buying drugs, encouraging the trade on the islands? Tourists make up a big percentage of them.

I agree with this totally. Test them and if they do not approve let them stay away. It's better than having a place overrun with drugs. Singapore is popular for its no drugs or nonsense, and for its safety.

Yvonne  
Gazette Forum

## Phuket Gazette

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# Shelter and training for those with HIV

## FIRST PERSON

PHUKET is always in the top-five provinces in Thailand in terms of numbers of people with HIV and AIDS. People come and go on the island, which makes it hard to control the disease.

The main goals of our foundation are to provide help to HIV-affected mothers and their children, destigmatize HIV through educational outreach programs and teach about safe sex.

The biggest challenge we face is finding funding: to support the women and children who live in our house, the children in the 170 families we serve across the island and our educational outreach programs.

Our house can accommodate 40 people. Right now we have 22 children and 10 women staying here. The children are either HIV-affected or orphans of people with AIDS who passed away.

Children can live in the house until age 18. Normally, women can live here for a maximum of six months, but in some cases, if they have nowhere to go or can't live by themselves, they stay longer.

Although we provide housing, the best situation is for HIV-affected people to live with their families in their own neighborhoods or villages, and have as normal a life as possible.

Unfortunately, Thai society still



**Daoroong 'Joojee' Rodsamnam**, 49, from Bangkok, has been project manager for the Life Home Project Foundation, a shelter for HIV-positive mothers and their children, for seven years.

Here, she talks about HIV in Phuket, the goals and challenges of the Foundation and what motivated her to work there.

doesn't accept HIV-positive people. This is partly because years ago, in a campaign to stop HIV, the government portrayed it as disgusting and scary. The campaign was successful, but it left people afraid of HIV.

Some families reject their relatives who are HIV-positive, so we try to teach them that people with HIV can live in the same house with other people.

Actually, it's not easy to get HIV in a daily-life setting. As you may know, the virus is transmitted by the transfer of blood, semen, pre-ejaculate,

vaginal fluid or breast milk. The children who stay with us go to regular schools across the island, but because of the stigma, they cannot tell anyone at school they have HIV.

Our goal is for everyone to understand that HIV-positive people can live normally in society with other people.

Another thing I am worried about in Phuket is teenagers getting HIV at younger ages. Some

are as young as 12 years old. They get it from having unprotected sex.

I want everyone to understand that having safe sex is very important. Using condoms is the only way to protect yourself from getting HIV.

I never planned to do this job. I came to Phuket intending to start my own business, but I have yet to do that.

I met the foundation founders, Jose Luis Guy Cano and Helen Fellon-Wood, and they asked me to work with them overseeing the construction of the foundation house. I was going to work with them for three months. I'm still here seven years later.

It was my children that made me stay – they are teenagers, and I felt that if I didn't do something good for society, that somehow bad luck would come to them. So I decided to work with the foundation to prevent HIV and to support anyone who had it.

We are fortunate to get free HIV drugs from the government through Vachira Phuket Hospital but we are grateful for donations of money, clothes or toiletries directly to our house. Information about us including our bank account number is available on our website: [Lifehomeproject.org](http://Lifehomeproject.org).



**Children at a shelter celebration.** Photo: Life Home Project Foundation



There are better ways to clean the streets than this. Photo: Gazette Files

## Water solutions

### Island View

By Steven Layne

Many places on this planet, including Phuket, are going through one of the driest spells of the last decade.

My home state of Colorado is no exception.

Denver, the state's capital, last week declared a stage-two drought situation, based on a scale in which four is an emergency.

With its two prime reservoirs at 59% and 73% capacity, (sound familiar?) the city's waterworks estimate that it needs to conserve 16 billion gallons to avoid graduating to a stage three situation by next year.

Indeed, the situation – in Denver and in Phuket – seems dire.

Yet on at least 10 occasions over the last three months – during this supposed drought – I've been caught in traffic behind a provincial water truck whose sole purpose is to spray water on the road.

Take a walk up Tor Sae hill in Phuket Town for some exercise, and you may be forced to move aside for the water truck on its daily rounds, spraying tens of thousands of liters of water to clear off the human litter and spoiled organic leftovers that the monkeys there didn't want to eat.

In the neighborhood near my office, water trucks regularly cruise through cleaning up the dirt piles and spills from construction of new subdivisions in the area.

But it's not really the construction crews taking responsibility,

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

but rather, you and I – taxpayers – who ensure that our island's trusty water trucks can keep things 'clean and orderly'.

We should be taking advantage of our ideal tropical location.

First we should continue to promote and invest in rain collection during the wet months.

Then, let's sell off all these water trucks. A chain-gang of well behaved prisoners with some cheap bags and brooms is one idea to keep Tor Sae hill, among other places, nice and clean.

As for who should clean up construction spills, I'll leave it to your imagination.

Finally, with the money earned from selling the water trucks, let's build solar distilleries all along Phuket's coasts. These could be simple greenhouses designed around two reservoirs – one to pump in raw sea water, and one to store clean potable distilled water.

The pumps could be powered by free photovoltaic energy from the sun, and the distilling process would be a basic, automated condensation-drip mechanism.

Now if only we could convince and educate those in charge to share such a vision.

## Issues & Answers...

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

### Left behind on a bus

I recently arrived by bus at the new Phuket Bus Terminal 2 on Thepkasattri Road, then caught the pink Po Thong bus to the old bus station.

When I got home, I realized that I didn't have my passport, and the long-haul bus company didn't have it either.

Is there a lost property section at the Phuket bus terminals I can contact?

**Travers Johnson**  
**Chalong**

**Matsree Songclai at the information kiosk at Phuket Bus Terminal 2 replies:**

We do not keep things like wallets or passports for more than three days. Local police and Tourist Police officers drive through the terminal once or twice a day,

and we hand over such items to them as soon as we see them.

To report or claim lost items, call me at 076-373193 or visit our information kiosk from 4am to 10pm every day.

**Malee Korbanpakul at the information kiosk at Phuket Bus Terminal 1 replies:**

To report or claim any lost or found items, call us at 076-211977. We are available at the information kiosk from 6am to 6pm daily.

**Oyjai Kotchaset, of Catstate Mission Co, which operates the Po Thong bus service, replies**

To report or claim any items lost or found on a Po Thong bus, call me at 085-0788199. I am available from 6am to 8pm daily.

### Can he stay after his divorce?

My friend has been married to a foreign man for over 10 years and they have lived in Thailand for all that time. The marriage was ratified under Thai law and every year the foreign husband was issued a permit-to-stay under a non-immigrant O visa on the basis that he was supporting a Thai spouse.

If they divorce, how long will my friend's foreign husband be allowed to stay under this permit?

Will he be able to stay until the expiration date of his latest permit? His current permit will expire in October, but they would like to divorce in April.

If he marries another Thai, will his non-O visa expire? Will he be able to apply for another permit-to-stay with the marriage certificate from his new Thai wife?

**Panyaporn**  
**Thalang**

**Phuket Immigration Officer Lt Col Napat Nusen replies:**

As soon as the couple sign the divorce paper, the non-immigrant O visa will be invalid. The foreign man must come to the immigration office to inform us that he is no longer married. He will need to bring his passport and his copy

of the divorce paper, plus photocopies.

We do not have a set time frame within which the foreigner must report this to us, but please ask him to report to us as soon as possible.

After his permit-to-stay has been cancelled, we will give him seven days to exit the country.

If he still wants to live in Thailand, he has to leave the country and apply for another type of visa.

If the foreigner wants to marry another Thai woman, he has to obtain a new non-immigrant O visa from a Thai embassy or consulate abroad before we can issue him a 12-month permit-to-stay.

For more information, call the Phuket Immigration Office at 076-221905. We are open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.

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

Submit your issue at

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

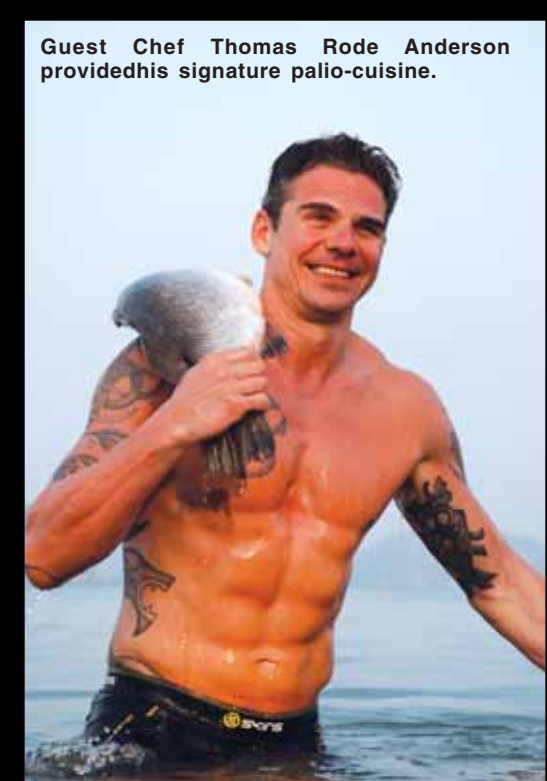


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Phuket

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FOREVER

Diamond Beachclub held their Grand Opening party at Surin Beach Phuket on Saturday March 30.





The Phuket Gazette's weekly

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

## PROPERTY of the week



[houseinphuket.com](http://houseinphuket.com)

See page 24

## JOB of the week

The PARADISE KOH YAO  
Boutique Beach Resort & Spa

*'Island hideaway near Phuket'*

See page 26

## BOAT of the week



See page 31

## PROPERTY SERVICES of the week

Thailand's Leading Property Site  
 **DDproperty**  
.com



See page 25

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### Properties For Sale

#### LUXURY CONDOS SALE/RENT



2 bedrooms, living room and fully equipped kitchen, 160-212sqm. Very high standard with a nice view. Big balcony, swimming pool, gym. Kathu, 10 minutes to Patong Beach, 5 minutes to Phuket Town, all department stores, and international hospitals. Sale: 8.5-11.5 million baht. Long-term rent: 45,000-63,500 baht. Tel: 086-268 7901. Email: condophuket@yahoo.com

#### NEW TOWNHOUSE AT PHUKET TOWN

2 storey American-style townhouse with 3 beds, 2 baths, parking lot, garden. Furnished. Sale 3.2 million baht or rent 18,000 baht. Tel: 081-978 1558. Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

#### SALE HOUSE 192SQM

Jom Thong Thani, Vichit. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with spa pool. Tel: 084-191 1288. Email: homerenovationphuket@gmail.com

#### PATONG LUXURY CONDO SALE

2 beds, 1 bathroom, living room and fully equipped kitchen, 98sqm. Very high std, nice view. Big balcony, 2 swimming pools, gym, quiet location. 7.5 million or N/O. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

#### PHUKET TOWN CENTER

House for sale. 252sqm. 5.5 million baht. Contact Jiab. Tel: 087-269 3989.

**3-BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE**  
Chalong complex, secure, 240sqm land. Price: 3.2 million baht. Tel: 086-478 0201. Email: laongfa@hotmail.com

#### 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.saeatan@gmail.com

#### 30 RAI IN TOWN

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

#### LAND ON KOH LON ISLAND



Flat land for sale. 3 rai and 150m from beach. Price: 6.5 million baht per rai. Email: kohlon@hotmail.com

#### POOL VILLA NEAR BIS



And Tesco Lotus Thalang, airport. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, large fully equipped Western-style kitchen, 10x4m infinity pool and pond, plenty of outdoor and indoor living spaces. Price: 15.9 million baht negotiable. Tel: 084-141 7170.

#### BEACHFRONT LAND FOR SALE



Prime beachfront land for sale on Koh Mak Noi, Phang Nga. Ideal for resort/villa development. Over 400 meters of beachfront. Up to 18 rai available at 10 million baht per rai. Contact 087-058 4001, 089-904 0266 or panan.titapura@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at http://redsunset.wix.com/kohmaknoi

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### HOT DEAL - CONDO AT THE POINT



Opposite to Big C, one bedroom with nice view includes furniture. Price: 3.8 million. Negotiable. Tel: 082-276 1817, 081-614 5372.

#### PHUKET VILLA CONDOS PATONG



New condos. 1km to beach, near Bangla Rd and Jungceylon, 1 bed, 1 bath, fully furnished. 3.9 million baht for 42sqm and 3.8 million baht for 44.5sqm. Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

#### 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.

#### 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

#### 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

#### 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).

#### 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.

#### PATONG LOFT CONDO

For sale. 1 bedroom, fully furnished, 67sqm living area. Now only 2.5 million baht, reduced from 2.69 million baht. Tel: 089-872 6895. Email: jospeder@live.no

#### HOUSE FOR SALE: URGENT



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

#### HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

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

#### COMMERCIAL BUILDING

For sale or long lease. Situated in a great location on main road, Phang Muang Soi 3. Ideal for restaurant and apartment. 15 rooms, key money. 1.5 millions. Rent: 120,000 baht. Must see! Tel: 081-396 0880. Email: Sumonmarn@phuketrealife.com

#### GUESTHOUSE KARON FOR SALE

14 rooms, 35 seats restaurant, fully furnished, Chanote title, can be sold with company and work permit. Only mail please. Price: 27 million baht. Email: tomasholmberg77@hotmail.com

#### NAI HARN BEACH CONDO

2-bed condo, 146sqm, ground floor unit, 3 mins walk from beach. Fully furnished. Large common pool. Only 7 million baht. Tel: 089-652 1951 (English & Thai). Email: phuket.pn@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

### 3-BEDROOM HOUSE TERMFUN VILLAGE



Cherng Talay. Main bedroom and sitting room both with aircon, large kitchen. All newly renovated, part furnished. 10 minutes from Laguna, 15 minutes from Surin Beach, 12,000 baht per month, minimum rental 12 months. Tel: 087-272 5250 (Thai), 086-946 5916 (English & Thai). Email: Phetmeekha@yahoo.com

**RAWAI RENTAL STUDIO**  
28sqm, aircon, cable TV, fridge, kitchen. 6,500 baht. Negotiable long stays. Tel: 085-757 3240.

### 3 BEDROOMS - THALANG

Pruksa Ville, fully furnished. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky\_grc@hotmail.com

**3 BED HOUSE IN KATHU: 13,000 BAHT**  
Modern, 3-bed townhouse for rent in Kathu. Only 13,000 baht per month for one year rental. Tel: 084-455 6743 (English), 086-153 0103 (Thai). Email: andywatts81.aw@gmail.com

### ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

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

### PRIVATE PATONG HOUSE



Large enclosed yard with waterfall, swim jet pool, very quiet, clean water, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, furnished. Must see! Tel: 087-882 1963 (English), 088-464 3835 (Thai). Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

### SEAVIEW 2-BED CONDO KATA

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

### DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDO

2 bedrooms. Also at the Point, near Central Festival, 1 bedroom, kitchen, lounge, many facilities. Tel: 081-892 0038.

### LUXURY POOL VILLA

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

### HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



Near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, aircon, 3 bedrooms, cable TV, kitchen. 25,000 baht per month with 30,000 baht deposit. Tel: 086-607 7493.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

2 aircon bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living room, furnished kitchen. Near Phuket Zoo. Tel: 081-537 9878 (English & Thai), 089-729 8472 (English & Thai). Email: tiwus@hotmail.co.th

### 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

### 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: 081-692 3163.

### VILLA AND POOL

Soi NaYa, Nai Harn. Luxury 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Long-term rent: 37,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-396 4007. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

### COZY HOUSE NEAR NAI HARN



A high-grade built house, furnished and conveniently located minutes from Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. 2 spacious bedrooms with en suite bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. Aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage removal service. 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-383 0936 (Khun Nui). Email: hunt17@hotmail.com

### SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT



Phuket Town. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 081-396 4264.

### 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](http://www.oceanic-global.com)

### KATA WESTERN APARTMENT

1 & 2-bedroom rooms, Sat TV and internet included, fully furnished, Western bathrooms and kitchen, huge covered terrace, car park. Long-term: 22,000 baht. Tel: 084-840 1262. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

### ONLY 500M TO NAI HARN BEACH



Beautiful house with communal pool (4 houses) immediately available for rent. 3 bedrooms, beautiful garden, carport, WiFi, TV. 25,000 baht per month. Please call 083-388 8036. For further details, please see our website at [www.phuketqualityhouse.com](http://www.phuketqualityhouse.com)

### NEW FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE



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

### SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT



Thalang. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully furnished, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 081-396 4264.

### 2 BEDROOMS - BANGTAO BEACH

Fully furnished, free swimming pool. 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky\_grc@hotmail.com

### PATONG RENTAL STUDIO

30sqm, 300m to beach, aircon, cable TV, kitchen, fridge, furnished. 8,500 baht. Negotiable long stays. Tel: 085-757 3240.

### 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](http://www.villa-cheloni.com)

House in Phuket

houseinphuket.com

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

### RENTAL APARTMENT PATONG CONDO

Pool, security, studio, 46sqm, furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

### TOWNHOUSE FOR RENT IN TOWN

Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, very good location, close to Central Festival and Makro, entrance is in front of Headstart International School. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: jyfieviet@gmail.com

### APARTMENTS PATONG

Located at Phuket Palace and Patong Tower. 55-66sqm in size and with one bedroom. Tel: 081-892 1621.

### HOUSE IN CHALONG

Near Palai Beach. For rent, 2 bedrooms, aircon, 1 bathroom, ADSL, fully furnished, cable TV, car park. Tel: 089-728 8311.

### NAI HARN, HOUSE FOR RENT

Available now! 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Price: from 26,000 baht per month. Up to contract. No agents. Tel: 082-420 7052.

### KATA TOWNHOUSE

2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, car park, electric gate, 2 balconies, aircon, hot water, 90% furnished. 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-412 0971.

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Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with  
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**Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.**



**HAIRCUT STAFF  
WANTED**

Must Speak English skills in Rawai. Tel: 085-757 3240.

**REAL ESTATE RENTAL  
AGENT**

Thai national, must have car, be professional. 20,000 baht. Salary + commission. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English). Email: phkrealestate@aol.com

**ADMIN &  
COORDINATOR STAFF**

Small dynamic real estate agency based in Chalong seeking Thai female staff. Good command of both spoken and written English. Computer literacy. start immediately. Tel: 086-940 2266. Email your resume to sales@18excelsior-property.com For further details, please see our website at 18excelsior-property.com

**Stage Operations Manager**

Can you manage our stars & rockers?  
We need an outgoing operations professional to ensure the party runs without a hitch! bar & restaurant operations experience will help a lot. You need to work the floor and solve the problems with creativity and fun. Crazy event planning experience and ideas essential. Have you got the rhythm to manage a beach club day & night?

**Sales & Marketing Guru**

Can you sing with passion about what you are selling? Do beach clubs rock your world?  
Are you one of those creative types?  
If your friends say you are the life of the party and know your stuff when it comes to sales and marketing then come join our beach club on Surin.

Send us your impressive resume with photo now!  
starsearch@zazadabeachclub.com

**AUDITION NOW**

ZAZADA

**ACG Cricket Ground**

wanted  
**F & B manager for clubhouse**

In first instance expressions  
of interest only to

[alan@acgphuket.com](mailto:alan@acgphuket.com)

**Creative Concept AV Co., Ltd.**

Conference & Event Management, specialising in Conference, Large Events and Equipment Hire.

Sound technician	2P
Lighting technician	2P
AV technician	2P

**Qualification**

- Experience in Sound/Lighting/Audio Visual system handled for conferences, events or related filed
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- Able to work under pressure
- Able to communicate in English

Interested applicants should send application letter with full resume by email to [bia@inspireeventtravel.com](mailto:bia@inspireeventtravel.com)  
Tel: 076-326-046

**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](mailto: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

**MARKETING  
MANAGER**

Thai, age above 30 years, related experience. Salary: 30,000 baht + commission. Tel: 087-026 1362. Fax: 076-381717. Email: [chalongmarket@hotmail.com](mailto:chalongmarket@hotmail.com) Please send CV to e-mail, or call for info.

**MAINTENANCE  
MANAGER NEEDED**

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

**HOUSEKEEPER**

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

**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@bayshoreprojects.com](mailto:c@bayshoreprojects.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](mailto:buds.span@yahoo.com)

**TEACHERS WANTED**

Chalermprakit is looking for native English speakers to teach English. A degree and TEFL are required. Tel: 085-781 9162. Please email your cover letter and CV to [swpk\\_mlp@yahoo.com](mailto:swpk_mlp@yahoo.com) For info please contact Clarke.

[www.AbsoluteWorld.net](http://www.AbsoluteWorld.net)

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**Absolute Sales Co.LTD**, is an established global force in Luxury Leisure and Boutique Resort development. We are currently looking for:

**Chinese Reservation Officer****Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Tourist Industry or related fields
- Male/Female, Thai National
- Experience in travel agencies and thorough background knowledge of tourist destinations / hotels in Thailand will be a great advantage
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- Fast Learner, Service-Minded, Team Worker
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Interested candidates please submit Current CV, Recent photo, Current and Expected salary with other related documents to:  
[rinky@absoluteworld.net](mailto:rinky@absoluteworld.net)



Six positions available immediately. Must have a minimum of a Bachelor of Arts and preferably post-secondary experience and must be a native speaker.

**Three positions available now to teach Malaysian, Myanmar and Vietnamese.**

Please contact Phuket Rajabhat University,  
Assistant **Professor Darnee**.  
E-mail: [ajdaruneeb@gmail.com](mailto:ajdaruneeb@gmail.com) | Phone: 084-187 1827

**AUTOCAD / 3D  
/ ADMIN STAFF**

Due to an increase in Lighting Design Projects we require AutoCAD people who have experience in producing architectural / ID / lighting / electrical drawings, 3D renderings and office admin of the same. We are interested to talk with potential employees, free lance individuals or companies who can offer these services. Tel: 081-893 7027 (English). Email: [potter.ian@gmail.com](mailto:potter.ian@gmail.com)

**CUSTOMER  
RELATIONS @ RESORT**

Health Resort Customer Relations & Sales Rep. Fluent English Speaker & Experience Required. (Good Salary & Benefits). Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: [info@thailandcamp.com](mailto:info@thailandcamp.com)

**COOKS AND MAIDS**

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

**The PARADISE KOH YAO**  
Boutique Beach Resort & Spa**'Island hideaway near Phuket'**

the paradise koh yao, a contemporary 70- room boutique resort is located on koh yao noi island, a 60- minute boat trip from phuket

our eco-chic environment is complemented by our 'conscious living' ethos of barefoot luxury philosophy – NOW complimented with the yoga and wellbeing center

we are looking for superb leaders to join our dynamic team

**SPA MANAGER**

in charge of the tropical resort spa - complementing our vision toward 'healthier living' a blend of yoga, wellness and healthy food, reporting to the Wellness Director

- 3 - 5 years experience in equivalent property/position
- fluent in English language
- leader personality, creative with new product innovations
- Thai national

**CHIEF ENGINEER**

in charge of technical aspects of the resort operations, reporting to the General Manager

- 3 - 5 years experience in equivalent property/position
- knowledge of English language
- leader personality, well organized with emphasis on preventive maintenance and implementation of energy cost-saving measures
- Thai national

comprehensive remuneration/incentive package – we are looking for the best team leaders - contact:

[gm@theparadise.biz](mailto:gm@theparadise.biz)

[www.TheParadise.biz](http://www.TheParadise.biz) or [facebook/theparadise.biz](https://www.facebook.com/theparadise.biz)



**STAFF WANTED**

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

**FRENCH SALES CONSULTANT**

Experienced French Sales Representative needed for Real Estate. Good command of English and French required. Highest commission on the island awaits for the right candidate. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Send CV to c@bayshoreprojects.com

**ACCOUNTANT NEEDED**

Japanese wedding company Sa-mer Wedding at Boat Lagoon. is seeking an experienced accountant. Qualification: over 3 years Experience in account. Good command both spoken and written English. Good salary based on experience. Please contact us by email fumiko@sa-mer.com

**FOREIGNER WEB PROGRAMMER**

Web or Software Programmer/Developer (Java, C-hash.Net) needed: 1). Have good knowledge of OOP and RDBMS. 2). Good understanding of current web and software technology such as HTML5/CSS3, Ajax, MVC, and etc. 3). Ability to code in Java or C-hash.NET as well as Ajax, JQuery. 4). Good understanding of frameworks and IDE in Java or C-hash.Net 5). English fluent. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Send CV to c@bayshoreprojects.com

**BAR SUPERVISOR, THAI WOMAN**

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

**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

**ELT PHUKET: TEACHERS**

Native English speaking teachers wanted to work full time in and around Phuket. Very competitive salary, bonuses and insurance. Tel: 076-221940. 084-847 3033 (English & Thai). Email: maxbeardsly@gmail.com

**THAI DRIVER WANTED**

Driver for resort. Thai national only. Must speak English. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.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

**STAFF WANTED**

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

- Office admin, good computer skills, Excel, and accounting is required. Good written and spoken English is a must. 15,000-22,000 baht a month depending on experience.

- Office manager, must be proficient in Excel, written and spoken English. Prior experience required. Salary: 25,000+ baht monthly depending on experience. Please send your resume to smartbusinessphuket@gmail.com

**RECEPTIONIST PATONG**

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

**ARCHITECT**

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

**SWEDISH / FINNISH TOUR GUIDE**

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

**ASSISTANT MANAGER**

Thai national, not over 35 years old, degree, fluent in written and spoken English, Computer literate, strong communication, proactive and detail oriented, experience in management role. Able to work in Patong area and travel across the island to meet clients. Salary 20-30,000 baht per month, negotiable. Tel: 076-346800. Fax: 076-346802.

**GUIDES WANTED**

We are looking for 2 experienced guides, preferably Thai, with good English language skills. Must be outgoing and ensure that our customers have a fun time whilst keeping them safe. See our website: www.mayabaytours.com. We will pay above average wages and will take good care of you if you take good care of our customers. Siripanon Tel: 087-382 9163. Email: phil@krabikonnnect.com

**British International School, Phuket****BISP - Requires Summer Camp Staff - July 2013**

The British International School requires experienced English Summer Camp Staff for July. Applicants are required to have a recognised degree and a TEFL qualification. As it is a residential camp overnight boarding duties are required. Camp dates 29th June - 27th July 2013. Applications can be submitted to ppreez@bisphuket.ac.th

**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: patcharakornit@bisphuket.ac.th or sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th

**LIVE-IN COMPANION**

For Thai lady, at Kata. House-keeping and cooking. Contact Noi: 076-330518, Tom: 087-627 3464.

**RESTAURANT MGR**

Russian Mgr Required with good English and experience. Tel: 082-415 4546 Please contact by email: lizunov.o@mail.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

**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

**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@intravillas.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 geniuskkj@daum.net

**LaGuna HOLIDAY CLUB**

Laguna Holiday Club, Thailand's premier vacation ownership company is currently seeking passionate and experienced candidates to be part of our team...

**Sales Representative**

(English, Cantonese, Chinese, Russian, Arabic speaking)

**Outside Personal Contact Team Leader****Outside Personal Contact Freelance****Explore Pass Program Booker Freelance**

At least 1 year experience in timeshare business or similar is an advantage. We are proud to provide an excellent benefits package including: Basic salary, generous commissions, medical coverage, training, etc;

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career@lagunaholidayclub.com or sirimab@lagunaholidayclub.com

Visit us at www.lagunaholidayclub.com

**GUEST HOUSE STAFF**

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

**CUSTOMER SERVICE RECEPTIONIST**

Female for villa resort in Rawai. Part time, full time. Computer skills are essential. Tel: 089-289 1502. Email: jitraming@gmail.com

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT**

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

**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

**ACCOUNTANT FOR REAL ESTATE**

We are looking for an experienced accountant that can handle government officials and tax related issues. A high salary will be given. Tel: 076-341045. 081-459 0152 (English). Contact us at the number above or send your CV to info@phuket-condos-homes.com

**Employment Wanted****BOAT DETAILING WORK WANTED**

Thai. 5 years experience in Australia. Polish, sand, paint and underwater. Tel: 088-753 9139 (English & Thai). Email: artkongsai@yahoo.com.au

Looking for a **JOB?**

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!](http://WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!)



## 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

## Bulletins

## SPONSOR A CHILD

The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors – small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol. Please call 087-417 8860 or contact Sue. Tel: 087-277 6948. For more information please email us at info@phuketiw.com

## Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business  
If you want to stop that is ours

## Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763  
081-956 4031  
email: phuketaa@yahoo.com  
Google AA Phuket

## BAR FOR SALE (OTOP)

Very successful bar, over 6 years old. Huge customer base. Fully paid for 2-year lease. Must see. Tel: 081-087 6114 (English). Email: slicky micky@hotmail.com

## 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

## RESORT FOR LEASE



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.

## HOTELS IN PHUKET FOR SALE

Please contact info@luxuryphuketholidays.com

## MASSAGE SALON FOR SALE

Patong, Nanai. Near Royal Crown Hotel and the new Park Condo. 500,000 baht. Tel: 088-009 9585 (English & Thai), 081-970 5145 (English & Thai). Email: leelawadee massage@hotmail.com

## RENT GUESTHOUSE PATONG

12 guest rooms, cheap rent, good profit and location, Nanai Road. 1 million baht. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: tha mad17@yahoo.com

## SHOP AT KAMALA BEACH

Fashion clothes shop for sale in Kamala, best location at the beach road. Approx 40sqm, air conditioned, fully equipped if wanted. 20,000 baht per month. One year left of three-year contract, very good trial period! For sale because I am moving back to Sweden. Please call 082-190 6107. Please send email to terece@loveforever.se

## TOUR SHOP PATONG

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

## Farangs: Unique Investment Opportunity, First Time Offered.

- 15% net annual return, paid 3 months in arrears on a one year investment plan.
- 230,000 THB: capital and interest of 15% secured via debenture over land and buildings, to the value of over 420,000 THB.
- 22 only, individual investment plans available absolutely independent of each other.
- All investment plans are completely controlled by the investors themselves via an independent appointed solicitor.
- Irrevocable option will be granted to every investor to re-invest after their one year plan expires on a one year, one year extension.
- Register your expressions of interest via email to bernster77@gmail.com or contact Bernard. Tel: 082-203 5177 (local), +66 82 203 5177 (international).

## GUESTHOUSE KARON FOR SALE

14 rooms, 35 seats restaurant, fully furnished, Chanote title, can be sold with company and work permit. Price: 27 million baht. Only mail please. Email: tomasholm berg77@hotmail.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: steph patong@hotmail.fr

## BAR FOR SALE DJ PLAZA

110,000 baht. 150,000 baht with brand-new furniture, 3 tables, 12 chairs. Tel: 084-839 9325. Tel: 084-839 9325.

## DIVE COMPANY LTD. FOR SALE

Price: 50,000 baht, 2 work permits available. For more information please call 087-892 7565.

## NEW BEAUTY SHOP FOR SALE PATONG



Opposite Esso. Newly renovated, 2 rooms + kitchen and bathroom, 2 cutting stalls, 2 hair basins, 1 face massage stall, 2 aircons, ground water pump for washing and drying machine. Rent on 3-year contract: 10,000 baht per month. Price at 500,000 baht, ready for work. Contact Nok. Tel: 080-632 6330 (English & Thai). www.beautycare.asia

## 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.

## LAUNDRY COMPANY SALE

Laundry capacity 6-700 hotel rooms. Professional machines only 1-1.5 years old. Building with 4 rooms, 2 with aircon. Sold without clients. Monthly rent 22,000 baht. Price: 1.95 million baht. Tel: 089-882 0894 (English). Email: peter@conceptfeel ing.com

## 5-IN-1 BUSINESS FOR SALE

Good location, 1.25 rai. 1). Jungle bar, 3 TVs, 2 pool tables, seating: 65 people, parking: 15-16 vehicles, good business. 2). Beauty salon: fully equipped. 3). Massage 4). Lease-out restaurant. 5). Lease-out indoor pub: fully equipped, stage, seating: 70 people. Available for 8 years + 9 months left on lease. Sale: 5.7 million baht. Negotiable! Contact by sending email to five.business@yahoo.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

## PRIVATE GUESTHOUSE FOR RENT

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. Tel: 081-777 3607. Email: bi@inauen group.ch

## BAR FOR SALE! NEW TIGER

Bar in New Tiger, fourth row from the front. Just under a two-year contract. 3.4 million baht. O.B.O. Please call 086-048 8394 (English). Email: Yellowfeverbar@gmail.com

## RESTAURANT

For sale. 6 years on contract, on great location, Patong Beach Road, full furniture and equipment. Please call 087-075 2166, 090-175 9126. Email: omalquraini@hotmail.com

## COFFEE HOUSE / JUICE BAR

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Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

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## Club Memberships Available

### PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Full membership, transfer fee and 2013 maintenance fee included. 650,000 baht. Contact David. Tel: 087-881 7545.

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For sale: Corporate golf membership at Loch Palm golf course. Price: 400,000 baht includes transfer fee. Please call 076-521746, 081-691 2446 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-367317. Or email to wuttartara@gmail.com

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Full family membership. Price: 560,000 baht (includes membership, transfer fee, and 2013 maintenance fees) For more information please call 087-895 8160, 087-890 3685. Email: faserio@gogo.ltd.hk

### PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Life membership. 580,000 baht. Must sell. For more information please call 081-089 1407.

### PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Full membership. Price: 640,000 baht (included transfer). Call Mary on 087-266 7140. Email: mary9543@hotmail.com

## Dive Gear

### 20 NEW SCUBA TANKS

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

### MARES BCD FINS AND BOOTS



Mares BCD Hybrid like new: 16,000 baht or nearest offer. Scuba Pro boots UK Size 8-9: 800 baht. Mares Avanti Quattro Black: 1,000 baht. For more information please call 085-260 2576 (English). Email: chris graham2@mac.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 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

## Education

### LEARN THAI COOKING AT HOME

Want to learn how to cook Thai food and no time for school? I will come to teach at your home from market to finished dish. Professional and reliable. Please call 081-728 8269. Email: thaicooking@phuket.com

### LEARN THAI

From an experienced Thai teacher. Tel: 084-447 5257. Email: mike roper2003@hotmail.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

## Pool Tables

### 1/2 PRICE 9FT POOL TABLE

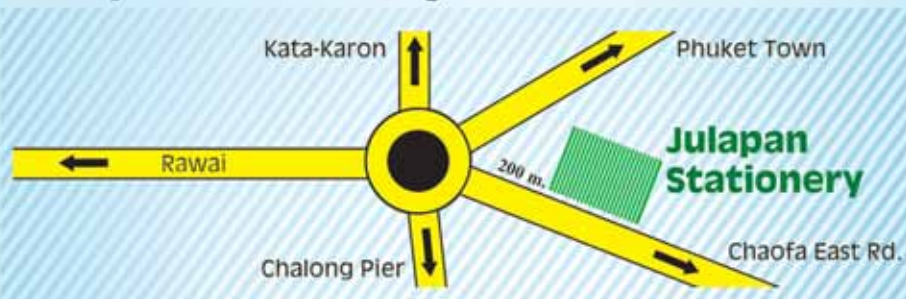
Professional size pool table for sale. 1.5 years old. Brand new: 140,000 baht. Now sale: 70,000 baht with new felt+transport+installation+light box and all accessories. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-782 1200. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

## 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.

## Live in Chalong? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Julapan Stationery



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**GAZETTE CLASSADS** - they work because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

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## Rentals

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## LEE MARINE

*International Marine Brokerage*

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**3,850,000 Euro**

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- Massive teak beach and opening swim platform
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► Yachtuka 53 (2001)  
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**OFF SHORE CATAMARAN**

► Northshore 46 (1987)  
**\$125,000 AUD**

► Super Marama 2000 (2001)  
**\$359,000 USD**

► Bougainville 62 (2004)  
**\$590,000 USD**

► Seahorse 52 (2002)  
**\$315,000 AUD**

► Sunseeker Manhattan 73 (2013)  
**2,390,000 GBP**

**PRICE REDUCTION**

► Gulf Craft 36 (2009)  
**\$125,000 USD**

► Imago 48 (2007)  
**445,000 Euro**

**SURFACE DRIVES AND FAST**

Martin Holmes  
Mobile: 081 891 7057  
Email: martin@leemarine.com

Marcus Overman  
Mobile: 081 968 1437  
Email: marcus@leemarine.com

Jim Poulsen  
Mobile: 081 891 3237  
Email: jim@leemarine.com

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**RIB BOAT FOR SALE**



Retired owner sells RIB Capelli 8m, for health reasons, 250 YAMAHA 4stroke outboard motor, not frequently used. Revising maintenance by Yamaha. GPS Garmin with Blue Chart South East Asia. Sale: 1.1 million baht. Contact Gerrit: 084-626 4969 (English/French), Lee: 085-131 2613 (English/Thai). Email: neef@wanadoo.fr

**TEAK BOAT VERY RARE**

Hard to find 80-year-old solid teak barge. 1,500,000 baht. Perfect Phang Nga cruise or house boat, 16X5 meters can finish with over 120 meters floor space. Tel: 090-798 5605. Email: kirkasia@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.facebook.com/teak.boat.50

**NEW KARNIC 1851**

Deep V Hull, 90hp lean-burn, 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and trailer. 999,950 baht. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboat sales.com

**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

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"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@andamanboat sales.com


**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

**RIVA HULL**

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

**JET-SKI FOR SALE**



2006. Yamaha 1,200cc YLT with only 50hrs. Kept in garage. Also has ski wakeboard, rope and life vest with trailer. 200,000 baht. Tel: 081-895 0136. Email: jrp@loxinfo.co.th

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Asia's Leading Yacht Brokers Since 1984

**2001 Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 45.2**

**EUR 130,000**

"Major reduction"



- Never chartered owner version.
- Fully equipped for liveaboard around the world.

**2007 PHINISI SCHOONER 26 m.**  
**EUR 150,000**

**1999 Lagoon 470**  
**EUR 280,000**

**2012 Lagoon 450**  
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**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

**FIBERGLASS BOAT FOR 25+3PAX**

Fiberglass passenger speed boat, manufactured in Pattaya, registered for 25 customers + 3 staff, registered 2007, located in Phuket/Khao Lak, length 13.3m, beam 2.7m, draft 1.35m, 2 x Yamaha 6V 200HP, estimated usage 2,000h (serviced), fuel capacity 600L, insured. Modified for scuba diving, ready to use. Quick sale asking 1.6 million baht. Tel: 076-280748. Fax: 076-280074. Email: info@rayadivers.com

**HUNTER 280 (LEGEND) SAILBOAT**

1996 Yanmar 2GM20F, Ray Marine, windlass, mooring, ready. 1.25 million baht or offers. Tel: 087-269 3743. (English). Email: davidrwarburton@hotmail.com

**NEW KARNIC 2052**

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@andamanboat sales.com

**KAYAK WANTED**

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

**MERCURY 225 OUTBOARD ENGINE**

2 stroke-carburetor model. Checked and serviced. Runs well. 90,000 baht. Tel: 080-038 4916.

**SY TOSCA 36**

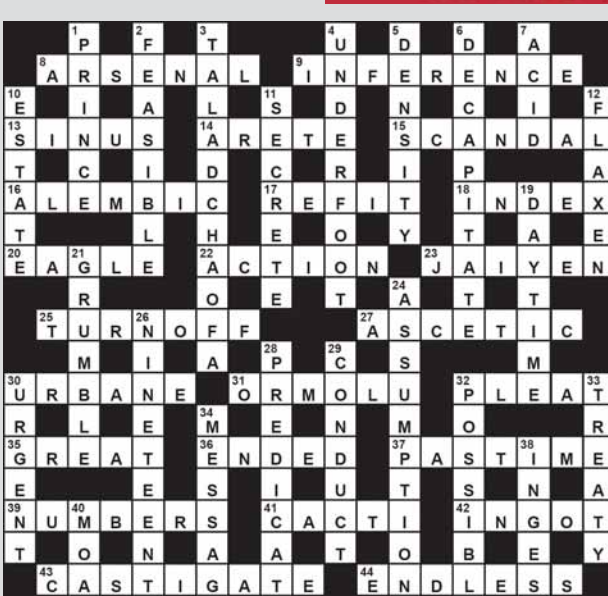
Blue Cruiser, excellent condition. Based in Yacht Haven. Antifouling this month (March 2013). Tel: 085-880 1968 (English). Email: salulami04@yahoo.fr Website: http://sy-tosca36.blogspot.com

Looking for a boat?

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

**SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S**

**CrypticCrossword**




**COFFEE**

**break**











Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut (blue shirt)








# MAI KHAO TURTLE RELEASE

The Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation and JW Marriott Phuket Resort and Spa hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Mai Khao Turtle Release. Rehabilitated green turtles were released back into the Andaman Sea.



## TWO CHEFS CATERING WERE OFFICIAL SPONSORS TO PIMEX 2013

Two Chefs Catering hosted the opening party at the Town square of Royal Phuket Marina.



## PHUKET FC FANS POSE WITH TTM LOPBURI 'PRETTIES' IN BANGKOK FOOTBALL MATCH



Photo: Steven Layne

### MOM TRI'S KITCHEN

at Villa Royale

### Thai & International Cuisine



Dinner reservations recommended

12 Kata Noi Road, on the only road into Kata Noi Beach

[www.momtriphuket.com](http://www.momtriphuket.com) [info@momtriphuket.com](mailto:info@momtriphuket.com)

# Live Jazz Trio



Every Sunday and Wednesday

18:00 - 22:0 hrs

Happy hour: beer and cocktails 50% off, selected wine by the glass 160++ THB

18:00 - 19:00 hrs daily



# 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

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

**April 6, 15, 29; 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-Buffer, 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 8-12 and 15-19, Sport Excel Camps 2013 at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club:

Realize your true ambitions! Sport camps for those who are interested to learn or improve their skills in Tennis, Football, Swimming and Triathlon, for ages 5-18. Learn with professional coaches in cutting edge facilities at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club. Tel: +66 (0)76 336 000 email: [sportcamp@thanyapura.com](mailto:sportcamp@thanyapura.com) or visit: [thanyapura.com/tslc-sports-camps](http://thanyapura.com/tslc-sports-camps)

### April 8-12 and 15-19: Songkran Multi Sport Camps 2013 at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club:

Get active and learn multi-sports skills, camps are designed to be fun for kids of all ages at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club. Half day pass at 800 baht and full-day-pass at 1,300 baht. Special price for 5 day package. Tel: +66 (0)76 336 000 email: [tslc@thanyapura.com](mailto:tslc@thanyapura.com) or visit: [thanyapura.com/tslc-sports-camps](http://thanyapura.com/tslc-sports-camps)

**April 13-15: 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 Year.

### April 18 11:30am to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch at Breeze at Cape Yamu

April's lunch will be at the newly opened Breeze@Cape Yamu. All are welcome. Members 500 baht, guests 650 baht. For reservations or further information, contact Carole on: +66-76-316711 or you can also email [info@phuketiw.com](mailto:info@phuketiw.com)

### April 20-May 4, 7am to 6pm: Chang ITF Pro Circuit 2013 at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club

The ITF Womens Circuit is a series of professional tennis tournaments run by the International Tennis Federation for female professional tennis players. The ITF professional tennis tournament, with prize money of US\$25,000, is a high standard tournament which will allow spectators to watch top female athletes from many countries

compete. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTv and the "Phuket Today" show. For more information please send an email to: [virapol.c@thanyapura.com](mailto:virapol.c@thanyapura.com)

### April 30, 8 to 9:30am: Twinkle Tales Story Time

Every Tuesday the British International School Phuket hosts a Twinkle Tales reading time in their Primary Library for Toddlers. Come along, listen to a story and read one of the many great books. All welcome. For more info contact Donna Stephens at: [dstephens@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:dstephens@bisphuket.ac.th)

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

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

**May 24, Visakha Bucha Day**  
Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the 6<sup>th</sup> lunar month, which usually falls in 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 disciples after attaining Enlightenment.

### August 12, Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday

Her Majesty's Birthday is a public holiday in the Kingdom.

### September 19 11:30am to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch

at Holiday Inn, Patong  
September's lunch will be at The Holiday Inn, Patong. Always a popular venue. All are welcome but registration is essential. Members 500 and guests 650 baht. To register contact: [info@phuketiw.com](mailto:info@phuketiw.com)

### October 23, Chulalongkorn Memorial Day

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

### November 12-16, Phuket International Sport Fishing 2013

Registration will be on November 13 from 5pm onwards. Fishing days are 13-16 November. Prize giving party on the 16<sup>th</sup>. For more info, please see our website. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTv and the nationally televised 'Phuket Today' show. We hope you will join us for another great tournament!

### November 17, Loy Krathong Festival

Traditionally performed on the full moon night of the twelfth lunar month. A Krathong is a banana-leaf cup, which is floated in a canal.

### December 5, HM the King's Birthday

Also Father's Day in Thailand.

**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.



# Thailand's paradisaal prison

KOH Tarutao, one of Thailand's southern most islands, is located off the coast of Satun province. The island is situated close to the Adang-Rawi archipelago in the Andaman Sea, close to the famed Lipe Island and just a few kilometers north of Langkawi island, which is part of Malaysia. Koh Tarutao boasts some of the most secluded and pristine beaches of Thailand. Much of the island is still largely covered by dense tropical rainforest.

Tarutao's unspoiled nature and white-sandy beaches have become the stuff of legends among back packers and tourists looking for the next virgin paradise in the tropics. Few tourists, however, would want to sully their ideal imagery by thinking about the island's fear-some past. The truth is Tarutao island was not always the welcoming paradise it is today.

In fact, for several decades since the 1930s, the island served as a penal colony to incarcerate the hardest criminals and political prisoners of Thailand.

The story of Tarutao as an island prison began in 1937 when the department of corrections decided to commission a survey of suitable islands that could be turned into a penal colony. The chosen island had to be situated as far away from Bangkok as possible. The surveyors chose Tarutao.

It was a large and isolated island in the Andaman Sea. It was far away from the capital and any civilization and its distance from the mainland made it extremely difficult for prisoners to escape. It was the perfect site.

Construction of the prison began in June 1937 using inmates from nearby prisons on the mainland. When the facility was finished a year later, it was named the Tarutao Vocational Training Settlement. The first inmates arrived in June 1938. Some of them were hardened criminals, transferred from Bangkok's overcrowded prisons. By June 1939, the island was home to around 2,000 of the country's most notorious prisoners.

The facilities on Tarutao, including the offices, the prison building, the kitchen and the prisoners' training center were constructed out of locally available wood and palm leaves. Shabby as they were, the real barriers to escape came from the natural surroundings of the island. Rough seas and strong waves extended for miles out with no end in sight and there were

## Looking Back

By Anand Singh

chilling rumors that the surrounding waters were infested with sharks. It was enough to discourage most of the prisoners from trying to escape.

The years that led up to the Second World War were extremely unstable for Thai politics. The absolute monarchy had been brought down in 1932. The first civilian government that replaced it was short-lived and the military seized power not long after that. The royalists on the other hand were fighting to regain control of what they had lost since 1932. It was a time when several different factions were vying for power. During this time many political dissidents were also sent to Tarutao to be incarcerated along with the common criminals.

In September 1939, around 70 political prisoners were moved from Bang Khwang prison in Bangkok to Tarutao Island. Of the political prisoners that were sent to Tarutao, some were high profile political prisoners.

Many were plotters of failed coups, royalists and fallen army commanders. Others

were journalists, professionals and civilians who spoke out against the ruling regime. Political prisoners were given their own compound on the island, under open prison conditions and away from actual criminals.

In October 1939, five political prisoners managed to escape from Tarutao Island. It was reported that a local fisherman and coffee shop owner named Mee had used a small sailboat to ship himself, his family and five political prisoners from Tarutao to Langkawi.

Since they were allowed to roam freely, the prisoners often frequented Mee's coffee shop. The five escapees were Phraya Sarapai Pipat, who was a naval captain and former politician; Phraya Suraphan Senee, an army colonel and former governor of Ratchaburi; Louis Kiriwat, a newspaper editor; Chalam Liampetrat, a lawyer and Khun Arkaney Rattagarn, a railroad engineer.

Phraya Suraphan was one of the high profile political prisoners that had been sent to Tarutao. He was arrested after the bloody Bowaradet Rebellion of 1933, when Prince Bowaradet led a royalist rebellion to recapture Bangkok from the civilian government. The rebellion failed. Phraya Suraphan, who at that time was the governor of Ratchaburi, was arrested for his alleged role in helping the rebels.

Phraya Suraphan had promised Mee a



**NO FENCE NECESSARY:** Koh Turotao (above) is four miles from the north coast of Langkawi. The Prison Officers' Club (above insert) and solitary confinement (below) were two of the former penal colony's original structures. Photos: Daun Morris



reward of 5,000 baht if he helped them escape from Tarutao Island.

Phraya's wife smuggled the money into Tarutao and gave it to Mee in advance. When Mee, his family and the five escapees reached Langkawi, they claimed political asylum in Malaysia and never returned to Thailand again.

The incident was an embarrassment to the Thai ruling party at that time and the Tarutao prison governor was reprimanded for his negligence. However, he was allowed to remain at his post when it became clear that the prisoners were never going to return to Thailand again.

In December 1941, the Japanese invaded

Thailand and the Second World War was brought to Southeast Asia. During this period and right up to the end of the war, the history of Tarutao Island would take an even more peculiar course.

When chaos breaks out from the war and the island's prisoners are forgotten, the inmates of Tarutao band together for their own survival. Tarutao Island's history during the Second World War continues in the next *Looking Back* column.

*Anand Singh is an avid Phuket historian. If you have any history to share about Phuket or the surrounding region, Anand can be contacted at as.pkt@hotmail.com*



The temple of Bayon, Siem Reap.

## Exploring shared Thai/Cambodian history

DOZENS of Thai and Cambodian children participated in a recent joint-research project, which taught students their shared cultural roots.

Though a borderline separates their countries, these young Asean citizens have learned that the border is for official reasons only.

"We have many similar beliefs and rituals. We just call them by different names," a Thai student said during a recent trip to Siem Reap.

Nattaphong Kliangkoksung, a Mathayom 4 student from Nakhon Ratchasima, said it was only when he met his Cambodian peers that he found the similarities between the two cultures.

Wipa Phutthong, who hails from the Tuppraya Pittaya School in Sa Kaew's Khok Sung district, said, for instance, the 'praying for rain' ritual in Thailand is called "Nang Maew Khor Fon", while in Cambodia it is "Hae Pla Zon Puea Khor Fon".

This Thai student speaks fluent Cambodian because she grew up in a border village where people speak both languages.

The youngsters, Wipa and Nattapong, were part of the Asean Youth Research Programme (Thai-Khmer), which comes under the Heritage Education Programme for Students: Khmer-Thai Students Seminar Siem Reap Angkor project.

Financed by the TRF, the project aims to engage young-

sters in learning the history of both countries, in the hope that shared cultural roots will enhance ties between the two nations, especially since the recent quarrel over the ancient Preah Vihear Temple. "This journey into [our] shared cultural roots will foster good understanding," says Tej Bunnag, a former Thai foreign minister, about the TRF-financed project. He expects the project to cover Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar soon. — *Chularat Saengpassa*



# Dr Sarawut Tepsuparangsikul

CAN a perfect smile make a person ten years younger?

Dr Sarawut Tepsuparangsikul, chief dentist at Phuket Cosmetic Dental Clinic seems to think so.

"Absolutely," he answers without hesitation.

Dr Sarawut's long experience in the field of aesthetic dentistry has confirmed that point of view. He even witnessed situations where a few patients, having had some correction work done, cried with joy at the sight of their new transformed self.

So, what can one do to achieve that level of attraction? "Teeth whitening alone can work wonders," says Dr Sarawut.

"Then there are porcelain crowns or veneers which correct damaged teeth.

"Another popular procedure is of course orthodontics, which straighten crooked teeth. In my opinion no beauty makeover will ever be complete without involving some degree of cosmetic dental surgery."

Ten years ago, Dr Sarawut and partners founded Phuket Cosmetic Dental Clinic (PCDC) in Samkong. Today the clinic has become one of the most trusted on the island, providing dental treatments to locals and tourists alike. "80 per cent of our clients are expats," says Dr Sarawut. And that makes PCDC one of the key players in Phuket's burgeoning medical tourism industry.

Born and raised in Ubon

**THAI**  
**gallery**  
By Nanthapa Pengkasem

Ratchathani, in the Northeast of Thailand, Dr Sarawut remembers doing well in school, which in Thai terms meant that the path to medical school was more or less fixed.

Having qualified as a dentist from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, he was sent to work in a government hospital in Tap Pud, Phang Nga Province, just north of Phuket.

The stay led to some work in Phuket where he has made his home for the past twenty years.

Over time, he's developed a glowing reputation as a prosthodontist and implant specialist.

"An implant used to be something you did rarely, but now it has become a routine procedure and has both practical and aesthetic value," says Sarawut, who also holds a degree in advanced implant dentistry from UCLA.

Both prosthesis and implant are areas that demand a high degree of precision and as such Dr Sarawut sees himself as a craftsman who's proud of his trade. "I love to make people look their best because when they do their confidence surges

no end. And with confidence comes opportunities, whether career wise or in personal life."

His eye for detail extends to all areas of his life – clothes, choice of car and surgery.

PCDC in Samkong is light and spacious, and the furniture and fixtures are chosen with care by this design savvy dentist, right down to the choice of paintings and flowers. (He once aspired to be an architect.)

This is not to mention the surgery's equipment, including modern Italian dental units and equally streamlined oral surgery equipment. Neatness is the key.

"I want it to be a stress-free environment. Most patients are already nervous and no one wants to see a ghastly video of teeth being pulled out," shudders Dr Sarawut.

Approaching 46 this year, Dr Sarawut is riding the success of his profession, which he says, is built on trust and honesty.

His greatest reward is to see returning patients or new ones recommended by satisfied customers. He hopes that his work ethic will inspire co-workers and junior dentists to be successful in their own careers.

"Fairness, transparency and honesty are virtues that should be practiced by everyone, not only dentists. Being honest with my patients is one of the most important factors in my career."



## 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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**SAME SAME, BUT DIFFERENT:** When planting, don't mix moist-loving basil (above) with lemon grass, which thrives in dry conditions (right). Photos: Amy the Nurse and choking sun



## From fetid to fragrant

SHAKESPEARE'S father, John, was fined for digging a "midden" in front of his neighbor's house. Very unneighborly. Today the word has almost vanished from the English language as modern sanitation systems have replaced the foul cesspits of yesteryear.

But make no mistake, a "midden" is neither pleasant to behold nor smell. Originally a hole in the ground, a dump for household refuse, shells or more likely human feces, the advent of rudimentary plumbing later meant that sewage could flow fitfully down a barely hidden pipe and discharge its fetid effluent in the surrounding soil – away from the house. That arrangement would have allowed Mr Shakespeare to get away with it.

Of course, "middens" are still part and parcel of life in Third World slums, but I was unprepared for one in the middle of an "expat's" garden here in Phuket. After all, we supposedly live in a world where septic tanks or communal waste water systems



**Gardening**  
By Patrick Campbell

are the norm. You would be surprised ... there are lots of these cesspits on this paradisaical island.

And the danger to underground water tables that supply our wells is a very real one.

Raw sewage, like fresh manure,



**Lemon basil.** Photo: Phoung Tran

is hostile to plant growth. It is estimated that one gram of human feces contains one trillion bacteria.

But once microorganisms start to degrade and break down this material into less complex compounds, things start to improve. This process is aided by contact with soil; this filters out many pathogens.

Once health hazards diminish, the stench from the midden disappears, and sturdy plants can begin to colonize its borders.

The roots of these plants in turn absorb many toxic elements. Happily, our "expat" friend had done his level best to minimize the impact of this "midden" by planting herbs and especially basil around its edges.

Herbs are part and parcel of any and every Thai garden. They are one of the first things to be planted – as essential to Thai cooking as turmeric is to Spanish *paella*, garlic to Provençal *aioli*, or nutmeg to English rice pudding. The only decision is where to grow them – assuming you have a typical garden.

One school of thought favors a kitchen garden or herbarium where all your herbs can flourish

together in neat rows.

Unarguably, this is a highly convenient arrangement. However, it has one key drawback, namely that herbs don't all enjoy the same conditions.

Pepper, for example, does best in shady, moist conditions whereas chili needs plenty of sun to crop heavily. Lemon grass enjoys a dry environment, ginger plenty of water.

My "horses for courses" view takes account of these different cultural requirements, with my herbs dotted around the garden in company with their flowering fellows. In this way, you can select a suitably marshy spot for your ginger, or a dryer one for your lemon grass.

Basil, as my friend's efforts attest, can be put anywhere. In fact, it may well take the prize for being the easiest of all herbs to grow. It crops up, unannounced in my scruffy lawn, and takes uncomplainingly to life

in pots. *Ocimum basilicum* is an unobtrusive star.

Known as *bai horapa* in Thailand, it has intensely aromatic, dark green leaves and purplish stems and flower heads. There are other varieties: holy basil (*gapow*) has narrower leaves and needs to be cooked to release its full panoply of aromas. Lemon basil (*bai manglak*), which exudes the delicious scent of lemons, has pale green, slightly hairy foliage and generally makes a smaller plant.

All these varieties are both easy to grow and to propagate from cuttings. Simply put some stems in moist soil and within days they will have taken root. After all, if they can put up with a "midden", they are unlikely to be fazed by much....

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



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## Tip of the Week

### Mulching



Photo: tOmsk

IT IS almost two years since we talked in these columns about mulching. Very relevant in today's rainless conditions when the soil is in danger of drying out completely.

Mulching is the use of material to cover soil surfaces such as flower beds. Spread evenly up to a depth of two inches to allow some air and water through.

The process provides insulation from the full glare of the sun, prevents erosion in downpours, helps the retention of moisture in the earth, and inhib-

its weed growth.

The best mulches are organic: for example, coconut fiber or coir dust (the cheapest, and readily available), compost, or shredded bark. Not dead leaves though, which in this climate are rarely utilized by earthworms to create humus.

Moreover, they may harbor disease. Better to use them in a compost heap where the heat will destroy potentially harmful bacteria.



# Trisara hosts Mozaic's Chef James Ephraim

THERE have been some pretty spectacular sunsets in Phuket in recent weeks, or maybe I have

## On the Menu

By Marc Mulloy

just been fortunate enough to witness them from spectacular locations. The Trisara's 'Seafood' restaurant is one of those places that reaffirm the reasons one has chosen to live on a tropical island. Another island that has glorious sunsets is Bali, and I am here tonight to taste the famous cuisine from the Mozaic restaurant in Bali, which is listed as the fifth best restaurant in Asia in the 2013 Miele Guide.

From the Island of the Gods (Bali) to the third garden in heaven (Trisara) Chef James Ephraim and his team certainly know a thing or two about preparing and serving heavenly creations.

Chef James hails from Chester, in England, where he was a sous-chef at the Grosvenor Hotel. This famous venue, introduced Chef



Ephraim to exclusive events such as regular appearances at the estate of the Duke of Westminster. Leaving his native England for the South Pacific and Australasia, Chef Ephraim was part of the opening team of Bracu Restaurant in New Zealand as chef de cuisine, and extended his stay down-under thereafter at the Lizard Island Barrier Reef Resort.

A world traveller, in Europe Chef Ephraim completed courses at Mugaritz in Spain and at the Saint James in Bordeaux before expanding his culinary experiences throughout Asia.

At the famed Ubud Mozaic Restaurant Gastronomique he embraced the philosophy of Chef Chris Salans in the use of Bali's freshest ingredients and has been a key asset in creating the Mozaic modern Balinese cuisine, which is being presented at the Trisara tonight.

While awaiting the arrival of the other fortunate guests I nibble on a *foie gras* and fresh mango toast and chat with the relaxed and friendly Chef James about the Mozaic philosophy.

"I am quality driven and enjoy giving

guests something they've never eaten before. Each dish features fresh local ingredients, utilizing an abundance of regional flavors, spices and herbs. In Phuket, for example, I found some similar ingredients to Bali but there were subtle differences in taste, and in some cases the ingredients were hard to find, curry leaves for example..." he said before leaving to personally greet arriving guests.

At table we eagerly await the signature bold and innovative Mozaic-style of cooking and are treated first to Balinese spiced Alaskan King crab salad, served with ogen melon, cucumber, avocado and baby coriander – light zesty and full of flavor.

Next up is the butter-seared, deep ocean lobster enhanced with black truffle espuma, tapioca and Spanish *pata negra* ham tuiles. Rich and interesting in texture.

More *foie gras* arrives next, this time with crumbled cocoa, fresh raspberries and black olive powder. Heads around our intimate seaside table nod in approval.

The *pièce de résistance* comes in the shape of a slow-roasted lamb loin from New Zealand served on the bone and flavored with salted lemon and sprinkled with crunchy toasted spices and fresh curry leaf infusions [so he did find curry leaves in Phuket]. The pumpkin purée adds a colorful splash to this wonderful dish that leaves a warm spicy afterburn on the lips. I put this out with a cool Pinot noir.

To end a perfect meal Valrhona chocolate mousse is combined with local green peppercorn gel and Thai lemon basil gelato. Divine.

*Petits fours* and Vittoria Coffee round up the evening and we all burst into applause as Chef James descends the stairs to meet us.

I leave Trisara knowing that a little piece of paradise in Phuket is still possible if you put together the right ingredients.

For more information visit [mosaic-beachclub.com](http://mosaic-beachclub.com) and/or [trisara.com](http://trisara.com)



ISLAND HOPPING: James Ephraim, executive chef and co-owner of Mozaic Beach Club in Bali was in Phuket to share some of creations. Photo: Marc Mulloy



A MOSAIC OF DELIGHTS: (Clockwise from top left) Alaskan crab; lobster; lamb and foie gras.

## Second Wine List of the Year Awards start soon

THE Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards is a national competition, which recognizes the efforts and expertise among hotels, resorts, restaurants, cafes and wine bars in the development of wine lists and wine culture in Thailand. Now in its second year these awards promote and reward excellence in these venues both on a local and international level.

The competition is open to all food and beverage establishments with wine lists. The online registration for the Awards opens May 1 and ends July 31 culminating in the announcement of Thailand's best wine list at a gala dinner in October.

Phuket resident Jon Hyams, founder of

the Awards has almost 30 years of experience in wine production, importation, distribution and sales says: "It is important that the industry gets behind the awards as a vehicle to improve wine culture in Thailand. With a deeper understanding and more creative approach to wine and the way in which we communicate this through our wine lists, comes the obvious rewards."

Last year's winner, The Sarojin Khao scooped three awards: best resort list; best list in Phuket region and best national list.

This event is proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette. To register or sponsor these awards visit: [winelistoftheyearthailand.com](http://winelistoftheyearthailand.com).



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Photo: Gabriel Rodriguez



Photo: Nathan E Photography

# Measuring (actual) internet speed



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

OVER the years we've had a lot of ups and downs with the Phuket Internet Speed reporting site, [phuketinternetspeed.com](http://phuketinternetspeed.com). We've gathered 30,000 speed tests from around the island, from almost 900 computer users, covering nearly 100 different internet packages. That makes Phuket Internet Speed, by far, as best I know, the largest community-based independent speed reporting site on the internet.

Our emphasis has always been on single-threaded international download speeds. You may well argue that single-thread international download speeds aren't as important as they once were, and you'd be right.

Many people in Phuket now use torrents to download movies, music, and other files that they just can't get in Thailand. Torrents employ multiple streams, frequently to different countries – they pull pieces of a file from any available resource, then re-assemble the file once the pieces have been downloaded. If somebody

who's broadcasting a torrent is located in Thailand, chances are good you'll be pulling some parts of the file from inside Thailand.

Browsers are getting good enough to pull down some files in multiple threads. Single threading is still the most common way of getting files, at least to a first approximation, but multiple threading download managers are becoming much more common.

All of the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in Phuket now cache sites so, for example, if you think you're watching a direct feed of the Rugby World Cup, you aren't: the ISP brings one copy of the live feed of the Rugby World Cup to Bangkok, and the feed that goes out to subscribers in Thailand actually originates in Bangkok, delayed by just a fraction of a second. It's so fast that you wouldn't notice, but the caching approach saves the ISPs a huge amount of (expensive!) bandwidth outside the country. The caching is automatic, part of a software package the ISP buys, and generally works well.

Many of the major websites now have servers mirrored in Singapore, and the web site owners pay for dedicated fast lines from Bangkok

to Singapore. So if you check your Gmail (from Google) or play a YouTube video (also from Google), you aren't actually hopping to a server in the US or Europe. Your connection actually goes to Bangkok, then Singapore over a very fast (and usually reliable) dedicated line. Bottom line: if you're working on a Microsoft, Google, Amazon, or Akamai website, your domestic inside-Thailand speed is very close to the speed you'll see on-screen. The balancing on the back end – where your Gmail mail, say, gets synced with backup copies all over the world – happens internationally at the blink of an eye. Perhaps a leisurely blink, but it's so fast you'll never notice.

Over the years, international download speeds have become less significant. They're primarily a concern when you're going to websites that don't have many viewers inside Thailand, or when you're downloading files that aren't very popular in Thailand. At the same time, domestic download speeds have become more important, because they frequently reflect what you actually experience.

Unfortunately the speed tests offered by ISPs (primarily based on an engine built by a company named OOKLA, such as [speedtest.net](http://speedtest.net)) are hard-wired to give you the fastest possible result, with little compensation for reality.

The Phuket Internet Speed reporting site has drawn interest from many different organizations, most notably Google, which has an ongoing effort to improve internet access across the globe.

Some of the interest we've drawn, though, hasn't been good. Starting in October last year, two of Phuket's ISPs started cheating on the test regime we were using. All of Phuket's ISPs "throttle" international access – with very rare exceptions, they intentionally slow down any attempt by customers to go outside of Thailand. The cheating ISPs found a way to "poke a hole" through the speed throttling, when customers were going to the specific websites that we used for the speed test. As a result, speed tests that Phuket people have posted since October need to be examined with a grain of salt.

It took a couple of months, but we finally discovered that the ISPs were cheating on all of the test sites, except one – the one in Parsippany,

New Jersey. Heaven only knows why they missed Parsippany, but at least as of this writing, our old test regime still gives valid results when run to Parsippany.

That said, I've switched internet speed testing site to [testmy.net](http://testmy.net) for my own personal use, and I suggest you do the same. None of the ISPs are cheating on this site – in fact, it isn't clear if they 'can' cheat in the same way, because the location of the test seems to change. Which suits our needs perfectly.

The site has an additional advantage: it will run automatic, periodic speed tests, then gather and display the results. That helps me keep track of when my line is working well, and when it goes to the dogs.

Here's how to set up automatic testing on [testmy.net](http://testmy.net):

1) Go to [testmy.net](http://testmy.net). In the upper right corner, click Create Account. Follow the instructions to create a new account, either a completely new account (which I recommend), or by logging on with an existing Facebook, Twitter, or Google+ account.

2) When you've jumped through the hoops, click in the upper right corner to Sign In. On the top bar, click Auto Test.

3) Up at the top, click on the link that says Server Selection (it's in a nearly illegible blue). Choose one of the offered servers. I use the one in Dallas, but you may prefer one of the others. [Testmy.net](http://testmy.net) will remember your choice. Once again, click Auto Test.

4) Select the button marked 'Combined'. On the right, you can run the test as many times as you like – I typically run it every hour,

for 100 times (or four days). (Note: if you're running on a 3G line, you probably don't want to burn through your data allowance by running a lot of tests.) Click the button marked 'Min Download Size' and choose a good-sized test regimen – I usually run 3 MB. Similarly, click the Min Upload Size button and pick a significant test – I use 1 MB.

5) Click the button marked 'Start Automatic Test'. The test runs immediately, and you see the result.

6) Don't do anything. As long as your browser is running, and it has a tab open to the [testmy.net](http://testmy.net) site, the [testmy.net](http://testmy.net) program will run tests for as long as you've specified. If you click on Your Results in the upper right, then choose your login name, you'll see a graph like the one in the screen shot on this page.

7) From time to time, drop by [phuketinternetspeed.com](http://phuketinternetspeed.com) and post some of your results! That's the easiest way to see what other people are experiencing.

*Our regular weekly computer clinic roundtables continue every Sunday morning, 10am at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, or a question about internet service in Phuket, drop by and ask one of the assembled gurus. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.*

*Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Shoot him mail at [Woody@KhunWoody.com](mailto:Woody@KhunWoody.com), follow him on Twitter, @PhuketLiveWire, or "like" his page at [facebook.com/SandwichShoppe](https://www.facebook.com/SandwichShoppe).*

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# The lion sleeps tonight

By Marc Mulloy

THE cast and crew of British International School's (BIS) production of *The Lion King* which took place between April 1 and 3, are probably catching up on some sleep too. They've earned it.

For four months the whole school has been a hive of activity in anticipation of this, their largest production, and on the first night the full glory was revealed to a packed house.

From the stunning costumes and superb acting and singing by all the principles to the rousing choir and excellent musicians, this was a production that has set a bench-mark for future shows.

Word of mouth had already meant that tickets for the three nights had completely sold out well before opening night.

Kudos has to be given to Head of Arts at BIS, Neill Thacker, who together with director Moira Lowe, pulled off such an ambitious project. As producer, co-director and musical director, Mr Thacker

is another who will sleep well tonight. More plaudits must also be given to Khun Kanitsorn Ourairat who designed the incredible costumes for the huge cast.

On Thursday morning the lions, zebras, gazelles, birds, hyenas and all the other creatures returned to being BIS students and they can be justifiably proud of their theatrical achievements.

Such is the circle of life.

For those who missed the show, a double DVD of the production will be available at the school on April 22.



Photos: Marc Mulloy



## Photo of the week

This beautiful photo below was submitted by Mike Gillam. It was shot in Sri Phang Nga National Park (near Takua Pa) last week and is of a male Green Broadbill (*Calyptomena viridis*).





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A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER





YOUNG AT HEART: Pensioners enjoying a day out in Hangzhou, China. Photo: whitecat sg



The Beatles, whose song inspired the title of this article. Photo: Effie Yang

# When I'm 64

By Baz Daniel

EARLY in the New Year I woke up to the stunning realization that "When I'm 64" wasn't just the title of a Beatles hit, but in my case had become a statement of reality. In a lather of vitamin supplements and desperation I set out to discover whether there was in fact a Fountain of Youth in Phuket.

In 1967 Paul McCartney famously sang; "When I get older, losing my hair, many years from now," and we children of the '60s laughed our heads off. We thought he was being deeply ironic!

Being 64 was something one's parents and grandparents did. It was never going to happen to us and so we scoffed at such a ludicrously huge number being applied to the years someone had actually inhabited this mortal coil.

But the problem with not dying young and handsome, as Mick, Keith, Rod and Eric will tell you, is getting old and wrinkly. And so, here we/I am, no longer in the peace, love and drugs '60s but in the arthritis, incontinence and amnesia sixties and wondering where it all went so horribly wrong.

Now that I actually am 64 it no longer seems ironic or funny. Rather being . . . well . . . "old" is another one of those burdens that staying alive imposes upon us. It's just another new challenge that has to be met with courage, fortitude and a well-stocked wine cellar.

With this in view I decided I wasn't going to take this lying down. So, with much huffing and puffing I got up . . . and when I'd eventually found my spectacles . . . set off to have a chat with one of the world's top age gurus Doctor Michael Klentze, who just happens to spend a good deal of time at the Integrative Health Center at Thanyapura

Sports and Leisure complex, in the north-east of Phuket.

The good doctor is a walking advertisement for the successful management of aging; being a robust and handsome man of 65 who seems to radiate good health.

We sat down in DiVine – the restaurant at the heart of Thanyapura, which also seems to radiate good health. Fit young people bustled about looking energetic and muscular . . . this was getting embarrassing.

I asked Dr Klentze if this getting old business was inevitable. Sadly, he said it was. Nature designed us to reproduce and then die. BUT the good news is that we can manage aging, to live longer, with more vitality and indeed happiness, by making some relatively simple behavioral choices. It all starts with the brain.

He said that the very ideas we have about ourselves, the concepts we carry in our minds, dictate our behaviors. Think young, optimistically and positively and you will start to become exactly those things by behaving that way.

Every day we make choices (about how we age in particular) regarding activity, diet, social engagement, love and purpose. These things are not genetically pre-set, but are malleable and subject to our control. All we have to do is take charge of aging, don't just lie down.

I asked the good doctor what I had to do to stay as young and happy as possible despite the passing years. Could he give me a short list of simple rules to capture this Fountain of Youth? Obviously, the list had to be short as my memory is now largely a thing of the past, and also simple because I can't understand anything complex anymore.

Here's what he recommended:

## 1) Eliminate self-destructive behaviors

This is the first step to preventing disease and meeting your later years with vitality and good health. The health toll of destructive behaviors such as smoking and excessive eating and drinking do not necessarily manifest for many years, but you must stop all these immediately.

## 2) Eat well

Up to 70 per cent of health derives from what you put in your body, while exercise and stress comprise the rest of the equation. The food you select to fuel your body is the single most powerful choice you'll ever make for your health. As we age our cells become more vulnerable. The best thing you can do is fuel your body with whole, fresh, nutritionally-dense food. Eat the right fats, plenty of quality, clean protein, and copious organic vegetables. Avoid anything processed, fried, packaged, reconstituted, refined, or high in worthless carbohydrates. Cut down on calories overall, eat lots of small meals each day and drink plenty of water.

## 3) Exercise

Much of "aging" is essentially tissue wasting. The phrase "use it or lose it" is true. Your muscles weaken, your bones shed their valuable osseous material – which also compromises your immunity and mental capacity. Exercise isn't about being ripped or sexy it's simply a necessary component of functioning as a human being. Most of our health conditions are diseases of sloth. If you are tired or lacking in energy, barring a specific condition or hormonal imbalance, it's likely you aren't active enough.

## 4) Manage stress

The common "symptoms" of

aging – high blood pressure, heart disease, adrenal fatigue, wrinkles, loss of sex drive, loss of energy, poor memory – are not really symptoms of aging at all. They're symptoms of stress and poor lifestyle choices. Do everything you can to eliminate every type of stress in your life.

## 5) Think young – stay connected

Your life is a precious gift, but "thinking young" is more than staying positive and being interested in current trends and world events. As long as you are alive and taking every intelligent step to get the most from your body and your life, you are young. Living itself is the ultimate Fountain of Youth. Observe the play and curiosity of children and don't lose that spirit.

## 6) Get enough rest

Quality sleep is critical to cell repair and regeneration and can

drastically affect your lifespan and your well being and unfortunately many in Phuket get less than the necessary eight hours of quality sleep each night.

## 7) Take prudent supplements

Like it or not, our food supply is not always sufficient for providing all the available tools to fight oxidation and stress or reduce our risk of diseases.

Do your best to provide your body with the freshest, most nutritious food you can. But you can augment this with prudent supplementation. A powerful antioxidant multivitamin and a fish oil supplement are worthwhile.

Personally, I think that all Professor Klentze's advice makes very good sense and I intend to do my best to follow his suggestions. How this works out, only time will tell, but assuming I can still type a few years from now, I'll let you know how I get on.



Age guru Doctor Michael Klentze from the Integrative Health Center at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure complex. Photo: Thanyapura



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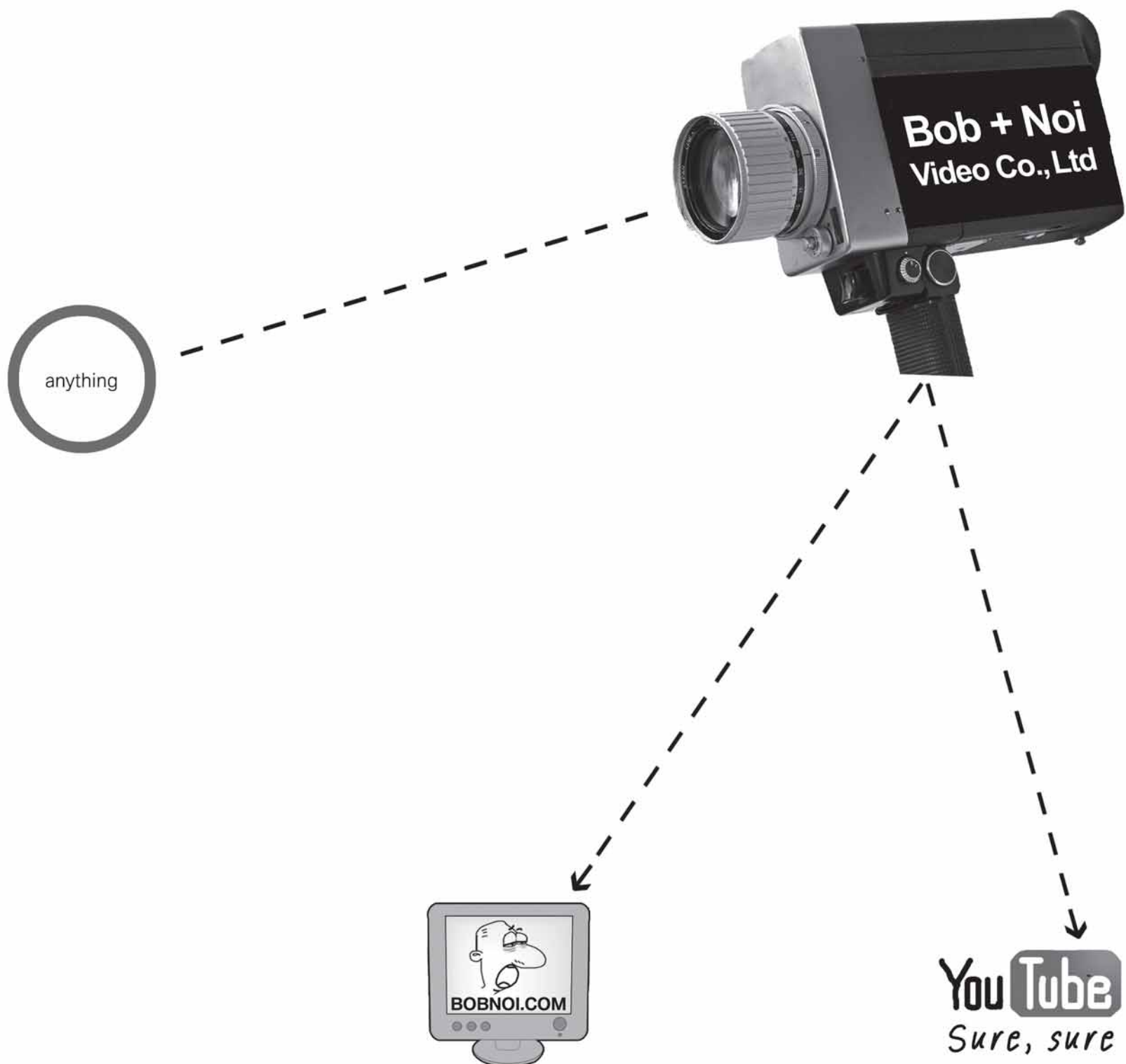


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**JUK'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE:** Find the 10 differences between these pictures.



Artist and brand consultant Miguel Kirjon lives in Phuket with his partner Lin Prachakrich and publishes a series of children's books "Juk's Adventures" in 9 languages. See [juksadventures.com](http://juksadventures.com) for more information.

	4		2		1		6	
7		2				1		5
	6						4	
4			7	6	5			9
			4		2			
2			9	1	3			4
	5						9	
6		4				7		1
	1		6		4		3	

**SUDOKU:** Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively. ©Kevin Stone

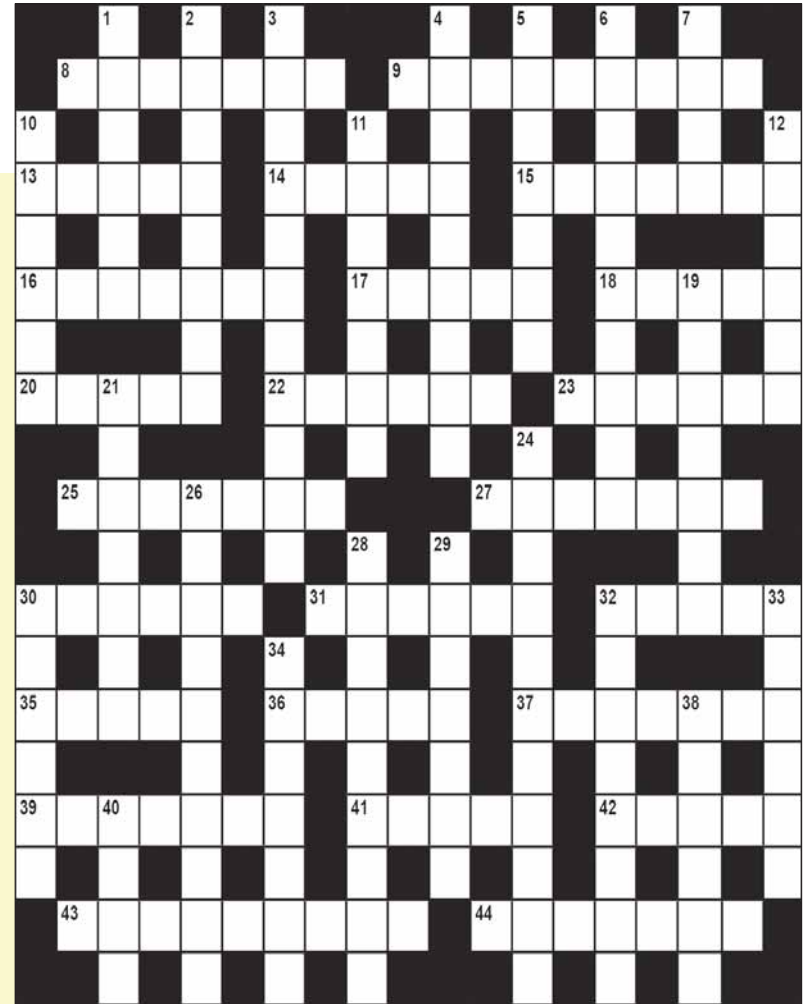
## COFFEE break

### Across:

8. Crookedly ran sale in weapons store (7)
9. Conjecture in re fence around (9)
13. Sun is making a cavity in the bone (5)
14. Tear around Eastern ridge of rock (5)
15. Look closely on lad coming back, a disgrace! (7)
16. Cable I'm maybe old still (7)
17. Shortly reference it for repair (5)
18. List of names, etc., and dine out times (5)
20. Bird in Easterly gale thrown around (5)
22. Canto I redraft as plot for a film (6)
23. German, yes, I long to take it easy in Thailand (3,3)
25. Go round, away, leave the main road (4,3)
27. Ice acts turn out austere (7)
30. Sophisticated, not rural note (6)
31. For gilt bronze room, move left round (6)
32. Fold the French pat out (5)
35. Art, e.g., can be magnificent (5)
36. Finalized new arranged deed outside (5)
37. Hobby from Father's era (7)
39. Figures those causing less feeling! (7)
41. Prickly things in almost the first part of the play (5)
42. Somehow got in to bar as cast (5)
43. Reprimand group of actors I entrance (9)
44. Continuing aim not so much (7)

### Down:

1. Ruler of Public Relations in Church of England (6)
2. Achievable to be blasé, if out East (8)



3. Chat of a lad about article for Phuket weekend market (5,4,2)
4. Found, tore around, always in the way (9)
5. Deny it's maybe stupidity (7)
6. Cited a tape twisted, take off the head! (10)
7. Strong drug in a British police department (4)
10. Out East, informally you French get landed property (6)
11. Discharge confidential note (7)
12. Flex an unusual color (6)
19. Tide may change when it is light (7)
21. Complain in a grand, low roar (7)
24. Adoptions of suppositions (11)
26. Maybe teen then I show last

- year before a score (10)
28. Assert as truth dart piece broken (9)
29. Guide doc turning up about new cut, possibly (7)
30. Compelling! e.g., turn round (6)
32. Pile boss makes is feasible (8)
33. Attempt to consume in agreement (6)
34. Sages could be after me for a communication (7)
38. Take in indefinite tinges (6)
40. Way of working a new complaint (4)

**Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 31.**

### ARIES (March 21-April 20):



Even is business isn't exactly booming, Arians are advised to be satisfied with steady progress. Where personal relationships are concerned, this is an auspicious week to solve mysteries. An air sign friend who has taken some distance lately is ready to reveal what is going on and your understanding will be appreciated. Those with a birthday in the coming days will see that life has more to offer in the year ahead.

### TAURUS (April 21-May 21):



Fresh starts are well-starred until the middle of April and Taureans who have resisted getting out of a rut in their working lives should have a change of heart. Another earth sign sows seeds of ideas and a fire sign is forecast to have worthwhile suggestions. In the realm of romance, it should be easier to express emotions this weekend. Fortunate days for finances are Wednesday and Thursday.

### GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



More possible paths to success are about to open up for those born under the sign of Gemini. A water sign's failure can be your opportunity to win, but this could

involve some damage to a friendship. The stars advise living in the moment as it appears that your determination to get ahead is making you forget to appreciate the simple pleasures right now. Your lucky color this week is lime green.

### CANCER (June 22-July 23):



The stars indicate that jealousy could cause others to rain on your parade this week. A fire sign's feelings are genuine and this friendship is forecast to strengthen as you appreciate the support. In the realm of romance, your suspicions that an earth sign is a gold-digger are likely to be confirmed. Love with an air sign settles down after a stormy period. Money matters are auspicious this weekend.

### LEO (July 24-Aug 22):



Your financial outlook is subject to unsettled cosmic conditions. The stars advise that an investment scheme proposed by another fire sign can prove to be a hot potato and a water sign friend is poised to request a loan that Leos may find hard to refuse. Where personal relationships are concerned, love with an earth sign is affected by that person's reluctance to share. Your lucky color this week is purple.

## YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

### VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):



Signals in the world of work become impossible to ignore this week and the stars recommend that Virgoans take action before the middle of the month. Your reluctance to instigate change should be overcome as likely benefits become more obvious. The remainder of April is an auspicious time to explore new directions, also where your personal life is concerned. Fortunate days for finances are Tuesday and Wednesday.

### LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



Your magnetism is strong during the second week of April and this should result in powerful new contacts being made. Where work is concerned, a fire sign's latest inefficiency makes it easy to finally take distance from this person. Librans can expect to encounter another air sign who is on the same wavelength. In the realm of romance, there are hints that you could forget an important occasion.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



Scorpios will be less obsessed with their own affairs as April progresses and your helpfulness is forecast to be appreciated by a stranger this week. A flash of inspiration helps to spark off a new creative project that can make more demands on your time than anticipated. Where finances are concerned, a minor setback can mean you need to tighten the purse strings. Wear the color sky blue to attract good luck.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Trying too hard to impress others is highlighted until the middle of the month – the stars indicate that the only person you need to prove anything to is yourself. A journey that you were not looking forward to brings pleasant surprises, including meeting people who give interesting food for thought. Travel is well-starred for the remainder of April. Romance is hot this weekend, particularly if other fire signs are involved.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



Give and take should be the focus for Capricorns this week. There are signs that sticking to your principles will cause more problems than it's worth. Disagreements in the zone

of personal relationships are in focus midweek. If this involves telling a friend that they need to pay their way more when out on the social scene, it would be wise to choose your words carefully. Money matters are well starred on Monday and Tuesday.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



The stars suggest that certain people in your social circle are getting tired of hearing about the same problem. This is an auspicious week to face this matter head on; friends will be relieved that you are finally taking action. Peace prevails on the home front when an understanding is reached with your partner. Flirtation with an earth sign can turn into more than single Aquarians had bargained for.

### PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):



There are hints that Pisceans can be the center of attention during the days ahead. If this is the result of a recent breakthrough in the world of work, a job with better opportunities could soon be yours for the asking. Your upbeat mood is catching this weekend and an earth sign's response to your approach means romance is on the cards. Finances are lucky on Tuesday and Wednesday.



# International Sport

# EPL teams looking to the future

By Martyn Herman

WHETHER by design, necessity, self-interest or because of all three, nurturing youngsters has become fashionable for England's elite with no expense spared in the hunt for the new Wayne Rooney or Steven Gerrard.

The length and breadth of the country, scouts from top clubs are hoovering up promising footballers barely old enough to tie their bootlaces in a bid to unearth the 30 million pounds treasures of the future.

Plucked from park pitches often as young as seven or eight and fed into the youth system, those who survive the annual culls are rewarded at 16 with two-year contracts in state-of-the-art academies where all their needs are met.

Manchester City, arguably the world's richest club, have the financial muscle to buy any player but, with UEFA's financial fair play rules now kicking in, are also ploughing 100 million pounds into training facilities for their fledgling kids.

The Premier League is pumping 350 million pounds into its Elite Player Performance Plan (EPPP) – a new blueprint for the academy system that has been around since 1998.

The mission statement is to create "more and better home-grown players", like Manchester United striker Rooney, a product of Everton's youth system, and Liverpool midfielder Gerrard, using a network of 120 leading coaches working with 4,500 more at 96 professional clubs.

Some top-flight teams, West Ham United and Aston Villa to name but two, argue they have been doing that for years already while Manchester United are still enjoying the last fruits of a golden youth team assembled before the Premier League changed the landscape forever.

For others, spiraling transfer fees and a fresh directive from European soccer's ruling body UEFA whereby clubs must reduce their spending on player wages and transfer fees, means the spotlight is now on the newly-revamped academy system.

"When you strip it down to its most fundamental, the EPPP is about creating an environment where a local boy, developed at his local club from eight or nine, can go on to pull on a first-team shirt of the club that he has grown up at," said the Premier League's director of youth Ged Roddy.

At any given time 9,000 boys are in the academy system although only a tiny fraction will make it as pros.

Academies are rated from one to four



**YOUNG STARS:** Aston Villa's young first-team squad is bulging with players who have come through the academy. Photo: Reuters

with those attaining Category One status receiving the most funding and, to the frustration of the clubs further down the pyramid, inevitably getting to cherry-pick the best players.

Villa's new Category One status means they are obliged to spend a minimum of 1.5 million pounds on developing players with 775,000 pounds coming from the Premier League.

A Category Four academy will only get 100,000 pounds.

West Ham's school of excellence, which has also attained the top status, is overseen by Tony Carr who in more than 30 years with the club has launched the careers of numerous Premier League title winners, Champions League winners and England internationals.

He said whatever the EPPP promises, the key to its success is home-grown players get a chance to play first-team football – something he fears could be undermined by scouting networks identifying players from France, Spain and beyond.

Arsenal's Under-18 and Under-21 squads contain players born in Argentina, Macedonia, Switzerland, Spain and Germany – and that is just among the defenders.

"The most important thing of all is when they are 18 or 19 they have an opportunity to play and I think coming to a club like West Ham there is that opportunity," Carr told Reuters.

"Maybe the bigger clubs are chasing bigger fish in terms of Champions League and Premier League titles so the younger boys coming through don't get an opportunity.

"I would like to see the percentage of British players increasing in the Premier League because the knock-on effect is a stronger national side."

Carr, whose success stories include Chelsea's Frank Lampard, Manchester United duo Rio Ferdinand and Michael Carrick and Tottenham Hotspur's Jermain Defoe, said clubs can even fulfil their UEFA-enforced 'home-grown' quota with players from abroad.

"You can bring in a Spaniard at 15 and if he stays in the youth system for three years he is classed as home-grown," Carr said.

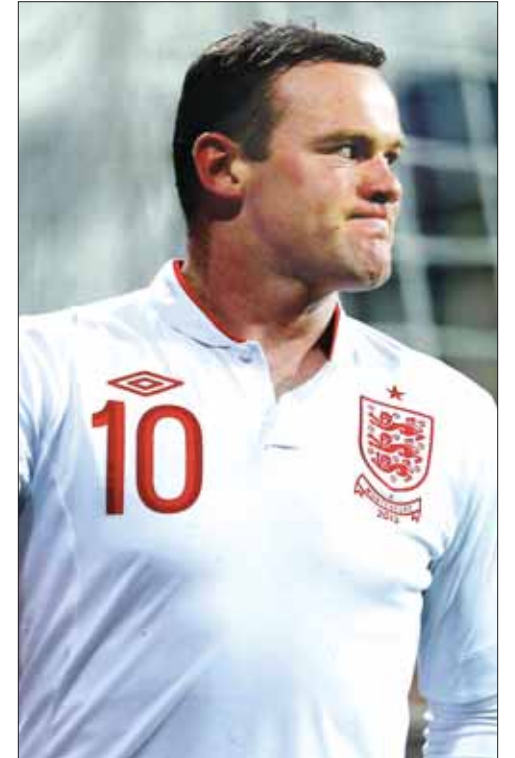
"It's a bit of a cheat in that respect but we are not in that market."

Critics say the system is too weighted in favor of the big clubs who can afford to set up Category One academies and therefore, under another rule change, can recruit nationally from the age of 12 compared to the '90-minute traveling time' regulation the rest are bound by.

A Category Four academy would still require 100,000 pounds of investment – a sum an increasing amount of lower division teams struggle to justify particularly in light of a change to the rules on compensation should a player get poached.

Whereas previously a tribunal would fix a fee, smaller clubs now receive a small initial payment and only enjoy a significant windfall should the player become a Premier League regular – 150,000 pounds for every 10 games.

"A brazen attempt by the Premier League's wealthy elite to cherry-pick the best youngsters from Football League



**Wayne Rooney was a product of Everton's youth system.** Photo: Reuters

clubs," was how Crystal Palace chairman Steve Parrish described the EPPP when it was launched.

While it may have its critics, the Premier League is determined the EPPP will gradually raise the percentage of British-born players and improve the overall quality in the top tiers of English football.

At the start of the season 62 percent of footballers listed in the Premier League squads were non-British whereas in Spain's La Liga the percentage of non-domestic players was less than 40.

Villa are bucking the trend and their young first-team squad is bulging with players who have come through the academy such as Ciaran Clark, Barry Bannan and Marc Albrighton.

The club's academy boss Bryan Jones believes the EPPP bodes well for the next generation.

"The new system will create greater access to players and we will remain fully committed to creating the right environment in which they can strive to excel," he said.

The process may be slow and City's football development executive Patrick Vieira offered words of caution.

"Barcelona have been doing it for the last 35 years and we have just been doing it for a few years. We are a long, long way behind," said the former France midfielder.

– Reuters

## FIFA approves GoalControl

FIFA has approved the appointment of GoalControl GmbH as the official provider of goal-line technology for the Confederations Cup in Brazil this year, world soccer's governing body said on Tuesday.

GoalControl will also be used for the World Cup in Brazil in 2014 "provided that the performance of the system during this year's Festival of Champions meets all necessary FIFA requirements".

FIFA approved the use of technology to see if a ball has crossed the goal-line last year following a number of controversial incidents.

"The Germany-based company, which uses 14 high-speed cameras around the pitch as part of its GoalControl-4D system, was selected ahead of the three other FIFA-

licensed GLT providers who participated in the tender," FIFA said in a statement.

"While all four companies had previously met the stringent technical requirements of the FIFA Quality Programme, the final decision was based on criteria relating more specifically to the tournaments in Brazil, including the company's ability to adapt to local conditions and the compatibility of each GLT system in relation to FIFA match operations."

FIFA said the use of GoalControl-4D in Brazil was subject to a final installation test at each stadium.

Goal-line technology was used at the Club World Cup in Japan at the end of last year.

– Reuters

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES			
SATURDAY, 6 APRIL 2013		18:45	
Reading vs Southampton			
SATURDAY, 6 APRIL 2013		21:00	
Norwich vs Swansea			
Stoke vs Aston Villa			
West Brom vs Arsenal			
SUNDAY, 7 APRIL 2013		19:30	
Liverpool vs West Ham			
SUNDAY, 7 APRIL 2013		21:00	
Tottenham vs Everton			
Chelsea vs Sunderland			
Newcastle vs Fulham			
QPR vs Wigan		22:10	
Man Utd vs Man City			
TUES, 9 APRIL 2013		02:00	

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE			
	TEAM	GD	PTs
1	Man Utd	39	77
2	Man City	29	62
3	Tottenham	15	57
4	Chelsea	27	55
5	Arsenal	26	53
6	Everton	12	51
7	Liverpool	19	48
8	WBA	0	44
9	Swansea	1	40
10	Fulham	-3	39
11	West Ham	-9	36
12	Southampton	-9	34
13	Stoke	-9	34
14	Norwich	-19	34
15	Newcastle	-15	33
16	Sunderland	-10	31
17	Wigan	-20	30
18	Aston Villa	-26	30
19	QPR	-23	23
20	Reading	-25	23



## International Sport

## Clarke has stomach for fight

By Nick Mulvenney

AUSTRALIAN cricketing prospects have rarely looked bleaker than when Michael Clarke took over the test captaincy after the last Ashes series but only an out-and-out optimist would declare the outlook that much brighter two years on.

While his personal stock has risen inexorably on the back of a torrent of runs, Clarke's Australia could hardly be said to be looking ready, willing and able to contest back-to-back test series against England this year.

At the weekend, Clarke celebrated the second anniversary of his appointment as Australia's 43rd test captain with a night in hospital suffering from gastroenteritis.

If the illness was a lingering reminder of the recent tour of India, it was not the only unpleasantness to accompany him back from the sub-continent.

The 4-0 test drubbing not only once again exposed the frailties of the Australian batting but also featured off-field problems, most notably when four players were dropped for not performing a post-match assignment.

Clarke pugnaciously defended the "homework-gate" exclusions as necessary to foster the team ethic required to fulfil the ambition he starkly laid out two years ago – to become number one ranked team

in all forms of the game.

The Australians flirted with taking the top test ranking off South Africa in their home series at the end of last year but ultimately went down 1-0 to the Proteas. They are currently ranked fourth.

Clarke will have plenty of time to reflect on how much progress has been made over the last two years in the next seven to 10 weeks as he recovers from hamstringing and lower back injuries that ruled him out of the final test in India.

What he probably did not anticipate when he succeeded Ricky Ponting was defending his team against the accusation that they were the worst Australian side to ever take the field.

"All of us understand our performances over the last four tests were not acceptable," he wrote in a column for an Australian website this week.

"But, that said, we are only a couple of months removed from advancing to within one test match of taking the number one ranking from South Africa.

"That suggests all is not lost and talk of us being the worst Australian team in history is a bit harsh. One bad tour doesn't define a squad and I'm confident we can take the fight to England."

Clarke singled out the performances of batsmen Phil Hughes, Ed Cowan and Steve Smith as positives to come out of the tour,

along with the work rate of seamers such as James Pattinson, Peter Siddle and Mitchell Starc.

Whereas Ponting during his reign as captain was not on the selection panel and therefore able to shrug off, or even share, media incredulity at mismanagement of players, Clarke has no such luxury.

Along with South African coach Mickey Arthur, Clarke is part of the four-man panel and must take his share of responsibility.

Leaving aside "homework-gate", the most baffling decision in India was to drop spinner Nathan Lyon from the Hyderabad test, which Australia lost by an innings and 135 runs.

Although Lyon is not, and would never claim to be, another Shane Warne, he has been a solid test bowler and returned to take nine wickets in the final match in Delhi – a "good reward for effort" according to Clarke.

Still, if the India tour was the nadir for the Clarke-led Australia team, there have been plenty of highlights too.

Clarke, who turned 32 on Tuesday, has led the team to 12 wins, six defeats and five draws in 23 tests.

There have been series sweeps of India (4-0) and Sri Lanka (3-0) at home, series wins in West Indies and Sri Lanka as well as a 1-1 draw in an extraordinary series in South Africa.



MARVEL: Michael Clarke celebrates reaching his century against Sri Lanka at the Melbourne Cricket Ground December 27, 2012. Photo: Reuters

There has also been his own remarkable form since he took the job, 2,533 test runs at an average of 68.45 with one triple century, three double centuries and five other hundreds.

Clarke repeatedly, and apparently genuinely, trots out the line that he would trade all his runs for victories for his team.

And, as Ponting discovered to his cost after three Ashes defeats, Australian captains will only ulti-

mately be defined by how they fare against England.

"Everyone in Australian cricket knows how much the Ashes means to the country and we will do everything within our power to turn the ship around after our disappointing tour of India," he wrote in his column.

"The players know how big the next 12 months are and it is still our aim to win back the urn and make Australia proud." – Reuters

## National must stay unique

SAFETY and welfare should always be a priority in jumps racing but the Grand National must remain a test of horse and jockey and not lose its unique character, according to Aintree racecourse chief John Baker.

The deaths of two horses during last year's race and two in 2011 brought equine safety into focus and prompted an official inquiry amid calls by animal welfare groups for the National, first run in 1839 and now with an estimated global television audience of 600 million, to be banned.

A number of modifications were subsequently recommended, with the organizers making alterations to iconic fences such as the notorious Becher's Brook.

"They (the National fences) still need jumping, they still need respect and it remains a challenge for horse and jockey which is what it should be," Baker, overseeing his first National on Saturday, told Reuters.

According to British Horse racing Authority figures, 10 horses have been fatally injured in the Grand National since 2000.

"We have made some hugely significant changes in terms of safety and welfare of the Grand National and we need to be saying: 'We are proud of what we



Horses at the Cheltenham Festival last month, where jockey JT McNamara suffered a serious neck injury in a fall. Photo: Reuters

have done'," Baker said.

"This is the greatest race in the world, those fences still need to be respected... we've maintained that, we're very strong in that the distance of the race is unique, the number of runners is unique and we need to retain the character of the Grand National.

We have to get the balance right from protecting that uniqueness and character and moving with the times and trying to make sure that safety and welfare is on top of our agenda."

Saturday's race is the 40th anniversary of Red Rum's first of three Aintree National triumphs. That day in 1973, the horse trained

by Ginger McCain, beat the luckless Crisp in a thrilling finish.

"It's been going since 1839 for a reason. People love it. It's a hugely exciting race with some fantastic stories. That's what we need to be promoting and talking about on Saturday," Baker said.

The risks jump jockeys take every day were brought into focus at the Cheltenham Festival last month when Irish amateur JT McNamara suffered a serious neck injury in a fall which has left him paralyzed.

Baker said it was "impossible" to completely eliminate risk from the sport.

"In a sport like this, any athlete is at risk of injury at any time. All

everybody wants at any race meeting, not just the Grand National, is for the horses and jockeys to come back safely.

"Racing needs to take responsibility on itself to promote that fact all year round and not just wait for the National to become defensive about it."

Baker hopes that the 40 jockeys who will saddle up for Saturday's National will heed advice from Aintree and the Professional Jockeys Association to curb their speed in what is usually a helter-skelter cavalry charge to the first fence.

"Racing as a whole and everybody involved in the National needs to realize how important this race is to jump racing so everyone involved needs to take some responsibility for it and, for the jockeys, speed is obviously an element to that," he said.

Horses will parade for a shorter time before the race while the start has been moved further away from the stands in a bid to create a calmer atmosphere.

"The run to the first fence is still a relatively long one. We just hope that when the tape goes up that those jockeys will be in a calmer frame of mind," Baker said.

– Reuters

## In brief...

## China's Sun set

CHINA'S double Olympic gold medalist Sun Yang has mended fences with his coach and laid down a marker ahead of this year's World Championships by winning the 400 meter freestyle at the National Swimming Championships, local media reported.

Sun finished nearly four seconds ahead of his nearest rival at the meet on Monday and will look to improve steadily ahead of the July 19 to August 4 World Championship in Barcelona.

## Powell hamstrung

FORMER 100 meters world record holder Asafa Powell has been forced to withdraw from his first meeting since last year's Olympic final because of a hamstring injury, Athletics Australia said on Tuesday.

The 30-year-old Jamaican, who has run the 100m in less than 10 seconds more times than any other sprinter, was scheduled to race at the IAAF World Challenge in Melbourne on Saturday.

Powell suffered a groin injury in the Olympic final in London last year and trailed home last as his compatriots Usain Bolt and Yohan Blake won gold and silver.



# AFF Suzuki Cup 2014 venue chosen



Singapore celebrate their victory over Thailand in the 2012 AFF Suzuki Cup final.

SINGAPORE and Vietnam will jointly host the 2014 AFF Suzuki Cup, the ASEAN Football Federation said on April 3.

Speaking at the press conference before the start of the 2013 AFF Awards in Pahang, Malaysia, Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Tengku Abdullah ibni Sultan Ahmad Shah, the deputy president of the Football Association of Malaysia and vice-president of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) executive committee, revealed that the competition will be jointly hosted again.

"The competition will be held in Vietnam and Singapore," announced Tengku Abdullah.

Singapore, who claimed a record fourth title when they beat Thailand over two legs in the final in December, will host group matches at their new Sports Hub stadium, which is expected to be completed in 12 months time.

Vietnam will host games at the MyDinh National Stadium, where they won their only title in 2008.

This will be Singapore's third time as hosts having last jointly hosted the competition in 2007 with Thailand, where they were crowned victors.

The inaugural competition was held in Singapore in 1996.

Vietnam have also hosted the competition twice before, in 1998 and jointly in 2004 with Malaysia.

Tengku Abdullah also revealed that the qualification process will be scrapped for the 2014 edition.

"We will revise the format of the competition whereby it will involve all countries without any qualifications," he added.

For previous editions, the lower-ranked Asean teams participated in a short qualifier to reach the final tournament of eight teams.

The biennial Suzuki Cup features eight Southeast Asia teams split into two groups, with the top two from each contesting home and away leg semi-finals and finals.

— *Phuket Gazette*

## Ariya claims maiden win

GOLFER Ariya Jutanugarn was haunted by the memory of her Honda LPGA meltdown on Sunday, before she banished the ghosts to capture her maiden professional title at the Lalla Meryem Cup in Agadir, Morocco.

The Thai teenager was cruising with a three-stroke lead over American Beth Allen after 14 holes, when she hit trouble with a double bogey on the fifth hole, where Allen birdied. All of a sudden Ariya was revisited by her nightmare at the Siam Country Club Pattaya Old Course, where she squandered a two-stroke lead and stumbled to a triple bogey on 18 to hand the victory to Park Inbee of South Korea.

"I had a flashback, because it [the Pattaya meltdown] also happened on a par-5 hole. But I tried not to be consumed by that because I was still leading and there were three more holes to go for birdies," said the 17-year-old rookie from Bangkok. Ariya duly bounced back to fire her final birdie on the 17<sup>th</sup> and finally vanquish the ghosts along with Allen, who lost her chance to catch the Thai after a bogey on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Ariya took the title by three strokes after carding a total 14-under-par 270 at the par-71 Golf de l'Ocean.

Ariya, who won the Ladies European Tour (LET) qualifying tournament in Marrakech in December, again displayed her remarkable talent in recovering from a stroke behind overnight leader Charley Hull to earn a three-shot victory, with rounds of 69, 67, 67 and 67.

This was only her fourth start on the



Ariya Jutanugarn

LET and adds to her growing reputation as one of the new generation of stars in women's golf. As well as her runners-up place in the Honda LPGA Thailand, she also finished fourth at the HSBC Champions in Singapore.

The win moves the Thai to the top of the LET's Order of Merit and up to 42<sup>nd</sup> in the world rankings.

When asked how she would spend her winner's cheque, she replied: "It's all for my dad! I'm going to keep playing on the European Tour and I hope to win some more."

However she said she would keep hold of the ornate diamond-encrusted purse which she was also given as a prize.

— *The Nation*



Indonesia's star player Tontowi Ahmed at the 2012 London Olympics. Photo: tompagenet

THAILAND trounced underdogs the Philippines 4-0 in their final encounter of the round-robin preliminaries on Sunday to cruise into the semifinals of the US\$1-million Axiata Cup, the world's richest mixed team badminton tournament.

The final day of the preliminaries saw defending champions Indonesia thrash Europe 3-1 and Malaysia outclass Asia 3-1. Singapore crushed Vietnam 4-0 but both sides failed to make the cut for the semifinals.

Against the inexperienced Philippines, the Thai squad was represented by Tanongsak Saensomboonsuk and Busana Ongbamrunpan in the men's and women's singles rubbers.

Busanan, current world No 18 and winner at last year's Malaysian Open Grand Prix Gold, got Thailand off to a great start with a win despite facing a stiff challenge from Filipina Malvinne Alcala, the world No 302. After winning the first game with ease 21-7, Busanan struggled to hit form to go down 17-21 in the second. The tie-breaker became a hard-fought thriller as both players mixed thundering smashes with dainty drop-shots. The Thai girls fared better to win the closely-contested decider 23-21. It

was a similar script in the men's singles with world No 24 Tanongsak given a hard time by Antonio Benjamin Gadi, currently ranked 459 in the world. However, the All-England semi-finalist covered the court well, went on the attack and beat the in-form Filipino 21-19 22-20 21-19.

In the mixed doubles, Thailand's Songphon Anugritayawon and Kunchala Voravichitchaikul outclassed Phillip J Escueta and Bianca Y Carlos 21-19 21-17 to stretch the lead to 3-0.

World No 12 and last year's Singapore Open winner Boonsak Ponsana partnered Sudket Prapakamol to trounce Paul J Vivas and Peter G Magnaye 21-18 21-15 in the men's doubles and complete a clean sweep for Thailand.

Indonesia stayed at the top of the overall standings with 22 points, followed by Malaysia and Thailand with 21 points. Due to their better points won/lost ratio, Malaysia finished second and Thailand third. Asia finished fourth with 16 points.

Fifth to eighth overall were Europe, Singapore, Vietnam and the Philippines with 14, 11, 5 and 2 points respectively.

— *The Nation*

## Liverpool coming to Bangkok

LIVERPOOL FC have announced the club will visit Thailand as part of their 2013 pre-season tour presented by Standard Chartered.

The Reds, who last visited Thailand in 2009, will play a match at Bangkok's Rajamangala National Stadium on Sunday, July 28.

Liverpool FC are estimated to have over 14 million followers in Thailand and this summer's visit will form just one element of a program of activity – on and off the pitch – that will bring the club closer to its Thai supporters.

The club will bring staff from

the Liverpool FC Foundation to carry out work in the community during the visit, while an official Liverpool Football Club website and Facebook page in Thai will be unveiled prior to the match to complement the official LFC Thailand Twitter account – @ThaiLFC – launched in November, 2012.

Ian Ayre, Liverpool FC managing director, said: "Our last visit to Thailand was during the pre-season tour in 2009, when we received such a warm welcome from our fans. We first went to Thailand in 2001 and this will be our fourth visit

to the country, which we feel demonstrates our commitment to our fans in Thailand. Since our last visit, we have created strategic partnerships to maintain the club's presence in the region."

Liverpool FC manager Brendan Rodgers added: "The players who went on the last tour to Thailand are really excited about going back. I've heard a lot about the passion and dedication of the fans in Thailand and we plan to bring them some great football."

Ticket details will be announced soon.

— *Phuket Gazette*

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# Season of action for Jackson

By Andrew Scott

PHUKET United's standout player, Brazilian Jackson Santos, finished last season as the league's second top scorer, and his goals helped the Andaman Pearl achieve their pre-season aim of a top five finish.

Now the season has come to a close and Jackson has headed back to Brazil to recuperate and take care of his pregnant wife.

Before he left for Brazil, Jackson answered questions about his first, and possibly, last season for Phuket United.

## Phuket Gazette: How was your first season for Phuket United?

Jackson Santos: I think it was a good season, because this is the first year the team has played in the national league.

To finish in the top five as a team and for me to finish as the league's second top goal scorer, I can say that it was a good season.

## Will you be coming back to Phuket next season?

I don't know yet, I need to talk with my manager and review a new contract if possible.

I have received proposals from Brazilian futsal teams and a European team but I would prefer to remain in Thailand.



**SAMBA STAR:** Jackson Santos (blue) strikes a volley against Nonthaburi.

## Did you like playing for Phuket United?

I liked playing for Phuket United last season.

The town is wonderful, the fans are excellent as is the team and several people within Phuket United have a good heart and that is very important to me.

## Why did you choose to come to Phuket to play futsal?

Because Phuket has a very good project. I spoke to many people before coming and they all said good things about the island and the people who work for Phuket United. This made my choice to come play here quite easy.

## Are you and the other Brazilian players [Jardel and Marcos] friends?

Yes, they will also be very

happy with the season.

## How is futsal in Thailand different to playing in Brazil?

Brazil is a power in the futsal world and they have the best team in the world with excellent players. [Brazil won last year's Futsal World Cup beating Spain 3-2 in the final]

Thailand has been improving each year, and I think that soon more teams will also have a great name in the world futsal scene.

## What was the highlight of your season?

The run we put together towards the end of the season [Phuket United finished the season winning seven straight games].

I was very determined to win fifth place and to be the top scorer.

## What was the low point of



**IDOL:** Jackson and a young fan after a Phuket United game. Photos: Eric Haeg

## your season?

I believe that when the team lost five games in a row we were not very good or motivated, but that changed.

## What has futsal taught you in your career?

A lot of things. I have been playing futsal for 16 years.

Futsal has taught me to know people, their wills, choices, feelings and many other things.

## What do you like to do when you are not playing futsal?

I listen to good music, go shopping and surf the internet.

The internet is very important to me as it helps me stay in touch with my family back in Brazil.

## Do you have a message for the Phuket United fans?

I want to thank all of the fans one by one and say thank you for the support throughout the season.



**Top and below:** Action from the recent JSSL Tournament at British International School.



## Phuket Soccer Schools Academy

PHUKET Soccer Schools (PSS) announced that it will be resuming its Academy Program for Spring 2013.

The Academy is open to players on an invite or trial basis only.

The program will be promoting four age groups, under-8, under-10, under-12 and under-14, where players will receive professional training from qualified coaches. Sessions will consist of individual skill and technique work as well as tactical and team training. Players will take part in high-tempo training matches against local teams to help continue their development and

participate in local tournaments if eligible.

The new Spring season will commence April 27 and will run each Saturday for nine weeks.

Sessions are 90 minutes. The venue for Academy training will be Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club in Thalang.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Any experienced players can contact Phuket Soccer Schools to arrange a trial or to find out more information on the Academy Program. Contact: [info@phuketsoccerschools.com](mailto:info@phuketsoccerschools.com)

## TSLC swimming success



**A young swimmer competing.**



**Khun Virat Patee (right), governor of SAT hands out a trophy. Photo: TSLC**

THANYAPURA Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) hosted some of Asia's most prolific rising sport stars from Malaysia, the Philippines, Hong Kong and mainland China to compete alongside local swimmers in the 2013 Thanyapura Long Course Swim Championships, held March 30-31.

With 17 teams and 215 competing athletes; this event, part of a Rocket Science Sports Swim Championship series of age group swim races around the globe, lived up to all expectations.

One of the biggest success stories of the meet was the inclusion of five boys from Thalang and Bangtao schools. These boys were selected from a larger group of school participants from last year's Iron Kids triathlon event held at TSLC.

Their participation at this year's event was an incredible story of how with just one month of training, these five boys went from never having undertaken formal swimming lessons, to competing in one of Asia's largest up and coming swim series – and performing incredibly well. So well in fact, that they finished as the 11<sup>th</sup> placed team.

Phuket-based Silverfinz, smashed team record after team record, and recorded one of their largest best time rates of the season, and were leading up until the final session of relay races.

It was here that the Ladies Recreation Club of Hong Kong provided strength in depth and British International School (BIS) fielded some strong final relays to snatch 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

After a full weekend of racing, the Top Team awards came down to a nail biting finish with the Ladies Recreation Club from Hong Kong taking the top honors, with BIS in second and Silverfinz in a close third.

Just 60 points separated the top four teams, and with the Top Male Award going to Gian Berino of Philippines (World Student Games representative), and Top Female Award going to Francesca Leung of Coast Aquatics, Hong Kong (Hong Kong National Team representative), the aim of this competition spanning a diverse range of abilities and demographics was exceeded beyond all initial expectations.

– *Phuket Gazette*



# Sea Warriors sail to 2<sup>nd</sup>

Phuket FC defeat TTM Lopburi FC in a tough away match last Sunday in Bangkok



NOT THIS TIME: TTM's keeper Shota Wada and midfielder Jacques Nguemaleu (in white) deny Geoffrey Doumeng. Photos: Steven Layne

By Steven Layne

PHUKET FC sit near the top of the Yamaha League One (YL1) table early in the 2013 season thanks to their latest victory, away to the Thai Tobacco Monopoly (TTM) football club.

Played on March 31, under a warm, late-afternoon sun at Thephasadin Stadium in downtown Bangkok, the match was both side's fourth of the 34-fixture season.

As the waning sun still illuminated much of the pitch at 4pm, the game kicked off to the delight of about 450 spectators, including at least 100 diehard Phuket fans, many of whom had endured 18 hours on two different buses to come to the match.

The Phuket FC Hulk's fan-club chartered bus broke down at 1am the previous night in Chaiya district in Surat Thani, about 300 kilometers outside of Phuket.

By 3am, a replacement bus finally arrived and the fans safely arrived at Bangkok by Sunday afternoon, with just enough time for lunch and a stroll round MBK before kickoff.

In order to stay on track for their goal of promotion to the Thai Premier League, Phuket fans and players expected a certain win, but TTM had different ideas.

Phuket's early attacking attempts, mostly through Luiz "Dudu" Purcino and Geoffrey Doumeng were no match for TTM's Cameroonian defensive midfielder, Jacques Nguemaleu, as well as their Japanese keeper, Shota Wada, who was always readily alert.

The late day Bangkok heat must have affected both sides attacking game as TTM's forward duo of Yugoslavian born Brit, Vigan Qehaja and Korean Hongyool Yoo were unable to find the back of the net either, despite many shots.

Both sides went into their locker rooms at half time scoreless.

The visitors came out for the second half looking the more determined of the two sides.

Phuket's travel weary fans had to wait until the 80<sup>th</sup> minute to be sated by a goal, with midfielder Kraitsada Sakaeo scoring from a free kick far out near the touchline on the right wing.

TTM Lopburi intensified the pressure late in the game, and despite several commendable attempts were unable to find the equalizer.

Phuket's defenders and goalie had a tough but clean game, particularly stalwart keeper Kampon, who is also a reserve keeper for the Thailand national Southeast Asian Games squad.

Key defenders, Nenebi Sylvester and Sato Yusuke also deserve credit for thwarting several TTM attacks.

With the win, Phuket moved into 2<sup>nd</sup> place of the 18-team league. The win was their first on the road and second overall after beating Si Racha 3-1 the week prior, following their initial two draws.

Meanwhile, TTM linger in last place having only secured one point in their first four matches.

Phuket return home for their next match, this Sunday, April 7, against Royal Navy. Kickoff at Surakul Stadium is 6:30pm. Adults 100 baht, kids and students, free.



A HARD-EARNED CLEAN SHEET: Phuket's Kampon Phatomakkakul saved many shots, like this one by TTM's Korean striker, Hongyool Yoo (in white).



	TEAM	P	GD	PTS
1	Port Lions	4	5	12
2	Phuket	4	3	8
3	BBCU	4	3	8
4	Krabi	4	4	7
5	Bangkok	4	2	7
6	Air Force Utd.	3	2	7
7	PTT Rayong	3	3	5
8	Saraburi	4	0	5
9	Korat FC	4	0	5
10	Nakhon Pathom	4	0	5
11	Rayong Utd.	4	0	4
12	Sriracha	4	-2	4
13	Trat	4	-2	4
14	Royal Navy	4	-2	4
15	Rayong	4	-2	2
16	Khonkaen	4	-3	2
17	Ayutthaya FC	4	-5	2
18	TTM Lopburi	4	-6	1

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