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# Phuket Gazette

## Navy ships take final plunge



**Three ships scuttled to boost diving tourism in Krabi**

INSIDE TODAY

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# Abandoned culture

## Special Report

### F1 race track debate feels island's heat

Phuket's Formula One guru, the Digby, takes an in-depth look at the cancellation of the proposed 2015 F1 Grand Prix in Bangkok's historic Rattanakosin district, which forced race organizers to look outside the capital, and put Phuket in pole position.

Full story on Page 47

### EU Ambassador leads delegation on tourist woes

EU AMBASSADOR to Thailand David Lipman led the discussion among 17 other EU Ambassadors and local government officials.

After the closed-door meeting, ambassadors highlighted four worrisome issues facing tourist in Phuket. High on the list was the island's marine safety measures.

Full story on Page 6

### Masked protests continue despite unruly weather

PROTESTERS hiding behind the iconic Guy Fawkes masks that have become synonymous with anti-Pheu Thai sentiment in Thailand stood unwavering in their dedication to the cause last weekend, despite the wild weather that lashed the island.

Full story on Page 4

## MULTI-MILLION BAHT SEA GYPSY CENTER DESERTED

By **Saran Mitratrat**

THE long-awaited Sea Gypsy Cultural Center, slated to open at the end of 2012 at a budget that ballooned from 2 million to 5.4 million baht, has deteriorated into a derelict shell of a building that has become a shelter for the homeless.

The promised library, exhibition spaces and native handiwork demonstrations highlight-

ing the millennia-old culture of the Urak Lawoi sea gypsies now living on Koh Sireh never arrived. Instead, there are mattresses for those still sleeping under the stars.

Located on a small nondescript soi at Laem Tukkae, out of sight from the beach where tourists board speedboats for day trips to the islands, the unoccupied multi-million baht center has fallen into disrepair: roof panels have fallen off, a mattress lies under a supporting structure and another floats in a pond.

A takraw court has been set up on the grass at the entrance.

The center never opened because it was not completed when it was transferred to the Rassada Municipality in May last year, said Dachakanee Leelanon, Rassada Municipality Chief Administrative Officer.

"It was transferred to us before it was finished and we don't have enough money..."

Continued on Page 2



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## This Week



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Town top roadside real  
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# Officials rush to plug notorious Patong hole

By Orawin Narabal

OFFICIALS rushed to barricade a giant hole in Phang Muang Sai Kor Road in Patong this week after two motorbike riders found themselves over their heads in water and their motorbikes submerged at the bottom of a pit about two meters deep.

Unknown to the unlucky motorists, the hole was part of the works in progress to install large storm drains under the road, the entire 2km length of which remains under construction.

The "pit" – marked with one Reduce Speed sign and one free-standing steel rail barrier – measured at least two meters deep, several meters across and about 10 meters long.

"After hearing what happened to the two motorcyclists on Sunday, I called in the relevant officers and the construction company [responsible for installing the drains and resurfacing the road].

"I reiterated the need to install more safety features, such as lights and signs. I apologize for this problem, which has caused physical and property damage," said Teeraporn Jirarattanakorn, Director of the Department of Rural Roads Phuket office.



**MAIN:** Officials raced to install more drains and barricade the hole. Photo: Saran Mitratat. **INSET:** A motorbike is recovered from the bottom of the water-filled crater. Image: Richard Brandes/YouTube

By Wednesday, more sections of the large storm drains had been lifted into the trench and the large gaps beside the drains had been filled in with earth.

The entire hazard was also blocked off by a battery of concrete barriers and safety signs to ensure no other unsuspecting motorists fell into the same problem.

Mr Teeraporn pointed out that the long-awaited improvements to

Phang Muang Sai Kor Road are far behind schedule.

"The road was scheduled to be paved by December 19 [last year], but the work is only 40 per cent complete. It should be 60 to 70 per cent complete by now," he said.

"On June 28, Kosin Pittayavestsoonthon, the Director of the Bureau of Road Construction, will come from Bangkok to inspect the progress made," he added.

## Sea gypsy cultural center cast adrift by development plans

From page 1

...to complete it," he said.

"It needs to be landscaped. That will cost two to three million baht, and we don't have the money.

"The Department of Public Works has agreed to finish the project. Right now, we are just looking after the structure. We have a security guard who keeps the place tidy," he said.

There is one other major obstacle to opening the cultural center: the rate of development in the area.

In May 2012, the center was described by Mr Dachakanee as one attraction among many that would contribute to the development of Koh Sireh.

"Koh Sireh has been neglected for so long, but Mayor Phudit Raksaraj has a plan to bring this part of town back to life. He

wants to develop Koh Sireh into an important tourist attraction," he said at the time.

Now, however, it appears that the cultural center will not be leading the way towards development but instead will need to wait for other development in the area to rise before it can open.

"We are waiting for the renovation of the Baan Laem Tukkae area and will officially open the whole area at the same time to promote Koh Sireh as an important Phuket attraction," Mr Dachakanee told the Gazette.

On the mayor's list of developments as stated last year were an artificial beach, a musical fountain in the sea and a viewpoint on the hill behind Koh Sireh temple.

The proposal for the center – said to be the first of its kind in Asia – was first announced in 2009 as part of a plan to preserve and exhibit the life and culture of Urak



**The incomplete cultural center has fallen into disrepair.** Photo: Saran Mitratat

Lawoi sea gypsies.

Two million baht was provided for the construction of the center by the Phuket Provincial Public Works Office, and the remaining 3.4 million baht came from a fi-

nancial stimulus package launched under the government of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva.

One local resident who declined to be named expressed her disappointment.

"It was supposed to open last year but it seems like it will never be finished, it just stays there without any further construction.

"The officers said that will be exhibitions and tourist attractions in Koh Sireh, but that seems like an imagination project," she said.

"You can see teenagers using the car park of the cultural center to play *takraw* in the evening.

"At the entrance of the building, you can see a mattress under the cover, it is turning into a shelter for the homeless already" she added.

"Is this how the Sea Gypsy Cultural Center should be?"



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# DJ Doris out of ICU after motorbike fall

PAUL Norris, Phuket's renowned "DJ Doris" on Phuket Island Radio 91.5FM, is out of intensive care after suffering a head injury in what is believed to have been a motorbike accident in Patong early last Saturday morning.

He was rushed to Patong Hospital by rescue workers. However, he remained unconscious and was transferred to the better equipped Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town, and then later moved to Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

"The great news is he is out of ICU and now is in his own room at Bangkok Hospi-

tal Phuket," Byron Jones of 91.5FM reported on Facebook on Tuesday.

"He looked so much better and was sitting up in bed. He is in a lot of pain with fractured ribs and a broken collar bone. The ear specialist is due to see him today," Mr Jones said.

"Thank you everyone for all your kind wishes, text messages, etc. We have been reading them out to him each day," he added.

Mr Norris was due to undergo a physical assessment on Wednesday.

"If all goes well, he could even be

released to continue his recovery at home by Thursday," Mr Jones told the *Gazette*.

When the rescue crew recovered Mr Norris from Phang Muang Sai Kor Road, he had no identification on him.

Capt Pathapee Srichai of the Patong Police told the *Gazette* that police were not treating the incident as suspicious.

"It seems no other vehicles were involved in the accident. We received a report that a man was injured after falling off his bike... and we called the Kusoldharm Foundation," Capt Pathapee said.

— *Chutharat Plerin*



Paul 'DJ Doris' Norris, sustained head injuries in what is believed to have been a motorbike accident in Patong. Photo: 91.5FM

# Raid halts hotel room abortion

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

POLICE raided a hotel in Krabi province last week and arrested a former nurse who was about to perform an abortion.

Officers apprehended Prapak Thiparat, 67. The woman had already been prepared by Mr Prapak to undergo the procedure. Her male companion was standing beside her.

"I have been performing illegal abortions for over two years," Mr Prapak told the press at Ao Luek Police Station. He admitted to performing more than 20 abortions in that time.

"When police entered the hotel room, they found Mr Prapak in possession of 26 syringes of varying sizes, three used syringes, a jar of Vaseline, 11 vials of liquid antibiotics, five bags of antibiotic tablets and other equipment used for performing abortions," said Ao Luek Police Deputy Superintendent Sukkasem Nakornwilai.



Prapak Thiparat, 67, confessed to performing more than 20 illegal abortions over the past two years.

Mr Prapak, 67, said he had worked as a male nurse at a hospital in Nakhon Sri Thammarat for many years.

"I have seen doctors perform curettage and sterilization as common practice. After I retired, I

came back to Krabi and I used the knowledge I had gained to perform abortions," he said.

Mr Prapak explained that he performed many of the abortions in hotel rooms or at guesthouses. "People learned about my ser-

vice through word of mouth. I do not have a clinic," he said.

"I charged 1,500 baht per month of the fetus's gestational age. In the abortion I was about to conduct before I was arrested, the fetus was four months old, so I charged them 6,000 baht," Mr Prapak said.

Mr Prapak was charged with illegally operating a medical center, dispensing medication without a license and attempting to perform an abortion.

"The suspect accepted all charges," Col Sukkasem said.

"At this stage, we can only charge him with attempting to perform an abortion. We are still investigating the other abortions he confessed to," he added.

Police questioned the couple. "They said they were not ready to have the baby, so they decided to have an abortion. However, they were both released as they have not broken any laws," Col Sukkasem said.

## Newborn dumped, found dead in trash

A NEWBORN boy with a rubber band twisted tightly around his neck was found dead in a pile of rubbish in Rawai on June 14.

The baby, estimated to have been dead for over 24 hours, was spotted by municipality trash truck driver Sutham Kansuwan on Soi Suksan 1.

"We noticed a black plastic bag covered by a red shirt that smelled foul... We opened the bag and were shocked to see the tiny hand of a dead newborn baby – we immediately called the police," he said.

"We believe the mother was not ready to raise the child, so she dumped it," said Pol Lt Col Jumroon Plaiduang.

"We are now searching for the mother," he added.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

## Police warn of attacks, violent teenage gang bike thieves

POLICE are urging motorists to exercise caution when travelling alone late at night in the Thalang area after a man was kicked off his motorbike while in motion by a gang of youths who then stole the bike late on June 14.

Chatmongkol Sukmak, 17, was riding home from Phuket Town at about 11pm when a gang of youths on three motorbikes rode up alongside, said Capt Patiwat Yodkwan of the Thalang Police.

"As he was passing Wat Tha Ruea, they surrounded him and blocked him in..."

"Two of them kicked Mr Chatmongkol's motorbike, knocking him to the ground. They grabbed his bag, which had his wallet and his phone inside, and took his bike," he said.

Mr Chatmongkol suffered only slight injuries in the fall.

"We are checking CCTV footage in the hope we can gain some clues in order to catch the perpetrators," he added.

— *Thawit Bilabdullar*

## Man crushed as storm topples stage marquee at Saphan Hin

PHUKET Town motorbike taxi driver Muhammad Poksakul, 62, died of head trauma after strong wind toppled a marquee covering the stage at Saphan Hin on Monday night.

"A strong gust of wind pulled down the awning covering the stage. As it collapsed, scaffolding knocked a large stack of speakers about 10 meters high onto Mr Muhammad, knocking him to the ground," said Capt Udom Petcharat of Phuket City Police.

"It seems he died instantly," he said.

Meanwhile, across town at a housing estate on Palien Road, strong wind brought a large tree down onto eight units of terraced houses.

No injuries were reported in the incident.

"Residents were evacuated to safe houses and we will send officers to inspect the damage and to estimate what repairs need to be made," explained Tawatchai Thongmung, the chief administrative officer at Phuket City Municipality.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

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# V-Phuket protesters brave stormy weekend weather

HUNDREDS of V-Phuket protesters, wearing their iconic Guy Fawkes masks, braved the strong wind and lashing rain in Phuket Town last Saturday to continue their protest against the Pheu Thai government under Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

The rally in Phuket was held in concert with other “V for Thailand” protests in at least 22 provinces, as well as in Bangkok.

While several hundred protesters found seats in the covered area provided, many others braved the elements outside.

The protest held at Saphan Hin followed protests the week before, sparked by Deputy Prime Minister Plodprasop Suraswadi's comments that Phuket would not receive an international convention and exhibition center (ICEC) unless islanders voted for Pheu Thai.

Keeping a close eye on the protest was Phuket City Police Superintendent Sermphan Sirikong and fellow officers.

Many popular figures were on stage to present their opinions.

“An ICEC is very important to



Though some protesters found seats in the covered area, others faced the wild monsoon weather to participate in the anti-government rally.

Phuket. The province earns a lot of money for Thailand and helps a lot of Thais make a living. Many people from across the country come to Phuket to work,” said well-known anti-Pheu Thai government and anti-Thaksin spokesperson Kaewsan Atipo.

“Deputy PM Plodprasop made a comment that ‘he was not in the mood’ to build an ICEC in Phuket.

I have no idea what he was thinking... Not building an ICEC in Phuket would cost Thailand a lot of revenue,” he said.

Jittakorn Bushaba, who joined a V-Phuket rally on June 9, urged Phuket people to maintain pressure on the government in order to have Deputy Prime Minister Plodprasop removed from office.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

# Scuttled

**THREE Royal Thai Navy vessels have been scuttled in Krabi Province to provide superstructures for artificial reefs as part of the province's bid to create underwater learning centers for divers and boost the Andaman province's tourism industry.**  
The Gazette's Irfan Jamdukor reports.

THE ships are designed to function as both artificial reefs – human-made underwater structures usually created to promote marine life – and marine learning centers.

“We expect to establish a museum about the wrecks and local marine environment onshore. However, there are no educational signs set up yet,” said Boonnam Chuyradom, an assistant chief of Hat Noppharat Thara – Mu Ko Phi National Park.

The promotion of marine diversity is expected to encourage people of all walks of life and all ages to have a greater awareness of marine resources and to pursue out-of-water learning opportunities about Thailand's marine systems, he said.

“We believe the project will increase our current visitor rate by 5,000 tourists per year and will bring in an additional revenue of 10 million baht per year,” he added.

## ARTIFICIAL REEFS

Artificial reefs tend to develop in relatively predictable stages.

First, where an ocean current encounters a vertical structure, it can create a plankton-rich upwelling that provides a reliable feeding spot for smaller fish, which draw in pelagic predators. Quickly following are other creatures seeking protection within the reef or wreck. Shortly thereafter, opportunistic predators such as barracuda appear. Over the years, coral frags begin to take hold and eventually the site will hit an equilibrium point with the environment.

## THE SHIPS

The three Navy transport ships *Talibong* HSZP 766; *Varee* HSZB 762; and *Kolam* HSZO 765 had been in service for more than 48 years before they were sunk on April 20, Kiratisak Phugaoluan

Mayor of Krabi Provincial Municipality explained.

The ships took part in many natural disaster rescue missions, as well as efforts to help the American Navy quell pirate activity off the Gulf of Aden in 2010 and 2011, Paitoon Panchaiyaphum, director of the Phuket-based southern regional office of the Marine and Coastal Resources Conservation Department, said.

The fleet the ships were part of most notably provided service during Typhoon Gay in the Philippines and also carried rice and basic necessities to the people in Somalia, as well as those facing flooding in Sri Lanka.

To reach their final resting place near Koh Yawasam in Krabi, the retired ships were stripped of their armaments and towed along the coast of Thailand from Ao Udom in Chonburi,

around Singapore and back up to Krabi, Mr Kiratisak explained.

A forth ship, the 382-ton *Luangkladkaew*, will also be sunk, near the famous day-trip diving destination of Koh Phi Phi.

## DIVE SITES

The ships' hulls, resting on the sandy sea floor at 20 to 25 meters, were aligned so as not to be broadsided by any currents, which could potentially topple or move the ships from their current locations, said Mr Boonnam.

“The current can flow naturally and will not affect the ships. Also the sheer weight of these ships will ensure they remain steady and don't cause any harm to marine resources already established in the bay,” Mr Boonnam said.

“The underwater learning center is special in that all the doors of the large ship have been left open to provide fish and other marine animals protection,” he explained.

Though there is currently no dive site map of the wrecks, Mr



The bridge will be a major attraction for tourists diving the site. Photo: Krabi Provincial Education Council

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# for fishy passengers

Boonnam assured the *Gazette* that there were plans to accurately map the ships, highlighting points of interest and providing necessary information to dive tourists.

## TOURISM IMPACT

A major selling point in the project has been the hope of increasing tourist numbers by about 5,000 people a year explained Mr Boonnam.

Malene Jensen, General-Manger of Kon Tiki Diving and Snorkeling Center in Ao Nang, believed Mr Boonnam was right – the wrecks will help put Krabi diving on the map.

“For sure, being here in Ao Nang most people know that we are not a diving destination just like Phuket, Khao Lak and Koh Lanta. I mean we are struggling to get ourselves on the map so having these decommissioned warships here is going to give us more attention.

Ms Jensen pointed out that the presence of wrecks at depths within recreational dive limits is a major draw to dive destinations around the world.

The additional sites will help reduce the pressure on the 15



After being gutted, one of the three decommissioned Navy vessels heads towards its final resting ground. Photo: Krabi Provincial Education Council

current sites, which are a short boat ride from shore. The relatively shallow existing sites near the mainland suffer from shrimp farming practices, which cause a fine layer of sediment to be deposited on the corals, explained Ms Jensen.

“By adding new dive sites there are other places for the corals to grow, so I definitely think it’s going to help,” she said.

## PROTECTION

The responsibilities of maintain-

ing and protecting the artificial reefs will fall onto the shoulders of the Marine and Coastal Resources Conservation Department; Hat Noppharat Thara – Mu Ko Phi Phi National Park; and Krabi Provincial Administrative Organization.

“We will frequently do biological diversity checkups at the site and ensure that the system is growing and thriving,” Mr Paitoon said.

*Additional reporting by Kritsada Mueanhawong*











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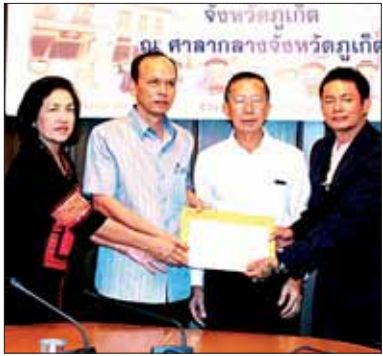
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A representative (right) from the Chinese tour company that Ms Yuan travelled with receives the cheque for one million baht.

## Compensation paid to family of a drowning victim in 2012

REPRESENTATIVES from Phuket's tourism industry stepped forward last week to provide one million baht in compensation to the family of a Chinese tourist who drowned while swimming off Racha Yai Island last year.

Yuan Dingrong, 56, drowned after getting into difficulties while snorkeling off La Bay at Racha Yai Island on November 20 last year.

Tan Chee Kiong, Vice President of the Thai Hotels Association – Southern Chapter, praised insurance provider AIG for making the compensation available.

"This is a good example for other insurance companies in that they are taking responsibility for their customers," Mr Tan said.

"This helps develop a good image for Phuket and for Thailand," he added.

Methasit Anansiriphan, manager of the AIG Insurance Phuket office, handed over the cheque to the victim's family.

Present for the handing over of the cheque at the Provincial Hall was Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

# European ambassadors focus on marine safety

By Orawin Narabal

AMBASSADORS from 17 European nations highlighted marine safety problems in addition to three other critical issues plaguing Phuket's tourism industry in their meeting with the governor of Phuket on June 14.

At a press conference after the closed-door meeting, Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut explained that an "incremental" approach was being taken to addressing the issues.

"The meeting today was held to identify several key issues affecting European tourists to Thailand and to come up with solutions to these problems," said European Union (EU) Ambassador to Thailand David Lipman, who led the 18-ambassador delegation.

A key factor in improving tourists' safety while in or on the water around Phuket is having tourists understand the warnings and safety information provided, Italian Ambassador Michelangelo Pipan pointed out.

"Having the same flag out all the time [indicating whether or not it is safe to swim] during the monsoon period, doesn't help. People disregard it," Amb Pipan said.

"Also, having beach guards issue inappropriate warnings causes problems of their own," he added.

However, Amb Pipan said the Governor has assured him that his office had called on local government agencies to boost maritime safety.

"The maritime authorities, including the Marine Police, have been alerted to this problem [boat safety] and are taking action to



EU Ambassador Lipman led the delegation of 17 European ambassadors in examining issues plaguing Phuket.

make it safer," the ambassador said.

"We are working with all the appropriate authorities in having the right agencies giving the right warnings to tourists, posting the right flags and making sure the right personnel are on the beaches," he said. "Hopefully, this will result in less deaths in the future."

Amb Pipan did recognize the Governor's comment that tourists are often determined to enjoy wa-

ter activities while on holiday, sometimes at their own jeopardy.

"Many tourists come to Phuket specifically to enjoy the beaches or to go out on a boat. This can be problematic," Amb Pipan said.

Asked what confirmed action will follow the meeting, EU Ambassador Lipman said the quarterly meetings between the honorary consuls on the island and Phuket's top officials will resume in the near future.

"Also, after this meeting today,

we will share these concerns with other ambassadors and government officials in Bangkok to work together to come up with solutions," Amb Lipman said.

"We will also be meeting the Tourism Minister [Somsak Pureesrisak] on about June 28," he added.

Governor Maitri urged any tourists who find themselves in need of urgent assistance to call the Governor's Office directly.

The Governor's Office can be contacted at 076-211001.

## Chinese tourist drowns on daytrip to Koh Racha Yai

A CHINESE tourist on holiday with friends in Phuket drowned on Tuesday while on a day trip to Koh Racha Yai, about 25 kilometers south of Phuket.

Capt Wuttiwat Liang-boonjinda of the Chalong Police named the victim as Li Ran, 28.

Ms Li was travelling with five friends who joined about 40 other tourists for the trip to Racha Yai Island, a popular tourist day-trip destination.

"The tour guide said he warned the tourists not to go swimming after eating lunch, but many of them went swimming anyway," he said.

Ms Li was soon experiencing difficulties due to the large waves and was dragged out into deeper water.

"When the tour guide saw her, she was already far from shore.



Li Ran, 28, died while swimming after having lunch on an island beach.

The guide grabbed a wave board and paddled out to get her, but it was too late," Capt Wuttiwat said.

Ms Li's body was brought

back to Phuket.

Her friends, in tears, accompanied her body during the journey.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

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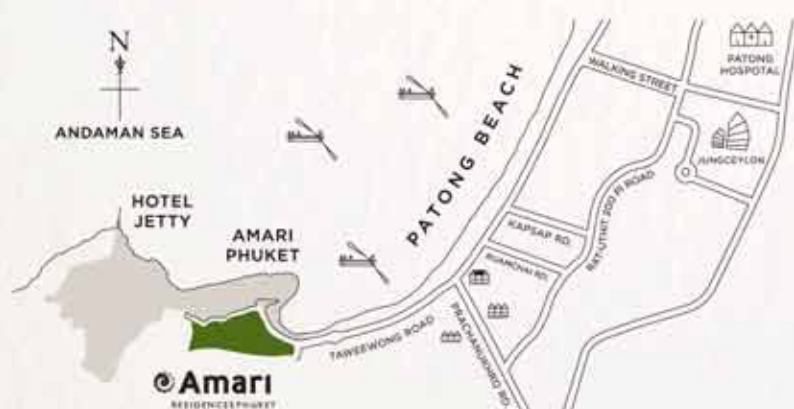


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## QUEER news



What's your weapon of choice?  
Photo: Sarah Cairncross

## Cops nab 'OJ' thief

WHILE guns may be the weapon of choice for most bank robbers, one resourceful criminal managed to steal more than 200,000 baht from a branch of Bangkok Bank using something a little more innocuous: a bottle of orange juice.

Cops announced the arrest of Kittisak Rueankon, 42, on June 16 after they found him hiding out in a house in Phitsanulok.

Mr Kittisak had carefully chosen his moment to rob the branch, located at a Tesco Lotus in Muang Phitsanulok, waiting until there were only two members of staff present before going in.

On entering the bank, he pretended to be an ordinary customer, taking out a withdrawal slip and writing on it.

With a bottle of orange juice in his hand, he then walked up to one of the cashiers and handed her the slip.

On the paper, he had written "Sorry. Give me money. I'll spray acid [on you]." Then he opened the bottle and splashed the contents all over the terrified employee.

In the confusion, Mr Kittisak leaned over and grabbed 210,000 baht in cash from the counter before running out of the bank.

A civilian and a Lotus security guard gave chase, but failed to catch him.

He was later found by police and arrested. He will be charged with armed robbery.

— **Kom Chad Luek**

## Bluebottles found washed ashore at Surin Beach

THE Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) has confirmed that the stingers found washed ashore at Surin Beach this week are bluebottles, also known as Portuguese man o' war.

The stingers found so far are juveniles, reported *Gazette* reader Daren Jenner.

"The presence of these bluebottles on the west coast started about five days ago with the onset of strong southwest monsoon winds blowing them in from the Indian Ocean," he said.

"Beachgoers should watch where they walk

in the sand. They are currently being deposited at the high tide line," he added.

PMBC marine biologist Charatsee Aungtonya said bluebottles are also often found at Kata, Karon, Nai Harn and Nai Thon beaches.

"Unlike with jellyfish stings, people stung by bluebottles should not pour vinegar on the wound. This can make it worse," she said.

"Instead, immediately wash the wound with lots of seawater followed by lots of very warm water. And seek medical assistance," she urged.

— **Auntika Sivasen**



Stingers at Surin Beach. Photo: Daren Jenner

# Illegal elephants snuck past Tah Chat Chai checkpoint

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THREE elephants were illegally smuggled into Phuket on June 17, making it across the Sarasin Bridge and through Tah Chat Chai checkpoint before finally being stopped in front of the Thalang Police Station.

All nine men accompanying the animals were arrested.

The two trucks transporting the elephants were stopped after police received a 4am tip-off, said Thalang police case investigator Chatree Chuwichian.

"After we received the report from our informant, we set up a checkpoint in front of the police station and got in touch with the Phuket Livestock Office," he said.

"Sure enough, two trucks carrying three elephants came by, so we stopped them and investigated," he said.

Thanaruk Wanpoo, one of the nine men subsequently arrested, lives in Phuket.

"I was hired by someone named Mr Kao [Police did not reveal Mr Kao's full name] who is the owner of an elephant camp near Phuket's Big Buddha Hill. He paid me to go get three elephants in Phang Nga and bring them to Phuket," Mr Thanaruk said.

"I asked my relatives to accompany me to Phang Nga and help me get the elephants. We were hired for 12,000 baht," he said.

"I don't know where the three elephants came from. I just went



The three elephants are currently being held at a camp near Big Buddha Hill in Chalong. Photo: Thalang Police

to the place Mr Kao told me to go to, put the elephants on the trucks with their three mahouts and drove to Phuket," Mr Thanaruk said.

Sa-ngad Khadphai, one of the mahouts, said that his father-in-law owned the elephants and that each elephant had a "legal ticket" (identification document).

"I don't understand why I was arrested. I informed the relevant officers that we would transfer the elephants from Surin to Phang Nga

and then Phuket," Mr Sa-ngad said.

"Me and my family live in Surin and work at an elephant show. We earn about 8,000 baht a month, which is not enough for our family. So when Mr Kao offered me 15,000 baht per month to bring our elephants down to Phuket, I agreed," he said.

The men have been charged with smuggling elephants into the province as they did not have the

correct permits needed to bring the animals into Phuket in accordance with the Animal Epidemic Act BE 2499.

They have also been charged with forging the 'Guarantor of Animal Habitat' document, which guarantees the animals have a place to stay at their destination, said Capt Chatree.

Additional reporting by Orawin Narabal

## Patong Police: New CCTV control rooms will boost tourist safety

THE push by Phuket authorities to increase tourist safety across the island has received a much welcome boost with Patong CCTV control rooms now up and running.

The new system, launched as part of the Patong Safety Zone initiative, displays footage from 32 high-quality police CCTV cameras and 300 private CCTV systems at three central locations, Patong Police Deputy Superintendent Akanit Danpitaksat confirmed.

"They are all connected to three control rooms in Patong: one at the Patong Police station, one at the Patong Municipality building and one at the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation at the Patong Mu-

nicipality office," Lt Col Akanit said.

The police CCTV cameras were installed in crowded areas and places considered to be crime-prone, such as Soi Bangla, Sainamyen Road, Nanai Road and Kalim Road.

"We are now asking private entities to provide us with access to any new CCTV cameras installed so we can all work together to ensure the safety of the public," Col Akanit said.

"If anyone is even considering committing a crime in Patong, know that you are being watched by us and our citizens – you cannot hide from us," he warned.

— **Chutharat Plerin**



BIG BROTHER: Patong CCTV control rooms are now fully operational, says Lt Col Akanit.



# Mass tourism takes bullet

## Senate Standing Committee blames island's rapid development for tourist woes

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE Senate Standing Committee on Tourism on June 13 highlighted a series of issues plaguing Phuket due to the rapid development of the province into a major center for mass tourism in Thailand.

"The growth of the tourism industry in Phuket is the source of many problems at its natural tourist attractions. Land and beach encroachment, as well as air and water pollution, are all serious concerns that affect the tourism image of the island," Senate Standing Committee on Tourism 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairman Pichit Kuandachakupt said.

Gen Pichit went on to point out that vendors harassing and taking advantage of tourists, as well as excessive numbers of beach chairs and umbrellas were also having a negative impact on tourists' experiences.

Nonetheless, Gen Pichit spoke highly of the province as a whole.

"Phuket has many beautiful natural tourist attractions. It is like a dream destination for both domestic and foreign tourists. Every year it generates a great deal of revenue for Thailand,"



Mr Somsak sees the Phuket's booming tourism industry as the source of many of its own problems.

said Gen Pichit.

The need to maintain and improve the experience offered to tourists in the province was why the Senate Standing Committee on Tourism dubbed their seminar

"Organize Phuket tourist attractions for a sustainable tourism industry".

The seminar was designed to gather invested parties, government agencies and members of the

private sector to brainstorm solutions to the plethora of issues highlighted by the committee, explained Phuket Senator Tunyaratt Achariyachai.

"We need to find a way to main-

tain a clean and beautiful marine environment to support the activities and main attractions for tourists visiting Phuket," Gen Pichit said.

In an effort to reduce pressure on the island, Tourism and Sports Minister Somsak Pureesrisak said that the government needed to shift its tourism goals.

"The current government policies have been focusing on enhancing tourism by making tourist attractions more popular. However, that needs to change. Thailand needs to promote some areas, such as Phuket, for high-end tourism instead," he said.

The Tourism Minister went on to point out that the dramatic increase in the number of tourists over the years, reaching nearly 10 million last year, was putting pressure on the island, which does not have adequate facilities and tourist services to provide for the rapidly growing number of visitors.

The Minister rattled off a list of issues caused by the increase in numbers.

Nonetheless, Mr Somsak was sure that solutions could be implemented to create a sustainable tourism industry on Phuket.

## Security guard steps away from ledge

A SECURITY guard sacked after two days on the job in Phuket was talked down from a four-storey building in Phuket Town on June 13 after he threatened to jump.

Police arrived at the Phoonphol Night Plaza just before 4pm.

Officers were dispatched to the rooftop to begin talks with the man, 50-year-old Singha Noratat, while an air mattress was quickly set up below.

After two hours of talks, Mr Singha agreed to safely come down from the rooftop.

"He had been in Phuket only four days," Pennapa Kansan, a relative of Mr Singha, said. "He

used to be in the monkhood in Kalasin province. He left the monkhood in April, so we suggested he come to Phuket to work as a security guard.

"He worked there for only two days. He called in sick, and was then fired," Ms Pennapa said.

"I got a call from the police at about 5pm telling me he was threatening to jump from the top of a building, so I rushed here," Ms Pennapa said.

Mr Singha was escorted to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where he was examined before being released into the care of Ms Pennapa.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong



Mr Singha was talked out of jumping

## Immigration service center opens doors to all in Patong

PHUKET Immigration's Tourist Service Point in Patong re-opened on June 12 to a flurry of activity, with about 20 expats and tourists taking advantage of the immigration services provided.

"Most of them came to do their 90-day resident reporting and for extensions to permits-to-stay," said Patong Immigration's Capt Angkarn Yasanop, who now heads the office with a staff of five.

The office is open 10am to 3pm, Monday to Friday.

"We provide 90-day resident



Phuket Immigration Superintendent Sunchai cuts the ribbons.

reporting and permit-to-stay extensions, and we receive notifications of foreigners committing offenses in the area," Capt Angkarn said.

— Auntika Sivasen

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# Insurgent names names of masterminds in Deep South conflict

A SUSPECTED insurgent has named some of the masterminds behind the bloody campaign of violence in the Deep South.

Sakariya Tohtayong, who was arrested this month, reportedly gave useful information about some of the most high-profile attacks in the troubled region in recent years.

They included the bombings at the CS Pattani Hotel and the Diana shopping com-

plex, the robbery of a security van carrying 5.8 baht million in cash for a bank, and an attack on a grocery store in which six people, including a baby, were killed.

"His answers during the interrogation have allowed us to know who are the masterminds and who are members of the movement," Colonel Komkrit Rattanachaya, head of the 47th Paramilitary Regimental Taskforce, said.

The breakthrough came as talks between the Thai government and the Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN), one of the groups engaged in the conflict, entered their third round in Kuala Lumpur.

The BRN agreed to suspend attacks during the holy month of Ramadan.

But despite the previous two rounds of dialogue, the unrest in the Deep South has continued.



Sakariya Tohtayong Photo: The Nation

## Foreign ministry forced to defend 'crazy' diplomat

THE FOREIGN Ministry has been forced to issue a statement defending the first secretary of the Thai Embassy in Egypt after the female diplomat was accused of ferociously attacking an Egyptian woman in a Cairo hotel.

Thai Foreign Ministry deputy spokesman Jakkrit Srivali said Kakanang Amaranand had acted in "self-defence".

The alleged victim, Rana Ashraf, has filed a police complaint against Mrs Kakanang, Daily News Egypt reported.

Introduced through an Embassy colleague to a party of Egyptians in the Kempinski Hotel, Mrs Kakanang was allegedly very drunk and rude to the group from the start.

Mrs Ashraf's husband claims the "drunken lunatic diplomat" said Egypt was a "horrible place with horrible people".

Mrs Kakanang allegedly kicked Mrs Ashraf, angering her husband, who knocked her phone out of her hand.

Mrs Kakanang then attacked Mrs Ashraf's husband before launching a brutal attack on the woman, the man claims.

"She pushed her on the couch, kicked her over 5 times in the face and head with her heels, pulled her hair out, bit her until she bled and through all of this, my wife had let go. Whenever we tried to pull her off, she would bite or pull harder," said the husband.

The embassy has said it will investigate the incident.

# Business tycoon murder investigation under fire

GOVERNMENT critics are questioning the police investigation into the murder of business tycoon Akeyuth Anchanbutr, whose body was found in Phatthalung earlier this month.

Mr Akeyuth was a prominent opponent of former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, leading some to suspect his murder was carried out for political reasons, not merely financial gain, as police claim.

The Senate panel on human rights has called on the Royal Thai Police to remove Metropolitan Police Commissioner Lt Gen Kamronwit Thupkrajang as chief investigator on the case, pointing out that the officer was known to have had conflicts with Mr Akeyuth in the past.

Gen Kamronwit is also known to have close ties to Mr Thaksin.

Mr Akeyuth was abducted from his Bangkok home on the night of June 6, after being seen alive for the last time at a restaurant in the Saphan Khwai neighborhood.

His naked body was found buried in an orchard in Phatthalung's Muang district on the afternoon of June 12.

His 25-year-old chauffeur Santiparb Pengduang and suspected accomplices Chavalit Wunchum, 23, and Thiwakorn



Santiparb Pengduang led police to where they dumped Mr Akeyuth's body. Photo: The Nation

## AROUND THE nation

Kuathong, 19, led police to the location where they had allegedly buried the body.

There were marks on the victim's neck showing he had been

strangled, according to police.

On June 14, a fourth suspect handed himself in. Suthipong "Berm" Pimpisai denied killing the businessman, claiming he was already dead when he entered the van in which he was being held.

Police insist Mr Akeyuth was killed for 5 million baht, which he was reportedly forced to withdraw from a bank in Bangkok, some of which was later found in Mr Santiparb's possession.

Mr Akeyuth's lawyer, Suwat Apaipak, has told ASTV that he and the late businessman's family were certain the motivation was not theft as it has been made out to be. They believe the murder involved professional killers and included a "high-ranking military man who plotted the assassination".

Mr Suwat said he did not believe that Mr Santiparb could have contrived or carried out the elaborate plan alone.

## Luxury car mastermind suspects told to come in

THE Department of Special Investigation (DSI) called for two businessmen allegedly involved in the transport of six luxury cars that caught fire and sparked a nationwide investigation into a tax avoidance scheme to turn themselves in.

Director-general Tarit Pengdith said the identity of the two men was known among law-enforcement officials and they still had time to surrender to the DSI.

The DSI claims to have proof verifying transactions overseas involving tens of millions of baht by the pair, and that the six vehicles with suspect registration – four of which were gutted by the



A burned luxury car. Photo: The Nation

blaze – may have been smuggled into Thailand from Malaysia.

The two men are known to be key figures in the importing of luxury cars, he said, adding that the DSI had obtained security camera footage showing links between the pair and a suspect called Nathee Rewthong, who is on the run.

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# Gas prices spark riots

By Kanupriya Kapoor  
and Adriana Nina Kusuma

INDONESIA's parliament paved the way on Monday for a jump in gasoline and diesel prices after months of delay that have undermined confidence in the government and the ability of Southeast Asia's biggest economy to continue growing rapidly.

The price rises – 44 per cent for ordinary gasoline and 22 per cent for diesel – will cut the government's costly fuel subsidies and could give support to the struggling rupiah after the central bank scrambled last week to prop up the currency as it was caught in an emerging market selloff.

After a 12-hour, often noisy session, parliament voted 65 per cent in favor of a revised budget for the year, which includes cash compensation for the poor to help them cope with the higher fuel costs. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono had demanded aid for the poor before he would sign off on higher prices.

The surge in fuel prices, which will boost inflation and in turn could spark labor union wage demands, is testing Yudhoyono's already uneasy ruling coalition of political parties, which are increasingly focused on next year's general and presidential elections.



Riot police detain a demonstrator during a protest against the plan to raise fuel prices. Photo: Reuters

## AROUND THE region

Outside parliament, police used water cannons to disperse demonstrators, among thousands holding protests in cities across the giant archipelago. There were scattered reports of violence.

"We reject the proposed cash handouts because it doesn't address the real issue of poverty," head of the largest labor union, Said Iqbal, told reporters.

National Police spokesperson Snr Cdr Agus Rianto said five protesters, six police and two journalists were injured in rallies in Ternate, North Maluku and Jambi. In Ternate, around 2,000 protesters clashed with local police as they tried to occupy the Baabuloh Airport.

The mob, armed with slingshots, attacked police officers who responded by shooting rubber bullets.

"Six police were injured. There were also six civilians who sustained injuries from rubber bullets, among them was a journalist from local daily Mata Publik," Agus said in a press conference on Monday in Jakarta.

– Reuters

Additional reporting by Jakarta Post

## In brief...

### Myanmar coalition with Suu Kyi likely after 2015 elections

THE leader of Myanmar's ruling party has said a coalition government with Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy is likely after the elections in 2015.

"The matter will be decided by the time. But the important thing is to have trust between Suu Kyi and us," Ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party chairman Thura Shwe Mann told AP during his visit to the US last week.

– Eleven Media Group

### Filipina free after 5 years on remand

THE Philippine Court of Appeals has directed Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to investigate the incarceration of a woman for five years without charges.

Joanne Urbina was arrested on drug charges in 2007, but, for reasons not clear to the court, prosecutors failed to bring charges against her until May 9 this year.

Associate Justice Noel Tijam called the incident "shockingly unimaginable".

– Philippine Daily Inquirer

### Singapore haze is worst in 16 years

THE haze that shrouded Singapore early this week was the worst in 16 years, with Environment and Water Resources Minister Vivian Balakrishnan "deeply concerned" that 113 hot spots detected over Sumatra had caused air quality to plummet.

"Commercial interests in Indonesia have been allowed to override environmental concerns" for too long, he posted on Facebook.

– The Straits Times

## Ancient Angkor Wat city 'known since 1900s': researcher

THE lead archaeologist in a project studying medieval ruins in Siem Reap has issued a statement to clarify media coverage proclaiming the "discovery" of a lost city in the area, as researchers have known about the existence of the centuries-old city for decades.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* ran a "World Exclusive" last Saturday claiming that archaeologists had, "in a stunning discovery," uncovered an ancient buried city known as

Mahendraparvata on Phnom Kulen plateau, near Angkor Wat.

However, Jean-Baptiste Chevance, director of the Archaeology and Development Foundation and the project's lead archaeologist, said, "The way they put it together can make it feel very, very sensational."

"To be honest, it's not totally new – the technology was new – but most of the monuments were well-known," he said.

"It is an exaggeration to say a lost city has been found because if you're working in Cambodia you know it's been there since the 1900s."

What was exciting about the project, Mr Chevance said, was that by using Lidar technology – an airborne laser technology used to map features that may be indistinguishable on the ground – his team could clearly see a whole urban network linking the temples.

– The Cambodia Daily

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## In brief...

## UN: Insecurity in Congo copper region concerning

SECURITY in Congo's copper-mining heartland of Katanga is a "very serious concern" that must be tackled politically and militarily, the outgoing head of the UN peace-keeping mission said on Monday.

The Katanga province sits on some of the world's largest copper reserves.

In March, hundreds of rebel fighters attacked the Katangan capital of Lubumbashi and then surrendered following bloody clashes with security forces.

## Obama sees Iran's recently elected as a hopeful sign

PRESIDENT Barack Obama said on Monday that Iran's election of a moderate as its next president is a sign that Iranians want to move in a different direction, but he was uncertain whether it would lead to a breakthrough over Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

Mr Obama has said the United States and its allies would be willing to hold talks with Iran over its nuclear program, as long as Tehran recognized that international sanctions would not be lifted unless Iran proved it is not building a nuclear weapon.

## Saudi prince eyes world's big cities for tallest tower

SAUDI billionaire Prince Alwaleed bin Talal says he is looking at the world's largest cities, including Shanghai, Moscow, London and New York, as possible locations to build a mile-high skyscraper that would be the world's tallest building by far.

## Opposition leader: Turkish protests expose hostilities

By Ayla Jean Yackley and Asli Kandemir

PRIME Minister Tayyip Erdogan's handling of Turkey's fiercest anti-government protests in more than 30 years has exposed the extent of his authoritarianism and only entrenched hostility to his rule, the head of the main opposition party said.

The protests mark a "turning point" for Turkey and show the ruling AK Party is out of touch with a new "democratic generation" that makes up the bulk of the activists, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, chairman of the Republican People's Party (CHP), said in an interview with Reuters at the weekend.

An effort to block government plans to develop Gezi Park, a small green space in central Istanbul, began peacefully three weeks ago, but flared into running street battles. Riot police at the weekend used water cannon and tear gas to clear the park, where thousands had camped out.

"The intervention is a reflection on the street of the authoritarian state structure created by the AKP," said Mr Kilicdaroglu, 64, a bespectacled former accountant whom the Turkish press once nicknamed Gandhi for his passing resemblance.

"The use of excessive force has created resentment in society... (and) shows the demands for democracy and freedom are legitimate. If Erdogan continues with this conduct, the call for greater freedoms will grow."

The evacuation of Gezi Park was followed by a ruling party rally attended by hundreds of thousands of PM Erdogan's supporters, a show of strength seen as a response to weeks of street protests by his opponents.

"The underlying reason for dis-



A riot policeman fires tear gas during an anti-government protest in Istanbul on June 15. Photo: Reuters

## AROUND THE world

proportionate force to disperse Gezi Park ahead of his meeting in Istanbul was to show power," Mr Kilicdaroglu said. "This is the mindset of a dictator."

PM Erdogan has rejected accusations of authoritarianism, saying he met protesters and offered to hold a referendum on the park's future as a compromise. He has said the environmental protest has been manipulated by "terrorists".

PM Erdogan also accused the

CHP of stoking the confrontation at Gezi to achieve what it has failed to do at the ballot box. The center-left CHP has been largely sidelined from government since the 1970s and now has just 134 seats in the 550-seat parliament.

Four people have died and more than 5,000 have been wounded, according to Turkey's Medical Association, in protests that have spread across the country and have rocked financial markets in this EU candidate nation.

PM Erdogan has made many democratic reforms, taming a military that toppled four governments in four decades, starting entry negotiations with the European Union, and forging peace talks with Kurdish rebels to end a three-decade war.

Per capita income has tripled in nominal terms and business boomed. But critics say his style, always forceful and emotional, has become authoritarian. He takes the current unrest as a personal affront.

Such large-scale protests in western Turkey have been rare since a brutal military coup in 1980 ended years of political strife that killed thousands.

Now protests threaten to pit secular, Western-oriented Turks against PM Erdogan's more religious, conservative supporters.

Only 15 per cent in a survey of 4,411 Gezi protesters by pollster Konda said they had joined the movement to protect the park's trees. Almost two-thirds of respondents said they were seeking greater protection of rights and freedoms.

## Brazilians question status quo

AS MANY as 200,000 demonstrators marched through the streets of Brazil's biggest cities on Monday in a swelling wave of protest tapping into widespread anger at poor public services, police violence and government corruption.

The marches, organized mostly through snowballing social media campaigns, blocked streets and halted traffic in more than a half-dozen cities, including Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte and Brasilia, where demonstrators climbed onto the roof of Brazil's Congress building and then stormed it.

Monday's demonstrations were the latest in a flurry of protests in the past two weeks that have added to growing unease over Brazil's sluggish economy, high inflation and a spurt in violent crime.

While most of the protests un-



Demonstrators shout anti-government slogans. Photo: Reuters

folded as a festive display of dissent, some demonstrators in Rio threw rocks at police, set fire to a parked car and vandalized the state assembly building. Vandals also destroyed property in the southern city of Porto Alegre.

Around the country, protesters

waved Brazilian flags and chanted slogans.

The demonstrations are the first time that Brazilians, since a recent decade of steady economic growth, are collectively questioning the status quo.

— Reuters

## Defense cuts 'hollowing out' European armies: US envoy

MOST European allies are "hollowing out" their armies as they slash defense spending, casting doubt on whether Europe can remain a viable military partner of the United States, the outgoing US ambassador to NATO said on Monday.

Many Western European countries have slashed defense spending in response to austerity induced by the 2008 financial crisis and the United States now accounts for nearly three-quarters of total NATO defense spending, Ivo Daalder said.

"Most European allies are hollowing out their militaries, jettisoning capabilities, and failing to spend their existing budgets wisely," he said in a farewell speech, hosted by the think-tank Carnegie Europe.

"As a result, the gap between



Ivo Daalder notes the lack of EU investment. Photo: Cherie Cullen

American and European contributions to the alliance is widening to an unsustainable level," he said. "The trends need to be reversed."

"Today, Europe's ability to serve as America's partner of first resort is diminishing," Mr Daalder said

— Reuters



# Organic living at Saiyuan Estates

THE Two Villas Group, who own Saiyuan Estate, are trying to reduce the environmental impact their developments have on Phuket.

Saiyuan Estate is a new luxury boutique pool villa development nestled among the hills in Saiyuan, one kilometer south of Chalong circle. The Oriental Essence and Onyx Essence villas have been built with an environmental awareness that gives its customers an organic lifestyle in a nature-friendly environment, without compromising style, comfort and convenience.

The Onyx Style villas are uniquely designed, compact, yet spacious single-storey two-bedroom private pool villas with a traditional tropical appeal, ranging in size from 154 to 183 square meters.

The villas have an open plan kitchen, dining, living room and a swimming pool off the master bedroom enclosed in a private garden.

The larger Oriental Style villas are also single storey two-bedroom private pool villas, with plot sizes from 255sqm to the largest at 393 sqm.

Each villa comes with an eight-meter long swimming pool and hardwood pool deck which is raised above the large garden.

This type of villa is perfect for customers looking for a main residence or second home, with the added value of the rental program.

## PROPERTY Gazette

Representing an investment of more than 400 million baht, Saiyuan Estate is built on just over 8.5 rai and 36 sq wah (13,852 sqm) plot of land in Saiyuan.

Each unit is fitted with a waste water treatment outlet and a separate waste outlet. The waste water from each villa is filtered until it is clean enough – no dangerous chemicals – to be drained in the public drain without harming the environment.

The landscape architecture reflects natural materials and reduces the destruction of resources by using wood from an industrial park.

The villas have also been designed to optimize the use of energy through natural light and ventilation from the sea breeze. To illustrate, the developer designed the villas with large windows to allow more sunlight, which helps reduce the use of electricity. With this wise design, when customers open the doors or windows, the ventilation from the sea breeze cools down the house without using an air conditioner.

"In the long term it [reduction of environmental impact] will be a great



**ORGANIC PASSION:** Each villa comes with an eight-meter long swimming pool that uses salt instead of chlorine.



**The Onyx villas are single-storey two-bedroom private pool villas with a traditional tropical appeal.**

benefit for the island, and Phuket will be a beautiful place to live forever!" Wirachai Pranveerapaiboon CEO of The Two Villas Group said.

Onyx Style Villas start from 8.4 million baht and there are only seven units available. Oriental Style Villas start at 10.2 million baht and

there are only nine units available.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information on the project, visit: [Saiyuanestate.com](http://Saiyuanestate.com)



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



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# Patong beachfront most expensive land



CHANGE: Phuket Town's skyline is in transformation. Photo: Steven Layne

By Kanyawarat Pramprasert and Steven Layne

THE beachfront in Patong Bay comprises Phuket's highest valued roadside real estate, while the most expensive land plots in Phuket Town are valued only 7% less.

According to Phuket's official road and street-access land value summary covering 2012-2016, plots along Taweewong Road in Patong (the beach road), had been valued from 70,500 to 150,000 baht per square wa (sqw), which equates to 17,625 and 37,500 baht per square meter (sqm), respectively.

An official at the Phuket Land Office told the *Gazette* that the listing is utilized by the Phuket

treasury department as well as the land registration office for "tax purposes".

The purpose of the list is to try and provide land title registration applicants with a consistent standard, the official said.

However, the official clarified that the prices do not necessarily reflect actual land market prices for any specific plots, and that the list only focused on public street side areas.

After Patong, the next four most highest valued roadside areas on the island are all in Phuket Town – off Rassada, Phang Nga, Yaowarat and Ranong roads, with plots along these roads valued between 60,000 to 140,000 baht per sqw, or a mere 15,000 to



Photo: Gazette file

Patong's beach road land is more expensive than other areas in Phuket.

35,000 baht per sqm.

The land official proposed that one primary reason Phuket Town land prices are relatively higher than other parts of the island, is because of its central location for business, history and culture.

To little surprise, Phuket's lowest valued public road access real estate is in Thalang district, covering most of Phuket's north, but not including Kamala, which is part of Kathu district.

Namely, all along the main drag of Thepkasattri Road (highway 402), plot values range from 8,000-25,000 baht per sqw – or just 2,000 to 6,250 baht per sqm.

Although these rates are only a small fraction (about 11-14%) of those assigned to beachside property in Patong, land prices in Thalang are expected to continue to rise rapidly as main roads in the district become increasingly attractive to hotel and condo developers.

As for actual market prices, particularly in the island's rapidly expanding condominium market, the *Gazette's* property desk notes

that anything priced below 50,000 baht/ sqm for a 1.5mn baht 30 square-meter condo, for example, would generally be classified as a "low to lower-middle income" segment property.

And despite the higher price/sqm for "shoe-box" units, it is not to say that buyers cannot find larger plots of one rai and up (1,600 sqm+) that actually do fall within the Land Department and Treasury valuation ranges – namely, 3.4 to 10mn baht per rai in Thalang, or up to 56-60mn baht per rai in Phuket Town and Patong, respectively.

A quick search on the internet revealed that a plot of land with access to Jungceylon shopping complex and Soi Bangla, sized just over 1 rai, is on the market for 25mn baht (15,600 baht/ sqm)

Meanwhile, on the hill-top overlooking Kalim beach, a slightly-larger-than-one-rai plot with a sea view is going for about 28mn baht (17,000 baht/ sqm)

Another search found that there is a 36-rai plot of land along the bypass road hill for sale for 250mn

Muang District, Phuket City Municipality		
List	Area	Land Value (Baht/sqm)
1	Rassada Road	35,000
2	Phang Nga Road	21,875-35,000
3	Yaowarat Road	15,125-35,000
4	Ranong Road	17,875-35,000
5	Montri Road	15,000-25,000
6	Bangkok Road	16,000-21,250
7	Takuapa Road	20,375
8	Krabi Road	13,375-20,250

Muang District (Outside Municipality)		
List	Area	Land Value (Baht/sqm)
1	Route 4023 (Sakdidee Road en route to Cape Panwa)	17,250
2	Route 4028 (PaTak Road)	6,500-17,250
3	The Beach Center Project subdivision	3,625-12,500
4	Sook San Place Village subdivision	21,250
5	Kasaem Sub 4 subdivision	22,650
6	Thep Thanee Village subdivision	22,625

Kathu District		
List	Area	Land Value (Baht/sqm)
1	Thaweewong Road Route 4028	20,215-37,500
2	Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road	20,215-32,500
3	Route 4233 (Kamala-Patong)	3,750-15,500
4	Route 4029 (Pra Bharamee)	5,375-15,500
5	VS commercial building (Royal Place)	19,250
6	Billion Plaza	19,250
7	Bypass Square 192508 (Phuket Country Club)	12,375

Thalang District		
List	Area	Land Value (Baht/sqm)
1	Route 402 (Thepkasattri)	2,000-6,250
2	Route 4030 (Ban Don- Chong Talay)	3,375-4,125
3	Route 4026 (Sri Sunthorn road)	2,500-3,750



IDENTITY: Property values in the historical district of Phuket Town are higher than those along most beachfronts on the island. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

## Siam Square most expensive for 8<sup>th</sup> straight year: AREA

THE Thailand Real Estate Information Center recently published a report about Thailand's most expensively valued urban, commercial zones, which as usual, were all in the central part of Thailand's capital, Bangkok.

Published by the Agency for Real Estate Affairs (AREA), topping the list were plots in the shopping district that is centered around Siam Square.

The report notes that the survey zone for Siam Square also covers adjacent areas, including Mahboonkrong or MBK, Siam Discovery and Siam Paragon shopping malls, as well as the nearby zones next to the Chit Lom and Ploen Chit

BTS skytrain stations.

The second most expensive area in Thailand is the central business district around Silom Road, which is followed by the bustling Bangkok China Town's Yaowarat Road in third.

With land values of Siam Square (and vicinity) plots this year expected to rise as high as 1.7mn baht per sq wa (425,000bt / sqm) by the year's end, the famous shopping district will be Thailand's most expensive area for the 8<sup>th</sup> straight year since surpassing China Town's Yaowarat Road in 2006.

With plots expected to be valued as high as 1.35mn baht

per sq wa (337,500bt / sqm) by the end of the year, Silom will be Thailand's second most expensive area for the 6<sup>th</sup> straight year since it matched Yaowarat in 2008, and then surpassed it the following year.

The decades-old cultural and traditional hotspot of Yaowarat road, is steadily in third with plots expected to be worth as much as 1,050,000 baht per sq wa, or 262,500 baht / sqm.

The AREA report anticipates land values around the central shopping district with access to the Siam, Chit Lom and Ploen Chit BTS stations, to rise up to 2 million baht per sqm by the end of 2015.



BUSTLING: A view of the congested Phaya Thai, Pratunam and Ratchathewee neighborhoods, near Bangkok's central shopping district.

Improved mass transit is cited as the main reason for the appreciation, sky-train access plots appreciating on average of 10%

per year. This is compared to other areas that are appreciating at only 3-5% per year.

– *Phuket Gazette*



# Connect to work, life, play downtown

LOCAL developer Phuket Thane Co Ltd, launched Connex Condo this week in its latest drive to transform “downtown” Phuket into a thriving residential community.

When finished in December 2015, Connex Condo and Fit Sports Club will be part of the skyline on Sakdidee Road, near Sapan Hin and Suan Luang Park, giving the area a community feel. The development will be right next to a residential housing estate also under construction by the same developer, Phuket Thane Sakdidee Muang Phuket.

Covering a total land area of 4.10 rai (1.6 acres), Connex Condo is aimed at offering affordable “downtown” accommodation for young, first-time home buyers with very stylish one and two-bedroom condo units in two eight-storey blocks connected to the separately operated Fit Sports Club and swimming pool, which is scheduled for completion by December 2015.

The pre sales event of the well-appointed units officially launches this weekend (June 22-23) with starter prices on offer at Central Festival Phuket and at the Connex Condo showroom and sales office inside the Phuket Thane Sakdidee Muang Phuket estate on Sakdidee Road.

Priced for first-time buyers, with standard units from 1.43 million baht, Connex Condo one and two-bedroom units will come fully furnished with ModernForm and Ikea furniture designed for multi-purpose living.

Touted as the “most practical downtown living space yet”, the sensible room arrangement puts the kitchen and bathroom on the outer edge with a balcony for ventilation, while the living room and bedrooms can be transformed into an open-plan arrangement with sliding glass partition that concertinas all the way into the wall.

“Connex condo will be at the heart of a fun, upbeat community with excellent facilities nearby,” said Managing Director Ms Lakkana Teowattankul, who is part of the second-generation team of the family-run Phuket Thane company, which has a strong track record of three large mixed-use Phuket Thane residential estates in the past decade under the presidency of Mr Tawat Teowattanakul – a well-known Lions Club member.

“Everything is nearby. Surrounding the Olympic-length 50-meter swimming pool and children’s play pool is extensive landscaped green space, as well as the Fit Sports Club, a coffee shop, restaurants and meeting places.

“Operated separately as a leisure and business oriented complex, Fit Sports Club is equipped with professional exercise equipment and classrooms for yoga and other group activities,” said Ms Lakkana.

Construction of the two eight-storey blocks of single-bedroom and two-bedroom condos, 361 in total, is scheduled to begin in January 2014 and expected to be completed by December 2015.



Construction of the 361 units is scheduled to begin in January 2014. Photos: Phuket Thane Co



A computer generated image of how one of the bedrooms will look once completed.

– Phuket Gazette

“Connex Condo and the surrounding green space is planned as a self-sustaining hang-out and meeting place that offers something for every taste, mixing convenience, function and style for work and play,” said Ms Lakkana.

For more information about Phuket Thane’s latest projects visit [connexcondo.com](http://connexcondo.com). Tel: 076-219912, 082 222 6803-4. [facebook.com/connexcondo](https://www.facebook.com/connexcondo).



Connex Condo will be on Sakdidee Road.



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# Big bang of luxury

WELCOME to rainy season in Phuket. It's Friday morning as I ponder the sound of rain pelting down on the roof and it feels almost as if I'm in Syria taking incoming fire. My life is that of a minimalist. Give me a black t-shirt, shorts and a well worn pair of Sanuks. No watch, no jewelry, just an outdated Blackberry, which I make no apologies for.

At times though, I long for more. My wife always berates me for not bringing an umbrella outside on rainy days. Like today, as I sit here in my office after the heavens opened up and doused me like a water cannon on the mean streets of Istanbul. I've changed my status on Facebook to "Soggy". Is more better? Or is more just more?

Asia remains out of step with the larger world. It always has, and probably always will. Maybe the date line has something to do with it, pulling an all-nighter is never a bad thing. Keeps you edgy, like playing with broken glass. Over in Hong Kong, Edward Snowden is doing long stretches without sleep, though, sadly, Gitmo looks to be on his horizon. Silence the lambs in a nutshell.

But dammit, I'm here to talk about Asia's big bang of luxury and the tidal wave of "conspicuous consumption". A long time ago in the 19th century, economist Thorstein Veblen coined the term in his tome *The Theory of the Leisure Class*. He somehow peaked behind the curtain of time to see what would evolve later in the

20th century and beyond into the burgeoning middle class, or as those more cynically inclined would call it; the consumer class.

Though when Veblen coined the term conspicuous consumption his critique was aimed more directly at the upper crust world of the "haves". For those with money, suddenly objects of desire become cars, houses, second houses, travel and the finer things in life. Sure there was a blip in the 1960s and certainly Mao, Lenin, Castro and Uncle Ho tried to derail the gravy train, but the wall of consumerism was built on solid foundations well before the new millennium and there has been no looking back.

Here in Thailand, the surge of the upper class and a groundswell in the middle class has changed the world we live in forever.

Without doubt the poster boy for this



**DRIVEN TO EXCLUSIVITY:** The Lexus-LFA costs about 43 million baht. Thailand has two quotas out of 500 in the whole world to import it. Photo: James Stegbauer

episode is Steve Jobs, buy at higher prices, buy more and buy often.

Create the perception and feed the beast of consumerism. It's abjectly brilliant and I have to admit to owning an Apple MacBook Air, and yes my iTunes account is very active.

Phuket has its own class warfare, the ultra wealthy with their villas, mega yachts and private jets, and the aspirational emerging consumer class who love those Cs – cars, condos, country clubs, credit cards and smart cellphones.

Yet luxury remains a fickle giant, and though the island has garnered a massive inventory of high net worth individuals, the battle to stay on top is never an easy one. So much is being written about sagging infrastructure, mass tourism and chaos at the beaches. While the government and tourism leaders talk the talk of wanting high-end travelers; the changing world is seeing more a shift to smaller and less pricy.

To say Phuket has a split personality or is conflicted is a given. Cheap shoebox

condo hotels gather steam, alongside luxurious multi-million dollar ultra-villas – can we see a merge of the tribes here and cater to the rich, the want to be rich and those on a budget? Tricky business. I spoke to someone who attended the trendy global chic travel show LE Miami and the feedback from the jet set is: that despite our Aman/Trisara/Andara/Sri Panwa foursome, the aisles were buzzing about Samui. Smaller, more exclusive, less crowded. Will the rich and famous leave us in our hour of need?

Probably not, as we have a mighty wind of new luxury brands opening hotels on the island over the next few years and Phuket is just such a strategic location. Yet on a broader canvas, conspicuous consumption now represents so much more than just real estate and travel – it's an insatiable appetite for more, faster, newer and glossier.

It's a different world we live in and I'm not entirely sure it's a better place. Except for iTunes of course; and MacBooks.

## One rotten apple can spoil the whole barrel



Finance

By Don Freeman

AS OF the middle of June, the portfolios of many active managers of both mutual funds and hedge funds alike were badly under-performing the benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index. In fact and despite a bull market that had seen the S&P index climb about 16% since the start of the year, over two-thirds of active managers were missing their benchmarks while active managers in general have had their worst performance since 1998. The major culprit? Apple.

Apple hit the US\$700 level around the middle of September 2012 amid talk that shares would reach \$1,000 by the end of the year or sooner. By the middle of June 2013, Apple had sunk to the \$430 level and was sinking the performance of many active fund managers along with it because they were overweight in its shares.

Moreover, of the 30 most-owned stocks by hedge funds, Apple was the only one to have delivered a negative performance for the first quarter, and as of mid-June, it looked set to be one of only several to deliver a negative performance for the

second quarter. Besides Apple, the hedge funds have also found themselves saddled with portfolios concentrated in low-returning discretionary and information technology stocks rather than cyclical which started to perform better in late spring.

In other words, the "smart money" crowd bet too many chips on Apple as well as on the wrong sectors. While you or I can easily move in or out of investments, because we aren't managing billion-dollar portfolios or positions, it's very difficult for a big fund to add to or unload a sizable (e.g. one million share) position in the wrong stock or sector without seriously impacting share prices. This is another reason active fund managers are lagging and will probably continue to lag major indices for some months as they try to adjust their portfolios.

What are the lessons we can learn from the recent mistakes made by the smart money crowd? For starters, do not blindly follow the herd but don't try and stand in front of it either. For example, any short seller who bet against the herd by shorting Apple before last September likely found themselves on the losing side of a "short-squeeze" while investors in funds that short the market have been consistently losing money year



**BAD APPLES:** If you've invested in actively managed funds with large holdings in Apple, your entire portfolio may be suffering. Photo: Bjorn Olsson

after year since the market bottomed after the financial crisis.

Likewise, be very careful about buying into media or Wall Street hype surrounding any one particular stock, investment or sector, as the bulls can quickly turn into bears or vice versa. Case in point: do you remember all those bullish stories about Apple up until early autumn or so? When Apple's share price was rising and kept rising, the media and much of the investment community kept singing the company's praises and tended to

attack its detractors, only to do a sudden u-turn when the stock or the company itself started to stumble.

However, unlike the managers of actively managed funds, the managers of exchange-traded funds (ETF) are not swayed one way or the other by hype because these funds are designed to track specific indices by having the same stock allocation as the indices they track. So instead of placing a bet on whether a manager of an actively managed fund can beat their index

benchmarks, it makes much more sense to just invest in ETFs tracking indices.

With that said, there will still be a considerable amount of onus on you to have an investment portfolio with a properly diversified asset allocation between different types of investments (equities, bonds and cash) and sectors. This is much easier to do with ETFs or individual stocks or bonds than with actively managed funds. Why? Consider this: If the managers of all the actively managed funds you own are overweight in Apple, plus you own shares, then you are overweight in Apple and your portfolio has probably been suffering since last September. In other words, you may have knowingly or unknowingly followed the herd and are now paying a price with diminished investment returns all because of one stock.

*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.*





NOW AVAILABLE: A model shows off the latest model Land Rover.

# Jaguar, Land Rover get new dealership

By Kanyawarat Pramprasert

LUXURY car importer GB Automobile Co Ltd was recently appointed to be the sole, official authorized dealer for Land Rover and Jaguar cars in Phuket and the rest of Southern Thailand.

The official grand opening of the new showroom is set for next month.

Meanwhile, GB Auto is undergoing an extensive renovation of their showroom, which is adjacent to the Benz Ramkhamhaeng Group (BRG) showroom located on the busy Thepkasattri Road in Rassada.

To feature a full line of Land Rover and Jaguar models, with a complete post-sales service department, the new showroom will be serviced by a professional sales team, with factory-trained service advisers and technicians on hand to ensure full support for customers.

Speaking to the *Gazette* at a recent car exhibition held at



New Jaguars will be roaring into the Phuket showroom.

Central Festival Phuket from June 6-12, GB Automobile General Manager Dominic Cheung revealed details about the development of the new showroom and the range of cars that will now be available in Phuket.

"I think Phuket is a beautiful city with a high standard of living for some, so I think our brands Land Rover and Jaguar are a very good match for Phuket.

"We have about 30 years of highly successful experience in

importing premium cars to Bangkok.

"So we decided to come to invest in a dealership in Phuket because we are confident in the strength of brands such as Land Rover, the 'king of off-road', and Jaguar which has a long tradition in building fine premium cars.

"I think we will do well in Phuket," he said, adding, "We want to create a long term relationship with our customers by providing excellent service, starting from the sales experience and throughout the whole post-sales service [period] for the entire ownership of the car.

"In other words, the key for our business is to keep customers happy, [and] to treat our customers like friends."

*The GB Automobiles dealership is located on 9/17 Moo 6, Thepkasattri Road, Rassada Phuket; Tel: 07 652 3032. Further product and technical information is available at [www.LandRoverThailand.com](http://www.LandRoverThailand.com)*

## AP Superyachts berths new office in Patong

LUXURY boating firm Asia Pacific Superyachts (APS) Phuket is "growing", reports General Manager Gordon Fernandes.

"We're pleased to announce our headquarters have moved to a brand-new, purpose-built office in preparation of the exciting times ahead as more yachts discover the amazing cruising available in Southeast Asia," he says.

While the new offices offer increased facilities and staff to service their clients, Gordon notes the company will continue to keep their APS office at the Yacht Haven Marina, central to all the yachting activities in Phuket, Thailand.

Recently relocated from Patong to the new larger premises, also in Patong, the purpose-built main office provides extra facilities and the finest of services to visiting and resident superyachts.

"Our brand-new expanded



SUPER TEAM: The staff of Asia Pacific Superyacht Phuket office.

offices will allow the company to grow; we were running out of space in the old Patong office and we need to expand our charter and crew placement services.

"New staff are being recruited to support our new office which

has been designed to feature extra conference, meeting and video conference facilities – all of which will make it easier for our clients to communicate to us and for our company to support our clients' needs," explains Gordon.

Asia Pacific Superyachts is an established company with a worldwide reputation as the leading yacht agency for Southeast Asia and the general South Pacific region. Representing superyacht service and guidance in Phuket and Myanmar, the Phuket office has over 20 years combined experience in the superyacht industry led by the highly experienced GM Gordon with Thai owner, JoJo, providing a special relationship link with Phuket Customs, Immigration and Harbor departments.

Phuket is renowned as a great year-round destination with amazing cruising and sailing opportunities to the many wonders of Southeast Asia. Superyachts of various sizes have been coming to Phuket for over 15 years, a major destination for yachts visiting the Indian Ocean.

For owners basing their yacht

in Phuket for the season, APS Phuket sets forth an itinerary with provisioning and all arrangements for superyachts cruising to areas such as Myanmar, the Andaman Islands and beyond.

While in Phuket, which currently boasts three marinas where superyachts can berth along with numerous anchorages, owners and their guests, captains and crew can enjoy the island's crystal clear blue waters, stunning beaches, lush tropical ambience and world-class onshore entertainment.

The new Asia Pacific Superyachts Phuket headquarters will support the growing number of visiting yachts and new marinas being built to meet the increased interest from the yachting industry.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information email [gordon@asia-pacific-superyachts.com](mailto:gordon@asia-pacific-superyachts.com) and visit [asia-pacific-superyachts.com](http://asia-pacific-superyachts.com)

## TAT, Visa, AirAsia: Grand Sale

AIR ASIA has joined with the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and Visa to launch the "Amazing Thailand Grand Sale 2013".

This year's sale celebrates a 15-year cooperation between TAT and Visa, and will offer Visa customers various discounts, some touted to be more than 80% off select purchases, as well as other special privileges with more than 500 participating merchants in Phuket, Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Pattaya, Haad Yai, Koh Samui and Hua Hin.

The sale will end August 15, 2013.

Air Asia is also offering promotional ticket prices for domestic



flights, starting from 790 baht, and international flights from 1,290 baht – not including taxes, insurance and other related booking fees.

Booking can be made through the AirAsia.com website until June 23, for travel periods from now until August 15, 2013.

Under the promotion, for every 500 baht spent at participating merchants, customers will receive a prize voucher, and a chance to win one million baht in cash (for Thai nationals only), as well as a number of travel packages under a campaign themed "Amazing 30 Days in Thailand".

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# Culture of neglect holds steady path

FAILURE of local authorities to complete the multi-million baht “Sea Gypsy Cultural Center” on Koh Sireh in Rassada is just the latest in a long string of long-delayed projects on the island that highlights the inefficient use of taxpayer money and failings of bureaucracy – all at the teetering altar of “tourism promotion”.

Millions of baht in funding for the project was justified on lofty objectives that few could dispute: to create a center where visitors could come to understand and appreciate what is known about the history and way of life of one sea gypsy tribe, the Urak Lawoi people, who have a seaside village at Laem Tukkae on Koh Sireh.

Inevitably, and as usual, the project was touted as a way to attract tourists to the area.

Beautiful and largely unknown, even to many long-time Phuket expats, Koh Sireh is perhaps the least promoted part of the province in terms of tourism. This is the result of an unfortunate geographic reality – the island is separated from the mainland by Klong Tah Jeen and what remains of the once extensive mangrove forests along its banks. In our “rich man, poor man” reality, encroachment generally tends to create either luxurious resorts and mansions or slums. In this case, unfortunately, it is the latter.

Access to Koh Sireh is by the bridge along Sri Suthat Road, which extends from the gritty and economically depressed east side of Phuket Town, home to derelict buildings, slum housing communities and the largest public housing estate on the island.

In its current state, this “island within an island” seems to lack anything resembling a coherent tourism promotion theme: it has beaches, but they are not as nice as their west coast counterparts; it has a nice temple, but not nice enough to attract many tourists; it has a macaque colony “viewpoint”, but not nearly as nice as the one on Toh Seh Hill. It is also home to a number of disparate organizations: an orphanage for HIV-positive kids and an “international” dog training school, among others.

In short, despite being well worth a visit, most explorers will do a u-turn before they cross far enough over the bridge to realize that the island actually has something to offer.

It is only after passing through this area of urban decay and the fishing port area that Koh Sireh’s real charms can begin to be appreciated. Some private investors, most notably the owners of the Westin Koh Siray Bay Resort, are spearheading real efforts to develop the area.

It seems to be an uphill battle, however. Sadly, the current state of the museum-cum-homeless shelter serves not as a tourist attraction, but rather as a reminder of how indigenous people continue to suffer at the hands of successive governments that pay lip service to their needs while denying them the most basic of rights, such as land title deeds for plots of lands they and their ancestors have occupied for decades.



## Honest advertising saves lives

Re: Gazette online, Video Report: European Union tackles Phuket tourism woes, June 14

Let’s get real. If a campaign was initiated to improve maritime and beach security by informing the world that swimming and boating in Phuket six months of the year was extremely dangerous – which is true – what would happen to the tourism industry?

Have you ever seen a brochure about Phuket mentioning this fact?

Steve Rubenstein  
Gazette forum

### Letters to the Editor

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

counting to finish the so-called new road behind Jungceylon. The state of the roads and drainage systems in Patong is a total and absolute disgrace.

Wyn  
Gazette forum

### ...but at the airport, it deserves kudos

I was very pleased to see a positive change at the airport recently.

When I went to Singapore in March, I was met with a chaotic scene – security was so backed up that the area right behind the immigration officers was a solid wall of people. It made me doubt the efficacy of security, where staff were desperately pushing people through.

On the trip I took last week, I saw a different scene entirely – the security station had been moved in front of immigration, and was running smoothly.

Well done, Phuket Airport.

Traveler  
Thalang

### Eating in is healthier

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Why not to cook, June 15

When I first came to Thailand, I ate out all the time until I noticed how unhealthily Thai food is cooked.

Even healthy dishes such as veggies are fried and then doused with sweet sauce adding unneeded calories.

I do eat out here and there, but it’s much cheaper to shop and cook for yourself.

And anytime you eat out, you never know what goes into your food. For sure there will be MSG, palm oil, sugar.

Cooks Daily  
Gazette forum

### In Patong, effort is not good enough...

Re: Gazette online, Video Report: Phuket officials unveil ‘drive-thru’ preview of Patong Tunnel, June 12

The mayor says, “I have spent more than 10 years trying to improve Route 4029” over Patong Hill.

What a sad and pathetic comment. If that is his best effort, then perhaps he should let someone else try.

It took him five years and still

### Here’s how to solve problems: just do it...

Re: Gazette online, Mass tourism market blamed for degradation of Phuket, June 14

Thailand’s officials are great at developing fantastic slogans to bring attention to a problem that is obvious to one and all, but their inability to develop a well thought-out plan of action to fix the problem, along with strategic execution, seems to be the reason that noth-

ing ever seems to get fixed.

I wish more time was spent on fixing problems and less time on talking about fixing problems.

Me  
Gazette forum

### ...and don’t go soft when punishing

Re: Gazette online, One dead as Phuket pickup slams into tree, June 15

The occasional (unannounced) roadside check would help. Real penalties for drunk driving, not sitting on the curb for a bit, would help even more. My condolences to the families.

Bill  
Gazette forum

### Responsible tour operators

Re: Gazette online, Phuket pay-out for Chinese tourist drowning victim, June 15

As a former TAT-licensed tour operator, I can say that it is necessary to insure your passengers.

I’m happy to see that AIG (American Insurance Group) has honored this claim, and it once again stresses that all tour operators should be licensed and insured.

Pete  
Gazette forum

### It’s up to the woman

Re: Gazette online, Former male nurse confesses to at least 20 hotel room abortions, June 14

Easy to change this kind of dangerous operation: Change the law so abortions will be legal and can be done in hospitals. Let women decide themselves whether they want to carry on the pregnancy or not.

Richard  
Gazette forum

## Phuket Gazette

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# Promoting Islam for youths and tourists

## FIRST PERSON

PHUKET is a very popular destination for tourists from around the world. Our island needs to promote its Muslim heritage by promoting *halal* food shops, marking sites important to Muslim history on the island and by noting mosques on guide books and maps.

Thai-Muslims compose about 30 per cent of Phuket's population. Many Muslim communities on the island are historically located in Cherno Talay, Kamala, Rawai, Baan Ko En and more isolated areas across the island.

The members of these communities traditionally were fishermen or orchard gardeners, and unlike most of the Thai-Muslims in Yala, Narathiwat, and Pattani, Phuket's population speaks Thai, not Malay.

There are many cultural Muslim traditions kept alive in Phuket, with celebrations being observed regularly.

The fact that we celebrate Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, as well as many other holidays, allows Muslims around the world to come

to a tropical paradise and feel welcomed into communities that understand their needs and can cater to them.

For example, Eid al-Adha is the holiday observed at the end of the

'The fact that we celebrate Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, as well as many other holidays, allows Muslims around the world to come to a tropical paradise and feel welcomed.'

— Maroj Thongyon



**Maroj Thongyon**, a 66-year-old Phuket native, has been a member of the committee of the Phuket Islamic Council since 1990 and is president of the Foundation Nurul Islamiah. Two years ago he took the position of Imam at the Nurulislam mosque in Patong.

Here, he talks about the loss of cultural identity among Phuket Muslim youth and the opportunity to market Phuket as a *halal*-tourist destination.

Hajj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, which is one of the most significant religious observances in Islam. For those who are unable to go to Mecca, there are morning prayers held here in Phuket.

In Phuket, we maintain *halal*. The term "*halal*" is used to designate any object or action that is permissible to use or engage in according to Islamic Law. The term does not cover just food and drink, but all matters of daily life.

These traditions and our culture need to be preserved and advertised because they can attract tourists but mainly because we need to re-inforce the values of our culture in the youth of today.

I think youths are not aware enough of the importance of the rules, rituals and practices that compose religion.

They lack the understanding, knowledge and education about religion and its importance. In many ways society is now pushing them away from religious understanding.

I am worried that one day they may look at religions and cultures and see nothing of value in them — it is a very serious problem.

Islamic education needs to be instilled in educational institutions. We have received very positive feedback when discussing this idea with educational institutions.

It also must be presented to young people by members of their family, religious leaders and relevant organizations.

I hope in the future the new generation of Phuket Muslims will be more aware of their Islamic heritage and be stricter in their observations of *halal* customs.

# Exceptions, all of us

## Island View

By Alex Stone

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

AS CHILDREN we were told that we were special, unique — exceptional. Those of us who have flocked to this little island have taken our parents' words in stride and to heart. Individuals of every nationality in Phuket believe that they are an exception — an exception to everything: laws, moral creeds and consequences. I am without a doubt, and somewhat ironically, not an exception to this singular belief that runs so rampant in paradise.

It was 3am on a Sunday morning — the damage of a long Saturday night carrying through. Volunteering to give a teacher friend a ride home, I sped off from Kamala, up and down the windy hills, and through the dark.

The flashing triangle and cones set up at the bottom of a long hill north of Patong signaled a police checkpoint.

I didn't have a driver's license on me, but it was too late to attempt any criminal maneuvers in an attempt to dodge the checkpoint and I didn't have the motivation it takes to blow through one, as I have seen others do from time to time. So, waved to the side of the road, I pulled over — sifting through my empty wallet for the driver's license that wasn't there.

Eventually, the officer believed it was time to take me down to the station, to test me for drunk driving — he had the driving part already pinned down and just needed to establish the drunk part — when it happened, an unthinkable utterance back home, but something extraordinarily Phuket in nature: I told him, "No".

It wasn't an abusive or hard no, but it was clearly a "there must be some sort of mistake I am an exception to the law" sort of no. With a little more conversation and no money changing hands, as I was giving a teacher a ride home, we were set free to continue our journey.



Rules are for others. Image: Mike Kline

Though there had been a vague feeling that I, in this exceptionalist way, was not alone — based solely on the behavior of so many non-native islanders, Thai and foreign — it wasn't until this weekend that I heard it verbalized.

A friend was asked not to drink on a privately rented bus, and he was recounting the story polishing the tiny tale off with, "I didn't come to Thailand to follow the rules."

And though many of us, believing we are the exception to this rule may flinch in horror at such a statement, think about how many illegal u-turns you take, how many red lights you run, how many beers you buy at bars when no alcohol should be sold — think about all the rules of law that you feel should not apply to you, and therefore, here in Phuket, do not.

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

### How to get through to Mission Hospital

In November 2012 I asked why Mission hospital does not answer emails.

I was told: "We have administrative officers deal with hospital emails Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm. They check emails and forward them to relevant departments. Please tell us what department you would like to contact and what the subject of your email is and we will follow up."

Five days ago I sent an email asking for an appointment with a surgeon and I have had no response. Why not? What is the point of having an email address if no one bothers to check it?

Swerv  
Phuket

Orasa Tunkasem, Human Resource Assistant, Mission

### Hospital Phuket, replies:

The process you describe is correct — administrative officers forward emails to the relevant departments.

However, staff are often very busy and may not have time to respond to all emails.

The best way to make an appointment with a doctor is to call us during office hours. We can be reached at 076-237220-6.

You can also stop by the hospital to make an appointment in person.

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)

### Getting some air at the beach

Can anybody kitesurf at Karon Beach now during the low season?

There is very good wind and not many swimmers. And what about other beaches?

Bjorn  
Chalong

### An officer at Kata-Karon Municipality replies:

Yes, kitesurfing is permitted at Kata and Karon beaches.

However, visitors should be aware that conditions in Thailand may not be the same as in their home countries and should take special care, especially during the [southwest] monsoon season.

Always obey the safety flags set up on the beach and don't go in the water if the flag is red.

Jula Nonsee, a lifeguard at Nai



Just be sure that you are up to the conditions. Photo: Willtron

### Harn Beach, replies:

Kitesurfing is better at Kata than at Karon.

Nai Harn is the safest place to kitesurf because the waves are

smaller there.

You should always check with a lifeguard first to make sure the area is safe, and observe the safety flags.



# YOUR Phuket

## On the occasion of the Official Birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. A Reception at Royal Phuket Marina



From left: Mr. Mark Kent, Ambassador at the British Embassy, Bangkok; Mr. Maitri Inthusut, Phuket Governor; Ms. Martine Delogne.



From left: Ms. Oranee Hidebrand, Ms. Kanjana Sriboonsom.



Martin Carpenter, British Honorary Consul for Phuket.



From left: Ms. Janpen Arno, Arjarn Pranee Sakulpipat, Mr. John Magee.



From left: Supranee Murphy; Piyanuch Hongsyok; Glen Dunkly.



From left: Boom Ydmark; Lars Ydmark; Jeanette Skelton.



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

# ISLAND TRADER

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June 22 - 28, 2013 | [PhuketGazette.Net](http://PhuketGazette.Net)

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

## BOAT of the week



See page 31

## JOB of the week



See page 27

## PROPERTY SERVICES of the week

**PROFESSIONAL VILLA  
MANAGEMENT**

See page 25

## PROPERTY of the week



See page 22

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

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# Property Classifieds

## Properties For Sale

### HOUSE IN PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR SALE



46sq wah, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, carpark. Only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-787 7675.

### 1.5 RAI NEAR LAGUNA PHUKET

2,400sqm in Chong Talay, Chanote title, gentle slope, highest point of Pasak 8, access via public dead-end road. Can be divided. Agents welcome. 8.5 million baht. Tel: 089-875 9609 (English), 087-418 5924. Email: claudelbaltes@gmail.com

### AO PO LAND 1.5 RAI SEA VIEW

Chanote title. Private access from beach front road. 400m from Ao Por Grand Marina. 10 million baht. Tel: 080-698 0141 (English), 082-277 5971 (English & Thai). Email: roscorclean@yahoo.com.au

### LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



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

### LAM RU VALLEY PHANG NGA

14 rai of prime land bordering the mountainous region of Khao Lak and Lam Ru National Park where tourism is a major industry. The land is an ideal location to develop a high end Eco Resort. Nor Sor 3 Kor Land Title. Tel: 088-768 3944 (English), 081-893 3646 (Thai). Email: senna@cscoms.com For further details, please see our website at [www.rightmove.co.uk/overseas-property/property-39265192.html](http://www.rightmove.co.uk/overseas-property/property-39265192.html)

### LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

1 Ngarn, nice flat land, quiet area, Chanote. In Pasak Soi 5. Price: 2 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

### 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.

### 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.

### Condo in Patong for Sale/Rent



87 sqm. beautiful condo with 2 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, fully furnished complete with kitchen utensils, microwave, coffee machine, toaster etc., bed sheets, towels for 4 people, internet, TV etc. quick sale for 4.9 MB or long term rent 27,000 a month. CALL: 081-891 5602 or 081-432 6587

### NICE PLOT FOR SALE



Near Layan Hill Estate. (Manik-Bang Jo area). Ready to build housing/pool villas. 1,400sqm. Chanote title. Price: 7.2 million baht. Neg. Contact owner on 080-520 2989. Email: edc9designs@gmail.com

### D CONDO 1, KATHU

-29.94sqm, mountain view, price 1,278,000 baht.  
-29.70sqm, mountain view, price 1,280,000 baht.  
-29.79sqm, pool view, price 1,330,000 baht.  
-29.70sqm, pool view, price 1,365,000 baht.

Contact Vutdy on 081-892 3709.

### 1-BEDROOM NEW PATONG TOWER

Newly renovated spacious 1 bedroom apartment on the Beach Road, central Patong. 7th floor. Good rental possibility. 4.4 million baht. Tel: +45-5239 3777. Email: deherder@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.saetan@gmail.com

### AMAZING SEA VIEW

Karon apartment, 4th floor, freehold, 130sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fitness center, 2 pools, 600m to sea. 10 million baht. No agents. Tel: 086-131 5458.

### 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.

### HOT DEAL - CONDO AT THE POINT



Opposite to Big C, one bedroom with nice view includes furniture. 55sqm. Price: 3.5 million. Negotiable. Tel: 082-276 1817, 081-614 5372.

### QUICK SALE 4 BED IN KATHU



10 minutes to BIS and HIS. 15 minutes to Patong and Central. Located in secure Baan Suan Loch Palm estate. Selling price 12.75 million baht. Tel: +61-43-592 2900, +61-46-831 5377. Email: donmountford@gmail.com

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[www.lambertbrothers.co.th](http://www.lambertbrothers.co.th)

### HOUSE FOR SALE

Koh Kaew, Ideal Home, 4 bedrooms, study, playroom and maid's room, large garden, pool. USD \$ 550,000 o.n.o. Email: idwian@hotmail.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).

### ALLAMANDA (LAGUNA)

Residences/ Phuket Condo unit, half of a deluxe twin house, fully furnished and equipped, set direct on the picturesque lagoon with balcony right over it. 3 bedrooms each with shower/ bathroom roof terrace. Long-term rent or sale. Tel: 090-487 8084. Email: utaipan@yahoo.com

### SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT



In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Sale: 2.25 million baht. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Contact owner. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

### THIDA HOUSE SALE 27 MILLION



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

### HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

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

### SEAVIEW KARON

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 pools, fitness room. Sale: 10.5 million baht. Or rent. No agents. Tel: 086-131 5458.

### BEACH FRONT LAND SALE

On-beach land of 600sqm at Naka Island, just 10 mins by boat from Ao Por Pier, Phuket. Price: 10,xxx baht per sqm. Tel: 081-691 2446, 081-677 7914 (English). Email: wut@tarntarasp.com

### URGENT SALE!

3-storey shophouse. Permsab Village (Manik). Tel: 092-129 7292.

### 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

### CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2fl, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more details. Tel: 086-476 9612. Email: annanoi1@hotmail.com

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## Properties For Rent

### THE HERITAGE SUITES



Luxury fully furnished at Kathu, 2 bedrooms, 161sqm. 40,000 - 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-895 1400. Email: info@theheritagesuites.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.

### KATA BEACH OCEANFRONT APT

Luxury 5-star 1-bedroom apartment, pools, gardens, gym. Very quiet area. Available now for long term. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.katasala.com

### 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.

### CONDO FOR RENT IN TOWN

Fully furnished condo with aircon, TV, fridge. Gym and pool. 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-978 1558 (English & Thai). Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

### ONE BEDROOM LAYAN

Quiet ground-floor unit, private patio, share pool, tennis, quality estate. Weekly: 9,000 baht. Monthly: 18,000 baht. Available now. Tel: 090-071 7163 (English).

### 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

Fully furnished, WiFi, cable TV, car park, 13,000 baht per month for long term rental. Tel: 089-373 0455 (English & Thai), 084-051 1955 (English & Thai). Email: sornin\_s@yahoo.com

### 1-BEDROOM APARTMENT PATONG

Luxury apartment, pool, WiFi, cable. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English). Email: phkrealestate@aol.com

### URGENT RENT/ SALE



House in Patong. Newly built 40sq wah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircon, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 086-476 9612.

### APARTMENTS & VILLAS FOR RENT



Great value accommodation, available for short and long term. Daily from 900 baht or 14,000 baht per month. Contact us for your enquiry by: info@resavaholidays.com www.resavaholidays.com

### NEW CONDO FOR RENT



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

### 1 OR 2-BED APTS PATONG

WiFi. Aircon. Pool. Kitchen. Full luxury furnishings. 18,000 baht. Email: briocthailand@hotmail.com

### CHALONG BEACH POOL VILLA

Furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 garages. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-470 6104. www.houserentalsphuket.com

### BRAND-NEW POOL VILLA FOR RENT

Rawai. 11m private swimming pool with jacuzzi. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, full aircon, fully equipped kitchen, WiFi, cable TV. Located in secured estate. Long term: 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-893 8747.

### KATA OCEAN VIEW CONDO

Fully furnished, seaview and non-seaview apartments, available for long-term rental. From 19,000 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

### KATHU GOLF VIEW PENTHOUSE

For rent, 2 and 3 bedrooms on top of a private hill, secure, 190sqm and 330sqm, grand view on Loch Palm Golf, Valley Lake, big pool, fully furnished, maid, long term: 32,000 baht and 65,000 baht. Contact Noi. Tel: 087-269 8492.

### NEW APARTMENTS WITH SEAVIEW

New 1- and 2-bedroom apartments. Long and short term. Sea view, huge balcony, TV panels, WiFi, free parking. Pools, gym, expensive furniture inside. The best choice for living! Email: osa.com@me.com

### PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



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

### HOUSE WITH POOL IN PA KHLOK



2-bedroom furnished house with large pool including monthly pool/garden maintenance. 40,000 baht per month long term. Tel: +1-604-542 2520, 081-719 7015 (English & Thai), +1-613-743 5335 (English). Email: adesmot@gmail.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 air conditioning unit, fully furnished, near monument. Tel: 090-865 6251 (English & Thai), 081-477 6323 (English & Thai). Email: gigi.sama@gmail.com

### SAVE 5-STAR VILLA

Has all, 28,000 baht per month, 5 months on lease, private pool, near Laguna, quiet luxury resort living. Tel: 089-594 4067.

### PLAYBOY'S PENTHOUSE BANGLA

Playboy's only apply. Nocturnal hunters required to tenant this spacious 2-level play pen, in the heart of Patong's wildlife area, Bangla. 1,500 baht a day + electricity. Minimum 1 year contract. Tel: 087-881 7600. Email: cocodiorster@gmail.com

### LUXURY VILLA FOR RENT

Magnificent 4-bedroom pool villa on the west coast of Phuket, above prestigious Kata Beach. Exceptional opulence throughout. Long & short-term rental. Please call 080-690 5248, 087-283 8884 for enquiries. Email: lil@ladolcevitare.com.au

### LOVELY APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

### 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

### KATA HILL-1 BEDROOM

Fully furnished: terrace, kitchen, bath, aircon, internet and cable TV. Price: 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

### THALANG LUXURY POOL HOUSE

Long-term rent: 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.rentpoolhouseinphuket.com

### 3-BEDROOM HOUSE IN TOWN

Dowroong Villa, newly fully furnished, clean and pleasant. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-326 1350 (English & Thai). Email: nicepeace@yahoo.com

### LUXURY POOL VILLA FOR RENT

3-bedroom pool villa for long-term rent, located just outside Laguna and 4km from Layan Beach. Tel: 081-891 1826 (English), 081-891 2926 (Thai). Email: kevinq@loxinfo.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.baanboosakorn.com

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**Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.**  
**Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.**



# Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

## ACCOUNTANT

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged 22 years up
- ▶ Bachelor's degree in Accounting
- ▶ Some fluency in spoken and written English

Good salary for the right candidate.  
Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to  
fon@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

## HOTEL RECEPTIONIST WANTED

Thai citizen, aged 21-40, basic computer skills, good spoken English. Salary is 12,000 baht + big commissions on sales. Tel: 076-333079. 080-698 8335, 082-417 9299. Email: iphone.dez@gmail.com

## MARKETING & GUEST RELATIONS

ApexAsia Group are now recruiting for its marketing & guest relations department to work at one of three hotels in Patong and Karon. Enthusiastic and of smart appearance with good English (written/spoken). Full training will be provided, excellent earning potential. Email Kevin Baker at kevin@apexasia.asia

## FITNESS INSTRUCTOR /SALES

Club Asia Fitness requires 2 Fitness Instructors and 1 Sales Consultant. Thai National who must be able to communicate in English. Tel: 080-698 5021, 087-275 3614 (English), 089-126 5671 (Thai). Email: coco\_ivy@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.clubasiaphuket.com

## RUSSIAN SALES CONSULTANT

Experienced Russian Sales Representative needed for Real Estate. Good command of English and Russian required. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Send CV to c@bayshoreprojects.com

## COORDINATOR WANTED

To generate appointments for investments, savings, pensions and tax planning in Phuket. Contact Montpellier Wealth Management. Tel: 087-417 8715.

## NEED COOK (FEMALE) URGENT

Female cook, breakfast, Thai food and Euro. Urgently needed. Contact me on my mobile (as above). Tel: 076-396075, 082-270 6385. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

## EVENT/PR MANAGER

The Asia Superyacht Rendezvous is looking for a Thai/foreign national. Successful candidate will have strong written and verbal English skills. Position can be full or part time, based in Patong. Tel: 076-346927. Fax: 076-346927. Email: gordon@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

## GYM ATTENDANT WANTED

To sit in gym and bill customers. Sell protein shakes. Some English skills required. 12-9pm work hours. Thai National. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.com

## TEACHERS WANTED

Chalermprakiat 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 For info please contact Clarke.

## OAK MEADOW INTERNATIONAL

The following positions are open in our school:  
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– Cook  
– Cleaning lady  
Tel: 084-847 0732. Email: intlicense@yahoo.com



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|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------|
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| ■ Engineering Supervisor         | ■ General Technician      | ■ Pool Technician     | ■ M&E Engineer    | ■ Painter  |
| ■ Assistant Construction Manager | ■ Food & Beverage Manager | ■ Executive Secretary | ■ Project Manager | ■ Mason    |
| ■ Reception (Head Office)        | ■ Junior Architect        | ■ Labor               |                   |            |

## Human Resources Department – Richmond Group Asia Pacific

Address: 6/78 Moo 1, Floor1, Cherrng-Thalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110 Thailand  
Telephone Number: 076-527870-4, 076-271650-5, 081-270 9780 | Website: [www.richmondth.com](http://www.richmondth.com)  
Email Address: [hr.mgr@richmondth.com](mailto:hr.mgr@richmondth.com), [hr.training@richmondth.com](mailto:hr.training@richmondth.com), [hr.sup@richmondth.com](mailto:hr.sup@richmondth.com)

## TEFL QUALIFIED TEACHERS WANTED

Full-time/part-time positions available for native English speakers. Tel: 081-083 5735. Email: michael@misterenglishschool.com

## KG & P1-3 VACANCIES

ELT Phuket International is looking to appoint 2 qualified, enthusiastic and experienced teachers to start immediately. Applicants must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree plus a recognised teaching certificate such as TESOL/TEFL. Please email a letter of application and CV. Email: eltorborjor@gmail.com

## STAFF WANTED

Cashier, Waiters, Thai cook, Cleaner. Location: Kata-Karon. Tel: 081-895 5852 (English), 089-401 8506. Email: vladim1r@me.com

## ASSISTANT CHEF & WAITRESS

ASSISTANT CHEF: must have experience. WAITRESS: must have experience and speak English. Thai nationals only. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.com

## PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Thai lady with fluent written and spoken English. A lady that wants a challenge where rewards will be exciting. Good computer and social skills. Based out of Chalong. Tel: 080-695 3933. Email: Beachsando1@gmail.com

## ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

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

## Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

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| ▶ Julapan Stationery (Chaofa East Rd)  | Tel: 076-282254 |
| ▶ KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle)   | Tel: 076-280400 |
| ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd) | Tel: 076-282403 |

### PATONG

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| ▶ Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza)                | Tel: 076-344521-2 |
| ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza) | Tel: 076-290468   |
| ▶ Deli Supermarket (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd)       | Tel: 076-342275   |

### PHUKET CITY

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| ▶ Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd)                | Tel: 076-232398 |
| ▶ Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd)  | Tel: 076-258369 |
| ▶ iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone | Tel: 076-255425 |

### CHERNG TALAY

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|---|-----------------|
| ▶ Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway) | Tel: 076-325586 |
|---|-----------------|

### RAWAI

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|--|-----------------|
| ▶ The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd) | Tel: 076-388144 |
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Experience in villa management, guest relations, maintenance, housekeeping & staff supervision, own car with license, Thai only. Tel: 087-881 0003. Email: hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com

**FRONT DESK STAFF -  
SAMUI**

Plus WELLNESS MANAGER required by Detox resort. Tel: 077-602096. Send CV and photo to fasthealing@yahoo.com

**DETOX CONSULTANT  
WANTED**

English speaking. Nutrition & Detox experience required. Will be trained by us. All nationalities may apply. Start immediately. Good salary + benefits. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.com

**MAID / HOUSEKEEPER**

Expat (American) requires an experienced housekeeper/maid with good English and Thai speaking ability. Cooking experience a plus and can be live in or live out. Experience letters and recommendations from previous employers are a must. Top notch salary will be paid for the right person! Contact Robert. Tel: 089-765 3126.

**F&B MANAGER**

Serenity Resort & Residences Phuket is a leading upmarket resort in Rawai with 65 rooms, suites and pool residences. We are now looking for a Food & Beverage Manager (Thai or expatriate) to oversee our East 88 Beach Lounge. Candidates must have hotel F&B management experience. Tel: 076-371900, 081-846 9981 (English). Send application with CV, recent photograph and cover letter to: Urs Aebi, General Manager at gm@serenityphuket.com. For further details, please see our website at www.serenityphuket.com

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The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

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- ▶ 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

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Tel: 076-273555 Ext. 303 Fax: 076-615240

**WORK WANTED**

Thai lady, speaks English, experienced, cook, maid, babysitter, can live in, looking for part-time job. Contact Taew. Tel: 081-084 2708.

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Private villa. Thailand area. Thai national only. Basic English. Contact Todd. Tel: 089-005 0700. Email: toddplay@hotmail.com

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Thai trainee housekeeper, English speaking, start from 10,000 baht, nice increase and work place. Tel: 081-787 9774. Email: phukettreasure@gmail.com

**CHINESE-SPEAKING  
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Chinese/Thai-to-English translators and salespeople needed. Must have excellent spoken and written Chinese skills. Apply with CV and expected salary. Email: dreams holdings@yahoo.com

**YACHT SALES  
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Experience with luxury motoryacht sales and brokerage of over 3 years; has good knowledge of motor yachts and including some technical background of various brands; good computer skills (excel, word, internet); speaks English fluently, and any other languages would be useful. Tel: 081-979 991. Email: vrit@boatlagoonyachting.co.th please see our website at http://boatlagoonyachting.co.th

**2 WAITRESSES  
WANTED**

Two waitresses to work in restaurant in Rawai. Good English speaking. Thai National. Good Pay. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.com

**WEB MASTER/  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER**

Must speak/write English, coding and social media is an advantage. Tel: 086-690 0444 (English). Email: alyona@princessyachtsthailand.com

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Customer Service Agents needed for internet fashion retailer. Are you CS experienced, Thai, hard working, computer savvy and fluent in English? 25K+ Per Month. 5-day work week. Work on Macs. Tel: 076-289472. Email: grahamkay@mac.com For full details: www.holyclothing.com/htmlx/work.html

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

**Now Searching for Talented Pre-opening Team Members**

Scheduled to open November 2013, Point Yamu By COMO is a new luxury resort in Phuket. Located at the headland of Cape Yamu on the East coast of Phuket, the new COMO resort will feature 106 luxury rooms, suites and villas, a headline Italian restaurant, Thai restaurant, Central bar, Lobby lounge, COMO Shambhala Wellness Retreat and Meeting facilities. The resort will set a new benchmark for unparalleled service, refreshing designs, innovative cuisine and a holistic focus on wellness.

We are now inviting dedicated candidates with good English communication skills (5-star hotel pre-opening experience a definite plus) to join our Pre-opening Team. Please send your resume (in Microsoft Word format) with a recent photograph to Director of Human Resources at careers.pointyamu@comohotels.com. We regret that only short listed candidates will be notified.

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<b>Engineering</b> Landscape Manager Assistant Chief Engineer	<b>Food Preparation (Kitchen)</b> Chef de Cuisine Head Thai Chef Head Baker Sous Chef (Italian/Thai) Junior Sous Chef (Thai) Junior Sous Chef (Main Kitchen) Chief Steward	<b>Sales</b> Associate Director of Sales Events Manager/Co-ordinator Marketing Communication and PR Executive
<b>Finance &amp; Administration</b> Cost Controller Assistant Credit Manager Chief Accountant		<b>Spa &amp; Fitness</b> Spa Manager Assistant Spa Manager Master Therapist Yoga Instructor
<b>Front Office</b> Front Office Manager Assistant Front Office Manager Guest Service Manager/ Chief Concierge Duty Manager/ Night Manager		<b>Administration &amp; General</b> Executive Secretary

**POINT YAMU BY COMO**

225 Moo 7, Tambon Paklok, Talang, Phuket 83110  
E careers.pointyamu@comohotels.com W comohotels.com/pointyamu

**BAR MANAGER &  
ACCOUNTS CLERK**

Seeking an experienced Bar Manager. Must possess fluent English / Thai skills. Position based in Patong. Also seeking Accounting Clerk. Tel: 085-475 8030. (English). Email: brucebenjaminthomas@gmail.com

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

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Popular bar for young "Farangs" looking for dynamic people to do promotion. Residents and travellers welcome to apply. Tel: 081-958 5394 (English). Email: collinniemi@gmail.com

**NATIVE ENGLISH  
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Need experienced preschool teacher 10-14 children, start immediately, Chalong, 40hr a week, send resume to phuket teacher@yahoo.com

**OAK MEADOW  
SCHOOL**

Qualified Thai teacher needed. Must speak English. Mon-Fri. Tel: 076-521550. Please email cv to Info@oakmeadowphuket.com

**SALES STAFF WANTED**

Can assist with visas & permits. All nationalities. No experience necessary but a good idea. Must be very well presented and enthusiastic. Minimum commissions paid 35% of property values sold! Visit www.farang-living.com/careers and send your CV.

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Looking for an ambitious and organised person to join our team. Successful applicant will help with general office administration and the planning of photography shoot. Applicant must have an excellent command of English. Contact manager. Tel: 083-035 9632. Email: photomorphimages@gmail.com

**ASSISTANT MANAGER**

What we are looking for is a great all-rounder as this job has multiple roles. You will need excellent computer skills to manage operations and you will be assisting with the sales and marketing activities of the company. Thai nationality 30 years old with an excellent command of English. University degree or proven experience. People management skills. Outgoing, committed and energetic. Prepared to work in Patong & travel across the island. Email: info@newspaperdirect-phuket.com Find out about us on www.newspaperdirect.com

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Blue Canyon corporate: 500,000 baht and Loch Palm, full membership: 525,000 baht plus transfer. Please call 086-277 2691. Email: davidinasia@hotmail.com

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We are looking for a guitarist, drummer and keyboard player. This is a band for high quality/big events. Genre: pop, rock, motown, little bit jazz/blues. Available for 2 practice sessions per week, for 6 weeks, to prepare a show in a unique venue for every Thursday. Besides that we will be booked for big events, festivals and weddings. We also have a recording studio to produce/record our own music. Keywords: serious about practice; open to all music styles, dedicated, team spirit, fun, humor, enthusiastic, energetic. Our motto: It is not about what you perform but how you perform it. If you are interested, please contact Brigitta. Tel: 082-257 7102.

## Computers

**APPLE CINEMA DISPLAY 23"**

Price: 2,000 baht. Tel: 081-088 7980 (English). Email: pjwidestrans@gmail.com

**PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB**

Lifetime family membership at Phuket Country Club. 600,000 baht, transfer fee included. Contact me by e-mail: sebasver@hotmail.com

**PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB**

Full membership includes transfer and 2013 fees. 585,000 baht. Best price. No offers. Contact Pum. Tel: 085-299 9437 (English), 081-493 9617 (English). Email: Alan hoppen300@gmail.com

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## Personals



**SEEKING LOVE**  
Healthy mature aged Australian gentleman would like to meet Thai lady for romance and relationship if suited. I visit Phuket each year and wish to continue the relationship and bring a partner to holiday in Australia (if possible). Please contact Ron Mellor. Tel: +61-04-1895 4909. Email: ronmellor@y7mail.com

**BACKGAMMON**

Players wanted. For more details, please call 081-577 8443. Email: phuketconnection@yahoo.com

**CAREGIVER / HOUSEKEEPER ASAP.**

Looking for lady to care for old woman in wheelchair. Light housework and cooking also involved. Must speak English or German. Live-In, full-time work. Good pay! For more information, please call Robert. Tel: 084-447 5433. Email: monikaostby@gmail.com

**COMPANION**

Male, 50 years old, coming to phuket, looking for female, 25-45 years old, as tour guide. For more detail, please contact by email: markjive@cox.net

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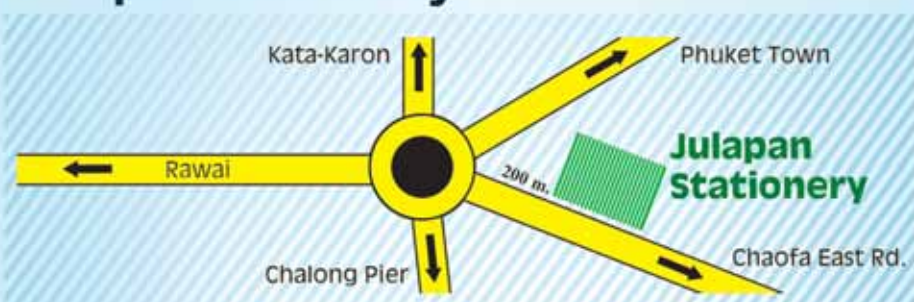
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<b>Orchard 48 (1992)</b> <b>\$279,000 USD</b> <b>PRICE REDUCTION</b>	<b>Catana 50 (2009)</b> <b>\$795,000 USD</b>	<b>Nautic Swan 65 (1975)</b> <b>400,000 Euro</b> <b>PRICE REDUCTION</b>	<b>Lagoon 450 (2010)</b> <b>538,000 Euro</b>	

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 Marcus Overman Mobile: 081 968 1437 Email: marcus@leemarine.com  
 Jim Poulsen Mobile: 081 891 3237 Email: jim@leemarine.com  
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**SUNSEEKER YACHT FOR SALE**



Sunseeker Caribbean 52ft, 1992. Located in Ao Po Grand Marina. 2,700,000 baht. Tel: 087-626 0495. Email: dan.soft.studio@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at <http://gen2gdk.com/jitlada/>

**KAYAK WANTED**  
Secondhand 2-man kayak. Tel: 088-381 5725.

**BOAT YARD OPENING**  
Hard stand, 250 baht per foot per month. Repairs done, fibreglassing, painting, and stainless steel. Tel: 082-839 7701.

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

**ONAN 12KVA MARINE GENERATOR**  
Fully operational generator with full sound shield and wet muffler exhaust. Model number 12 MDL3P, 1996 model, only 4000 running hours. Tel: 081-375 2590 (English). Email: stuart.winters@hotmail.com

**MOONSOON FOR SALE**



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

**TASAR DINGHY**  
For quick sale. Two sets sails. Launch and road trailer. Asking price: 130,000 baht. Email: Sailingalone2001-mail@yahoo.com

**JETSKI YAMAHA SUPERJET 2012**  
Stand-up PWC, used 1 season. Sold at Watchara Marine Phuket (275,000 baht). Will sell for 195,000 (fixed price). Tel: 093-760 2730 (English). Email: peter2014@hotmail.se

**KAYAK: INFLATABLE 2 PERSON**  
New! I am leaving Thailand in 15 days, so hurry up! All equipment. 15,500 baht. Tel: 080-275 4788 (English & Thai), 080-375 5230 (English). Email: angelfrc@libero.it

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**NEED TO SELL MY SAILBOAT**



2 masts, 17 meter (50 c.v. Yanmar engine), excellent condition, fully equipped, located in Chalong-Phuket, valued at price: 12 million baht. Now for quick sale: 5.5 million baht includes dinghy. Tel: 080-035 1626 (French), 081-788 8280 (English). Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

**NORTHSHORE (AUSTRALIA) 46'**  
Centerboard Sloop (1987). Yanmar 56hp diesel (2005). Well maintained and a bargain at the reduced price of AU\$ 110,000. Contact Alan. Tel: 084-842 6146. [www.boatshedphuket.com](http://www.boatshedphuket.com)

**FOUNTAIN PAJOT ATHENA38 (2002)**  
2xYanmar 18hp diesels (Rebuilt). Lots of new equipment. €135,000. Contact Alan. Tel: 084-842 6146. [www.boatshedphuket.com](http://www.boatshedphuket.com)

**THE SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S**  
**Cryptic Crossword**

**COFFEE break**

1 O 2 T 3 C 4 A 5 P 6 S 7 K 8 B  
 9 B A R R A C O O N 10 A C T U A T O R  
 11 P  
 12 T H I N 13 Y A H W E H 14 I N C I S O R  
 15 U N S T A B L E R 16 T I T R A T I O N  
 17 C 18 T R A N C E S 19 H A C K E R 20 A C H E  
 21 M E 22 A 23 P A R R  
 24 P U P P Y F A T 25 C A S T A W A Y  
 26 U S T R 27 A N F  
 28 P R E Y 29 K I N N A M 30 P L A S T E R  
 31 R 32 C C O 33 E M E  
 34 I L L S U I T E D 35 P E R M A N E N T  
 36 G A R I A U M X R  
 37 H O R A T I O 38 N U R S E S 39 A C R E  
 40 T I A N G I A I A  
 41 L A M I N A T E 42 S A T U R A T E D  
 43 T L L R T E E S



# Aircraft For Sale

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## AIRPLAY ALTIS MICROLIGHT

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## HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?

If you have an aircraft for sale or an interest in aviation and wish to learn how to fly or buy an aircraft or arrange a private flight, etc. Website: [www.aeropromgr.com/newsletter](http://www.aeropromgr.com/newsletter)

## TECNAM P-9 2

- Price: 1.5 million baht
- Registration: U-B08
- Year of Manufacture: 2002
- Equipment: Full standard equipment
- Engine: Rotax 912-80HP 350hrs.

Please contact for more information. Aircraft is based at Klong 15. Tel: 081-840 8418.



**Notice from Thai Flying Club:** There is a very nice Piper Cherokee airplane at the Thai Flying Club (TFC) in Bang Phra. It has fallen into disrepair. Someone took out the seats and some other parts... and then went away.

Owner Wichai Pettongkam loves this airplane and wants to get it back in the air. If you like flying and might want to be a partner in the plane, please come to the TFC to have a look, or contact **Khun Tom** (email [tom@thaiflyingclub.com](mailto:tom@thaiflyingclub.com), Tel: 089-092 2711). Or talk to **Khun Wichai** directly on 081-633 7082.

Khun Wichai does not want to sell the plane, but would welcome a partner who can help to get it flying again. This could be a very good opportunity for someone to get a share in a nice airplane for a very good price. All negotiable.

## Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS



**Built: 1976**

Registration: HS-AWS  
(in Thailand for the last 6 years)  
Previous Registrations:  
N4798W – USA  
N479GE – USA  
I-ECCE – Italy  
G-BVNL – UK



Lycoming IO-540-T4B5D (1,300 hours, 700 hours to TBO). Prop: B3D32C419/82NHA-5. Overhauled Feb 2011 (7 years to TBO). C of A Due 11th November 2011. New 5-year Permit. 100 hour check completed 19 Feb 2011.

### Specs:

Horsepower: 260	Gross Weight: 3140 lbs
Top Speed: 166 kts	Empty Weight: 2094 lbs
Cruise Speed: 157 kts	Fuel Capacity: 68.00 gal Usable
Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts	Range: 700 nm
Rate Of Climb: 1088 fpm	Fuel Av Gas 100LL
Ceiling: 17,400 ft	1 crew plus 3 passengers

Radio and Navigation Configuration: Fully IFR equipped. 2 Garmin GNS430 VHF/COMM/NAV/GPS/TERRAIN. Garmin GI-106A VOR/LOC/GS/GPS CDI. King KN64 DME. Garmin GTX 320/327 Transponder with Mode C via Ameri-King AK350-30 Height Encoder. Garmin GMA 340 Audio Panel. Bendix King KR-87 ADF. Sandel SN 3308 EHSI. Century IIb Autopilot Dual Axis and S-Tec Altitude Hold. WX-500 Stormscope.

**Price:** 3.75 million baht. Located at Thai Flying Club, Bang Phra.

**Contact Tony Scragg** at 081-906 3250, or email [tony\\_scragg@hotmail.com](mailto:tony_scragg@hotmail.com)



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All advertising must be paid for in advance.

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# ANANTARA VACATION CLUB GRAND OPENING



From left: Lyndon Ellis, General Manager Anantara Vacation Club Mai Khao; Phuket Governor Maitree Inthud; Harold Derrah, CEO of Anantara Vacation Club; Dillip Jajakarier, CEO of Minor International; June Harrison, VP Anantara Vacation Club; Melanie Smith, Director of Resort Operations & Club Services; Daniel Collins, VP Development, Anantara Vacation Club.



From left: Harold Derrah, CEO of Anantara Vacation Club; Peter Hamilton, Phuket Has Been Good to Us Foundation; Kathy Heinecke.



## HAPPY LEARNING DAY

Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket invited 20 underprivileged kids from The Life Home Project to visit the Phuket Butterfly Garden.



From left: Krisana Matzenberger, PGTV Advertising Manager; Oranee Hildebrand, Managing Director of Phuket Gazette, Pol.Lt.Col. Napat Nusen, Inspector Royal Thai Police Immigration in Phuket; Simon Hand, PGTV Producer; Jantana Jaikwang, Assistance Sale Manager.

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"พร้อม"...เริ่มต้นชีวิตที่ทันสมัย ในสิ่งแวดล้อมคุณภาพ  
"พร้อม"...ใกล้ธรรมชาติ เต็มด้วยอากาศบริสุทธิ์

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Ready...for modern living with quality amenities  
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สัมผัสชีวิต "พร้อม" ใช้ เฟอร์นิเจอร์ใหม่ inizi เฟอร์นิเจอร์ ก่อเกิด สรรพคุณทันสมัยกับบ้านเดี่ยว Modern Style ท่ามกลางสวนสวย ในสังคมที่ "พร้อม" เริ่มต้น มาตรฐานความสมบูรณ์แบบ เป็นเจ้าของได้ จากแลนด์ แอนด์ เฮาส์

A new life of comfort and convenience begins now at inizi Koh Kaew Phuket, the newest project. Modern-style single detached houses feature distinctive designs, fully equipped with quality amenities, shady green surroundings, swimming pool and 24-hour security. Quality and happiness from Land and Houses has never been easier to own.

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# NSA leak causes concerns for Asian governments' e-security

GOVERNMENT and security officials in parts of Asia have been sending sensitive information and policy documents via e-mail services offered by US web giants, and concerns are spreading that these may have been monitored and collected by the National Security Agency (NSA).

The official name cards of several directors at Indonesia's ministry of foreign affairs, for example, give only Yahoo or Gmail addresses, services provided by Yahoo Inc and Google Inc. One researcher who deals regularly with Indonesian security and police officials, said all of them used Gmail or Yahoo to communicate often sensitive information.

Gatot S. Dewa Broto, spokesman for Indonesia's Ministry of Communications and Informatics, acknowledged that officials had long been aware that public e-mail addresses were "prone to trespassing" but said it was hard to enforce use of official e-mail accounts.

"Sometimes we have difficulties sending large e-mails with photos, file or video attachments, and are forced to use a public e-mail account. But we have reiterated that public e-mail should not be used for highly confidential matters," he said, adding that he used Gmail "in emergencies."

Revelations this week by NSA contractor Edward Snowden of a program called Prism to sift data from US web companies has raised fears of a close relationship between the companies and the NSA, something denied by both sides. Whatever the truth, the reliance of Asian officials on such services highlights how vulnerable they are to eavesdropping.

At a recent conference of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission



**CYBER SECURITY:** The recent controversy over unwarranted NSA email surveillance has sparked fears over information security with governments worldwide. Photo: Don Hankins

for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, for example, officials from 20 of 33 Asian countries represented included Gmail, Hotmail or Yahoo addresses on their contact forms.

Of 18 Thai officials attending, only six gave only their official email address. This was despite all government officials being issued secure e-mail addresses.

"Government officials use the web domain go.th and we can vouch that this is secure," government spokesman Theerat Rattanasewee said.

Officials around the world use personal e-mail addresses for personal matters, but in parts of Asia some have little choice

but to use them for official business. Some ministries and agencies have no domain of their own, while those that do are poorly serviced or cannot be accessed via smartphones, officials say.

A former Laotian government employee said most official agencies and ministries had their own websites "but they are not really convenient. Sometimes they break down, are slow and have very low qualified service."

Marek Bialoglowy, Jakarta-based security consultant and chief technology officer at ITSEC Asia, said: "Government employees in Asia-Pacific countries often ask to send e-mails to Gmail or Yahoo,

because their official e-mail rejects large or encrypted attachments.

"Highly sensitive information could be accessible to anyone with access to such personal e-mail accounts, either Prism staff or someone who just cracked a shared password."

Some countries, however, are firm in applying rules. In Singapore, senior officials use separate computers to access the Web and for internal communications.

Spokesmen at Japan's foreign and defence ministries said transmitting work-related information through web-based e-mail services was strictly prohibited.

"There has been a long-established rule within the foreign ministry against using such services as Gmail and Yahoo mail for work, and as a matter of fact we are not using them," said Masaru Sato, director of the foreign ministry's international press division.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters on Wednesday: "Apart from (what's happened in) the United States, the Japanese government intends to review and reinforce information security, which has been a matter of importance in many ways."

Other nations in the region have taken a more flexible approach. Indian government officials said any eavesdropping on their web-based communications would not be a problem, because they used their official accounts for all internal communications and commercial services only to communicate with journalists and the outside world.

"I don't care if the Americans are watching that," one official said. "If I am sending it by Gmail, I want the world to know."

— Reuters

# Solar yacht to study Gulf Stream

THE MS Turanor PlanetSolar, the largest solar boat in the world, continues her US tour, and reached New York City on June 17. As part of the 'PlanetSolar DeepWater' scientific expedition carried out by the University of Geneva, the MS Turanor PlanetSolar transformed into a scientific platform, enabling a team of researchers to take advantage of her exclusive features in order to conduct a campaign of physical and biological measurements along the Gulf Stream.

The navigation between the states of Florida and New York constitutes the initial phase of this unprecedented data collection on the Gulf Stream, an important regulator of European and North American climates.

After being forced to remain in Miami for a few days to avoid 'Andrea' the first tropical storm of the season in the Atlantic, the solar catamaran left the coast of Florida on June 8 to begin its scientific expedition to study the Gulf Stream.

"Now we are in the thick of the scientific expedition. We have been travelling along the Gulf Stream since we left Miami, so we were already able to take the first measurements. A strong and favorable current enabled us to sail at over eight knots at times!" explained Captain Gerard d'Aboville.

Headed by Professor Beniston, climatologist and director of the Institute of Environmental Sciences at the University of Geneva (UNIGE), the onboard research team began taking measurements with advanced instruments in order to study the key parameters of climate regulation, namely aerosols and phytoplankton. This unique campaign requires researchers to "navigate along the Gulf Stream and collect scientific data in the water and in the air in order to improve our understanding of the complex interactions between the ocean and the atmosphere, as well as the role these interactions play in climate change," said Professor Beniston.

In parallel, a pedagogical team has developed educational activities and resources designed to make young people aware of climate



**NEW YORK:** PlanetSolar is the world's largest solar powered yacht and has already completed one circumnavigation of the globe. Photo: Planet Solar

change and its impact.

The interdisciplinary team of scientists from the University of Geneva will sail along the Gulf Stream, passing through Boston, St. John's (Canada), and Reykjavik (Iceland), and will disembark in Bergen (Norway) in August.

The yacht's exclusive technical features are a major asset for the researchers: given the absence of polluting emissions, the atmospheric measurements won't be distorted by residues

associated with fuel combustion.

The yacht, built in Kiel, Germany, is a catamaran powered exclusively by solar energy. On May 4, 2012, after sailing for 584 days and travelling over 60,000km, the MS Turanor PlanetSolar completed the first solar-powered trip around the world. The Yacht docked at Phuket's Ao Po Marina in October 2012 during its record-breaking circumnavigation of the globe.

— Phuket Gazette

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## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

**June 22, 6:30-11:30pm: Chivas Whisky Dinner at The Kee Sky Lounge & Restaurant, Patong**  
The Age of Celebration. Be a part of an exclusive dinner under the stars experience and embark on a five course east-meets-west culinary adventure and pop culture party featuring a selection of Chivas Scotch Whisky aged 12, 18 and 25 years, plus Chivas Brothers New Malt. Enjoy live entertainment that will take you on a celebration down through the ages. Free car parking available. For bookings phone: 66-83-0978027 or email fb@thekeeresort.com

**June 28, 8pm-11:30pm: Hint of the Blues at The Green Man**  
Black n Blue will play at the Green Man Chalong with a set of classic soul and rock-n-roll hits, plus of course, some great Blues rhythms. For an unforgettable evening where you can dance or just chill and enjoy great live music. Free welcome drink for the ladies. For more details visit facebook.com/blacknbluemusic

**June 29, 10am-4pm: Lamburg's 19th B'Day. Free Pony Rides, Ice Cream and Cake!**  
Please help Lamburg, The Rider Pony, to celebrate his 19th Birthday with free pony rides, (riders under 60 kilos), ice-cream and cake, with fizzy-wine cocktails for parents (limit two). RSVP to info@phukethorserescue.com or call 084-842 4581. We're at 51/68 Moo 6, Cherno-Talay, Thalang. (Off route 4018, N. Bang-Tao Beach, Layan, Soi 7). Map at: andamanhorsecenter.com

**July 4, 6-10pm: Fourth of July 2013 celebration at Friendship Beach Resort**  
Please join us for a traditional



American celebration at Super Natural Restaurant at Friendship Beach Resort! Location: 27/1 soi mittrapap, Rawai, Phuket. Contact Chef Charlie by phone on +66-89-728 5304 or email him at chef@friendshipbeach.com

**July 6-7, 10am to 8pm: Phuket Airshow & Family Picnic at Phuket Airpark**

Two full days of entertainment for local area charities. Support this fantastic non-profit event by becoming a sponsor, volunteer, or vendor. For more details please visit navyleaguephuket.org. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the 'Phuket Today' show.

**July 18, 11:30am-2pm: Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch**

July lunch will be at a new venue, Salt at Surin. All are welcome but registration essential. Members 500 baht, guests 650 baht. Contact info@phuketiwc.com

**July 22, Arsarnha Bucha Day**  
This Buddhist Holiday, which falls on the full-moon day of the eighth month of the Thai lunar calendar commemorates the

Buddha's first sermon to his disciples after attaining enlightenment. The holy day is observed by donating offerings to temples, listening to sermons by monks and prayer.

**July 27-28, 6pm-2am: Seafood & Prawn Extravaganza at Two Chefs**

At Two Chefs Bar & Grill, Kata Center, we are serving a large international seafood buffet, including some Scandinavian specialties. All you can eat for only 695 baht. Our house band will entertain you until the late hours, and we'll have happy hours on selected drinks all night. So come and try our buffet "fit for a king". Come for the food and stay for the fun! For more information call +66-76-330065, send an email to katacenter@twochefs.com or visit twochefs.com

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

Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's birthday is a public holiday in the Kingdom and is also Mother's Day.

**September 19, 11:30am-2pm: Phuket International Women's**

wine bars in the development of wine culture in Thailand. The awards promote and reward excellence in these venues and convey this message to the media and wine and food consumers in Thailand and abroad. The competition is open to all food and beverage establishments with wine lists. The online registration opened in May 2013 and culminates in the announcement of Thailand's best wine list at the Awards ceremony in October. Contact Jon Hyams on +66-80-471 8713 or email info@winelistoftheyearthailand.com

**October 17 11:30 to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club lunch at Cape Panwa Hotel.**

Another new and fascinating location for our October lunch, the historic Panwa House at the Cape Panwa Hotel. As usual, booking is required but all are welcome. Members: 500 baht; non members and guests: 650 baht. Register at info@phuketiwc.com

**November 13-16, 5am-6pm: Phuket International Sport Fishing Tournament 2013**

Registration will be on November 13 from 5pm onwards. Prize giving party on the 16th. We hope you will join us for another great tournament! For more information see:phuket-international-sportfishing-tournament.com

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## Forum and informal Sunday morning computer clinics

Computer problems? Internet problems? Software problems? Hardware problems? Questions about phones or tablets or phablets, social software, antisocial software, or where to get the best deal on internet packages, TV channels, or phones?

**A solution may exist!**

Go to thephuketforum.net and post your question as a 'New Topic' in the Tech Forum. The assembled local gurus – featuring "Mr. Live Wire," Woody Leonhard's friend from the States – may well be able to solve your problem, pronto.

If you need to talk with someone, drop by one of the informal Sunday morning computer discussion groups, starting about 10am every Sunday at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong (about 1 km north of Chalong Circle on Chao Fah East road). Consolation, commiseration, and old fashioned help await – for free.

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

**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**

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



# Sportsman manager at TSLC

BRIAN Finnis, the newly appointed operations manager for Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club lives by this simple motto: “Be committed to *do* what it takes to *have* what you want.” For many people, managing an international brand like Thanyapura is something that comes with age, but this young Canadian export is a definite exception to the rule.

Mr. Finnis is an energetic young man with experience working and competing in the world of international sports. He has played basketball professionally in Europe and Australia, and has an extensive resume of facility management roles in North America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

Having obtained a degree in Kinesiology from Acadia University in Canada, Mr. Finnis has put his knowledge to use in several sports related positions. He previously worked as the manager of Strength and Conditioning/High Performance at Pacific Sport one of the Canadian High Performance Development Centers. Before that, he worked in Australia with a professional soccer (football) team in the Hyundai A-League and Asian Champions League.

In his role as an Operations Manager at Thanyapura – an ambitious, world class sporting facility which includes Asia’s first dedicated sports hotel – Mr. Finnis points out that continuing Thanyapura’s growth and development as a world class facility is his ideal goal.

“My goals in this role are to help continue the growth and development of the Thanyapura brand both here in Thailand and also internationally. I want everyone to be able to come and experience all that Thanyapura has to offer and leave with a lasting memory of



Brian Finnis, Operations Manager at TSLC.

their experiences here.”

Handsome, smart, active and energetic are all words that can describe Mr. Brian Finnis. He enjoys playing sports, such as soccer in his free time, “I need to be doing something physical!”

When asked about the biggest attraction of working and living on the



The 50-meter Olympic standard swimming pool at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club.

island, he says that Thanyapura’s international reputation was a big draw.

The biggest attraction for me to come here to Phuket is without question Thanyapura. I had heard about Thanyapura from colleagues of mine in Canada and the more I looked into what it is they were doing here, the more and more I wanted

to be a part of it.

“The opportunity to be a part of the growth and development here was something I really wanted to be involved with, but obviously, the tropical weather is a bonus as well. Being from Canada we don’t get too much of that!” he said.

– *Phuket Gazette*

## Experienced GM heads to Anantara Vacation Club

TALKING to Lyndon Ellis it is easy to see how his great sense of hospitality makes him perfect for the position of General Manager of the newly opened Anantara Vacation Club. Mr. Ellis brings a wealth of management experience to bear on this brand’s new signature resort in northwest Phuket, which offers a truly luxurious escape amid fantastic tropical scenery.

Mr. Ellis graduated from the William Angliss Institute in Melbourne, Australia and majored in Business and Hospitality, leading him to pursue a career in the international hotel industry. Since then, he has amassed extensive experience, previously working in Australia, Thailand, Cambodia and before that in the paradise island of Vanuatu in the South Pacific. Namely, Hayman Resort Queensland Australia, Le Meridien Port Vila Vanuatu, Le Meridien Angkor Cambodia, Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket, Le Meridien Koh Samui Resort and Spa.

“The opportunity comes up and you get a new offer then you follow your career. Luckily, I’ve been able to follow my

career around the world.”

As General Manager of Anantara Vacation Club, Mr. Ellis aims to develop the hotel to make it more successful.

“My goals are to build the business, develop the team and ensure we are true to the Anantara core values that have made the brand so successful,” he revealed.

At Anantara Vacation Club’s Grand Opening day, Mr. Ellis told the *Gazette* that he sees some challenges in his new role, such as getting to know the local area, becoming aware of local customs, getting to know the local and regional business trends and networking, as these are crucial elements in effectively managing a hotel. Regardless of these small hurdles, Mr. Ellis said he thinks that a positive attitude is the answer for any challenges.

“With positive attitude you can do anything and you can make anything happen. So, just do it”, he said.

“I love my job as I can meet people; both guests and the associates who work at the hotel. I also like the dynamic of working in a hotel, there is always

something happening and it’s not the same thing everyday. Everyday you come to work and you have your schedule duty or your tasks, but you know that half your day is going to be dealing with situations that arise, and that can be anything, so it makes a little bit more, exciting than a normal job”, he added.

Stand up paddle boarding and snow skiing are his favorite hobbies. On his days off Mr. Ellis likes to go to the beach with his stand up paddle board or sometimes just to lie on the sand at Panwa Beach. To him, the biggest attractions of Phuket are the island’s lifestyle, the good business environment, great people and a wonderful natural environment, especially at his favorite sport – Mai Khao Beach.

Despite his constant motivation to be a great GM, which garnered him two South East Asia Property Awards in 2010, Mr. Ellis also recognizes the importance of family and he said he is never too busy to spend time with his children.

“My happiness is a day off with my children”, he said.

– *Phuket Gazette*



Lyndon Ellis has worked all over the globe. Photo: Anthika Muangrod



# Dr Sasivimon Chandhrasri

DR SASIVIMON Chandhrasri is the head of the Eye and LASIK Center she set up five years ago at Phuket International Hospital.

An ophthalmologist whose career spans over two decades, Dr Sasivimon has been performing refractive eye surgeries – popularly known as LASIK – that have helped many patients “see a new life.”

“Refractive surgery has been around for 20 years now and it’s nothing short of a miracle,” explains Dr Sasivimon. “In the old days many people’s lives were restricted by the use of corrective glasses. They couldn’t play sports or aspire to a career they love. Now as a result of LASIK surgery, some of my patients have gone on to become airline pilots or flight attendants, and some have joined the army or police. Many can take part in extreme sports. Their lives have become, in a way, limitless, thanks to this technology, which makes this precision operation quick and painless.”

And the success rate?

“Admittedly, there’s no such thing as 100 per cent success in any operation. For one thing, you can’t control the wound healing capacity of an individual. There’s also the ‘body response’ factor, which varies from one person to another. However, low to moderate level myopia seems to respond extremely well with this treatment.”



Having specialized in ophthalmology at Mahidol University in Bangkok in the late 1980s, Dr Chandhrasri furthered her training in LASIK eye surgery at the University Hospital of Mannheim, Germany.

She moved to Phuket almost ten years ago and started practicing at Bangkok Hospital Phuket. In 2008, Dr Chandhrasri set up a few Eye and LASIK Centers, one within the compound of Phuket International Hospital and another in the Silom area of Bangkok. It’s a juggling game, as Dr Chandhrasri travels to and fro between Phuket and the capital, combining work as managing director with her career as a doctor. But she has her reasons.

“Apart from being a business opportunity, owning a clinic enables me to manage everything my way. That includes being able to make sure the standard of treatment and the quality of patient care is high. You can only achieve this holistic approach when you are at the management level.”

Presently, Dr Chandhrasri has a plan to move her LASIK Clinic from Phuket International Hospital to a new site, also on the Bypass Road. “The idea is that LASIK

patients are not seriously ill and should not have to come into hospital where risks of getting an infection are high. Our new clinic will provide quality treatment in a comfortable and relaxing environment manned by friendly and professional staff.”

A self-professed perfectionist – “I am a Virgo; I pay attention to details” – Dr Chandhrasri always performs her duties to the best of her abilities. But running a large company has compromised her time as a specialist, and she’s beginning to rethink her work strategy. For the new LASIK Clinic, set to open in September, Dr Chandhrasri would like to hand over the operations to a management team with experience in running LASIK centers in Bangkok.

“I would like to get back to being a full-time eye specialist. Having to always think about business and management takes the focus away from my clinical work, which requires a high degree of concentration and commitment.”

Dr Chandhrasri is married to a local businessman, who is also president of Rotary Club Andaman, Sathorn Somsakserm. In her free time she enjoys watching movies. “Movies provide a kind of ready-made experience. You come to understand human nature a little bit more and this helps me to let go of work-related stress I may have felt during the day.”



## About Thai Gallery

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



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# The B-list: Exotics and also rans



**STRELITZIA REGINAE:** The striking blue and orange flowers, which somewhat resemble the crest of a bird, has led Strelitzia to be known as the 'bird of paradise' plant. Photo: Neelix



**BUSY LIZZIE:** The bright purple flowers of this plant make it a popular addition to any tropical garden and features in many a garden in Phuket. Photo: Chris Gladis



## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

*BARLERIA*, *bixa*, *begonia*, *bismarkia*, *bromeliad*, *brownia*, *brugmansia*, *brunfelsia*. What do all these words have in common – apart from the obvious fact that each word starts with the letter B? Well, dear reader, of course, you got it in one. They are all tropical plants. Moreover, once you get away from these Latin-based botanical names, the list grows at the rate of tropical bamboo – that is to say, rapidly; banana, bat plant, balsam, bird's nest fern, buttercup tree, busy lizzie, bachelor's button, Buddha's belly, bird of paradise, boxwood beauty – many with evocative names that help us both to visualize and remember the plant in question.

Some of these can be rapidly glossed over since they have been considered in previous articles or simply don't match our key criterion of plants that will be at home in a Phuket garden. The bat plant (*tacca chantrieri*) is a case in point. I have never grown it and

have only once seen the devil flower (to give it yet another evocative and picturesque moniker) in a local nursery. It gets its bizarre name from flowers (actually bracts) that are purplish black in color and resemble a large moth or bat. Long thin filaments hang down from these bracts. Hence yet another name – cats' whiskers. These flowers appear above clumps of low-growing, lush, glossy green leaves.

Even if you do manage to discover a specimen, you will need to tend it carefully. The bat plant does not appreciate an overdose of sun and needs rich, moist soil of the kind not readily available in Phuket. As a member of the edible arrow root family, mature plants can be propagated by root cuttings – if you get that far.

The bird of paradise plant is another temperamental exotic with a tongue-twisting name to match – *strelitzia*. As a native of slightly cooler climes with a less consistently humid atmosphere, it may struggle in Southern Thailand, but if you can get it to thrive here, it will reward you with a magnificent display of extraordinary orange and

blue flowers. The flowers last a long time: this helps to explain the fact that they are more likely to be spotted here as dramatic displays of cut flowers in high-end resorts and spas. *S. regina* is the most widely grown: *S. nicolai* is much larger with clusters of long oval leaves and blue and white flowers. It looks fantastic when planted as a massed bed – as I once saw in a hillside garden above Chalong where conditions suited it down to the ground. The bird of paradise can be grown from seed or by planting tubers. But it may take up to seven years to bloom. Quite a wait.

From the sublime *strelitzia* to the humble *barleria* is quite a step. Small, relatively insignificant, easy to grow, this plant comes into the category of "useful" additions to your garden. It is relatively low-growing and is one of those shrubs – like the *duranta* or dwarf *ixora* – that will take any amount of clipping. Indeed, pruning will encourage a bushier growth. For this reason, *barleria* is often used as a low hedge or barrier.

*B. cristata*, the commonest variety, has tubular mauve flowers

and foliage that is dark green with paler undersides. It is a ruderal species, colonizing disturbed areas and roadsides. It likes full sun but will flourish in most soils. A spiny variety, sometimes called *B. prionitis*, has yellow or orange flowers and reddish brown stems;

*B. repens* has flame red flowers. Untemperamental, *barleria* can be easily grown from cuttings.

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



**TACCA CHANTRIERI:** Also known as the bat plant or cat's whiskers, can struggle to survive in Phuket's climate and soil. Photo: Paul Fisk



**BARLERIA SIAMENSIS:** Often used to make hedges or garden barriers, the *barleria* is a hardy plant that can cope with heavy pruning. Photo: Vaikooverly

## Tip of the Week

### Kumquat care

THE kumquat is an Asian member of the citrus family. Because it is hardier than the conventional orange (it can tolerate frost), and because it makes a small, compact bush, it is often grown as a container plant. The small orange fruits (either round or oval) have a sweet rind (which can be candied) and sour pulp. The foliage is an attractive glossy green. Kumquats are very resistant to disease.

A friend has a cherished potted specimen which he tells me is apparently dying. Unusual, because they are tough cookies. They do, however, go through a period of dormancy every year when they appear to be lifeless, and produce no new foliage or fruit, but they will normally start up again after a few weeks. Over-watering or feeding during this period is likely to prove terminal.



Kumquats look like a miniature version of an orange. Photo: Miheco



# The iron man of whimsy

DAVID Sedaris is a classic example of the American Dream. In 1992, he was a 36-year-old

failure. College dropout, dabbler in crystal meth, lonely homosexual, drifting through lowly odd jobs in Chicago, New York and his native Raleigh, North Carolina. Sedaris was reading excerpts from his diary in a Chicago club when he was discovered by a radio host who later got him his debut on National Public Radio. He has since become ensconced on the Shouts and Murmurs humor page of The New Yorker and has published eight volumes of memoirs; wry, fey, whimsical, self-deprecating and largely about his childhood among his large Greek family in Raleigh. The books have sold in the millions affording him homes in rural France and England with his longtime partner Hugh Hamrick. His globe-trotting book tours are legend.

Childhood memories would seem to be an inexhaustible source, Garrison Keillor and Jean Shepherd have mined the same field, but Sedaris' eighth book, *Let's Explore Diabetes With Owls* (Little Brown and Company, New York, 275pp, 2013) shows that he is running thin on material. Too many stories, built on flimsy foundations, fall flat. But there are a handful of classics.

In *Memory Laps*, he recalls his father's lavish praise for a competitor at his teenage swim meets. When Sedaris finally beats him in a butter-fly race, his father feigns indifference, leading him to observe: "My dad was like the Marine Corps, only instead of tearing you to pieces and then putting you back together, he just did the first part and called it a day. Now it seems cruel, abusive even, but this all happened before the invention of self-esteem, which, frankly, I think is a little overrated."

In *A Guy Walks into a Bar Car*, he recounts an interminable train trip from New York to Chicago which he passes with fellow drunks "marinating like cheap kebabs" in the bar car. "At first their voices might strike you a jolly: the warm tones of strangers becoming friends," he writes. "Then the drinkers would get sloppy and repetitive, settling, finally, on that cross-eyed mush that

## Books

By James Eckardt

passes for alcoholic sincerity."

He loves the cleanliness of Japan and is

appalled by the omnipresent filth of China. "I saw wads of phlegm glistening like freshly shucked oysters on staircases and escalators. I saw them frozen into slicks on the sidewalk and oozing down the sides of walls." And don't get him started on the toilets.

In *Loggerheads*, his father takes a deeply reluctant Sedaris to a football game. Which team is he supposed to root for? How do you know if they score a point? "The thing about sports, at least for guys, is that nobody ever defines the rules, not even in gym class. Asking what a penalty means is like asking who Jesus was."

*Laugh, Kookaburra* is the title of a song which the eleven-year-old future author sings lustily with his sister, the future actress Amy Sedaris, after he sneaks into her bed. Three times they wake their father who finally enters with a fraternity paddle which "looked

like a beaver's tail made of wood" and is inscribed with signatures of fraternity brothers "with old-fashioned nicknames like Lefty and Slivers - names, to me, as synonymous with misfortune as Smith and Wesson".

On a trip to buy a stuffed owl an English taxidermist shows Sedaris his crown jewels: a severed seaman's arm, the mummified head of a Peruvian Indian girl, and the skeleton of a Pygmy, shot for sport by the English in 19th century Congo, prompting

Sedaris to reflect: "It would have been disturbing to see the skeleton of a slain Pygmy in a museum, but finding him in a shop, for sale, raised certain questions, uncomfortable ones like how much is he?"

Balancing these comic gems is a lot of trifling filler: visits to a dentist and a proctologist, spoiled children, elderly forgetfulness, Indian tele-salesmen, Jesus freaks, Lonely Planet phrasebooks, gold-diggers, homophobic protesters, airport woes, British English, and Obamacare. These make up maybe 60 per cent of the book.

Which isn't bad - to use a baseball analogy, David Sedaris is still batting .400.

Not that he would know what that means.



**THE NEW YORKER:** The home of the magazine in which David Sedaris built his reputation as a humorist. Photo: Daniel Schwen



**'OWLING WITH LAUGHTER:** 'Let's Explore Diabetes With Owls' has some great passages of Sedaris' trademark whimsical humor, which is in large part based on his day today encounters with strange characters and numerous childhood recollections. Photo: merec0



**AMERICAN DREAM:** A postcard from the author's hometown Raleigh, North Carolina. The town is the setting for many of Sedaris' anecdotes about his time growing up there as a member of large Greek-American family. Photo: Boston Public Library

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# Go Brazilian at Rodizio

By Mark Knowles

LOOKING at a map of the world, Thailand is about as far away as you can possibly get from the soccer-and-samba-crazed nation of Brazil. But don't buy your ticket to Rio just yet, Patong's newest restaurant has saved you the trouble of flying halfway around the globe and brought a taste of Brazil right here to Phuket.

*Rodizio* derived from the Portuguese word for wheel means rotation and is the generic name for the all-you-can-eat restaurants, hugely popular in Brazil, where an endless rotation of barbecued meat is served to diners straight from the skewer. It also refers to the method of cooking, where the skewers of meat are rotated over the hot coals and moved up and down to adjust the temperature at which they are cooked. And that's exactly what you will see when you come to *Rodizio*; take a peek through the wide glass window into the kitchen and you can watch

mesmerized as meat laden skewers spin tantalizingly over a glowing charcoal fire.

Located in Soi Patong Tower, just off Patong Beach Road near the Banana Walk Mall, *Rodizio* is the brainchild of the team behind *Churrasco*, another popular *a la*



ROTATION: Meat skewers turn over the hot coals

*carte* South American style steakhouse at nearby Jungceylon. Clearly their love of high quality beef knows no bounds and *Rodizio* is their latest gambit to capture the culinary imaginations of meat-lovers in Phuket.

Manager and Chef Jair da Rosa hails from Brazil and he has worked

in restaurants, both in and out of the kitchen, in Sao Paulo and Saigon, for more than 15 years. His expertise enables him to re-create an authentic Brazilian taste and many of the recipes for side dishes such as *Feijoada* (a bean and pork stew which is Brazil's national dish) and *Pao de Queijo* (a delicious cheese bread made from cassava flour with a chewy center) were handed down to Jair by his mother.

After helping yourself to some sides from the buffet selection, which includes fresh vegetables, salads, rice dishes, roast potatoes and more – not to mention authentic Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese and thin slices of Parma ham the carnivore's feast is set to begin.

When they say all you can eat, they really mean it. A seemingly endless array of perfectly grilled skewers of glistening meat and seafood are presented to your table and using the tongs provided, you grab slices as they are trimmed off with a razor-sharp carving knife and put them on your plate. Everything I tasted was a delight; chunky pork sausages, marinated chicken wings and nuggets of pork fillet wrapped in bacon. Other meats on offer, depending on availability, include pork ribs, fish of the day, shrimp, squid and lamb.

But that was only the beginning. Next came the most popular cut of beef served in traditional Brazilian *Rodizios*, which is known as *Picanha*. This is the topmost part of the sirloin, which has a layer of fat to keep the meat sublimely juicy and tender while it is slowly grilled over the coals. The *Picanha* alone is reason enough to visit *Rodizio* and no meal there would be complete without a liberal helping.

Perhaps the most surprising cut we encountered was the Cupim, which comes from the distinctive shoulder hump unique to the Brahman breed of cattle. This large chunk of beef is slow cooked first, before being finished over the charcoal, resulting in a flaky, almost white, meat that melts in your mouth with a flavor unlike any meat I have ever tried a uniquely Brazilian taste.



SUCCULENT: Diners are served right at their table with tender slices of meat straight from the hot charcoal fire. Photo: Mark Knowles

There are also several *a la carte* options available, such as a 250 gram Wagyu rib-eye steak, salmon steak, *Rodizio* burger or Brazilian lasagna, all of which include the sides buffet. But for the authentic Brazilian experience, we heartily recommend the all-you-can-eat option.

To complement your meal, there is a solid wine list to choose from, featuring some suitably South American wines from Chile and Argentina, as well as many other selections from France, Italy and Australia. If wine is not your thing, perhaps a fresh Brazilian *Caipirinha* cocktail, made to Jair's original recipe, would be more to your liking.

As the evening continued, our meal was punctuated with servings of sliced, grilled pineapple designed to serve as a palate cleanser between the various meat

dishes. Along with this comes servings of collared greens, Brazilian cheese bread and caesar salad, rounding off the meal superbly. If you have any room left, you can top off your meal with one of the classic desserts on offer, which include chocolate brownie, tiramisu, lemon sorbet and grilled banana or pineapple with ice cream.

This Sambadrome scale feast (if you don't know what a Sambadrome is, perhaps you should book that ticket to Rio for Carnival after all) is all included for the single price of 690 baht, making it an entertaining and great-value night out to enjoy some of the best quality food in Patong.

To make a reservation contact:

P: 076 346125

E: [rodizio@churrascophuket.com](mailto:rodizio@churrascophuket.com)

W: [rodiziophuket.com](http://rodiziophuket.com)



Photo: Anthika Muangrod

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# Inspired: re-think Thai desserts

Isaac Stone Simonelli

A RENAISSANCE in the world of traditional Thai desserts has taken hold, away from the sand and seas of Phuket, in the heart of the province. Nestled in the center of the island, Ms Vachiraya "Yulie" Thitalohakul has turned back to her cultural heritage after years of working as a western-schooled patissiere.

With over a decade of experience as a patissiere in London, having worked for the JW Marriott Grosvenor House Hotel, The Crowne Plaza Hotel and 51 Buckingham Gate Hotel, Ms Yulie has teamed up with her sister Vachira "Yen" Thitalohakul from Tatonka Restaurant, as they rejuvenate the art of creating the multitude of Thai delicacies known collectively as kanom.

"We felt the availability of truly traditional Thai kanom was being lost in Phuket, and that local people, as well as expats and tourists were missing out on this unique aspect of Thai-food culture," Khun Yen says as Khun Yulie starts to warm up a pan to demonstrate how to properly toast watermelon seeds for one of the specialty desserts. "We want to re-introduce a wide-range of tasty Thai treats that will reflect the tastes, textures, aromas and exotic colors of traditional Thai kanom."

As Ms. Yen talks, Ms Yulie continues to create the different elements of a kanom known as "ja mongkut". This is perhaps the most difficult and time intensive Thai dessert to make. And unlike most, which rely heavily on the use of coconut cream and coconut flesh, the base of these delicate creations is a tiny dough ball made

of yolk, sugar and scented flour.

Kanom such as ja monkut and many others were once never seen beyond the palace gates. The source of the great diversity of these desserts in the Royal Household is often credited to Marie Guimar, a foreigner who, with as many as 2,000 women working under her, introduced the royalty of Siam to the pleasures of several Portuguese desserts that relied heavily on yolk and sugar.

"Over time certain kanom have become integral to the celebration of auspicious occasions, such as weddings and Buddhist ceremonies," Ms Yen says.

Desserts that have names beginning with the Thai word for gold, "thong", are thought to bring good luck, making desserts such as thong yip, thong yot and thong ek very popular at weddings, birthdays and other celebrations.

Despite the heavy emphasis on rekindling and preserve Thai traditions, Ms Yen points out that many of the hand-made desserts they create have elegant, modern twists.

"We have many innovative and modern desserts for parties, coffee breaks and afternoon tea, as well as for gifts sets and other special occasions," Ms Yen says.

The importance of presentation is not lost on Ms Yen or Ms Yulie. Laid out in a tiny box on the coffee table are four thuai talai kanom, made from steamed sweet coconut jelly and cream and molded into the shape of a flower, with pieces of fruit inside to provide complexity in the texture and taste of the dessert.

"We use whole grains and seasonal fruit to add texture, taste and nutrition to our kanom," she explains, marking one of the



REGAL DESSERT: Kanom such as ja monkut were once never seen outside the palace. Photos: Kanom at Phuket

many difference between the elegant desserts composed at Ms Yulie and those block kanom found at local markets.

A small bowl of toasted, candy coated water melon seeds appear near Ms Yulie as she then begins to roll small yellow dough balls between her palms.

"You have to be meticulous in every detail, from selection of good ingredients to patiently monitoring the creation process," Ms Yen says.

Delicately, Ms Yulie lifts the tiny sugar coated water melon seeds, which now look like crispy snowflakes, and press the tips of them into the sides of the small yellow ball – creating a crown around the base.

Ms Yulie roles a smaller ball, and takes a then sheet of edible gold, twisting it and then pressing it onto

the top of the dessert.

The dedication and effort in making just a single ja monkut, a dessert that would require dozens to create a plate at a party or even for afternoon tea, makes it seem sinful to gobble down the small sweet. However, knowing just how lucky and tasty a well-crafted

ja monkut is, temptation wins out every time – as it always should when it comes to dessert.

Those interested in Kanom at Phuket desserts can place pre-orders with Ms Yulie or Ms Yen: 081-8934683, 082-8175472 or email Kanom at Phuket: kanomatphuket@gmail.com.



Many of the hand-made desserts have elegant, modern twists.



Kanom shaped like fruit.

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# Great bowls of fire!

By Larry Amsden

IF YOU are from the Southwestern part of the United States, you already know what a chili cook-off is. However, given that expats in Phuket from that part of the country probably number less than a couple of dozen, maybe an explanation is due.

A chili cook-off, as described by *Wikipedia*, is a social event, similar to a barbecue, in which competitors prepare their own particular recipe for *chili con carne* and submit it for tasting. A cook-off may be in an informal gathering with the single goal of sharing recipes and enjoying food, or it may be a large-scale event with an official panel of judges and substantial prizes for winners.

Is it important? Well, some people must think so. If you Google “chili cookoff” you’ll get about 4,160,000 hits, or Google the more accepted spelling “chili cook-off” for about 16,800,000 hits, and “chili recipes” for a whopping 19,300,000 hits. Compare this to 820,000 Google hits for *tom yum kung*.

Chili Heads have organized themselves through the Chili Appreciation Society International (CASI), of which your author is a proud member. CASI promotes and sanctions cook-offs, a staggering 550 per year. Their website currently lists 108 chili cook-offs taking place in the next few months throughout 18 states in Southwestern USA, along with Canada and Mexico. These events take place in such colorful places as Telephone and Geronimo in Texas, Chugwater, Wyoming and Tombstone, Arizona. CASI, along with their sister organization the International Chili Society, have raised millions for charities.

Although claims to the first chili cook-off

are about as prevalent as claims of the first or best *som tum*, one can imagine a couple of cowboys after a few *cervezas* (beers), arguing that “my chili is better than your chili”. Thus, the first chili-cook-off was born.

The judges of Phuket’s own Great Burnin’ Bum Chili Cook-off will judge the various chilis on color, aroma, taste and the all-important after taste. In the interest of time, another characteristic of good chili, the after-glow, which comes quite some time after ingestion will not be a criteria for the judges.

The World Championship Chili Cook-off takes place in November each year in Terlingua, Texas, an old mining ghost town near the US-Mexico border. Terlingua is located adjacent to Carroll Shelby’s ranch, a spread of 550,000 rai (yep, this is Texas). Carroll was one of the founders of the first Terlingua cook-off. You may remember Carroll as the developer of the Shelby Cobra sports cars of the 1960s and 70s. This year marks the 46<sup>th</sup> year of the Terlingua Chili Cook-off.

One of the sidelights of the Terlingua Cook-off a couple of years ago was the inclusion of a Mexican fence climbing contest in honor of the planned US border fence between Juarez, Mexico and El Paso, Texas. It was rumored that the organizers paid illegal Mexican immigrants US\$5 per day to erect the fence. Needless to say, the Terlingua cook-off is not on the official list of US events promoted by the Department of the Interior (our TAT).

But you don’t have to travel to Texas, or even the USA to enjoy a chili cook-off. Phuket will be hosting its very own Great Burnin’ Bum Chili Cook-off at the US Independence Day celebration sponsored by the Navy League-Phuket, at the Air Park on July 6. Y’all



CHILI TIME: Taste the best chili in Phuket at the Great Burnin’ Bum Chili Cook-Off. Photo Cyclone Bill

come on out and join us. We’re also negotiating with the cook-off contestants to make their recipes available to anyone asking.

Chili, or more formally, *chili con carne*, is a staple of the Southwestern American diet. Much like the position *tom yum kung* enjoys in Thai cuisine. This debate over beans or no beans has been raging for years and has divided the chili world into the red shirts (with beans), and the yellow shirts (no beans). You don’t need to declare your colors when you come out to the Air Park as we’ll be sampling both ‘red shirt’ and ‘yellow shirt’ chili.

If you can’t make it to Terlingua this year, come on down to the Great Burnin’ Bum Chili Cook-off at the Air Park on July 6 and cast your vote for the “People’s Choice” best chili.

## BRING THE KIDS!

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# Black & Blue bring those blues to you

YOU would think a great blues band would have its name rooted in some great emotional torment, a bruised heart or tragic love story. Soulful expat blues musicians Black & Blue, however, chose their name based on their stage outfits.

“That was my idea,” rhythm guitarist Peter explains. “We were talking about how we were going to dress for the stage – we were going to wear all black, but that seemed a bit too much, so we went for blue shirt and black pants or blue pants and a black shirt.”

“Actually,” lead guitarist Rob cuts in “the reason for the blue shirt, coincidentally, is because Peter has nothing but blue shirts.” The five-piece band laughs easily together. “That’s right,” Peter grins. “Our name came from the wardrobe.”

While Black & Blue might not be named after the usual turmoil associated with the blues, that hasn’t stopped them from crafting a beautifully bluesy sound, perfectly pitched for island life.

All seasoned musicians, the band had been playing with each

other for several years, teaming up in different outfits or finding each other at jams – before all five coalesced into Black & Blue last October.

“Richard was asked to put together a blues band for a local club,” Peter explains, nodding towards the band’s singer/guitarist/flautist. “So he called me and talked to Rob and over a couple of months we worked on this act. It didn’t work out at that club, but it’s worked a lot of other places. The chemistry was good so we thought: let’s keep going.”

So, that’s just what they did. At a gig this past week at the Welcome Inn in Layan, patrons danced and bobbed along happily to the blues crew’s mix of down-home twelve bar and soulful rock, made all the more enjoyable thanks to Black & Blues’ intuitively tight musicianship.

Setting up the beat is Jamie on drums. “I only got into the blues at the beginning of last year. I’m the young pup of the group,” he grins. “Before that I was into

rock and punk.”

Bass player Boy pushes the rhythm along. While Boy lays down the low notes, Peter fills out the the middle, and Rob puts the electric tingle on the top.

But at the heart of the band – though he is loathe to admit it – is Richard. A true old school bluesman, Richard still happily recall his blues roots in New York. “At 15 years old I was sitting on steps playing my harmonica along with Jimmy Reed. I just grew up with the blues.”

Richard retired to Phuket after a life as a merchant seaman. “I was really amazed to find so many classy talented musicians here,” he smiles, looking around at his band. “It’s just a wonderful place to be for the music.”

And, as the whole band happily agrees, “it’s all about the music!”

You can catch Black & Blues in action at the Green Man on June 28 and again on July 6 at the Phuket Family Picnic and Airshow weekend at Phuket Airpark in Pak Klok.



GET THE BLUES: You can see Black & Blue in action on this week’s Phuket Today show – on a TV near you. Photos: Dean Noble





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**Why "Bypass Road"?**

The "Bypass road" or "Chalermphrakieat King Rama IX road" is considered to be the highest potential road in Phuket. Along Bypass road, there are various giant hyper markets, tourist attractions and department stores such as Big C, Tesco Lotus, Central Festival, Index, SB, Homework, Homepro, Premium Outlet, Siam Niramit, Gems Gallery. Bypass road is so popular because it is the only route to connect the northern and southern part of Phuket Island together. It is also the route to go to many major tourists attractions such as Patong, Kata, Karon, Nai Harn beach, Chalong Bay, Phromthep cliff, etc. Hence, it is an imperative route to pass this road, if you want to go all these major Phuket's attractions. Moreover, many Mega projects will also start construction this year along this road, i.e., New Central Festival, Boon Thavorn Store, The Mall Department store, numerous condominiums and, last but not least our "Bypass Biz Town". That's why we aim for "Bypass Biz Town" to be the new Business Center on Phuket Island !



# Hydroponics: a happy medium



A FRUITFUL PAST TIME: DN Hydroponics yields about one tonne of produce each month.

In addition to hydroponics farming, Ms Pakdee also likes to make her own yoghurt (inset).

LOCATED about a kilometer west of Chao Fah West road, en route to the Big Buddha, the DN hydroponic farm is not the bustling business operation it might at first seem.

"I can supply large orders, but this is really just a hobby," insists Pakdee "Doo" Khruthanang.

Ms Pakdee's primary hat is running her business, West Coast Divers, which specializes in live-aboard trips to the Similan islands.

"Business in tourism, especially in the dive industry, goes up and down, and thus is not always reliable in terms of steady and stable income," she says.

The instability of such a seasonal industry drove Ms Pakdee to start thinking about ways she could supplement income for her family in an increasingly expensive Phuket.

"I started frequenting many restaurants that served European salad – not Thai," she says.

It was at an Italian restaurant, Capannina at Kata beach, where

she got her first taste of the fiery, flavorful and astringent tasting rocket lettuce, *Eruca sativa*.

"I found out that they [restaurants] were paying as much as 900 baht per kilogram for this. Then I thought to myself, at such a price I wouldn't have to grow too much to be able to supplement our earnings year round."

A budding interest soon expanded to other types of lettuces, vegetables and herbs, and the curiosity soon became a passion.

To research the market, she went to various restaurants around the island, and particularly enjoyed visiting the Sizzler's salad bar, known for its diverse array of fresh and seasonal offerings.

"I took a one-day hydroponics course for 500 baht at Rajabhat University, and continued to research the science and methodologies on the internet."

Originally from Chiang Rai in the North of Thailand, Pakdee laugh

## Home-grown

By Steven Layne

ingly admits that growing up, she didn't have any background or real experience in agriculture.

However, as a professional dive operator, she already had an underlying passion for the life sciences, particularly biological cycles and processes.

Such a passion – or "heart" as she calls it – is essential for anybody looking to try their hand at something new, and hydroponics is not exception.

"Some people will try it out, perhaps as a hobby or even a small business venture. But if they don't have the heart and ample time to devote to it, they will not succeed," she says.

By the end of the initial year, highlighted by much trial and error, Pakdee was filling a small yet steady demand.

"We currently grow about a dozen types of lettuce and herbs, whereas others [in Phuket] only grow three to four types."

The types were chosen not only based on market demand, but also practicality.

Over the last four years, she has attempted to grow more than 20 types of herbs, ferns and vegetables, but Phuket's hot and tropical environment has proved inconducive for growing many things. Pakdee has tried rosemary, sage, oregano and Italian parsley.

"These would be a lot easier to grow in Chiang Mai, for example, but the weather in Phuket is just not ideal," she says.

The farm has the capacity to grow and supply one tonne – 1,000 kilograms – of fresh lettuces and herbs per month, and at this point, she's content.

"Any more than this, and it would no longer be a hobby, but become full-time work."

Rocket continues to be the most popular of her offerings, and the two varieties she grows – Garden and Wild – combined make up about 40% of her supply.

Other than this, she grows both red and green varieties of Coral and Oak lettuces, as well as Frillice Iceberg, Batavia, Butterhead, Thai Mustard, Romaine Cos, Mizuna and both Thai and Italian Basil.



Nutrient-enriched water is pumped through the growing trays using AC power.

locally produced, high-quality produce.

For the last four years, Ms Pakdee has not increased or decreased prices, regardless of inflation and other factors that often affect suppliers depending on produce from other regions.

"Whether there are floods in Bangkok, or a drought elsewhere, my price doesn't change... The important thing to keep in mind is sufficiency – make enough but not too much."

She says that the reason she has been able to keep her prices, and thus demand, stable, is because she views her operation as a past-time, rather than a trade, adding that such a model can be applied to any hobby, venture or operation.

Despite the constant threat of copy-cat entrepreneurship, Ms Pakdee readily shares her knowledge with anyone wishing to learn about hydroponics,

whether just to feed their families or to make supplemental income in their respective locale.

"When you start a business, it's important to have your own customer base and to maintain strong relations. And you really have to ensure that your offering is better than others, not just copying others."

Ms Pakdee has taught and continues to teach her hobby to a number of villagers, vendors and curious students, as well as hotel staff.

"They usually come to work and study on the farm on weekends and whenever they have holidays. I don't charge or pay them, but am happy to give them knowledge and even some vegetables to take home," she says.

For more information and inquiries, go to: [phukethydroponics.com](http://phukethydroponics.com)



JUST THE RIGHT MIX: Ms Pakdee produces her own fertilizer in-house.



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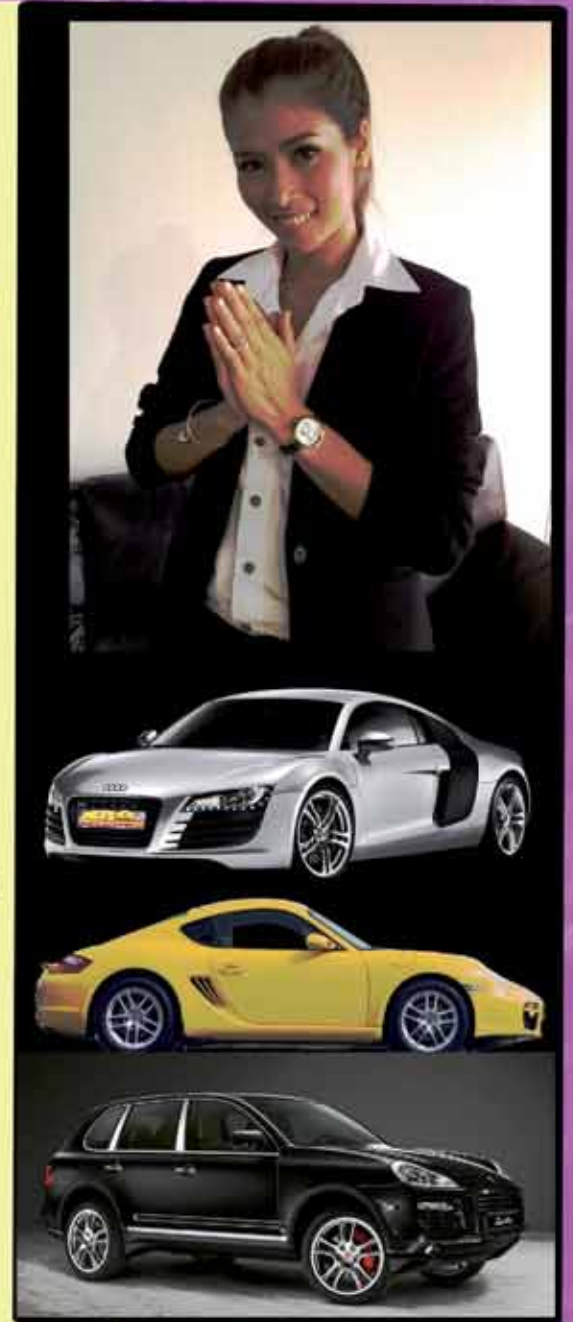
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SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

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.....  
● **Your weekly pith:** “Always remember that you are unique.  
● Just like everyone else.”  
● - Anonymous  
● This quote was taken from Ian Hewitt’s book  
● ‘QUOTES for PROSPERITY’  
● .....





- Across:**  
9. Slave enclosure, or a carbon copy (9)  
10. Cart out a new starting device (8)  
12. Novel hint to slim (4)  
13. Way he worked hard for prehistoric God of Judah (6)  
14. At home, Charlie is, or between the canines? (7)  
15. Not so well balanced burn least perhaps (9)  
17. Time it restricted allowance for laboratory analysis (9)  
18. Canters about in states of rapture (7)  
20. Disturbed, heck, a Romeo, an unwanted exploiter of computers! (6)  
21. Long for a church echo (4)  
24. Early obesity which as one becomes bigger abates! (5,3)  
26. Ways a cat may be stranded (8)  
28. Pray, hear the victim (4)  
29. Family man turns to drink in Thailand (3,3)  
31. Apply bandage to last rep active (7)  
34. I used till became not compatible (3,6)  
36. In manner pet could be lasting (9)  
38. Home Office correspondence in the name of Nelson (7)  
39. Looks after sisters (6)  
40. Care about an Israeli city (4)  
41. Material as layers from animal back on time, note (8)  
42. Unable to take any more, a star duet broke up (9)
- Down:**  
1. Cubs trot out, get in the way (8)  
2. Strain moving coaches (6)  
3. Primitive craft to close car


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- spelled out (8)  
4. Article rewriting news right reply (6)  
5. In pitiful way, note spasm (8)  
6. For preciseness, stir scents carefully (10)  
7. Understand in Thailand a hock developed, first class (3,4)  
8. A bin so arranged for a small decorative plant (6)  
11. One of the media. Note right publisher! (7)  
16. Take cap, etc., wrap up (6)  
19. Divert a Greek deity (5)  
20. Top protection from the sun for a Thai beach (3)  
22. Maybe cart free in vessel (5)  
23. Father backs a man in a hat (6)  
25. Rubbing together in frolic at breaking up! (10)  
26. Almost morning for an eccentric (3)  
27. Standing up. Right, unchanged (7)  
30. Damn! Gone wrong. Absolutely safe (2,6)  
31. Soak through for each solid foodstuff, note (8)  
32. Recycled, tires traders out out East (8)  
33. Restrict dog, dog (7)  
35. Picketing device moved at rail (6)  
36. Pedant put Sir wrong (6)  
37. Echo by name to rouse (6)


Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.

**CANCER (June 22-July 23):**  
 Cancerians will have a clearer idea of what they want as the end of June approaches. Recent indecision regarding cutting ties in the world of work will give way to taking steps towards more security. Those whose birthday is due in the week ahead are forecast to enjoy a more fulfilling social life in the coming year. Romance is lucky this weekend – attraction to another water sign should be mutual.

**LEO (July 24-Aug 22):**  
 Spiritual matters can become more interesting for those born under the sign of Leo as June draws to a close. The stars indicate that influence from an earth sign friend may be the cause and this person’s calm attitude towards life will be good inspiration. Your luck with money is moderate this week, with overspending highlighted on Tuesday and Wednesday. In the realm of romance, another fire sign has been asking about you.

**VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):**  
 Astral influences are helpful to your financial situation this week. The stars show that a sudden windfall is likely – those who were struggling to make ends meet could cancel a

loan they were on the verge of taking out. The social scene sparkles this weekend, with single Virgoans forecast to meet an air sign they will want to see more of. Those committed see a new side of their partner.


**LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):**  
 Those born under the sign of Libra will need to assert themselves during the last week of June. There are hints that playing second fiddle to someone while you have been doing most of the hard work will become too much to take. The stars recommend Tuesday and Wednesday for tactful discussions. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, words you took with a pinch of salt can turn out to be true.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):**  
 The stars are on your side this week. Scorpions whose lives were up in the air earlier in the month should be feeling more grounded as June comes to an end. This also relates to romance; those who were unsure about commitment will know what to do. At work, a weight is lifted from your shoulders when changes that were in the pipeline are confirmed. Auspicious days for finances are Wednesday and Thursday.




**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):**  
 The stars suggest that family can try to have too much influence on your lifestyle this week. Some give and take is recommended, but you should not allow others to set a pattern that will be difficult to get out of. A friend who abruptly left your social scene recently is forecast to return with something serious to announce. Those Sagittarians who are single have reason to appreciate their status.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):**  
 Your energy is laid-back during the last week of June, but too much laziness could become an issue for people close to you. Another earth sign partner is predicted to raise this issue, with disagreements highlighted to disturb the peace this weekend. Capricorns are advised to devote some attention to improving their home environment and this will be to everyone’s advantage. Wednesday and Thursday are the most auspicious days for money matters.


**AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):**  
 Problem solving is one of your skills and Aquarians could be in high demand this week. In the world of work, a fire sign could expect you to take too much responsibility for something that is the result of their mistakes. Where romance is concerned, another air sign partner is forecast to make a confession, with money highlighted to be involved. You should not turn this molehill into a mountain.

**PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):**  
 Finances are well-starred as June draws to a close, with focus on making new agreements in the world of work. Those who have been waiting for a business partner to change their way of thinking should find that patience pays off. In the realm of romance, an air sign partner’s idea for making extra money is something you can see sense in. Single Pisceans have good luck in romance this weekend.

**ARIES (March 21-April 20):**  
 Events in the world of work cool down, which gives stressed Arians chance to relax. This is an auspicious time to make travel

plans – a summer break to recharge batteries becomes more attractive when you learn that this can mean a reunion with someone you haven’t seen for a long time. On the home front, duty calls this weekend; the stars indicate that an overdue family visit will happen.

**TAURUS (April 21-May 21):**  
 It can be hard to get others to listen this week. The cosmic climate encourages distraction and Taureans who are keen to get a particular message across should take a direct approach. In the world of work, the stars advise that your social life should be kept separate from business. Love with air and water signs is lucky this weekend, but putting a fire sign on a pedestal will lead to disappointment.

**GEMINI (May 22-June 21):**  
 This is an auspicious week for Geminis to take care of unfinished business. Your skills at communication are strong during the last week of June and it would be wise to put this asset to good use. Expect another air sign to be impressed by what you have to say on Monday or Tuesday. In the realm of romance, a water sign is tiring of feeling left out.



## Sport

# Can Phuket host F1 race?

THE proposed Bangkok Formula 1 Grand Prix has been scuppered by a new law prohibiting racing in the city's historic quarter. Strange?

Well, Phuket looks like the leading contender to host a Thailand GP, if it goes ahead, and rumours have for years abounded of a track in the north of the island. Other Thai destinations have been mooted, but how many could provide the facilities?

Just the teams and the media would probably account for 2,000 hotel rooms, and if the island only received 30,000 raceday fans it would be down with troubled Bahrain; 50,000 fans would be reasonable, and success would be 100,000. Phuket has 30,000 official rooms; it can manage, with an overflow in Krabi and Khao Lak if necessary. The Korean F1 will certainly have sensitised F1 to the issue.

A race could be staged in two years if well planned, so Phuket could be a contender for 2015, but it needs to start now.

Mr Anon from the Ministry of Sport and Tourism told the *Phuket Gazette*: "The decision about the place to have F1 has not yet been made. Now there is no movement for this issue." So it looks as if nothing formal has yet started.

Ideally, F1 would probably like a March or April start date, where Sepang and Shanghai

now sit, but a September/October date around Singapore, Japan, South Korea, and India might well be negotiable. That would suit the hotels, but it means the likelihood of a rainy race.

If it were to be a road race, or partial road race, it needs to be somewhere accessible from the main hotel and airport locations; the north or center of the island. The affect on an already overloaded infrastructure would be dramatic, and it is hard to imagine Sebastian Vettel negotiating flooded potholes.

I cannot believe that Phuket could sacrifice the highways, the backbone of the transport system for the race. Phuket Town does not look race-friendly, and access is difficult.

So we are left considering Patong, which would provide a great backdrop. That would be more like a Monaco race, Patong would effectively be closed for large chunks of three days, and gate-fees would be very hard to manage.

The alternative is a track. I will stick my neck out and say that typically a purpose built track would need about 2,000 rai (790.7 acres) and cost about US\$400mn. That's not easy, and environmental impacts



## Formula 1

By The Digby

need to be managed, but with will it is possible. At most a capacity of 150,000 would be needed, and it could be 50,000 in the first year. Phuket would need to hold a night race to accommodate European TV schedules, so the lighting infrastructure costs would be high.

F1 cannot risk cars travelling at 300 km/h suddenly being plunged into darkness. The Singapore GP uses three megawatts; 1,500 lighting projectors powered by 24 generators, rigged in pairs. Should one generator fail, the load is instantly taken by its twin powerful enough for the whole race.

Then there is the question of getting fans in and out of the circuit from the hotels and airports. Abu Dhabi built an eight-lane highway and bridge as the access road. The public finance of access roads has been a vexed question at venues from Silverstone to Austin.

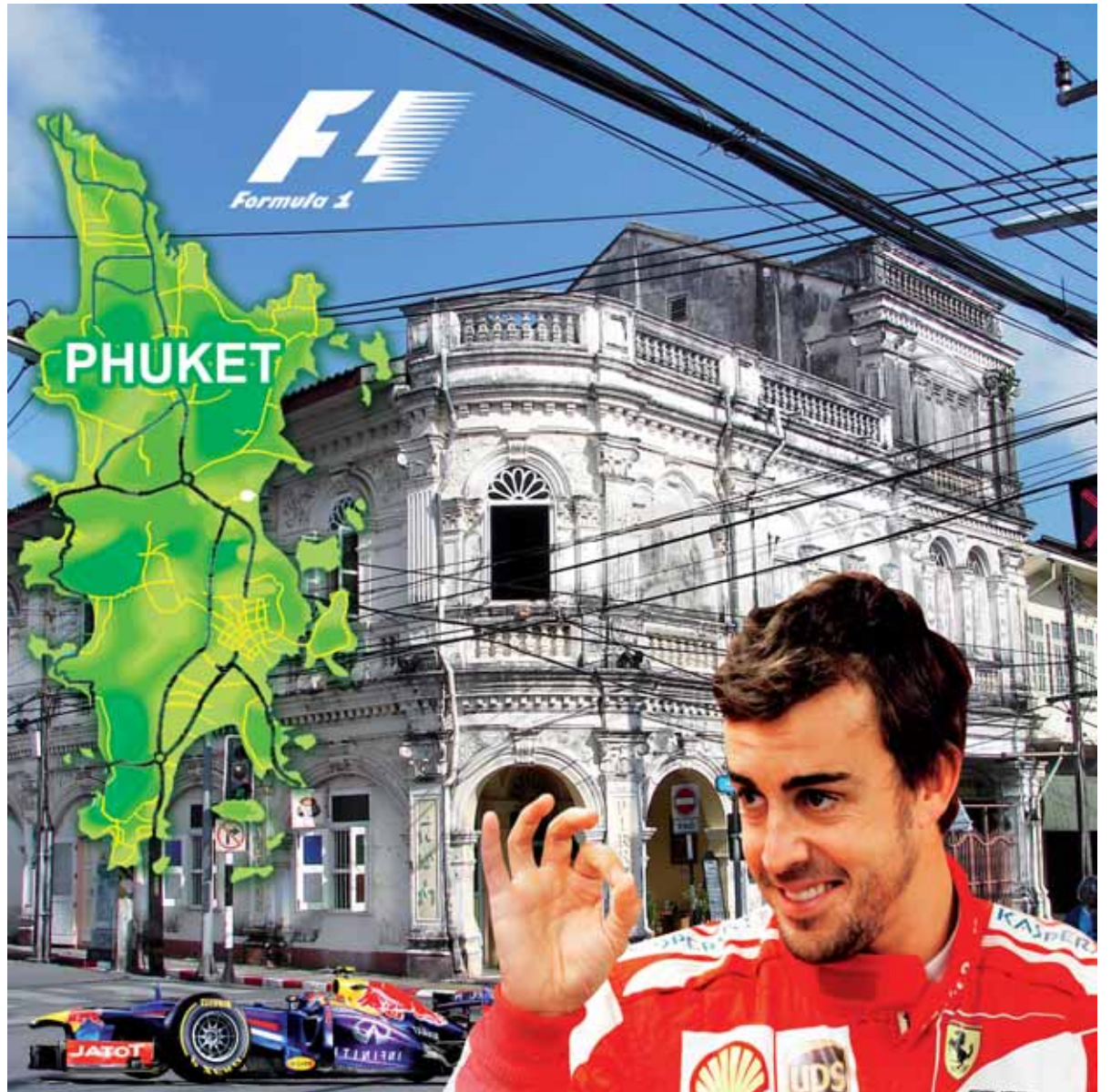
It has been written elsewhere that Grand Prixes are run in sophisticated cities with efficient public transport systems. That is not entirely true. South Korea International Circuit is 400 kilometers from Seoul; Silverstone is 120km from London; Spa is 60km from Liege; Circuit of the Americas is 20km outside Austin Texas; Nurburgring is 70km from Cologne; and Sepang is 60km from Kuala Lumpur, albeit convenient for the airport.

Be that as it may, most spectators will of necessity be relying on Phuket's celebrated public transport system, and that would be a special challenge. Undoubtedly there would have to be public sector investment in transport infrastructure.

The benefits for the tourism industry here would be significant, but assessing the value of the event is complex. There may be no increase in airline arrivals or hotel room-nights because of the race. These much vaunted numbers mean little, because hotels and airlines discount their rates during lean periods and increase them when demand is high to maintain occupancy. So the question is, will average tourist consumption increase?

Airlines may not be able to increase rates, but hotels certainly would, and restaurants, bars and shops would benefit.

Around the world, F1 circuits themselves do not really make money, for reasons discussed in an earlier article. Singapore for



**GAMBLE:** The local business community might expect increased consumption of \$600mn from an F1 weekend.

instance is rumoured to lose US\$150mn annually. Phuket would need a sponsor with deep pockets. Red Bull fits the bill. It has a stake in F1, is Thai, and has the contacts to bring other sponsors and the government on board.

F1 will require a host fee from the race. For the sake of argument, let us guess \$30mn. And the circuit will probably get no money from trackside advertising, TV fees, or corporate hospitality. The circuit would spend perhaps \$15mn marketing the event, and its costs of running the track would probably be \$20mn per year from what I know of other tracks. So it has an annual commitment of say \$65mn.

The circuit would expect a range of tickets and some multi-day income. I am guessing an average gate-receipt of \$250, and catering profits of \$20 per person, say \$270 per person in total. That would be \$13mn income with conservative attendance estimates. So the circuit would reasonably be expecting to recoup its marketing costs, but not its operating costs. Of course, other racing events would raise additional income during the year, but those deals have to be negotiated as well.

There could be ancillary attractions on the site such as a Red Bull theme park, simulators, track-drives, hotels, air strip,

marina, residential area, and other F1 themed attractions, with year-round income. But in any case, I guess the circuit would be looking for support from sponsors and the government of over \$100mn in the first year, and similar amounts for some years thereafter.

Looking at the economy of Phuket, I have read that the local business community can expect increased consumption of \$600mn from an F1 weekend. That would require 100,000 people spending \$6,000 each over three days over and above what other low season tourists pay. That looks unlikely to me. Phuket might reasonably target 50,000 fans the first year, plus the circus itself, injecting over \$100mn to the economy. It could be double that in later years.

In addition, there would probably be 200-400 permanent jobs created, and most importantly, the value of the Phuket brand, significantly eroded over recent years by cheap tourists, could be significantly increased.

There is probably no other destination in Thailand with such brand-value-added potential.

It is an interesting proposition, but it depends on having a really committed sponsor.

All I can say is, I really look forward to meeting you at Phuket's Red Bull Stadium in 2015!



**Singapore** is rumoured to lose \$150 million annually. Photo: chinsuyuan



## International Sport

## Wimbledon: Prestige and drama

By Andrew Scott

RAFAEL Nadal's blistering return to tennis from injury means that the top four male tennis players in the world will compete at Wimbledon this year – Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray and Roger Federer.

Rafael Nadal enters Wimbledon playing some of the best tennis of his career. The Mallorcan spent seven months out with a knee injury and watched helplessly as he dropped to fifth in the world rankings. Since his return in February, Nadal has played in nine straight finals, winning seven, and recently won his eighth French Open title in nine attempts. Nadal is the only player to have won a single Grand Slam eight times.

The grass courts of the Old England Club are probably Nadal's weakest surface, but he has still reached five finals, winning two, since he made his debut in 2003.

The biggest hindrance for Rafael Nadal will be the seeding at Wimbledon; because of his ranking he could face Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray or Roger Federer as early as the quarterfinals.

Defending Wimbledon champion Roger Federer has won Wimbledon seven times and has more grand slam titles, 17, than any other player in the Open era. Wimbledon is to Federer what Roland Garros is to Nadal. But that has not stopped the rumor mill churning out speculation that he could retire this year.



**PRESSURE:** Federer will be hoping he can return to winning ways after a poor start to the year. Photo: Reuters

The main source of this speculation is centered around his advancing years, 31, compared to his main rivals: Djokovic 26, Nadal 27 and Murray 26.

Also, his grip on Wimbledon has started to slip as the last three editions have involved five different finalists and seen separate winners each time – Nadal, Djokovic and Roger Federer. His form this year has been surprisingly poor, winning his first title since August 2012 with victory over Russia's Mikhail Youzhny in the final of the Gerry Weber Open in Halle, Germany on June 16.

Roger Federer won 6-7 (5-7) 6-3 6-4 to collect the 77<sup>th</sup> title of his career. Ominously, four of Federer's seven Wimbledon wins have come after triumphs in Halle.

World number one Novak Djokovic, who was knocked out of Roland Garros in the semifinal by Rafael Nadal, won Wimbledon for the first and only time in 2011. The Serbian has maintained his consistency, winning the Australian Open, Dubai Tennis Championship and the Monte Carlo Masters already this year.

Andy Murray returned from the back injury that kept him out of

the French Open to claim his third Queen's Club title, beating Marin Cilic 5-7 7-5 6-3. The Queen's Club win will boost his confidence as he once again bids to become the first British men's singles champion since Fred Perry in 1936. Murray lost last year's final to Federer 4-6 7-5 6-3 6-4.

Women's tennis has formed its own breakaway group, the top three ranked women in the world: Serena Williams, Victoria Azarenka and Maria Sharapova. The last six majors have been won by someone out of tennis' newest trinity, and all three reached the semifinals



**Serena Williams.** Photo: Reuters

of last year's Olympics tennis tournament held at Wimbledon – Williams claiming gold, Sharapova silver and Azarenka bronze.

Williams, who won the recent French Open and has won 31 straight matches, is the clear favorite to claim her sixth Wimbledon title and her dominance over the other two ladies is brutally illustrated when comparing matches between the three. Azarenka leads Sharapova 7-6, Williams leads Sharapova 14-2 and Williams leads Azarenka 12-2.

Wimbledon runs from June 24 to July 7.

## World rugby round up: Wounded Lions

IN SPORT, truth is often stranger than fiction. If someone had predicted that 36-year-old Shane Williams (who retired from international rugby two years ago), Brad Barritt (on holiday in the US) and both Christian Wade and Billy Twelvetrees (part of the recent tour of Argentina with England) would all be down under and playing in the last and crucial State game before the first Lions Test against The Wallabies, one would have doubted their sanity. Yet such is the injury count among the tourist backs that this is what happened.

The main reason for these draconian management measures was further injuries sustained during a bruising battle with the Waratahs. Though the Lions won convincingly 46-19, they lost Test center Jamie Roberts with a torn hamstring and having already declined to risk Brian O'Driscoll, George North, Tommy Bowe or Manu Tuilagi (all carrying knocks), the team had a makeshift look. In the event, they performed heroically, with Leigh Halfpenny again the star with 30 points, and Jonathan Davies offering a complete performance at outside center. Ten of this side will probably start the First Test, including the front five.

Sadly, the "reserve" team's subsequent display against the Brumbies in Canberra on Tuesday was an anti-climax. Unsurprisingly, the reinforcements performed like players either short of practice or unused to each other, the set piece was dysfunctional with Best's



**HURTING:** Lions players Justin Tipuric (left) and Toby Faletau (2nd left) fight for the ball against ACT Brumbies' Sam Carter. Photo: Reuters

throwing inaccurate, and Hogg, playing in the unaccustomed position of outside half, too often chose the wrong tactical options in a woeful first half. Though there was more urgency to their play in the second period, the Lions surrendered their unbeaten record, losing a tight game by 14-12.

In New Zealand, the top ranked nation lead France 2-0 in a three Test series. The first Test was close, with France belying their Six Nations form with a spirited display, in which Wesley Fofana scored a typically dynamic try to give France an early lead. If they were eventually unlucky to lose

23-13, they were then outclassed in the second game by a clinical All Blacks side, reaping the benefit of collective training. France conceded thirty points without reply.

Elsewhere in the rugby-playing world, there has been much activity and some surprises. In Japan, a Welsh team shorn of all its Lions and controversially lacking the experienced James Hook and Dwayne Peel, could only draw a two match series with the host nation. Also unexpected was Scotland's defeat by the feisty Samoans in South Africa, a defeat which shows that they, in common with Wales, have limited strength in depth. The outcome of this

quadrangular tournament, which also features Italy and South Africa, hinges on the final game between the hosts and Samoa.

England, it seems, have no such problems with reserve strength. A young and inexperienced side inflicted on Argentina the first whitewash ever achieved by a visiting English team. They convincingly won the first game by 32 points to 3, and in a much tougher second encounter, triumphed 51-26.

The tour produced some new international stars, especially in the three quarters where Christian Wade, Marlon Yarde, Kyle Eastmond and Jonny May were formed part of a rapier-sharp back division. Yarde scored twice on his debut and Eastmond beat five men in a run reminiscent of Jason Robinson at his best.

Forward dominance led to two penalty tries. Having won seven of their last eight games, England will go into the autumn internationals in the knowledge that they can, like New Zealand, field two very different teams of international standard.

As for the wounded Lions, they must raise their game against the Wallabies in the first Test in Brisbane. Not helped by the news that Digby Ioane, the Wallabies' star winger had declared his fitness for the encounter. Bring it on.

The Lions play their first Test against Australia on June 22 at 5:05pm, followed by a match against the Melbourne Rebels on June 25 at 4:40pm. – **Patrick Campbell**



## Sport

# Wrestling action at Saphan Hin

By Andrew Scott

THE 2013 Asian Junior Wrestling Championships was held at Saphan Hin's 4,000-seater Indoor Sports Complex last weekend. Nearly 400 wrestlers from 20 countries competed at Free Style, Greco Roman and Female wrestling. The event was open to 17 to 18-year-old wrestlers, but participants under the age of 17 could compete if organizers received written permission from their parents.

Thailand had over 20 wrestlers at the event but none from Phuket. The majority of Thai wrestlers were from Nakhon Si Thammarat, Rachathani and Bangkok.

The event was the first time some of the Asian wrestlers have competed in an event since the World Wrestling Body (FILA) implemented a number of rule changes to help get the sport back into the Olympics, mainly: the time and periods of the bout (2x3 minutes), cumulative score instead of the best-of-three-format, the procedure for passivity (the rules governing Greco-Roman and Freestyle are distinctly different) and take downs are now worth two

points. These rule changes are designed to encourage wrestlers to adopt a more attacking style of wrestling.

Due to poor advertising by the event organizers or a distinct lack of interest in wrestling, the indoor arena at Saphan Hin was full of competitors, coaches, officials and family members, but hardly any fans.

The Thai Amateur Wrestling Association's International Coordinator, Achara Pimpang understands that wrestling is not as big in Thailand as in India or Iran.

"When people in Thailand think of wrestling they think the wrestlers will throw chairs and that it is the professional wrestling they see on TV. People in Thailand don't really know wrestling," she said.

India finished top overall in Free Style wrestling with 68 points, Thailand came 13<sup>th</sup> with nine points. Japan and India finished joint top on 55 points overall in Female wrestling, with Thailand's female wrestlers finishing a respectable 5<sup>th</sup> on 44 points. South Korea won the Greco Roman wrestling on 57 points, Thailand finished 9<sup>th</sup> with 24 points.

Wrestling has made the final shortlist



400 wrestlers from 20 countries competed at Free Style, Greco Roman and Female wrestling.



Lots of empty seats at Saphan Hin's 4,000-seater Indoor Sports Complex.

of sports to be considered for the 2020 Olympic Games along with squash and a joint baseball/softball bid. One sport will be chosen in September at an International Olympic Committee meeting in Argentina in September.

# Young sailors get own Raceweek

TALENTED youth sailors are getting anxious to show their seniors how sailing is done, with an inaugural Junior Phuket Raceweek to be held on the day before the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the island's premier Phuket Raceweek regatta concludes.

Organized by Media Business Services (MBS) and co-hosted by Regent Phuket Cape Panwa and Panwa Beach Resort Phuket, the one-day youth competition set for Saturday, June 20, complements its "big brother" regatta which will take place from July 17-21.

An innovative idea, Junior Phuket Raceweek will be contested off Panwa Cape, the Southeastern most tip of Phuket, with plans to expand the competition from 2014 alongside its the Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek.

"Currently there are limited

opportunities for young sailors on the island to competitively race, and for resident youngsters to race against non-Phuket sailors," said Byron Jones, managing director of organizers Media Business Services (MBS).

"We want to encourage future sailing talent and give youngsters of all nationalities a platform to compete and develop, and at the same time give something back to the Phuket community," added Jones.

The 2013 Junior Phuket Raceweek expects to welcome over 30 youngsters, in Optimists, Bics, Toppers and Lasers, who will compete in up to six races on Saturday July 20. The competition is expected to be exciting and challenging with strong support from Ao Chalong Yacht Club and the Phuket Youth



A large Optimist fleet is expected at the 2013 Junior Phuket Raceweek. Photo: Marinesceneasia

Sailing Squadron who will be sending teams to compete.

Phuket's east coast and the Panwa area offers some of the best sailing conditions on the island during July, and together with co-hosts Regent Phuket Cape Panwa and Panwa Beach Resort Phuket, the area is an ideal location for the inaugural Junior Phuket Raceweek.

Registration for Junior Phuket Raceweek will take place on Friday, July 19 at Regent Phuket Cape Panwa between 1pm and 5pm, followed by an opening party with racing on Saturday July 20.

Junior Phuket Raceweek is supported by the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Sports Authority of Thailand and the Yacht Racing

Association of Thailand.

– *Phuket Gazette*

The event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and 'Phuket Today', the island's only national television show, aired daily on True Visions (channels 99 and 58)

For more details on the event, visit [juniorphuketraceweek.com](http://juniorphuketraceweek.com).

## PSS local tourney at TSLC

THE Phuket Soccer Schools (PSS) Academy under-8s and under-10s played in a local tournament at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club last weekend.

The under-8s finished the tournament second on goal difference. Head Coach Martin Hill was especially impressed with the young players holding their positions and working hard during the three games.

The PSS Academy under-10s performed well overall playing some great football but were punished against the run of play in their last game by FBS Patong. Martin Hill said the focus for the under-10s is now the formation of 7v7 and it was good to see most players understanding their new responsibilities on the field.



Action from the tourney. Photo: PSS

### Final Standings under-8s

FBS Patong A	12 points
PSS	7 points
Bang Jo	7 points
FBS Patong B	3 points

### Final standings under-10s

PSS	9 points
FBS Patong	9 points
Para	6 points
Bang Jo	4 points

– *Phuket Gazette*

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**SURF'S UP:** A young flow boarder at the Flow Jam event held at Surf House. Photos: Andrew Scott

# Surf with the flow

A CONGREGATION of local and international pro riders attended the first ever flowboarding competition in Phuket at Surf House, Kata on June 15.

More than 30 riders from regional flow boarding venues like Flow House Bangkok, Sunway Lagoon Malaysia and Wave House Sentosa participated at the Flow Jam event, along with many local riders from Phuket.

Surf House Phuket organized five divisions of surf competitions such as National Men, National Women and International Flow Board Divisions.

Flowboarding is a new surf sport in Thailand that incorporates many aspects of surfing, snowboarding and skateboarding.

— *Phuket Gazette*

To learn more about flowboarding and Surf House Phuket, visit: [surfhousephuket.com](http://surfhousephuket.com).

### LIST OF COMPETITION WINNERS

The following are the winners of the inaugural Surf House Phuket Flow Jam.

#### NATIONAL JUNIOR

1<sup>st</sup> - Victor (Flow House Bangkok)  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Silvia (Flow House Bangkok)  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Plum (Flow House Bangkok)

#### NATIONAL WOMEN

1<sup>st</sup> - Nam (Surf House Phuket)  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Anne (Surf House Phuket)  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Silvia (Flow House Bangkok)

#### NATIONAL MEN

1<sup>st</sup> - O (Flow House Bangkok)  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Zoom (Flow House Bangkok)  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Victor (Flow House Bangkok)

#### INTERNATIONAL FLOWBOARD

1<sup>st</sup> - Faddy (Nuke / Wave House Sentosa)  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Sham (San Guis / Wave House Sentosa)  
3<sup>rd</sup> - O (Flow House Bangkok)

#### INTERNATIONAL BODYBOARD

1<sup>st</sup> - Nazri (Sunway Lagoon Malaysia)  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Vincent (Nuke / Red i / WCB)  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Zach (Carbon / Wave House Sentosa)

A 'Sickest Trick Flow Battle' was won by Chi-Su Song from South Korea with his cleanly executed 'switch heel flip.'



The 2013 ITU Triathlon Series event to be held at Patong Beach has been cancelled. Photo: Facebook/ITU

## Thailand's first ever ITU Triathlon false starts

THE Local Organizing Committee (LOC Phuket) of the 2013 Phuket ITU Long Distance Triathlon Series event has announced the cancellation of the event set to be held in Patong November 9 to 10.

The weekend of triathlon activities was to include a series of triathlon events over two days, culminating in the first ever ITU Long Distance triathlon in Thailand.

Organizers in Thailand secured a slot for Phuket in the global schedule of a series of International Triathlon Union sanctioned Long Distance Triathlon events around the world.

However, due to reasons out of their control, the organizers feel it is no longer possible to put on the event to global standards specified by ITU in the time

frame remaining.

The organizers are disappointed to have to announce cancellation of the 2013 event and will reassess options for Phuket hosting such a prestigious event again in the future.

The organizers would like to thank the provincial authorities for their support throughout.

— *Phuket Gazette*

## YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE FIXTURES

**SATURDAY, 22 JUNE 2013 18:00**

PTT Rayong **VS** Korat FC  
BBCU FC **VS** Saraburi FC  
Sriracha FC **VS** Trat FC  
Khon Kaen FC **VS** Air Force FC

**SUNDAY, 23 JUNE 2013 16:00**

Singhtarua FC **VS** Nakhon Pathom

**SUNDAY, 23 JUNE 2013 18:00**

Rayong FC **VS** TTM FC  
Krabi FC **VS** Bangkok FC

**SUNDAY, 23 JUNE 2013 18:30**

Siam Navy FC **VS** Ayutthaya FC

## YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE

	TEAM	P	GD	PTS
1	Air Force Utd.	15	12	37
2	PTT Rayong FC	14	12	30
3	Bangkok FC	15	10	28
4	Singhtarua FC	15	8	27
5	Korat FC	15	7	23
6	Phuket FC	14	5	22
7	Saraburi FC	15	5	21
8	Nakhon Pathom	15	2	21
9	Trat FC	15	0	21
10	BBCU FC	15	0	21
11	Krabi FC	15	-3	17
12	Ayutthaya FC	15	-4	15
13	Siam Navy FC	15	-7	15
14	Khon kaen FC	15	-8	15
15	Si Racha FC	15	-7	13
16	TTM FC	15	-10	12
17	Rayong Utd.	15	-12	10
18	Rayong FC	15	-10	9

## YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE

**JUNE 16**

**RAYONG UTD**

**VS**

**PHUKET FC**



**KICKOFF 16.00**



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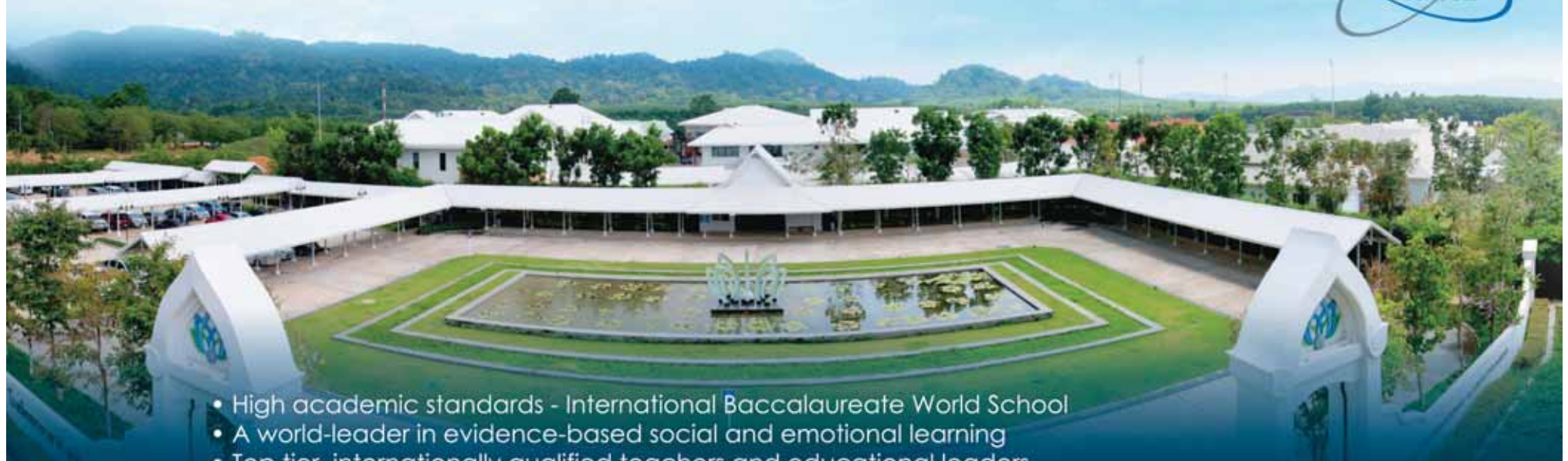
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