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INSIDE TODAY

September 7 - 13, 2013 | PhuketGazette.Net | In partnership with The Nation

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■ CHINESE TOURIST WAKES FROM COMA AFTER JET-SKI CRASH

# Beach safety a slam, dunk

■ Patong speedboat operators to ignore order to slow down

By **Irfan Jamdukor**

A MOVE by the Phuket Marine Office to ramp up beach safety by enforcing a 5-knot speed limit for boats is meeting strong resistance from parasail operators at Patong.

Enforcement of the speed limit is aimed at boosting water safety in the wake of a Chinese honeymooner being rendered comatose in a collision between a parasail boat and the rented jet-ski he was riding at Patong Beach (see page 3).

In response, Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut met the Chinese tourist's pregnant wife and promised action would be taken. He also called an emergency meeting about beach boat safety on Tuesday to hear what steps the Marine Office would take to avoid any similar accidents in the future.

"Jet-skis, as extreme sport machines, are too difficult to regulate. Instead, we will focus on



A Patong jet-ski operator points to where the jet-ski collided with the parasail boat, sending a Chinese tourist, just 27 years old and on his honeymoon, comatose to the hospital. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

introducing a new 'vessel management system' for speedboats," said Phuket Marine Office chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut.

The new system will require all speedboats operating in Phuket waters to be fitted with elec-

tronic motion monitors that log boat speed, direction and GPS location.

"The aim is to ensure that speedboats do not..."

Continued on page 3

**Pian may  
stand for  
re-election  
as mayor**

PATONG Mayor Pian Keesin has the right to run for re-election even if he is found guilty of vote fraud, local election officials have confirmed. But the Election Commission in Bangkok has yet to file a complaint to the court to have the west coast power player removed from office.

Full story on Page 2

**Taxi fares  
to rise 'for  
the better'**

PHUKET'S leading transport officials are looking to increase the standard fares charged by metered taxis in an attempt to provide better service to tourists, and a better standard of living for taxi drivers.

Full story on Page 4

**Water body  
under fire**

THE chief of the island's mains water supply has defended his office's work to install new pipes, saying he will ensure better notice in future when shutting off tap water supply for several days at a time.

Full story on Page 5

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## This Week



### Property

Terminal X to add 10 new check-in counters at airport. **Page 13**



### Business

New pool factory in Phuket to serve as hub for Asean. **Page 17**



### Health

The benefits of pilates laid out by a long term instructor. **Page 36**



### Environment

Find out about how we are rapidly ruining our planet. **Pages 40-41**



### Events

The Turtle Fun Run is here again; this week in history. **Pages 44**



### Sport

Swimming tip: pace yourself to reach your goals. **Pages 49**

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# Vote fraud charge cannot stop Pian

By Saran Mitrarat

PATONG Mayor Pian Keesin has the right to run for re-election even if he is found guilty of vote fraud and the order to remove him from office is upheld, election officials have confirmed.

Action to unseat Mayor Pian began last year when the Office of the Election Commission of Thailand (ECT) headquarters in Bangkok, responding to a complaint after the September 2012 election, issued an order to remove him and five other Patong officials from office for electoral fraud.

The next step took place in Phuket, when Phuket Election Commission (PEC) Director Kittipong Thiengkunakrit signed that order on July 29 this year.

To go into effect, the order must now be filed by the ECT and then supported by the Administrative Court Region 8 in Phuket Town.

As of Wednesday, the ECT had yet to file the complaint, a court official confirmed to the *Gazette*.

"Once the court has received the complaint, Mayor Pian and the five other officials will be suspended from office, pending the outcome of the court hearing,"



Patong Mayor Pian Keesin after winning the September 2012 election. He has since been charged with vote fraud. Photo: Gazette file

Dr Kittipong said.

"During the hearing, the accused will have the right to defend themselves against the allegations," he added.

The EC in Bangkok has until

September 25 to file the complaint, Dr Kittipong confirmed.

"At this stage, all we can do is wait until the EC files the complaint to the court. I simply don't know when then that will happen," he said.

## Blackout on Swedes' trial

OFFICIALS at Phuket Provincial Court on August 29 ordered a media blackout of the ongoing trial of Swedish nationals Tommy Soderland and Sebastian Ljung amid concerns that the media was influencing witness testimonies.

The two men are on trial for the murder of Maksim Schantz in Phuket in 2011.

"We have seen at least one story in the media that strongly supported the suspects. That caused the victim's family much distress, and so we are now asking that no media report on the trial until it has concluded," said the Director of Administration at Phuket Provincial Court, Wanna Suetortrakul.

"After the trial has concluded, the press will be free to publish

details of the testimonies and the verdict, as is their right," Ms Wanna said.

"But while the trial is ongoing, this is a decision for the judge to make, and the judge in this case has decided to deny the media the privilege of publishing any story until the case is finalized," she explained.

Among the court's chief concerns are that news stories revealing details about the case may influence witness testimonies.

Soderlund's lawyer, Prachaya Thidpasawong, agreed to the ban.

"If the media publishes a story [while the trial is underway], it might contain information that could influence the testimony of witnesses who have yet to testify," he said. — *Phuket Gazette*

## Australian dies in Patong crash

AN AUSTRALIAN tourist died at Vachira Phuket Hospital on the morning of September 3 after the motorcycle he was riding crashed into a power pole in Patong.

Police and rescue workers arrived at the scene, near Patong Municipality Office on Ratchapathanuson Road at about 5:30am.

"We found a man unconscious, with a severe head injury," said Lt Col Chaowalit Neamwadee of Patong Police.

"We did not smell any alcohol on him, so we doubt the accident was alcohol-related," Col Chaowalit said.

The Australian, identified as Tristen Sheridan, 35, was swiftly taken to Patong Hospital, but his injuries necessitated transfer to



The motorcycle rental company identified the man as Tristen Sheridan.

Vachira Hospital in Phuket Town at about 7am, Col Chaowalit said.

He was pronounced dead there at 8:52am.

Though Mr Sheridan was not

carrying identification, Patong Hospital determined his identity by contacting the company that had rented him his motorcycle.

— *Thawit Bilabdullar*



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# Jet-skier survives boat crash

By Thawit Bilabdullar

THE Chinese tourist rendered comatose when the jet-ski he was riding collided with a parasailing speedboat at Patong Beach has recovered and been released from the hospital.

A nurse at Phuket International Hospital confirmed to the *Gazette* that Shen Baocheng, 27, was released on September 3.

Mr Shen's travels began on August 31, the day after he and his wife arrived in Phuket with friends to celebrate their honeymoon.

"Our friends went on a day trip to Koh Phi Phi," said Wen Wen, Mr Shen's wife.

"We decided not to go because I am pregnant and didn't want to be on the boat.

Mr Shen, a policeman, rented a jet-ski while Ms Wen Wen stayed on the beach.

By 11am he and a speedboat offering parasailing rides had collided. A lifeguard managed to get him to shore quickly, and along with jet-ski operators on the beach, started CPR. The operators had received first aid training just the week before, Phuket Gov-



Governor Maitri Inthusut and other officials visited Mr Shen the day of the accident. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

ernor Maitri Inthusut later said.

When police and rescue workers arrived, "Mr Shen was unconscious and rescue workers were unable to rouse him," Lt Thawatchai Srimai of the Patong Police told the *Gazette*.

He was sped to the emergency

room at Patong Hospital, and an hour later transferred to Phuket International Hospital near Phuket Town, where he remained comatose and was put on a respirator.

Governor Maitri, along with the Kathu District Chief, a Marine officer, an official from the Phuket

Jet-Ski Association and the speedboat owner himself all visited Mr Shen the same day, a move which signalled just how politically sensitive the jet-ski issue has become in Phuket.

Concerns about jet-ski safety and unscrupulous behavior of jet-

ski rental operators have prompted complaints from the Chinese honorary consul and a consortium of EU Ambassadors in recent months. Just two days before Mr Shen's accident, Governor Maitri had opened a two-day seminar aimed at improving standards and behavior among the operators.

"We would like to support the victim and his wife," Gov Maitri said. "We want them to know they have not been abandoned by the Phuket government," he said.

By September 2, Mr Shen had regained consciousness and was feeling better, and on the afternoon of September 3 he was able to leave the hospital.

"We will take this lesson to learn and find the way to improve jet-ski safety for tourists. We must prevent this kind of accident from happening in the future," Gov Maitri stated.

Additional reporting by Irfan Jamdukor and Kritsada Mueanhawong

See Editorial 'Zooming to Safety' on page 18

## Speedboats at center of safety push

From page 1

...breach the 5-knot speed limit when approaching or departing a transit point, and that includes the beach.

"All boats will be fitted with devices that transmit real-time data to the Marine Office, but we will focus on parasail speedboats first," Chief Phuripat said.

"Any captains found speeding will be liable to a 2,000-baht fine for each infringement," he added.

However, Padungsak Pissadu, the parasail operator at Patong Beach whose speedboat was involved in the accident that sent the Chinese tourist to the hospital, argued that it will be very difficult to comply with the law.

"It is impossible to achieve takeoff while observing the 5-knot speed limit. We need to generate a wind speed of 30kmh, which is just over 18 knots, for the first 50 meters in order to achieve takeoff.

"After that we can slow down as much as we want," Mr Padungsak said.

"Maybe the Marine Office doesn't understand this. For us to keep under the speed limit, we need 13 knots of onshore wind to get the parasail off the ground," he added.

Mr Padungsak said he would continue to operate as usual until the matter is discussed further.

"We will certainly raise this issue with the Marine Office," Mr Padungsak assured.

## Baby's body found at garbage depot

THE body of a dead baby girl was found at the Karon trash-separating facility on September 1.

One of the trash collectors said he was separating trash at the garbage depot at around 5:30pm, when he opened a plastic bag and found the tiny corpse, said Capt Channarong Prakongkua of the Karon Police.

"It was a baby girl with the umbilical cord still attached. We believe she had been dead for about 24 hours before her body - which weighed about 3 kilograms - was discovered," Capt Channarong said.

The body was sent to Vachira

Phuket Hospital for a more thorough examination.

"We have yet to learn who the mother is. However, police are now searching for her," Capt Channarong said.


- Kritsada Mueanhawong



The infant's body was found by workers at the trash sorting facility in Karon. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

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## Terminated concessions fire airport operators' ire

BUSINESS operators whose concessions have not been renewed to operate shops and provide services at Phuket International Airport met with top Ministry of Transport officials on Wednesday, when Col Winai Sompong arrived in Phuket to discuss the issue directly with the retailers.

The closed-door meeting followed Thammawat Wongcharoenyut and nine other airport business operators filing a complaint to Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak against Airports of Thailand (AoT), which operates Phuket Airport, on Tuesday.

"The business operators argue that they have operated their businesses at the airport for a long time, so they should have the right to renew their concessions, but it's all down to the AoT board. The airport might want to give the opportunity to other operators to run businesses at the airport," V/Gov Somkiet explained.

— **Orawin Narabal**

# Fare rise to thwart cab cheats

By Irfan Jamdukor

TAXI fares are set to rise in Phuket in an attempt to thwart the illegal-taxi trade and to provide legitimate taxi drivers with a decent standard of living.

"We will increase taxi fares as part of our campaign to solve the problem of taxi-driver cheats in Phuket," said Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada.

"If the standard fares rise, taxi drivers will have more incentive to use meters instead of charging flat rates," he told the *Phuket Gazette*.

The news follows Vice Governor Chamroen chairing a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on August 29 that targeted the problems that have arisen from the excessive and embarrassing taxi fares that are charged in Phuket.

"We receive more than 10 complaints a month from people telling us that metered-taxi drivers in Phuket do not charge standard fares, and they differ in the levels of service they provide," Phuket Land Transport Department Chief Terayout Prasertphol said.

"That encourages tourists – and residents – to not use taxis. This is a big problem and it will



Sutin Jampathong, managing director of Phuket Taxi Meter Service, offering his viewpoint at the meeting held at Phuket Provincial Hall.

affect Phuket's tourism [industry]," he told the *Gazette*.

Mr Terayout explained that three new rates had been decided on, and will be proposed for use in Phuket.

"All of them are under the rates set by the Department of Land Transport," he said.

The rise in taxi-fare rates will be the first Phuket taxi-fare adjustment since 2003, Mr Terayout pointed out.

"At present, the first two kilometers is set at 50 baht per kilometer. Then, up to 22 kilometers, the rate is seven baht per kilometer. In excess of 22 kilome-

ters, the charge is six baht per kilometer.

"This rate is not fair when when one considers today's cost of living," he said.

Mr Terayout's concerns were echoed by Sutin Jampathong, managing director of Phuket Taxi Meter Service Company Limited.

"There have been many complaints from taxi drivers about the fares being too low compared with today's living costs. The proposed increase is a good solution for existing taxi problems," Mr Sutin said.

Mr Terayout added, "Taxi drivers on Koh Samui charge higher fares, but they have fewer complaints about drivers cheating. Therefore, we believe we are taking the right course of action."

Vice Governor Chamroen noted that four teams of officers had been deployed to act against taxi-driver cheats.

"This will benefit passengers and the drivers. It will also help improve our standards and the image of metered-taxi drivers in Phuket."

"We will move to have all taxis in Phuket fitted with meters in the future," he said.

## Tour operators in lessons to be legal

THE Phuket Employment Office this week staged two days of seminars to educate Russians, Chinese and Koreans operating tourism-related businesses in Phuket about work permits and employment law regarding foreigners.

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut officiated the opening of the first seminar on Monday, attended by 100 foreign and Thai representatives working for tour operators that cater to Russian tourists.

Talks were delivered in Thai and related to attendees by translators.

Another seminar is being held today that will cater to Chinese and Korean tour operators.

"We want foreigners involved in business and working in Phuket to know the relevant Thai laws involved. We want to teach them what is required and also hear about the problems they encounter," Governor Maitri said.

He explained that the three nationalities were chosen as they represented the leading source markets for inbound tourists to Phuket.

"We chose these nationalities because a lot of tourists from those countries come to Phuket, and these tourists do not speak English, so almost all of the tour operators catering to these markets hire their own native-speaking guides to serve them – and that is illegal," he told the *Gazette*.

By law, only qualified, registered Thai nationals may work as



A foreign businessman attending one of the seminars at the Phuket Employment Office.

tour guides in Thailand.

"After this seminar, we expect the number of foreigners working illegally in Phuket to decrease," Governor Maitri said.

Phuket Provincial Employment Office chief Yaowapa Pibulpol explained that the seminar covered the basics in the Foreign Business Act BE 2542, Working of Aliens Act BE 2551, Immigration Act BE 2522, Tourism Business and Guide Act BE 2535, Social Security Act BE 2533 and the Trade Associations Act BE 2509.

"When business owners know, understand and respect these laws, the number of people working illegally in Phuket's tourism industry will decrease," she said.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

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# Water shutoffs boil over

By Saran Mittrarat

AN ARGUMENT broke out during the Phuket Governor's monthly meeting with the media on Monday when journalist-residents of Wichit turned on the manager of the Phuket Provincial Waterworks (PWA) demanding to know why their water had been suddenly cut off for three days.

"The PWA shut off the water supply without notice," complained one media member who resides in Wichit.

"I didn't have a chance to stock up on water," he added.

However, Pisak Chonlayut, manager of the Phuket Provincial Waterworks Authority, did not offer an apology.

Instead, he argued that the PWA had given plenty of advance warning to its consumers.

"I asked the PWA public relations division to announce the water shutoff on August 26 by driving around in a car with a loud-speaker, and we also contacted radio and newspapers to announce the news," he said.

Journalists in attendance responded that they had heard no such reports.

Mains water supply was shut off from Thursday through Saturday last week, Mr Pisak explained, so that the PWA could replace existing water pipes with larger ones.



Phuket Provincial Waterworks Authority chief Pisak Chonlayut makes his case at the stormy meeting.

"Phuket needs to be able to supply more water to serve the increasing number of people living here," he said.

The PWA is using about 400 million baht from the budget for the fiscal year 2012-2013, and expects to complete the project in 2015, he said.

In another plan to meet Phuket's growing water needs, the PWA is looking to increase the capacity of two water-treatment plants and, additionally, build a new one, he said.

The water-treatment capacity at Bang Wad Reservoir plant will be increased from 1,500 to 2,000 cubic meters/hour and the plant at Baan Bang Jo in Thalung boosted from 500 to 800 cubic meters/hour.

The new plant, to be located in Chalong, will be capable of providing 500 cubic meters/hour, and along with the other projects is expected to be finished by the end of 2013.

Although the PWA has a raft of new projects underway to increase

water supply, Mr Pisak said he continues to search for water sources as insurance in case of a water shortage.

"We still need water to keep as back up. If anyone has empty land or a reservoir they want to sell us, please contact me directly at 081-6509346," said Mr Pisak.

Mr Pisak promised the journalists in attendance that the next time he needs to turn off the water, he will take additional steps to ensure every resident knows well in advance.

## Luang Pu Supha to be honored by pilgrimage to resting place

FOLLOWERS of revered monk Luang Pu Supha will travel to his final resting place in Sakon Nakhon Province, in Northeast Thailand, to honor the man who became one of Phuket's best-known monks.

Formally known as Phra Mongkol Visut, Luang Pu Supha died at 5:20am on Monday, confirmed Piyawat Seehaworrachart, who had served the revered monk since 1959.

"Soon my friends in Phuket, who are all disciples of Luang Pu Supha, and I will travel to Wat Konsawan to pay our respects to him for the last time," he said.

No ceremony will be held at Wat Luang Pu Supha in Chalong, founded only a handful of years ago by the long-living monk.

Having helped build 38 temples throughout Thailand, Luang Pu Supha is regarded as an iconic theological figure and inspiration by many.

Although Luang Pu Supha was not recognized by Guinness World Records as the World's Oldest Living Man, if his documents were correct he would have claimed the title. His birth certificate, said to have been issued two years after he was born, reads September 17, 1896. — *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

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## Teen abductor pleads guilty to all charges

THE illegal taxi driver charged with abducting and sexually assaulting a Chinese teen tourist on May 17 initially pled not guilty on September 2 to all charges, but after robust questioning by the judge, changed his plea to guilty.

When the judge asked him why he did not stop his car after the teen tried to get out, Mr Paitoon responded, "We were in a desolate area and I was worried about her safety."

The judge then asked, "Why did she want you to stop the car?"

Mr Paitoon did not answer, and a few minutes later changed his plea to guilty. He is charged with deprivation of liberty, sexual assault, using a Category 1 narcotic and consuming alcohol while driving.

—Orawin Narabal

## French, Thai arrested for booze thefts



The suspects after their arrest.

TWO Frenchmen and a Thai woman have been arrested after being caught stealing alcohol and snacks from a local chain of convenience stores in Karon.

Their modus operandi was to have one of them distract shop staff, while the other two lifted the merchandise.

On August 30, one of the men visited a store that he had allegedly been stealing from, and when the staff recognized him they notified the police.

They arrested Abdulharim Saad, 35 and shortly thereafter, Moussa Keita, 19, and Thai national Choojai Traidecha, 26.

—Kritsada Mueanhawong

# Kratom arrests ongoing

## Narcotics control board set to consider decriminalizing the leaf

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

AS THE nation prepares this week to debate decriminalizing kratom leaves, arrests continue in Phuket.

Three Burmese men were charged in Thalang on August 30 for possession of the leaves, and an orchard of the trees was felled in Patong the day before that.

The arrests in Thalang took place at a workers' camp on the Baan Don-Cherng Talay Road during a routine Immigration Police patrol.

"We regularly go through the workers' camps as part of a crime and drug-prevention campaign," said Phuket Immigration Superintendent Sunchai Chokkajaykit.

"This time, we noticed three men sitting together who looked nervous when they saw us. We went to see what they were doing, and discovered they were boiling kratom leaves," he said.

Immigration officers seized the pot, seven kratom leaves in a bag, and a bottle of kratom drink.

The men — Maung Aung Ao, 24; Thant Zin Hein, 28; and Nyi Nyi Oo, 18 — were charged with possession of a Category 5 drug.

In Patong, Sathit Jaihaw, 37, lost twenty kratom trees to chainsaw-wielding officers, and was charged with the possession, sale and distribution of a class 5 narcotic when police found leaves pre-packed for sale in his house.

Mr Sathit confessed that he had



Mr Sathit, center, grew and sold kratom for 10 years in the hills of Patong before his arrest on August 28.

been selling the leaves to laborers for 10 years.

Kratom leaves yield a mild narcotic, and are chewed, brewed in tea, or used in the popular party cocktail "4x100", which is created by mixing an extract from the leaves with cough syrup, cola and ice.

This week the Office of the Narcotics Control Board is to meet

with the Food and Drug Administration, the Public Health Ministry and the National Police to discuss whether kratom should no longer be classified as a narcotic. Available records show that Thailand is the only country that describes kratom as a narcotic.

A Senate-appointed study suggests that relevant authorities

decided to ban kratom in 1943 because they could not collect tax on it as they did on opium consumption. The committee also pointed out that if kratom were to be legalized now, it could deliver economic benefits to Thailand, where it is an indigenous plant.

Additional reporting by The Nation

## Three-hour cobra standoff ends badly for reptile

RESCUE workers in Thalang, in the north of Phuket, were forced to shoot dead a meters-long cobra on August 31 after frantic attempts to remove it from a tree within a workers camp failed.

Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers were called to the camp, located in Baan Lipon, Srisoonthorn, at 10:30pm by Somneuk Jaturapushkul, the village headman's assistant.

"Villagers were afraid the snake would bite someone, possibly even children in the camp, so they called for help," Mr Somneuk said.

The rescue workers, renowned in Phuket for catching and releasing large snakes, spent nearly three hours trying to coax the snake from its position, high in a tree in the middle of the camp.

"In the end, as they couldn't get the snake down, the villagers asked if they could shoot it. They didn't want to risk anyone being bitten by the snake," Mr Somneuk said.

—Thawit Bilabdullar



The cobra was shot when it could not be convinced to descend from a tree.

## Husband 'cows' to wife on his return

A CALF in Baan Bokphok in Si Sa Ket Province is exhibiting some very strange behavior.

The beast keeps walking into 33-year-old Nitaya Sopha's house, going into the bedroom and lying down on her bed.

And Ms Nitaya thinks she knows why: the calf, whose name is Fon, is actually the reincarnation of her late husband, who died just over a year ago.

Ms Nitaya said the beast was born on May 20 this year, and because it was raining heavily on the day of the birth, she named it Fon, which means "rain".

Fon at first seemed no different to her two older siblings. She lazed around, chewed on grass and straw

and generally behaved like any other baby cow.

But about one month ago, Fon started walking into Ms Nitaya's bedroom and lying down on her mattress.

Mrs Nitaya said she'd never seen behavior like it, and neither had her neighbors, who told her Fon was the reincarnation of her dead husband, who when he died on July 10 last year, left her alone to look after their two children.

Ms Nitaya said Fon always lies down in the same place her husband used to, leading her to think her neighbors might just be right.

She added that ever since the calf had been born she had felt lucky, and had won lottery prizes several times.

—Sanook

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# Rambo knifed

# New ruling issued over old passport stamps



The stabbing victim in hospital being treated for his wounds.

A MAN offended by a slap on the head in front of a group of fellow drinkers stabbed his assailant four times.

The event transpired after an evening of drinking at a Burmese workers' camp in Patong.

On the evening of August 29, a 30-year-old man known as "Rambo" got together to drink with his friends, said Patong Police Deputy Superintendent Nikorn Choothong.

Hours later, when they were all drunk, a co-worker named Nai, 32, walked by.

"Rambo aggressively ordered him to buy them some *lao khao* [rice whisky]," said Lt Col Nikorn.

"When Mr Nai refused, Rambo slapped him on the head in front of his friends and co-workers.

"Mr Nai walked away, but came back a few minutes later with a pocket knife and stabbed Rambo – in the shoulder, the hand and stomach," he said.

Rambo was taken to Patong Hospital. Mr Nai fled the scene.

– **Thawit Bilabdullar**

By Orawin Narabal

OFFICERS at Phuket Immigration are calling for all foreigners whose passports are set to expire within the coming year to ensure they are issued new passports and apply – and are issued – new long-term permits-to-stay\* before their current permits expire.

The call follows a new regulation issued by the Immigration Bureau on August 13, explained Lt Col Napat Nusen at Phuket Immigration.

"The regulation is now in effect in Phuket, and all other immigration offices across the country," Col Napat said.

Under the new regulation, immigration officers will no longer issue one-year permits-to-stay that extend beyond the expiry date on a passport.

"Previously, 12-month permits-to-stay could be issued in the current passport, and later transferred into the new passport. That is no longer possible," Col Napat said.

Consequently, applicants whose passports expire during an extension of stay must reapply for a new extension of stay after receiving their new passports.

"The fee for applying for a 12-month permit-to-stay remains at 1,900 baht," Col Napat said.

However, the new rule will not affect those who already have



The key to avoiding glitches with the new ruling is to check your passport's expiry date. Photo: Maciek Klimowiczfile

been issued permits-to-stay.

"Foreigners who already have a permit-to-stay that extends beyond the expiry date on their passport will be allowed to have their current permit-to-stay transferred into their new passport when it arrives," Col Napat said.

"The new rule will phase this out," he added.

The change in policy enables immigration officers to perform their tasks more efficiently, Col

Napat said. "We have not received any complaints about the new rule so far, but we would like to avoid complications later on," he added.

"We suggest that people ensure that they have at least 18 months left on their passports when they apply for 12-month permits-to-stay. This gives them enough time to apply for their next passport and next permit-to-stay," he said.

"We are having a sign made to explain this to foreigners who visit

our office in Phuket Town."

Phuket's Immigration Office is open Monday to Friday, however, due to the high volume of visitors, the office strongly recommends that applicants come between Tuesday and Thursday.

\*Long-term permits-to-stay issued by immigration are commonly referred to by many foreigners, although mistakenly, as "long-stay visas" or "visa extensions".



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**CANAL VILLAGE**  
LAGUNA SHOPPING

## Party over as hedonistic pair nabbed with B1mn of loot

TWO hedonistic thieves who robbed a liquor store and then brazenly drove off with their loot in the back of the store's truck have been apprehended with stolen goods valued at over a million baht, gleaned from an extended stealing spree around Phuket.

Undercover officers first located Ekkachai "Ek" Sae Kang, 33, on a soi off Sakdideet Road, and he led them to his partner in crime, Watchara "Jo" Chuamanee, 37, in Srisoonthorn.

When apprehended, the two men were in possession of a vast array of stolen goods, including: computers, cellphones, watches, gold necklaces, a motorcycle, a car and the liquor store's pickup truck that they had stolen the week before, said Lt Col Prawit Engchuan, Phuket City Police inspector.

The 12 kegs of beer, 10 bottles of whisky and cartons of cigarettes they stole from the liquor store were no longer in their possession.

Mr Ekkachai and Mr Watchara confessed to committing 20 robberies in less than two months, said



Mr Ekkachai (right) and Mr Watchara in custody after they allegedly stole an extraordinary range of goods over a two-month period.

Lt Col Prawit. Their *modus operandi*, they told police, was to ride around on Mr Ekkachai's motorcycle looking for a house with nobody at home.

"We would pick a house with a locked front door, cut the lock and search for valuables in the house. We searched separately and took whatever we found. And we do not share," Mr Ekkachai explained.

"We sometimes ate some food and drink in the house we were robbing," he added.

They sold the stolen items and used the money "to gallivant around", said Col Prawit.

"They have both been charged with theft. In their quest for a good time they may have gained jail time," he added.

– **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



# Brace for more jams

## Preparations begin for construction of Phuket's second underpass

By Irfan Jamdukor

MOTORISTS who have seen the road blocks placed on the median strip in front of Tesco-Lotus on the bypass road this past week need not fear long traffic jams at that intersection just yet, the *Gazette* has been told.

Samak Luedwonghad, director of the Phuket Highways Office, confirmed to the *Gazette* that there are no plans to block the road to commence construction of Phuket's second underpass at the Samkong Intersection until October.

"The road will not be closed anytime soon. We are just preparing for the construction, which may not begin until October, maybe even November," Mr Samak said.

The announcement follows months of traffic jams at the Darasamuth Intersection, near the Central Festival Phuket shopping mall, where construction of Phuket's first underpass is still underway.

In April, Department of Highways' Bureau of Bridge Construction engineer Itthiwat Kritsanawanich confirmed that a construction contractor had been



Regular traffic backs up at the Samkong Intersection, near Tesco Lotus on the bypass road. Photo: Irfan Jamdukor

chosen for the Samkong underpass, but had yet to sign the government tender.

It now appears that procedural step has been completed.

The Samkong underpass, to be built at an estimated cost of 850 million baht, is part of a national-government funded project to overhaul Phuket's road network

in an attempt to alleviate the island's traffic jams.

Under the plan, construction of a third underpass is also planned for the Bang Khu Intersection, at the eastern end of the bypass road.

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut in July this year unveiled plans to build yet another underpass at busy Chalong Circle, at the

south of the island.

In 2004, Thaksin Shinawatra, who was prime minister at the time, scoffed at and rejected outright a proposal to build underpasses at the Samkong junction and the Darasamuth Intersections at a combined cost of 800 million baht, saying that one tunnel long enough could be built for 600mn baht.



Patong resort staff are aiming to prevent tourists from drowning while on holiday. Photo: Marine Police

## Hotel staff step up to prevent tourist deaths

AMID concerns over the high number of drownings in recent years, the Phuket Marine Police provided lifeguard training to staff at hotels and resorts in Patong last week.

The officers also launched a drive to recruit more volunteers from Patong's hospitality industry to join a network of people trained to swiftly report crimes.

A total of 19 Patong resort staffers attended the two-day training program at the Patong Resort Hotel.

"The goal of the training was to increase the number of Patong Beach workers who can use life-saving skills at sea," said Lt Col Panya Chaichana of the Marine Police. **- Chutharat Plerin**

## Hunt for killer moves to Lanta

POLICE are scouring the Krabi mainland area of Koh Lanta District in their efforts to arrest double-homicide fugitive Samran "Khui" Suetrong.

Samran is wanted for shooting dead his stepson's wife, Siripan Noorod, 24, and her 19-month-old son Autthakorn Noorod at their home in Krabi's Khao Phanom District on August 26.

A warrant for Samran's arrest has been issued.

"Police believe he is still in the Krabi area. His mobile phone is registered as activated, still on the mainland, but within Koh Lanta District," Krabi Provincial Police Deputy Commander Boontawee Toraksa explained.

"We have notified Koh Lanta Police to help us to arrest him as soon as possible," he said.

**- Kritsada Mueanhawong**

## Rohingya-shooting report due 'this month'

THE National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRC) has confirmed that the report on the case of the Royal Thai Navy opening fire on Rohingya refugees off the coast of Ranong in February will be concluded this month.

During the shooting, naval personnel allegedly killed at least two refugees fleeing arrest.

The report will be handed over to Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra "as soon as possible", the *Gazette* was told.

"Our investigation concerning the allegation of the Royal Thai Navy killing at least two Rohingya will be concluded soon. We're endeavoring to finish it by the middle of September," Dr Nirun Phitakwatchara of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRC) said.

Five months ago, PM Yingluck vowed in front of the international press that the incident would be investigated. Since then, however, details of the investigation process



Ms Ketsarin inspects a Rohingya detention cell. Photo: Ketsarin Tiawsakul / Facebook

have not been revealed and no deadline has been set for the completion of the investigation.

"We are now working on putting all the evidence and information together in the report that will be handed over to PM Yingluck, in the interests of resolving the whole Rohingya

issue in Thailand," said Dr Nirun.

"In addition to the alleged killings, other issues have been included in the report, including the overcrowded conditions of Rohingya refugees in Thailand's refugee shelters, the manner in which they are treated, and what country or countries they will eventually be transferred to," he said.

"It has taken a long time to conclude the report because the Rohingya refugee issue is a big one and has many dimensions. We have sent our staff to a number of locations to collect as much information as possible for our investigation, in order to build up a dossier comprehensive enough to be handed over to the Prime Minister."

Dr Nirun disclosed that suggestions to solve problems related to the Rohingya-refugee influx will be included in the report, but cautioned that he could not disclose any of these suggestions at present because the investigation is still incomplete **- Chutharat Plerin**

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Best friend for some, food for others. Photo: Mike Blair

## Rabies cited in agreement to end dog meat trading

THAILAND was last week joined by Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam in pledging an end to the dog-meat trade.

At a meeting in Hanoi with animal welfare coalition Asia Canine Protection Alliance, officials from all four countries agreed to work to end the controversial business, *The Nation* reported.

Concerned about the spread of rabies, officials said they would enact a moratorium on the commercial transport of dogs from one country to another for the next five years.

The trade is already illegal in Thailand, but authorities agreed to improve the enforcement of existing regulations.

"We cannot change culture or habits, but we should stop the smuggling of dogs. This meeting was important to urge government agencies to see the problems caused by the dog meat trade and discuss a platform to stop the spread of rabies," said Pornpitak Panlar, an official from the Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health.

The alliance estimates that the trade is responsible for killing an estimated five million dogs for human consumption per year.

Thailand, Cambodia and Laos supply dogs for the trade into Vietnam, where they are slaughtered and consumed.

They are also eaten in the Thai provinces of Sakon Nakhon and Nakhon Phanom, where many of the residents are of Vietnamese descent.

# Blair peacemaker

## AROUND THE nation

FORMER British Prime Minister Tony Blair met with Thai politicians on both sides of the country's political divide in Thailand last week.

Mr Blair had been invited to Bangkok to take part in a forum at the exclusive Plaza Athenee Hotel on healing the wounds caused by Thailand's recent political conflict, *The Nation* reported.

The forum, also attended by several other high-profile international politicians and academics, is part of a "reform process" instigated by the prime minister, which the Democrat Party is boycotting.

Mr Blair also met with Democrat leaders Abhisit Vejjajiva and Korn Chatikavanij at the British Embassy. Both Thais were educated at elite boarding schools in the UK.

"We explained to him again that the government is not really sincere about political reform. They also refuse to review the consideration of an amnesty bill as the bill would create more di-

vision and negative impact on the political system," deputy Democrat Party leader Korn Chatikavanij posted on his Facebook page.

The meeting was requested by Blair, as he knew the Democrats did not join the political reform process, the former finance minister said.

Korn later told *The Nation* in a telephone interview that this political forum should not have been hosted by the government, adding that non-partisan organizations should have been allowed to take charge.

Around 20 Thai activists staged a brief protest in front of the Plaza Athenee hotel to protest the invitation of Blair to the forum.

The group understood that the money for Blair's expenses came from their tax money and said it was a major waste of funds to hire foreign speakers to talk about internal conflict.

Thai government figures had earlier in the month refuted rumors that Blair would be paid Bt20 million to contribute to the forum.

The UK-based *Guardian* newspaper reported that an unnamed spokesman for Blair said, "Tony Blair is very happy to help in whatever way he can. This is being done on an entirely pro bono basis; there is no fee and there never was."



Tony Blair at the World Economic Forum in 2009. He met with opposing political parties in Bangkok. Photo: World Economic Forum

## Warrant issued for Red Bull heir

THAI prosecutors said on Monday they would issue an arrest warrant for Vorayuth "Boss" Yoovidhya, an heir to the Red Bull fortune who allegedly killed a policeman in a hit-and-run accident last year.

The warrant would allow him to be arrested anywhere in Thailand, said Reuchai Krairerk, a senior public prosecutor at the Bangkok South Criminal Court.

Mr Vorayuth escaped a speeding charge after leaving the country in advance of his indictment last week.

The one-year statute of limitations on the charge expired on September 3. Mr Vorayuth was due to be indicted a day earlier but claimed he was sick in Singapore and could not attend the hearing, *The Nation* reported.

On September 3, 2012 in Bangkok, Mr Vorayuth slammed

his Ferrari into a motorcycle driven by Pol Sgt Maj Wichian Klanprasert, killing the officer and dragging his body 200 meters down the road.

CCTV footage of the accident showed that Mr Vorayuth was travelling at 170 kilometers per hour at the time. Subsequent blood tests allegedly showed that the billionaire scion was over the legal limit for alcohol consumption and showed traces of cocaine.

On the day of Mr Vorayuth's latest indictment, his lawyer Tanit Buakhiao met with Mr Reucha, who is in charge of the case.



Mr Vorayuth dodged a speeding charge from the hit-and-run accident last year. Photo: The Nation

He said his client had left Thailand days earlier for a business trip but had "suddenly fallen ill" and was unable to travel back.

Mr Tanit delivered a medical

certificate from his client's doctors and said that, after resting for 2-3 days as they had recommended, Mr Vorayuth would return to Thailand to meet with the prosecutor.

Mr Reucha said he would ask police investigators to secure an arrest warrant for Mr Vorayuth, who had already missed indictments on five previous occasions.

Mr Reucha said prosecutors would object to any bail requests.

Mr Vorayuth faces two charges: causing death and damage to property through reckless driving, and failing to stop and assist the victim.

Mr Vorayuth admits hitting Mr Wichean Glanprasert but claims the officer swerved in front of him.

Forbes magazine this year ranked the Yoovidhyas, whose fortune stems from sales of Red Bull, as the fourth-richest family in Thailand.

## Whitening creams may cause cancer, blindness

CERTAIN whitening creams currently on the Thai market can result in blindness or skin cancer, a senior government dermatologist has warned.

Products that whiten the skin constitute a multi-billion-baht industry in Thailand, where class prejudices have led to a widespread belief that light skin is more attractive than dark.

But pills, liquids and cosmetics offering to whiten the skin usually contain a high

amount of AHA (alpha-hydroxy-acid) and should ideally be prescribed by qualified dermatologists, Dr Jinda Rojjanamethin, acting director of the Public Health Ministry's Institute of Dermatology, told *The Nation*.

Users of these products could experience a burning sensation, flaking or inflammation of the skin or they might become overly sensitive to sunlight. These products could contribute to skin cancer if

used over an extended period and even cause blindness if applied too close to the eyes, he added.

The skin lightening industry was expected to reach US\$2 billion in the Asia Pacific region last year.

Products to whiten the face, body and armpits are common in Thai pharmacies. Last year a product promising to whiten women's 'intimate areas' appeared on the market.



A whiter shade of pale: The desired look for many Asian women. Photo: Major in Blue



# Top police jailed 10 years for graft

By Viriya Paramita

AN INDONESIAN court sentenced a top police general to 10 years in jail on Tuesday for money-laundering and corruption in a major victory for the country's main anti-graft agency.

The conviction of two-star police general Djoko Susilo, who amassed a fortune worth US\$18 million while serving as Indonesia's top traffic policeman, is the first of an active senior police officer by the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) and could pave the way for a broad campaign against police corruption.

The police are viewed as one of the most corrupt institutions in Indonesia and cleaning up a culture of graft is seen as critical to improving the country's image with investors.

"This is KPK's biggest case that has been resolved so far in regards to the total value of assets," Bambang Widjojanto, the commission's deputy head, told reporters after the verdict.

"This is the first, and maybe this is not going to be the last."

Former National Traffic Police deputy Didik Purnomo has also been charged in the case but has yet to go on trial.

Susilo was found guilty of accepting kickbacks in the awarding of a contract for driving simulators while he was head of the National Police Traffic Corps.



Indonesian police general Djoko Susilo leaves the courtroom after his guilty verdict in Jakarta. Photo: Reuters

## AROUND THE region

Susilo, who denied wrongdoing, planned to appeal, his lawyer told the court.

While foreign investment pours into the resource-rich country, there is growing concern that rampant corruption and an incompetent bureaucracy could throttle growth and begin to scare off investment.

A stream of high-profile graft

cases, the most recent being one involving the head of the energy regulator, has tarnished President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's final term.

During KPK's investigation of Susilo, officials found that he had amassed US\$18 million worth of assets including land, cars and mansions, which he tried to hide under the names of his three wives.

Meanwhile, a top Indonesian energy official has been banned from overseas travel in the latest graft case this month.

The reported travel ban on Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry Secretary General,

Waryono Karno, follows the arrest earlier this month of the head of the energy regulator SKKMigas, Rudi Rubiandini, on bribery charges after large amounts of cash were found in his Jakarta home.

KPK officials and the immigration office were not immediately available for comment.

Waryono has come under investigation after US\$200,000 was found in a bag in his office, KPK officials have said.

However, the *Jakarta Post* quoted Energy Minister Jero Wacik as saying the money was for legitimate purposes.

— Reuters

## In brief...

### Khmer Rouge war crimes tribunal strike over wages

SOME 250 Cambodian staff at a Khmer Rouge war crimes tribunal went on strike on Monday, as a funding crisis deepened at a court already bogged down by resignations, political interference and frail health of its elderly defendants.

The national component of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia had a shortfall of US\$3 million in its annual budget, said court spokesman Neth Pheaktra.

About 100 staff at the UN-backed court went on strike and would not return until they had been paid, he said. — Reuters

### UN steps in over dengue outbreak

THE UN has expanded its budget to combat dengue fever in Laos by allotting US\$753,504 for the country's emergency response to the disease.

From January 1 to August 25 this year, 44,037 cases of dengue had been reported in Laos leading to 89 deaths. The figure is more than 10 times higher than that for the same period last year and the current epidemic is widely regarded as one of the worst in Lao history. — *Vientiane Times*

### Myanmar US\$2bn loan from China

MYANMAR is planning to borrow US\$2.3 billion from China to finance 22 infrastructure projects, including telecommunications, electricity and construction, a government spokesman said on Tuesday. — *Eleven Media*

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## In brief...

### Cleveland kidnap monster found hanged in cell

REVEILED Ariel Castro, sentenced to life in prison for the kidnapping, rape and beatings of three women he held captive for years in his Cleveland, USA, home, was found hanged in his prison cell late on Tuesday.

Castro, 53, who was under protective custody and isolated from other inmates at a correctional facility in Ohio, was found dead at about 9:20pm when prison staff were making their rounds.

After medical personnel tried to resuscitate him, Castro, was transferred to a nearby hospital and pronounced dead prison.

Castro was sentenced on August 1 to life plus 1,000 years in prison, without the possibility of parole, for his horrific crimes.

### Croats rage against EU's ruling over bilingual signage

Hundreds of Croats tore down signs in Serb Cyrillic script that were put up last week in a city devastated during Croatia's war with Serb-dominated Yugoslavia, Croatia state radio reported.

The signs were put up in Vukovar in line with a law in the fledgling two-month-old EU member-state that makes bilingual signs mandatory in any area where more than one third of the local population belongs to an ethnic minority group.

### Egyptian Army's attack on militants in Sinai kills 15

Fifteen militants were killed in the Sinai Peninsula by rocket fire, Egypt's state-run Nile TV reported on September 3, after army helicopters attacked militant strongholds in the area.

The army helicopters had targeted two villages near Egypt's borders with Israel and the Hamas-run Gaza Strip.

Militant attacks on security forces in the lawless North Sinai region have risen since the army, now-former president Morsi.

## Gold miners union strikes at heart of Africa's largest economy

A STRIKE in South Africa's gold mines began on September 3, despite an appeal by President Jacob Zuma for a resolution to be found.

The stoppage was called by the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), which represents two thirds of all workers in South Africa's gold mines, after weeks of talks between unions and companies broke down.

Labour unrest since last year left more than 50 people dead and put renewed pressure on Zuma ahead of elections next year. The rand last week slid to a four-year low.

With slow growth, the auto and building sectors already hit by stoppages and unemployment at 25 percent, the strikes could cripple the nation's economy.

Labour and management are poles apart on wages, with the dominant NUM seeking 60 percent pay hikes for entry-level miners and the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union pushing for 150 percent.

The unions seem determined to end what they see as a culture of low pay dating back to the apartheid era. "The union is aware of the devastating impact industrial action would have on the economy which is largely a white man's economy with no benefits for poor black mineworkers," the NUM said in a statement.

— Reuters



South African unionized miners demonstrating in Johannesburg last month. Photo: Reuters

# US senate panel sketches deal on action over Syria

By Patricia Zengerle

LEADERS of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee said they reached an agreement on Tuesday on a draft authorization for the use of military force in Syria that was much narrower than the request made by President Barack Obama, paving the way for a vote by the committee on Wednesday.

Among other provisions, the draft, which was obtained by Reuters, sets a 60-day limit on U.S. military action in Syria, with a possibility of a single 30-day extension subject to conditions.

Obama is asking Congress to back his call for limited U.S. strikes on Syria to punish President Bashar al-Assad for his suspected use of chemical weapons against civilians during a civil war that has killed more than 100,000 people.

The compromise deal reached by Senator Robert Menendez, the Democratic chairman of the panel, and Senator Bob Corker, the top Republican, includes a provision banning any use of US armed forces on the ground in Syria, according to the draft document.

It requires Obama to consult with Congress and submit to the Senate and House of Representatives foreign relations panel a strategy for negotiating a political settlement to the Syria conflict, including a review of all forms of assistance to the rebels fighting to oust Assad.



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs General Martin Dempsey (L), John Kerry, US Secretary of State (C), and Chuck Hagel, Secretary of Defense, at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing, September 3. Photo: Reuters

## AROUND THE world

This is a provision requested by several senators, including the influential Republican John McCain.

If Obama wants to extend the authorization, he can request a single 30-day extension if he certifies to Congress, no later than five days before the authorization terminates, that an extension is

necessary, and if Congress does not pass a resolution disapproving the extension.

"Together we have pursued a course of action that gives the president the authority he needs to deploy force in response to the Assad regime's criminal use of chemical weapons against the Syrian people, while assuring that the authorization is narrow and focused, limited in time, and assures that the Armed Forces of the United States will not be deployed for combat operations in Syria," Menendez said in a statement.

If the draft is approved by the

committee on Wednesday, it will be sent to the full Senate for a vote after members return on September 9 from their August recess.

The House of Representatives must also pass its own version of the military authorization and the two must be reconciled before they can be submitted for Obama's signature.

The House Armed Services Committee was set to hold a hearing on the Syria crisis at noon on September 4, to plan a way forward, despite worldwide concern over any US move in the region.

— Reuters

## Fukushima radiation readings hit new highs near plant's tanks

RADIATION readings around tanks holding contaminated water at the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant have spiked more than 20 percent to their highest level, Japan's nuclear regulator said, again raising questions about the clean-up of the worst atomic disaster in 27 years.

Readings just above the ground near a set of tanks at the Fukushima Daiichi plant showed radiation as high as 2,200 millisieverts (mSv), the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA) said on September 4. The previous high in areas holding the tanks, 1,800 mSv, was recorded on Saturday.

Both levels would be enough to kill an

unprotected person in hours. The NRA has said the recently discovered hotspots are highly concentrated and easily shielded.

The tanks sit on a hill above the Pacific Ocean at the Fukushima plant, which was devastated by a tsunami generated by a massive earthquake in 2011, triggering the worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl a quarter of a century earlier.

The disaster created fuel-rod meltdowns at three reactors, radioactive contamination, and mass evacuations in Japan's Tohoku region, north of Tokyo.

The rising radiation levels and leaks at the plant have prompted international alarm

and the Japanese government said on September 3 it would step in with almost US\$500 million to fix the growing levels of contaminated water at the plant.

The plant operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co, also known as Tepco, said last month water from one of hundreds of hastily built tanks was leaking.

The NRA later raised the severity of the leak from a level 1 "anomaly" to a level 3 "serious incident" on an international scale for radiation releases.

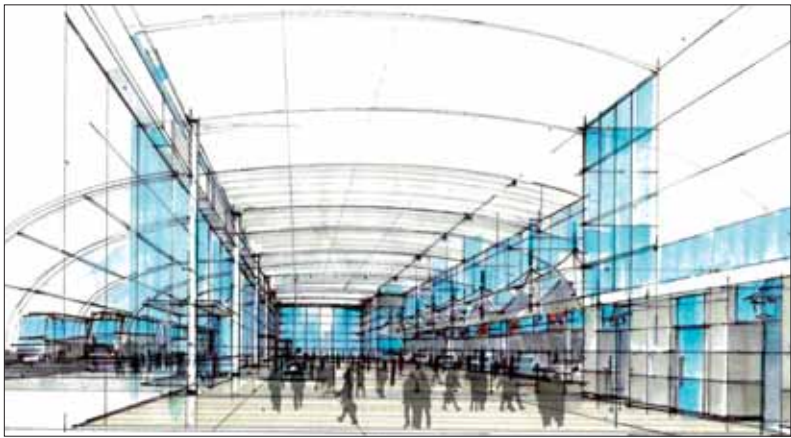
Tepco, Japan's biggest utility, has been criticised for a series of mishaps in the wake of 2011's triple disaster. — Reuters



More alarm over Fukushima. Photo: Reuters



# Terminal X finished by year's end



Phuket International Airport's new terminal will add ten more check-in counters that will be designed to handle up to 1,000 tourists per hour.

THE Airport Authority of Thailand (AOT) board of directors have agreed to contract Unique Engineering & Construction limited (PCL) to build a 155-million-baht check-in terminal at Phuket International Airport.

Speaking at a recent press conference to update the airport's multi-billion baht expansion progress, AOT Deputy Vice President Flg Off, Sumpun Kutranon said that construction for the new check-in terminal is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.

The new terminal is being developed with a budget of 155,039,790 baht, which includes a seven per cent tax, he noted.

AOT's primary objective is to increase its capacity to handle the 12.5 million tourists per year that are projected to pass through



the airport in the near future.

"Phuket Airport can only [comfortably] handle 6.5 million people, while nowadays there are more than 10 million people coming, so it's already beyond the capacity of the airport to receive [any more] people.

"We need to build one more building so that we can handle 12.5 million people. [This] Terminal X will be created to reduce the density of tourists, not for increasing the ability to serve tourists," Flg Off Sumpun explained.

"It's quite difficult as the area is quite small. Also, there are many



Terminal X is being developed with a budget of more than 155 million baht to reduce passenger overcrowding.

unforeseen things like underground tubes and wires we need to remove while everything in the airport continues to operate, so it may take a little longer to finish. We will try our best to get it done in time because the fine [for exceeding the contract deadline] is quite high," he added.

"These days, the international check-in area is pretty crowded due to the increasing number of tourists. Many of them come on chartered flights, checking in at the airport at the same time as regular passengers; passengers

sometimes must wait hours to board their flights," he continued.

In order to offer some relief ahead for the coming high season, AOT will build a separate new check-in terminal – for the time being dubbed Terminal X – which will be located on a piece of land, approximately four rai or 6,400 square meters in size, behind Aeronautical Radio of Thailand. AOT has an agreement to rent the land on which the new 1,320 square meter terminal will be built.

There will be ten check-in counters that will make it possible for airlines to check in a thousand people per hour. There will also be provisions for shops, a baggage room, passenger waiting area, an office area as well as

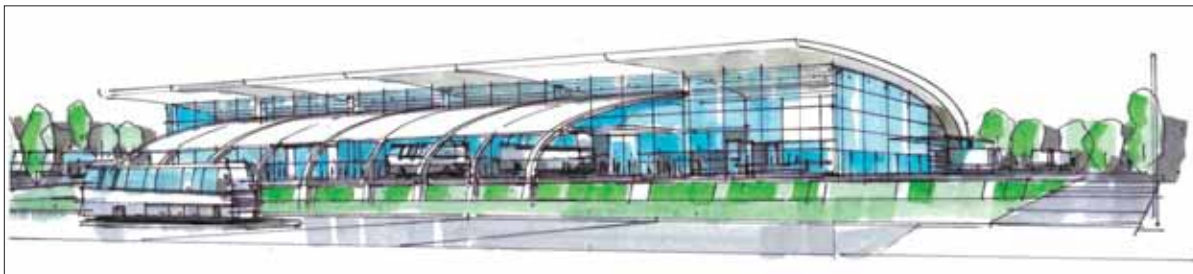
an outdoor resting area.

AOT is working closely with the relevant organizations, such as the immigration bureau, customs and airlines to ensure a smooth construction schedule.

"This is one more way we can reduce tourist overcrowding, and it will also provide locals a new channel to do business at the airport, such as selling things and food," AOT Phuket engineer Kiettichai Wongmonta said.

"There's no high season or low season anymore in Phuket. There is only a 'big high season' and a 'small high season'. We are now increasing the airplanes able to park at the airport from 15 to 25," he concluded.

– Phuket Gazette



The terminal will house shops, an office area, baggage room and passenger waiting area.

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# New hotel chain born in Phuket



**Property Watch**

**By Bill Barnett**

A NEW globally focused hotel chain Bugatti is using Phuket as a platform for widespread expansion. While here in Phuket development is already underway on the east coast, and in nearby Ko Phi Phi, overseas plans call for branded properties in Bali, Myanmar and the Bahamas.

By no means is this the first time the island has been used as a breeding ground for luxury hotel and branded real estate offerings. Back in the late 1980s Adrian Zecha opened his first Aman resort here, with KP Ho and the Banyan Tree Group followed the trend in the 1990s.

Others such as Allan Zeman with the Andara brand have defined the marriage of upscale hotels and property offerings in the Phuket style. Hawaiian chain Outrigger Hotels and Resorts house their Asian regional corporate office in Cherg Talay, overseeing not only a hotel portfolio that covers the region but Australia, and even the Indian Ocean with their latest expansion in Mauritius.

Bugatti Hotels and Resorts is being led by hospitality veterans Michael H Wetzlar and Steve Renard. Bugatti will manage

properties developed by real estate investor Johan Hansen, who is an established European property mogul with a stake in both enterprises. The new chain will also overlook third party management agreements.

Back locally in the red-hot island destination of Ko Phi Phi, a Bugatti Retreat is under



The project bodes bright future prospects.

construction featuring 99 suites, which have been up-sized, starting at 144 square meters. There are also 42 residences. Units are on a hotel-managed program, and sales prices for studios start at just under 9 million baht. There are premium penthouse units at 41 million baht.

The Retreat is set to open in early 2016 though a beach club, with food and beverage facilities is expected to be completed in the first

quarter of next year. A pier is also being developed for the property.

Using the adage "You can't stay there unless you can get there", Bugatti have understood the importance of access and have linked up with an affiliated transport company called Dolphin Seaways. The company has already acquired two hydrofoils, which will service both the resort and the Phi Phi public pier from Phuket's Ao Makham deep-sea port. A commencement date will be announced soon.

A second project, the Silver Beach in Laem Hin will again feature a mixed-use concept. In addition to a Bugatti Retreat with 15 suites and 12 villas, the project will also have a residential overlay with 63 condominiums and 48 apartments.

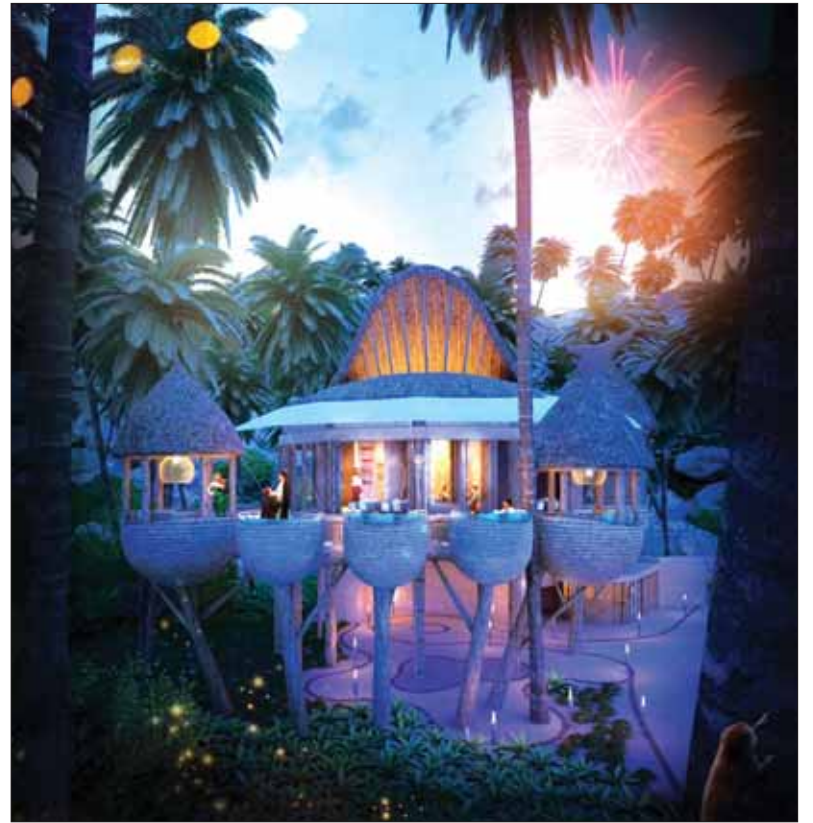
The residences have a starting price point of 5.6mn baht for a studio and go up to just over 18mn baht for three bedroom units. Silver Beach construction progress for the first phase has already exceeded 60%, with completion scheduled for early 2014.

A Bugatti Club with a signature restaurant and bar will be part of the opening phase. A property sales deck has been opened for the real estate offerings on the bypass road leading into Phuket Town.

For the two Greater Phuket Bugatti offerings, a world class set of designers have been recruited including Bill Bensley, Arcas Europe architects and interiors by Halo and P Tendercool.

While there are pessimists out there who say the island has become one tricky pony, purely focused on mid-market mass tourism, on the other hand, from a luxury standpoint, new incoming developments such as Rosewood on the Patong Headland, Point Yamu by Como, Anantara Layan, and the InterContinental in Rawai would beg to differ.

While Singapore lays claim to the tagline that it is where the rich leave their money to sleep, it continues to be in Phuket where they bring their money to buy real estate and the holiday. Having Bugatti tool up for greater things certainly bodes well for the market.



Bugatti is developing luxury hotels at Laem Hin and on Koh Phi Phi.



The Bugatti Retreat on Koh Phi Phi is set to open in early 2016.



Completion of Silver Beach at Laem Hin is scheduled for early 2014.



Phuket is a breeding ground for luxury hotels.



Bugatti will link its property on the Phi Phi islands with Phuket utilizing super-swift hydrofoil vessels.



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PROPERTY



# Plenty of parking, greenery

**Developers of centrally located Phuket condo project say they're not cutting any corners**

PHUKET Capital Real Estate Company's latest project – The Emerald Central Condominium – aims to marry quality, design and functionality to provide customers with an enjoyable and high-quality residence.

Emerald Central Condo is close to many amenities and centrally located in Phuket where nothing is far from reach, no matter what one is looking for – world renowned beaches, first class shopping malls, Thai markets, tourist destinations, international hospitals, golf courses and more.

The condominium will be developed on a 2,964 square meter plot, not far from Makro shopping center on Wichit Songkhram road.

The project will comprise two seven-storey buildings with a total of 178 units. There are three kinds of rooms customers can choose from – one bedroom (39 sqm), two bedroom (65 sqm) and three bedroom (76 sqm).

The construction materials and design of the buildings are not only artistically unique, but are fully functional as well. The professionally designed interiors will be decorated with beautiful and high-quality materials, although the designers have aimed to preserve the functionality of the facilities.

Universal facilities will include a unique three level swimming pool, smart card access and CCTV, internet and cable TV, and ample car parking space, with 80% of the plot's area allocated for parking.



**WAVES OF THE FUTURE:** The Emerald Central Condominium is being positioned as a centrally-located luxury condo at an affordable price.

"We named the condominium 'Emerald' because we want to make people feel 'green'. Therefore, we have [implemented] trees and natural things in our condominium design," said Managing Director of Phuket Capital Real Estate Sawit Kateroj.

"We wish to create value for our customers by having value in the condos. Investment packages and other important information are readily available for those seeking to invest in our developments.

"We will have everything readily available for you so you need not leave our town-like community unless you wish to.

We believe that luxury and being comfortable is all about design and proper planning.

"Everything should be as convenient as possible for you as well as not being too crowded or having too many packed-tight buildings, just to squeeze in a few more units. This is not our style at all, and we have spent weeks on research and development to come up with the best way to build and design our community," said Mr Sawit.

"We feel that we have planned everything perfectly with our experienced and amazingly versatile staff team. Our community will be filled with trees, art, entertain-

ment, shopping, fitness, restaurants and more so that you will always feel comfortable and still keep that island lifestyle feeling that you really same for. We hope you will come have a look and see for yourself soon," he added.

The individual units will come fully furnished and the developer currently has three choices of furniture packages on offer.

"We aim to build only 178 units to prevent our condominium becoming overcrowded. 80% of the condominium [plot area] will be for car parking, so only 20% is residences. We expect to close the sales by the end of the year.

Right now our new target is

Chinese customers," he said.

"If The Emerald Central Condominiums business goes well, I will probably do another project near the sea to target foreigners. Last time, our Emerald Terrace Condominium in Patong hit our expectations. Only 6-7 months after the project's sales launched, we were able to sell 70-80% of the units. So, if I'm going to have a new project, it will be near the sea," he concluded.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information on the project, visit: [emeraldcentralphuket.com](http://emeraldcentralphuket.com), or by Tel: +66 85 089 0912, and by email: [i\\_kasama@hotmail.com](mailto:i_kasama@hotmail.com)



**EMERALD ENVIRONMENT:** The town-like community will integrate parks and parking.



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## Developers tap into vacation home demand

THE property market in both Pattaya and Hua Hin is expanding rapidly, with developers focusing mainly on local demand from buyers seeking a vacation residence and those working in coastal locations, according to research by real-estate agencies.

Colliers International Thailand's research found that 800 condominium units were completed and transferred in Pattaya City during the first half of this year, higher than the number completed in the whole of last year.

Meanwhile, the number of

newly launched units in the first half was similar to the level reached during the second half of last year. About 7,400 units were launched, with around 52% of the condominiums in the Jomtien area.

Three listed developers – Sansiri, Supalai and SC Asset Corp – launched their first projects in Pattaya City in the first half of the year and received good feedback from buyers, especially among Thais.

At the end of the period, the total supply of condominium

units amounted to about 47,490, said Colliers. More than 13,000 units were under construction and scheduled to be completed by year-end, the highest on record for the city. The Pattaya area was home to the majority share of the Pattaya City condominium market from 1990 to 2000, but due to the limited plots of land, developers are moving southward. Jomtien is the new location for property development, especially around the Jomtien Second Road, which officially opened in 2005, said the property agency. – *The Nation*



# New factory to make a splash

By Mark Knowles

PHUKET based swimming pool designer, manufacturer and retailer, JD Pools, recently held a celebration to mark the completion of their new factory and training center at Thalang in the north of the island.

The 5,000 square meter factory is aimed at cementing JD Pools' position as the largest pool manufacturer in ASEAN and will also function as a training center for their staff from across the region.

"Now that we have the JD pool factory and training center, we are very proud. Our new pool manufacturing factory is the only one in Thailand which has an ISO 9000 (International Organization for Standardization) certification," said JD Pools Managing Director Thanusak Phungdet.

Established in Phuket in 1997, JD Pools has grown to become the largest swimming pool and equipment manufacturer and retailer in Thailand. The company now has 20 showrooms across Thailand and Myanmar, and also exports to ASEAN and Middle Eastern countries.

With a retail turnover across Thailand of approximately 600 million baht per year, and a 20% growth in sales last year alone, the company looks set to meet its stated aims of becoming: "The leader of luxury pool innovation and healthy pools in Thailand and one of the top ten market leaders in ASEAN and Middle Eastern countries".

JD Pools specializes in the manufacture and installation of plastic-panel walled, PVC-lined custom concrete pools, as well as prefabricated fiberglass pool shells and all associated pool filtration equipment. The company has built over 10,000 pools in Thailand and is leading the way in importing world class manufacturing techniques and materials to construct their pools.

In conjunction with the

opening of the new factory, JD Pools was also celebrating its partnership with Australian based robotic pool cleaner manufacturer Maytronics by hosting the company's annual conference at the new factory last month.

Mr Thanusak went on to express his satisfaction with their partnership with Maytronics, which has made JD pools the sole authorized dealer in Thailand of the company's cutting edge pool cleaning robots.

"Maytronics has 30 years experience and has the number one [pool cleaning] robot. It's a very clever product; it has a brain, it can clean by itself and everything is automatic. We are very happy with this product," said Mr Thanusak.

"Two years ago we became the exclusive dealer for Maytronic pool cleaners and we have sold more than 800 robots already around Thailand, but we need to keep educating our customers about the benefits of having their pool serviced by robots."

Sales Director of Maytronics Australia, Chris Papa, also expressed his hopes that their partnership with JD Pools would increase their market share in Southeast Asia.

"We see the market in Asia as a big part of our strategy, Southeast Asia in general, but in particular Thailand. We see a



From left: Maytronics managers Dan Kwaczynski and Chris Papa, JD Pools Managing Director Thanusak Phungdet and Eyal Tryber from Maytronics. Photos: Mark Knowles

big future for [pool cleaning] robots, the market here is not small, so both domestic and commercially, we see some good things happening here,"

JD pools employs about 200 people and has recently established three new showrooms

in Myanmar; Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw, where the firm has already started to achieve considerable sales figures.

And the future looks bright. The increasing popularity of pool villa developments in Thailand is turning out to be a positive trend

that JD Pools expects will continue to grow and boost sales figures in the coming years.

Other segments the company continues to eye are water parks and schools, which are fast becoming an essential part of the company's customer base.



The new 5,000m² JD Pools factory will cement the company's position as the leading swimming pool manufacturer in the region.

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Australia's Honorary Consul (Phuket)

The Australian Embassy Bangkok invites applications for the position of Australia's Honorary Consul, based in Phuket, with consular responsibility for the provinces of Phuket, Krabi and Phang Nga.

On behalf of the Australian Embassy, Bangkok, the Honorary Consul will:

- Provide consular assistance to Australians in relation to their welfare, whereabouts, arrest, imprisonment, repatriation, hospitalisation, evacuation or death,
- Provide passport services to Australians, and;
- Provide other services as set out in the selection criteria.

Applicants for this position:

- Should be an Australian citizen, although non-Australians who meet all other selection criteria will be considered;
- Should be a long term resident of Phuket and intend to reside in Phuket for at least a further two years;
- Should have good interpersonal skills, good judgement and a strong ability to deal sensitively with Australian citizens in need and to handle personal information with care and discretion.
- Should have sufficient time to perform the functions listed above and in the selection criteria.
- Should have a good standing in, access to and influence with the political, bureaucratic, commercial and media community of Phuket, Krabi and Phang Nga.
- Should possess office accommodation of an appropriate standard and location for the representation of Australia's interests with English-speaking support staff.
- Be of independent means so that the applicant is not financially dependent on the honorarium and allowance for incidental expenses provided by the Australian Government;
- Should meet the other criteria specified in the selection criteria.

Further details of this position including the selection criteria and instructions on how to apply are available at [www.thailand.embassy.gov.au](http://www.thailand.embassy.gov.au) under 'About Us' and 'Job Vacancies'.

Applications close at **4.30 PM, Wednesday, 18 September 2013.**

**Applications should address the selection criteria for their application to be considered and only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interview.**



# Zoom to safety

IT IS time that the provincial government consider phasing out the jet-ski rental industry that has brought so much ill-repute to the island.

The latest tragedy involving a jet-ski and a foreign tourist came last weekend, when 27-year-old Chinese visitor Shen Baocheng was rendered comatose after his rented jet-ski collided with a parasail speedboat in Patong Bay (see news pages).

The accident came just a few days after provincial authorities held a two-day seminar with some 80 "legal" jet-ski operators, urging them "to provide better services and improve safety" for the sake of Phuket's teetering reputation as a safe tourist destination.

That seminar largely paid lip service to recent demands by the European Union (EU) and the government of the People's Republic of China, both of which have called on the Thai government to do something about the industry, which is an endless source of complaints lodged by foreign tourists.

In comments made last June, EU Ambassador to Thailand David Lipman listed problems in the jet-ski rental industry as one of four key tourism-related issues in Phuket that EU countries would like to see addressed.

Some readers might remember back to early 2004, when a serious effort to gradually phase out jet-skis was initiated by then-governor Udomsak Usawarangkura. Under that plan, a complete ban on new jet-ski registrations was ordered in the hope that as existing jet-skis suffered wear and tear and eventually became inoperable, their numbers would gradually be reduced. A complete ban was scheduled to go into effect in March 2011.

If only the Governor's Office had stuck to the plan. Unfortunately, and for reasons never clearly explained, Gov Niran Kalayanimit in 2007 opted to allow jet-ski operators with old vessels to register new ones, thus ensuring that reports of scams, accidents and other bad news involving jet-skis continue to this day.

Fortunately, Mr Shen snapped out his coma and will not be listed among the foreign tourists who lost their lives from operating a rented jet-ski on the island. More fatal tragedies are virtually guaranteed, however, under the current status quo – even if the compulsory insurance scheme is strictly enforced and operators try to do a better job.

A *Phuket Gazette* poll indicates that a majority of readers in every demographic would like to see Phuket free of rented jet-skis. We agree: in addition to all the safety issues, they are noisy and even exacerbate traffic problems on land when their operators tow them back home at the end of the day.

Jet-skis do have a role to play on Phuket beaches, but that role should eventually be limited to helping swimmers in distress and other rescue efforts. It is highly unlikely that many tourists see the opportunity to operate a jet-ski as a compelling reason to travel to Phuket, but it is likely that their presence here is one of the factors causing potential tourists to choose rival destinations.



## Meeting standards to avoid paying bribes

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: The Carnival of Corruption, September 1*

A common form of corruption is police taking a bribe from shop owners to overlook irregularities. I have heard this even from my hair salon.

Much as this is bad practice, we have to admit that many shops do not meet standards, so part of the problem is those who operate below standard and prefer to pay the bribe than sort out the problems.

Proper inspections and reports with a deadline to fix it might help.

Dave  
Gazette forum

### ...it's not standards...

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: The Carnival of Corruption, September 1*

I don't think paying the local policeman his 1,000 baht, or more, a month (they come around for it as regular as clockwork) has much to do with standards.

Not paying would mean that the local cop would make your life uncomfortable, by closing you down regularly, finding problems with your staff, customers, whatever.

Your little monthly fee will stop all that and could give you assistance in the event of any outside trouble.

HKT Comedy Club  
Gazette forum

### ...and who said graft is such a bad thing?

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: The Carnival of Corruption, September 1*

"...the problem in Phuket has reached grave proportions and is extremely harmful to the island's future."

Are you sure, *Gazette*? Or just trying to be 'holier than thou'? What evidence do you have that

## Letters to the Editor

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

corruption is, in fact, extremely harmful? Some would argue that it's beneficial, that it in fact stimulates the economy and increases employment.

Corrupt projects employ a lot of people. Illegally constructed hotels employ thousands of people, something which national parks do not.

Igor Romanov  
Gazette forum

### Spend more to save? Don't believe it!

Re: *Gazette online, Rise in Phuket metered taxi fares to thwart cab cheats, August 30*

This is a joke! They're trying to dupe us into believing we'll enjoy lower taxi fares by raising them!

This is a scandal, and once again based on the ugly, cynical, hostile and badly mistaken assumption that the residents of Phuket have no brains.

Sage  
Gazette forum

### Quit complaining

I am surprised that people complain about so many issues concerning Phuket, like safety and beach cleanliness.

As we all know, we are not completely safe anywhere in the world. Take for example the case of the student from Melbourne who was shot to death by teenagers in Oklahoma last month.

I've heard complaints that the beaches in Hawaii are world class while those in Phuket are not, but when I was in Honolulu I saw a number of homeless people living on the beach, making it messy and

polluted and spoiling the image of their country.

I would advise those who are not happy and always have complaints regarding this island to choose to go home or live somewhere else

Nowhere in the world is perfect.

Satisfied Resident  
Phuket

### Wanted: permission to remove nets

Re: *Gazette online, Chief vows to boost patrols to protect Phuket divers, August 29*

Nice we have a [telephone] number now, and thanks for the information.

Can divers remove these nets or do we have to wait for officials? We see fisherman many times there using these nets but next day the nets are gone, along with corals, sea fans, sponges and leopard sharks.

We have called the police many times, but they tell us we cannot lift the nets out because this is illegal. Mr Jaroenchai, just give us permission to help and we will be there.

Stephan  
Gazette forum

### Insurance companies against jet-skis

Re: *Gazette online, Chinese tourist comatose after jet-ski, speed-boat collision in Phuket, August 31*

By law, all jet-ski drivers must have a valid boat driving licence. Not all tourists renting a jet-ski have such a license.

Therefore jet-ski operators should bear the full responsibility for any consequences when they rent jet-skis to non-certified boat driving customers, and all boat insurance companies should refuse claims arising from boat accidents in these cases.

Asterix  
Gazette forum

## Phuket Gazette

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# Providing safe haven for abandoned pets

## FIRST PERSON

FORTUNATELY, animal abandonment is not a big problem in Phuket. However, the number of abandoned pets on the island has increased recently. More and more people, both Thais and foreigners, bring cats or dogs to my hospital to ask us to find them a home.

In some cases, people find an animal on the street or at a temple and cannot keep it because their home is not appropriate for a pet, or they already have a pet and can't handle another one.

Sometimes people bring their own animals to us because they don't like them anymore, maybe because they're old and therefore no longer cute.

Other times people bring their pets here because they are moving away to work in another province or are going back to their home countries.

My hospital is not big. There are times when we really don't have the space for any more animals and we have to tell people we can't accept their pets. But then

they tell us that they are going to abandon them by the side of the road, and we just can't let that happen, so we do our best to find a way to accept them and take care of them.

But it's getting harder and harder for us to care for them all. In some cases, people bring sick abandoned animals to us. We care for them



**Dr Suchon Jittanon, 58,** is a Krabi native. After earning a degree in Veterinary Medicine from Kasetsart University, he ran his own veterinary clinic in Bangkok until 1997. After that he moved to Phuket and opened another veterinary clinic, the Phuket Animal Hospital in Chalong.

Here, he talks about caring for abandoned pets and urges people to think carefully before becoming pet owners.

until they are well, then we have to ask the people who brought them to take them back or to find a home for them, because we can't keep them.

The cost of food alone for abandoned cats and dogs we take in is almost 10,000 baht a month.

The best way to decrease the number of abandoned animals is for owners to think deeply before they get a pet. The decision to get an animal is not something to be taken lightly. An adorable puppy or a cute kitten can tug at our heartstrings but in the end, it will require a great investment of your time and money for a great number of years.

The first thing to consider is place. You have to be sure that you have an appropriate place for your pet to live. Will your animal have enough space to run and play? Also, make sure that your dog or cat won't annoy your

neighbors if you live in a crowded neighborhood.

Second, think about the future. Keeping a pet is a long-term responsibility, not just something you do today and tomorrow. If you are originally from another province or another country and you plan to travel back to your hometown some day, ask yourself what you are going to do with your pet when that time comes. If you don't have a plan besides leaving it on the street or at a temple, it's better that you not get one.

Third, money does matter. Keeping a pet can cost a lot of money. First of all because it's a long-term relationship, and then because as your pet gets older, it will eat more, and as it gets very old, it will likely require more care and medical treatment.

Last, think about how much time you have to offer your pet. Pets feel love, care and "quality time" from their owners. If you doubt you can provide all this, then you are not ready to have pet.

Anyone interested in adopting an abandoned cat or dog or making a donation towards their care can stop by the Phuket Animal Hospital or call 076-222362.



Sam sii, a resident at Dr Suchon's clinic. Photo: Orawin Narabal



Everywhere but here: our trimonthly diaspora. Image: Phuket Gazette

## The 90-day hassle

HAVING completed the bureaucratic rigmarole of obtaining a one year work permit and a one year non-immigrant B visa, I am soon to embark on my first quarterly "visa run" to have my passport stamped at the Ranong border control office. As a consequence, I have been mulling over the reasons why such a trip is necessary and I confess, I am at a loss.

How can requiring foreign workers to leave Thailand every three months for a literal "rubber stamp", despite the fact that they hold the requisite documents of one year's validity, be good for the Thai businesses that employ them, or for that matter, the economy as a whole?

Who benefits from this seemingly illogical requirement? The visa-run companies that have sprung up to serve the needs of this market, obviously, and the large Andaman Club, said to be owned by Thai interests. People forced into regular visa runs create a steady supply of patrons to the casino, due to its convenient proximity to immigration.

What are the negative costs of creating a few more jobs in Thai visa-run companies and gathering a bit of money at the casino?

We often hear stories of these vans rushing up and down the roads to Penang and Ranong at dangerous speeds and of the

## Island View

By Mark Knowles

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

inevitable and regular crashes involving them – it seems that they create more problems and grief than they solve – problems which could be reduced at the stroke of the pen by allowing in-country renewal of visa documents.

There are the working hours lost when foreigners take these visa runs on company time, and there is the cost of transport, either borne by the companies or the workers themselves.

From the point of view of investment, these all add up to a clear disincentive to establishing a small company requiring foreign expertise here in Thailand.

But most of all, quarterly visa renewals are an inconvenient and baffling redundancy. Why not simply allow foreign workers to renew their documents at the local immigration office and pay an appropriate fee?

Or better yet, dismiss this requirement, and allow a "one year visa" and "one year work permit" to actually be what they purport to be – official permission to reside and work in Thailand for one year.

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

### Reporting tax cheats

What is the best way to report homeowner tax evasion?

Fred Bloggs  
Chalong

### An officer at the Revenue Department Phuket Office replies:

You can make the report by sending an informal letter to our office. We need to have the address of the house and the name of the homeowner. If you are aware of the exact amount of taxes the owner has not paid, that is also very helpful.

Photos of the house and any primary documents can be attached to the letter.

For more information contact our office at 076-21180 or 076-219950 or come by in person during working hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.

## Can I drive my car during working hours?

A foreign friend with a current driver's license and work permit was stopped at a police checkpoint and asked to produce her driver's license, passport and work permit, all of which she had with her.

The officer then told her she can only work in the office and cannot drive from one location to another.

Is this the interpretation of the police or the Labor Department that she must be at the location described in her work permit during working hours?

Her Thai manager read the work permit and said that nowhere does it state that she can only work at the office and cannot drive during working hours.

T Mounay  
Phuket

### Angkarn Yasanop, Phuket Immigration Officer, replies:

This is not the interpretation of the Immigration police. We can only arrest someone who is acting illegally or under suspicion of acting illegally. For example, a police officer cannot fine an illegal taxi driver when they are not carrying passengers around – they must be caught in the act.

This is the same situation. If all your friend's paperwork was in good order, the officer could not arrest or fine her.

If, however, we find a person working at a location or in a job that is not stipulated in their work permit, we have cause to arrest or fine them.

### Yaowapa Pibulpol, Chief of the Phuket Employment Office, replies:

Every worker has the right to go out on their holidays or leave the office for lunch. I can't imagine a police officer handing out a fine or arresting someone with a work permit for driving a car during working hours.



Don't forget your driver's license. Photo: Franco Folini

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)



# YOUR Phuket

## GRAND OPENING OF THE CHARM RESIDENCE



Board of Directors Mr Prasert Lavichant (1<sup>st</sup> right) and managing director Mr Sophon Dansirikul (2<sup>nd</sup> right) welcomed Phuket Governor Maitri Intusut to the official opening of The Charm Patong.

## MEDIA WELCOME

Central Festival hosted a red carpet press thank you party at Sanaeha in Phuket Town.



## THE GREEN PLACES BY PHANASON



Cheurchan Panvikarn (right), Marketing Manager of Phanason Group presents an umbrella to a customer who attended their booth.

## JAGOTA 2014 CHILDREN'S CHARITY EVENT

Royal Phuket Marina welcomed many of the stakeholders in the Jagota 2014 children's charity event for a planning meeting last week. The event, which raised almost a million baht for local children's charities in January this year, will be back even bigger and better in 2014, the organizers explained. The meeting was attended by chefs from many of the island's top resorts, representatives of several children's charities, orphanages and members of media.





The Phuket Gazette's weekly

# ISLAND TRADER

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September 7 - 13, 2013 | [PhuketGazette.Net](http://PhuketGazette.Net)

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

## PROPERTY of the week



Now's your chance to own a property in  
Phuket's best condominium development.



**MANDALA**  
VILLAS & CONDOMINIUMS

**See page 23**

## BOAT of the week



**See page 31**

## PROPERTY & SERVICES of the week



Thailand's Leading Property Site

**DDproperty**  
.com



**See page 25**

## JOB of the week



ZENMAYA  
PHUKET

**See page 27**

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For Sale2 BEDROOM  
FOR SALE/ RENT

Palm Breeze Resort, Nai Harn. Last one, 5th floor. 7.5 million baht. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.com Tel: 087-882 9604. For further details, please see our website at [www.premierpropertiesphuket.com](http://www.premierpropertiesphuket.com)

LAND KAMALA 1KM  
FROM BEACH

Nice, 700sqm, Chanote, near shops, European neighbors, quiet. 3.3 million baht. Tel: 080-528 1536. Email: [nc.residence@gmail.com](mailto:nc.residence@gmail.com)

PATONG TOWER 1BD  
4.2 MILLION BAHT

Newly renovated on the 7th floor facing the mountains. Tel: +001-45-5239 3777. Email: [deherder@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sumitra.saetan@gmail.com)

KATHU  
2 BEDROOMS

3 toilets, 22sq wah, 2.2 million baht, large living area, large corner block shaded area. Tel: 092-067 1872. Email: [mrcrab350@hotmail.com](mailto:mrcrab350@hotmail.com)

PHUKET VILLA 5  
VILLAGE

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

3.5 MILLION BAHT  
3 BEDROOMS

For sale. Land & Houses Park, Chalong. Parichart zone. 2 bathrooms, need renovation, 260sqm, big living room, 24hr security. Email: [laongfa@hotmail.com](mailto:laongfa@hotmail.com)

## HOUSE &amp; FURNITURE

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

LAND NEAR KATA  
CENTER

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

LAND AT  
CHERNG TALAY

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

## NAI HARN LAND

Soi Naya. Private estate plot for sale. Mountain view. Please call 081-370 9661, 086-478 0201.

## 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.

5 BEDROOMS,  
PHUKET TOWN 6.5MB

70sq wah, 2-storey single house, quiet. Tel: 089-780 1888. Email: [klang888@hotmail.com](mailto:klang888@hotmail.com) For further details, please see our website at <http://phuketcityhome.igetweb.com/>

LAND & HOUSES  
PARK, CHALONG

Villa for sale. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished and equipped, garden, 240sqm. Price: 6.8 million baht. Tel: 083-394 4536 (English), 084-443 5389 (English & Thai).

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.

## HABITIA KOH KAEW



Modern style, Sino-Portuguese, area: 36.50sq wah with 118sqm living space approx. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car park. Sale down payment 500,000 baht. Tel: 087-270 9093.

HABITOWN,  
KOH KAEW

115sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, includes built-in furniture, 2 floors. Resale down 130,000 baht. For more info call 089-772 7012. Email: [gyb\\_giff@yahoo.com](mailto:gyb_giff@yahoo.com)

PRIVATE SALE OF  
HALF ARAI

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.

## KATHU GOLF VIEW

Large house with 7 bedrooms and swimming pool, nice golf view at the back yard. 10 mins to all shopping malls, and 10-15 mins to all international schools. Please email [info@procarpentering.com](mailto:info@procarpentering.com) for more info and price. No agents, please. Tel: 081-271 3228.

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](mailto:nana1225@gmail.com)

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Tel: 076-310507

HOT DEAL - CONDO  
AT THE POINT

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

472SQM,  
LAND FOR SALE

Land for sale overlooking Loch Palm Golf Club. 472sqm 1.4 million baht. Tel: 086-686 4170 (English & Thai), 086-950 1760 (English & Thai). Email: [fredrikphuket@yahoo.com](mailto:fredrikphuket@yahoo.com)

BOAT LAGOON  
LAND

Land in Boat Lagoon Park Residence, 664sqm, 7.5 million baht. Chanote. Negotiable. Tel: 088-826 5766, 087-621 1299 (English).

URGENT SALE/  
RENT

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

ON PCC GOLF  
COURSE

3 bedrooms. Freehold penthouse. See [PhuketGolfCondo.com](http://PhuketGolfCondo.com) (SALE or RENT). Call Paul at 081-676 0740 (English & Thai). Email: [dconbeer@hotmail.com](mailto:dconbeer@hotmail.com)

2 PLOTS REAL  
180 SEAVIEW

2 plots, real full panoramic seaview. +/- 1 rai/each freehold, at Yamu Hills. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 084-625 5090. Email: [phuket.turquoise@gmail.com](mailto:phuket.turquoise@gmail.com)

CONDO IN  
SUPALAI PARK

For sale. Near Sengho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio, 30sqm, floor 15, sea view, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.55 million baht. Ready to move in. For more info call 089-472 9118.

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## FOR RENT



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## LAND FOR RENT

400sqm in Soi Pasak: 9,500 baht per month. 800sqm in BanJo: 11,000baht per month. Contact K. Pom. Tel: 087-274 0680. Email: noegabriele@hotmail.com

MAIKHAO DREAM  
PROPERTY

For rent or sale. 20 rai of land with Chanote title. Located on Thepkrasatri Road (main road). 12km from airport. Tel: 081-738 7099.

MODERN 1&2-BED  
CONDO SEAVIEW

105-130sqm, modern, fully furnished. Town 2 minutes walk, beach 8-10 minutes walk. Shared pool, gym. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

120SQM 2-STOREY  
HOUSE

Soi Laem Hin, Sapam, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, unfurnished. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-689 3289.

KATA OCEAN VIEW  
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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](http://www.oceanic-global.com)

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Resort setting, has all, 3-month or 1-year contract. Only 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-594 4067.

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CLUB

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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.

4-BEDROOM  
POOL VILLA

4 bedrooms, all ensuite, 5 bathrooms, 10m x 5m private pool, fully furnished with entertainment systems in every room, WiFi, cable TV and large Western style fully fitted and equipped kitchen. Tel: 081-397 6921 (English), 081-956 1433 (Thai). Email: terryleetuck@hotmail.com

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Live in a luxury pool villa resort near Laguna. Weekly/monthly. Tel: 089-594 4067.

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

COZY HOUSE NEAR  
NAI HARN

A high-grade built house, furnished and conveniently located minutes from Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. 2 spacious bedrooms with ensuite 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 (Kun Nui). Email: hunt17@hotmail.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.

PATONG 2-BEDROOM  
CONDO

Large 100sqm, maid, WiFi, cable, parking. From 30,000 baht per month. Call for showing at 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

5-BEDROOM POOL  
HOUSE

Western kitchen, sun decks, 4 bathrooms, pool, jacuzzi, 1 rai. Long-term: 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 092-323 7087. Email: phuketrentals@yahoo.com

600,000 BAHT YEARLY  
RENT-RAWAI

Rawai Beach. Siam BB Resort. 9 rooms, bar-shop, reservation online with Agoda, Booking.com, Asiarooms.com. 60m to beach. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com



5 Bedrooms in Cherng Talay on 1 Rai  
Pool and staff quarters. Ready for immediate occupancy. Private gated, furnished, near beach, office-library, ADSL, WiFi, UBC, theater projection, many extras.

Go to: [Phuket-Villa-Rental.com](http://Phuket-Villa-Rental.com) / 083-181 2946 / 076-617763

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

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Long lease: 35,000 baht per month + bond (1 month). Furnished, private views, downstairs parking, security, elevator, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, spa, laundry, western kitchen, big lounge+dining. Contact Jingjo (English), Janram (Thai). Tel: 093-772 7498.

## THAI VILLA AND POOL

Nai Harn, 2 bedrooms, luxury villa. Long term: 37,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-421 1020. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

3-BEDROOM  
SUPER DEAL

3-bedroom pool villa for rent in Rawai. Fully equipped kitchen. Aircon in every bedroom and the living room. Private swimming pool. Cable TV and WiFi internet. Home cleaning and bed/towel changes. Close to the beach. Only 2,990 baht per day. Tel: 087-8938747.



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

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

## FINEST SEA VIEWS!

Luxury furnished, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, pool villa, Cape Yamu, 15 minutes to PIA/BIS Schools. Long-term: 70,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-279 6283.

KAMALA 3 BEDROOM  
CONDO

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In international company. Woman. Thai & English speaker. Computer skills. Tel: 076-612843, 083-737 7878. Email: md@expertmedia.asia

**FRONT DESK STAFF SAMUI**

Plus Wellness Manager required by detox resort. Tel: 077-602096. Send CV and photo to fasthealing@yahoo.com

**DRIVER 16,000+, COOK 15,000+**

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

**DESIGN STUDIO**

Looking for Image Key-words. You will be creating the content of images, including titles, descriptions and keywords. Also, uploading images to agency's web page. Applicant must have an excellent command of English. Thai national or have the necessary visa to work in Thailand. Only English resume and cover letter will be accepted. Contact manager. Tel: 083-035 9632. Email: photomorphimages@gmail.com

**THAI CASHIER WANTED**

Thai cashier wanted! At Kata. Tel: 089-401 8506. Email: vladim1r@me.com

**CUSTOMER RELATIONS REP**

Must speak and write English. Thai national. Good Salary. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

**BARMAN - THAI COOK - WAITRESS**

Barman, Thai cook and waitress wanted. Thai nationals only. Tel: 081-895 5852. Please call or email to phuket8757@gmail.com

**GUEST RELATIONS**

Thai national only. Must have car driver's license. Must have excellent English written and spoken skills. Email: liam@phuketfit.com Please email for details.

**ADMIN ASSISTANT WANTED**

English speaking & writing. Will be trained in Detox. Thai national. Good salary. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

**ACCOUNT MANAGER - URGENT!**

- experience as account manager/chief of over 5 years
- can speak, read, write English; good accounting knowledge and skills; can close financial statements, AR, AP, etc
- good team leader
- can start soonest/immediately. Tel: 081-979 9911 (English & Thai).

**OFFICE MANAGER**

Needed for apartment rental company. Must be Thai, honest and have booking skills, people friendly. 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phv condo@aol.com

**NEED LADY DRIVERS**

Three experienced motorbike and car drivers, based in Patong, go all around Phuket. Tel: 093-768 4939.

**DRIVER 16,000+, COOK 15,000+**

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

**ENGLISH-SPEAKING SALES GIRL**

Needed to manage a small souvenir shop in Phuket Town. Good salary and commission. Start immediately, 6 days per week. Tel: 086-509 7510. Email: simon@colonial-connection.com

**SECONDARY EP VACANCY**

ELT Phuket is looking to appoint a qualified, enthusiastic and experienced teacher of English (M1-4) to start at PPAO Ban Taladnua School, as soon as possible. Applicants must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree plus a recognised teaching certificate (TEFL). Please email a letter of application and CV. Email: bantaladnuaep@gmail.com

**BUSINESS PARTNER**

A reputable tourist magazine looking for business partner in Phuket, interested Send resume to pat.islandpublishing@gmail.com

**02 332 4600  
081 806 2946**

**NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER**

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

**ACCOUNTANT POSITION**

Can speak, read and write English. Good accounting knowledge and skills. Can work under pressure. Salary 20,000 - 25,000 baht. Tel: 076-620071. Contact Lang or Apple. Email: accounts@socialwithwoulfe.com

**ENGLISH-SPEAKING THAI WOMAN**

Looking for a Thai woman with good written and spoken English for office work. Computer literacy is a must. Tel: 084-060 7050. Email: info@molokophuket.com Please see our website at http://molokophuket.com

**ACCOUNTANT NEEDED**

Japanese wedding company Sa-mer Wedding at Boat La goon. 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

**ASIA CO., LTD.**

**Career Opportunity**  
VS Asia Co., Ltd. was established in Phuket, and has experienced over 35 years as professional in printing & information technology and post-production for clients in Europe, Asia and worldwide, which co-operate with our business partnership company as a headquarter in Europe.

**Text & Content Editor**

**Job Description:**

- Command of German language
- Work with editing text program
- Creative with art and design
- Team worker and cooperate with other related department

**Qualifications:**

- Male/Female, Thai Nationality
- Fluent German Language in reading + writing
- Good knowledge of Computer (Windows or Macintosh) and Internet
- High responsibility and punctuality
- Able to work both with team and independently

**Salary & Welfare:**

- Salary, Work Permit, Incentive, Social Security Insurance, Tax, Food, etc.

Interested applicants should submit your resume stating qualifications, previous work experience and position applied for along with a recent photograph to:

**VS Asia Co., Ltd. (Human Resource Department)**  
42 Moo3, Palai2, Chaofa Rd., Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130  
Tel. (00)66-76-380600 Fax. (00)66-76-380605  
email: info@vsdma.com

**THAI NURSE**

Thai nurse. Will be trained in detox. must speak English. Thai national. Good salary! Email: Info@phuketfit.com

**DANISH STAFF**

Danish-speaking, 20-30 years-old staff wanted. Send CV and photo to naturejob13@gmail.com

**HOUSEKEEPER - SURIN BEACH**

A self-motivated person to clean in detail and make beautiful. must love cats and speak English. Live in villa and have references. Tel: 083-103 1330.

**REAL ESTATE EARN 100,000+ BAHT**

Thai and English-speaking real estate broker required with experience in sales in Phuket (real estate is a bonus) must be very hungry and looking to make serious amounts of commission 100,000+ baht a month. Tel: 092-474 6157. Please send CVs to Paul@livephuket.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.

**Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:**

<b>CHALONG</b>	
▶ <b>Julapan Stationery</b> (Chaofa East Rd)	Tel: <b>076-282254</b>
▶ <b>KL Mart</b> (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle)	Tel: <b>076-280400</b>
▶ <b>Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe</b> (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd)	Tel: <b>076-282403</b>
<b>PATONG</b>	
▶ <b>Taurus Travel</b> (Aroonsom Plaza)	Tel: <b>076-344521-2</b>
▶ <b>Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe</b> (Aroonsom Plaza)	Tel: <b>076-290468</b>
▶ <b>Deli Supermarket</b> (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd)	Tel: <b>076-342275</b>
<b>PHUKET CITY</b>	
▶ <b>Earth Language Training Centre School</b> (Phang Nga Rd)	Tel: <b>076-232398</b>
▶ <b>Sin &amp; Lee</b> (Thalang Rd)	Tel: <b>076-258369</b>
▶ <b>iTree complete printing service</b> (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone	Tel: <b>076-255425</b>
<b>CHERNG TALAY</b>	
▶ <b>Chaba Supermarket</b> (at the Laguna gateway)	Tel: <b>076-325586</b>
<b>RAWAI</b>	
▶ <b>The Network property office</b> (Saiyuan Rd)	Tel: <b>076-388144</b>
<b>KARON</b>	
▶ <b>EuroStyle Tailors</b> (Luang Por Chuan Rd)	Tel: <b>076-396911</b>

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

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

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



## PRIVATE IN-HOME TUTOR

For 6-year-old in Ao Po. Experience and own transportation required. Email CV: Nomadic Investor @gmail.com

## PROMOTERS WANTED

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

## SALESPERSON WANTED

Must live permanently in Thailand and organize own residency status. Must speak fluent Thai and English. Must have experience selling food/alcohol to executive chefs and purchasing managers. Experienced in food service. Must have own car. Only people meeting all above criteria need apply. Please send resume to george\_d@jagota.com

## TEACHERS WANTED

We currently have the following job positions available: 1 x fulltime English teacher, female under 35 years old, degree + TEFL or CELTA. Must be from an N.E.S country: UK, USA, AUS, CD or NZ. 1 x part-time English teacher, N.E.S. + SA, TEFL, male/female under 40 years old. 1 x part-time Russian teacher. English teacher applicants must be good with young students. Tel: 091-647 5465. Email: giles@ecc.ac.th

# Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

## WEB PROGRAMMER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

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## REAL ESTATE STAFF WANTED

We are looking for many staff to work with us in the progressing and increasing branches at Rawai and Patong.

1. Secretary/Receptionist: Thai female.

2. Sale/Rental Manager: Thai or foreign national, male or female.

Both positions require: good personality and outgoing communication skills, enthusiasm, fluent written and spoken English, good basic computer skills, own car is an advantages for Sale/Rental Manager position. Good salary and commission! Tel: 076-388444. Please send resume and recent photo to: info@harvest-property.com

## CLEANER WANTED

Located on Surin Beach. Fluent spoken English, cleaning and helping in the villa. Contact Jariya. Tel: 081-367 7965 (English & Thai). Email: mayphu@hotmail.com

## ACCOUNT MANAGER - URGENT!

- experience as account manager/chief of over 5 years
- can speak, read, write English; good accounting knowledge and skills; can close financial statements, AR, AP, etc
- good team leader
- can start soonest/immediately. Tel: 081-979 9911 (English & Thai).



U Zenmaya Phuket, the latest luxury boutique hotel in the award-winning chain of U hotels and resorts and the second U property on Phuket, is actively recruiting experienced staff with a dedication to professionalism and complete guest satisfaction to join our friendly team.

Located only 5 minutes from Patong on Kalim Beach and consisting of 50 rooms and suites.

U Zenmaya Phuket is scheduled to open in January 2014. The right candidates will enjoy all the benefits commensurate and guaranteed service charge.

All positions are available. Interested parties should send their CV and a recent photograph to hr@absolutehotelservices.com



UNCOMPLICATED. INSPIRING. YOU.

## RECEPTION WORK

Thai female for hotel, Nanai Road, English and computer skills required, good wage and commission paid, holidays. Call for more details. Tel: 088-444 7801.

## 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

## SHOP MANAGER

Urgent need shop manager for boutique shop in Surin, fluent in English. Send CV to bliss@online.com.kh

## EXECUTIVE FOR PROPERTY

We are looking for new sales and marketing executives, Thai national only, to help us at our sales and showroom offices. You should have experience with working in a property environment and taking care of local real estate agencies visiting our showrooms. Great conditions are promised. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Please send your CV to info@phuket-condos-homes.com

## PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Thai male translator. Part time to perm. Reply to: Phuketbiz79@gmail.com

## 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

## 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

## GUEST RELATIONS

Thai national only. Must have car driver's license. Must have excellent English written and spoken skills. Email: liam@phuketfit.com Please email for details.

## OFFICE MANAGER

Thai male wanted, in Patong, know English and have computer skills. Tel: 081-088 1451.

## DETOX /CLEANSE CONSULTANT

Experience working in Detox, Cleanse or Spa. Must speak English. Thai national only. Good salary! Email: liam@phuketfit.com

## ACCOUNTANT

Thai or Foreigner, start immediately. English a must, Thai an advantage. Full or part time. Tel: 087-897 0501 (English). Email: aleksa@thai-evagroup.com

## FOREIGNER SECRETARY WANTED

Looking for a foreign national secretary who has a driver's licence and can speak very good English. Email: web@bayshoreprojects.com

## Live in Patong?

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

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Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [WWW.PHUKETGAZETTE.NET](http://WWW.PHUKETGAZETTE.NET)!



## Business Opportunities

**MAY PLAZA, SOI TA-IAD**

9x4sqm commercial space. Start from 10,000 baht per month. 1 year payment in advance. Tel: 095-759 5323.

**CHALONG**

3-storey shophouse, restaurant or bar and living quarters, near pier. Sale: 3.5 million baht. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 0299. Email: colona@loxinfo.co.th

**RESTAURANT**

Urgent sale. Indoor-outdoor, in Chalong area, equipped. 14 months on lease. Rent: 5,000 baht per month. Contact Eye. Tel: 082-807 9312.

**URGENT SALE OF RESTAURANT**

Taina Road, Kata. Please call 090-176 7364 or send email to dhanbirwaiba@hotmail.com

**KATA NIGHT PLAZA**

Southern Fried Rice, the popular guesthouse with 40-seat restaurant and 8 rooms, 5 minutes from Kata Beach. For sale or rent. Trip Advisor Winner 2013. Tel: 081-894 8446. Email: sfrkata37@gmail.com, www.southernfriedrice.com

**FITNESS CENTER FOR SALE**

Club Asia Fitness, Phuket's Leading Fitness Center. For sale: 8 million baht or nearest offer. Tel: 089-126 5671, 087-275 3614 (English), 080-698 5021 (English & Thai). Email: coco\_ivy@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.clubasia.phuket.com

**OCEAN VIEW HOTEL FOR SALE**

1 km from the beach, 3 stars hotel. 10 apartments and 14 rooms, 1,200sqm, pool, bar. Tel: 080-528 1536 (English & Thai). Email: nc.residence@gmail.com

**MASSAGE BUSINESSES**

Patong main road. 1.5 million baht and 2 million baht. Must sell both. Tel: 081-303 2202.

**INVESTOR NEEDED: MOBILE APP**

Zom Ammara, a famous Thai celebrity, is raising 6 million baht from investors to promote and monetize on lady safety mobile app project called "GuardMe". We will gain US\$4 million profit within 3 years with celebrity marketing strategy. Please contact 02-673 9280, 081-381 5111.

**HOTEL BEACHFRONT PATONG - RENT**

For rent or sale. 20m from the beach, well-furnished, 38 rooms, swimming pool, restaurant, parking, fully operational with very good occupancy rates. Opportunity. Long-term contract. Contact Mark. Tel: 080-141 6040.

**HOTELS IN PHUKET FOR SALE**

Contact: realestate.luxuryphuketholidays.com

**RENT BEACH FRONT RESTAURANT**

Excellent location on Surin Beach. Fully operational with outdoor beach furniture, full service kitchen; seating capacity of 120+, 3-year lease for 2.4 million baht + rent 70,000 baht monthly. Please call 091-034 1200 (English). Email: issam.tawil@gmail.com

**BANGLA BAR CHEAP!**

Absolute stunner! Cheap. Aircon, 2 floors, 160sqm, contact for photos. Only 1.8 million baht, full fitout. Good rent option. Bargain! Tel: 087-881 7600. Email: cocodi.orster@gmail.com

**LAUNDRY KATHU 975,000 BAHT**

High capacity machines only two years old. Wash, dry, iron, roll iron. Automatic soap dosing. Reason for selling is expansion. Shophouse with 4 bedrooms. Rent: 22,000 baht per month. Possible cooperation for the right buyer. Ready to take over. Tel: 089-882 0894 (English), 089-652 0975 (Thai). Email: peter@conceptfeeling.com

**21 ROOMS + REST + BEACH ROAD**

Located central on the Beach Road. 3.7 million baht key money, 8 year lease, modern rooms. Call today. Contact Frank. Tel: 076-346875, 084-078 2753 (English). Email: info.realpro@gmail.com

**STEAKHOUSE NEAR BEACH**

Texas Steakhouse for sale. Lease on 4.5 years. Rent: 40,000 baht per month. Staff and equipment, Thai company included. Turnkey. 2.5 million baht for quick sale. Tel: 085-215 8660. Email: fstailslide@hotmail.com

**GOGO BAR / NIGHTCLUB**

For sale in Bang Tao. Needs slight alterations. Comes complete with kitchen and all furniture, website and marketing package. 1 million baht or nearest offer. No business like this within 20km. Fantastic business opportunity. Contact Lee. Tel: 081-787 9767.

**SPORTS BAR KARON**

Newly renovated, trendy sports bar in Karon, Phuket. This bar comes fully equipped with three large plasma TVs, pool table, two bedrooms and website. Please call +44-20-8688 4544. Email: nm.windowcleaning@hotmail.co.uk

**BEAUTY SALON QUICK SALE**

Fully furnished beauty salon, 75sqm for quick sale. 300,000 baht. Foreign clients. Busy area. Tel: 090-154 6115. Email: aselia89@mail.ru

**UNIQUE GASTRONOMY BUSINESS**

Best location at Kata Center, with operating concept. Interested parties need a proven record and a professional background. Email: yongyut.bauer@gmail.com

**SPA/SAUNA LEASE FOR SALE**

Busy established Spa and Sauna business for sale. Great location. Junction of Nanai Road and Nanai 2. Renewable lease. Price 2.5 million baht. Tel: 087-078 6379, 082-286 5171 (English & Thai), 080-718 1226 (English). Email: nanaisauna@yahoo.com

**HOTEL WITH 24HR RESTAURANT**

Top location at Kata Center, inside entertainment zone, for rent. 19 air-conditioned rooms. Email: yongyut.bauer@gmail.com

**NO-NONSENSE OPPORTUNITY**

30 rifle laser tag system, complete. Low overheads, high potential income. Team Building, tourist attraction and local business. Cash purchase 300,000 baht. Please call 089-071 0169 (English). Email: nigelburt51@gmail.com, www.youtube.com/watch?v=08xcTTGH YUO

**KARON GUESTHOUSE**

For sale. Estimate 14 years old, Chanote title, 5 storeys, 12 rooms, laundry, sala, bar, net profit 2 million baht. Sale: 12 million baht. Owner retiring. No offers. Tel: 081-728 1862 (English), 081-370 8733 (Thai).

**FITNESS CENTER FOR SALE**

A well established fitness center with a large membership base, situated in Phuket Town, for sale. Price reduced to 8 million baht. Tel: 087-275 3614 (English & Thai), 080-698 5021 (Thai). Email: coco\_ivy@hotmail.com

**HOTEL BEACHFRONT PATONG - RENT**

The best location in Patong Beach, seaview, fully furnished, 16 rooms, very good occupancy rates. Opportunities. Contact Mark. Tel: 080-141 6040.

**RESORT FOR LEASE**

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

**HOUSE&BUSINESS ON 24 RAI**

For sale. Tried of the traffic and high prices of Phuket? Or just want a weekend getaway? I have built in Farang spec and style, a beautiful retreat, a main house with 2 big garages, a guesthouse with garage, a bungalow and a 900sqm exercise gym. It all rests on 24 rai and is currently a working shrimp farm, but could be used for many purposes, located 2 hours north of the island. Price: 12 million baht, this price will not last long, the houses are worth more than 12 million baht. Please call 081-728 8269 or email to jrp@loxinfo.co.th

## Bulletins

**SPONSOR A CHILD**

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

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## Business Products & Services



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Accepting children 3 months old - 4 years old. 7am-7pm.

- Experienced nannies.
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- Reasonable rates.
- Outdoor activities.
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081-868 7676 (English).

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### BUDS INTERNATIONAL KINDERGARTEN

Phuket's oldest international child care facility. High-quality, time-proven schedule and curriculum. Now in brand-new purpose-built school. Experienced native English teachers to teach ages 1.5-8. Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. Bus service available from Patong, Karon, Kata, Phuket, Rawai and Chalong. Tel: 076-384638, 080-624 7060, www.buds-phuket.com

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Showing and teaching the art of western cowboy rope tricks. For more information, please call 084-447 5257.

### WHEATGRASS JUICE

Lumpoons Coffee House. At Chalong. For more information, please call 081-476 5808.

### SLUSH MACHINE

Our two-tank slush machines are great value for the money. We offer you the cheapest rate in Thailand for both the machine and the mix. A fantastic product which will give you an even better return. Inquire now or call us 087-139 9225. Email: info@funfoodthailand.com

### FREE ITALIAN ESPRESSO MACHINE

Coffee capsules machine on loan, good organic Italian coffee, fair prices, 6 blends available, direct import into Phuket. Tel: 076-374760, 088-768 1260 (English & Thai). Email: fepigada@yahoo.it

### BAND IS LOOKING FOR MUSICIAN



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.

### BLUE CANYON MEMBERSHIP

Blue Canyon life membership available. Offers to Pete on 084-349 2325 (English). Email: peter@lifecartoons.com

### PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Family lifetime membership, transfer fee and this year's subscription. 570,000 baht. Please call 076-283 288, 081-273 7326. Fax: 076-283288. Email: keithmarshall747@gmail.com

### BALI KUTA GOLF MEMBERSHIP

1 share ACC x 3 golf courses. Life swap / Phuket golf course. Phuket Country / Laguna / Blue Canyon. Please call 085-994 0364.

### PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Price: 550,000 baht, full family membership, including transfer and 2013 fees. For more information, please call 085-299 9437. Email: pumonholiday@gmail.com

### BLUE CANYON AND LOCH PALM

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

## Education

### TEACHER LOOKING FOR JOB

American native English speaker looking for long-term employment in international school - Bachelor's degree & TEFL & Lifeguard Instructor. Private lessons available: Young children or business professionals. Please call 092-371 4898 (English & Thai). Email: mayfieldlm@gmail.com

## Computers

### MAC MINI WITH MAC KEYBOARD

Mac Mini A1347 (Windows 7). Mac Keyboard (WiFi) and Magic Mouse (WiFi). Sale: 22,000 baht. Tel: 085-790 3391 (English). Email: t\_rem@hotmail.com

## Fitness Equipment

### PILATES REFORMER MACHINES

Four years old but still in very good condition. Ropes have recently been replaced. Price: 70,000 baht each. Negotiable with purchase of two or more. Includes: box, pole, mat, straps, cushions, fitness circle and platform extender. Tel: 076-304277, 083-107 0277 (English & Thai). Email: drabhishekbny5936@gmail.com

## Television Sets

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### SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

#### Cryptic crossword

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# HEADSTART “OUTSTANDING NURSERY”



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## THE EMERALD CENTRAL CONDOMINIUM OPEN HOUSE



The Emerald Central Condominium had its sales launch. Mr Sawit Kateroj, Director of Phuket Capital Real Estate Co Ltd (right) poses for a group photo with customers and Ms Laddawan Suannuch (2<sup>nd</sup> left), HR Manager and Assistant to the Director of Phuket Capital Real Estate Co Ltd.

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# Fine art meets fine food

By Mark Knowles

MICHAEL Earle, the former architect turned magazine publisher behind the popular Phuket-based Think Design magazine, is a one-man army when it comes to promoting good design and art on the island. His art dinners have become a Phuket institution for local art aficionados who want to take their dining experience to a new level.

Having recently had the chance to attend one of Michael's art dinners, it was immediately obvious why they are often fully booked – who wouldn't want to enjoy a fantastic meal while being exposed to new art by a knowledgeable and eloquent guide such as Michael?

The concept behind them is deceptively simple. Find six art pieces and ask a chef to use them as inspiration to create a six course menu but this simple idea gives rise to complex new dishes as the two artists interact, one using paint and the other using food.

"The idea is something that I call cross pollination, you have one artist inspiring another and it leads to something even better. It's happened throughout the history of creative art and it's something that will continue to happen," explains Michael.

He has held art dinners at many of the top resorts and restaurants such as Andara, Le Meridien and Centara Grand and this time it was the turn of Vero, one of the newest restaurants on the island, at the Pullman Arcadia Resort on Nai Thon Beach.

This constant mixing of different artists with different chefs means that no two dinners are ever the same and many guests have been regularly attending them for years knowing that they are always going to get something new and exciting.

It wasn't Vero head chef Flavio Manzoni's first time at an art dinner. He has attended them as a patron to see what culinary creations other top chefs have come up with when using art for inspiration. It was, however, his first time cooking at one, and he said he was excited by the challenge.



This painting by Vietnamese artist Dao Thanh Duy featured at the art dinner.



The Think Design magazine art dinners are the brainchild of Phuket-based design guru Michael Earle. Photo: Gazette File

"It was a very interesting process. It really depends on how you interpret the paintings and what you feel about them," he said.

His dishes were inspired by a selection of paintings by some of

top Vietnamese artists working today and he said it inspired him to incorporate some Asian elements into his repertoire of Northern Italian style cooking.

"I tried to use some local elements, with a really Italian taste to combine East and West," he said.

Again the format of the night was simple: as each dish was served, a new painting was displayed and Michael spoke about the artist, their background and approach to painting before discussing how chef Flavio was inspired by various elements of each painting when creating the dishes.

Each dish was delicious, but a particular highlight was the pumpkin *veloute* with organic beetroot, a thick yet silky smooth pumpkin soup with a dollop of pureed roast beetroot providing a rich earthy flavor. The potato pearl dumplings with Alaskan crab were also divine. With a coconut based sauce covering the gnocchi-like dumplings and morsels of crab meat, providing a perfect example of Flavio's East meets West approach.

A refreshing and tangy tamarind and orange sorbet was an interesting way to punctuate the larger courses and was soon followed by the outstanding main course of super-fresh wild salmon and langoustine in a citrus olive oil emulsion.

As we were enjoying these fabulous dishes, I struck up a conversation with one of my fellow diners and discovered that he had been coming to almost every one of Michael's art dinners since they began. To inspire such a loyal following, it's clear that Michael has found the recipe for success.

I know I'm certainly looking forward to the next one.

For more information about upcoming Think Design art dinners see: [thinkdesignmagazine.com](http://thinkdesignmagazine.com)



A satisfied diner prepares to tuck into the main course of wild salmon and langoustine. Photos: Mark Knowles



The potato pearl dumplings with Alaskan crab were a highlight of the evening.



Vero head chef Flavio Manzoni and his staff welcome guests to the Think Design art dinner at the Pullman Arcadia.



## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

**Sep 7-8, 2013, 9pm-1am, Phuket 80s Night**

XANA beach club will be holding a Phuket 80s Night, bringing the best music from one of the most iconic decades. 80s themed cocktails, canapes and entertainment and of course a dress code will make the night special So glam it up with 80s clothes and accessories! For more information contact Annabel Fox on +66-76-324101 or visit xanabeachclub.com

**Sep 8, 2013, 12pm-3pm, Sunday Poolside BBQ at Westin Siray Bay**

Indulge in a lavish BBQ buffet with a variety of meats and seafood, live cooking stations, your favorite Italian dishes, and scrumptious desserts. Every Sunday throughout September, 12pm-3pm, at Prego by the Beach, The Westin Siray Bay Resort & Spa, Phuket. THB990++ per adult, includes free access to Prego pool. THB495++ per child (7-12 years old). For more information contact +66-76-335600 or visit westinsiraybay.com

**Sep 11-12, 10am-2pm, Luxury Cruise on Princess Yacht**

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**Sep 19, 2013, 11:30am-2pm, Phuket International Women Club monthly lunch.**

September lunch will be at The Holiday Inn, Patong. Always



a popular venue. All are welcome but registration is essential. Members B500 and guests B650. Contact: info@phuketiw.com or Carole Dux 076-316711 or visit phuketiw.com

**Sep 22, 2013, 10am-4pm, Phuket Youth Sailing Club Fun Day & Beach BBQ**

Come and sail with the Phuket Youth Sailing Club on one of the safest and most picturesque bays on the island, Ao Yon. The club is open every weekend offering recreational sailing, club racing, supervised boat rental, organised day sails, sailing courses for juniors and adults, and a monthly family day barbecue. A large fleet of dinghies, beach cats, keelboats, sit-on kayaks, sea kayaks, stand up paddleboards and powerboats is available. The facilities include changing rooms and showers, a large undercover area, beach bar & restaurant and a fantastic sandy beach. Come and join the fun! For more information contact Katy Gooch on +66-85-215 9185

**Oct 8, 2013, 6pm-10:30pm, Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards 2013.**

The Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards is a National competition recognizing the efforts and expertise amongst the hotels, restaurants, cafes and wine bars in the development of wine culture in Thailand. The competition is open to all food and beverage establishments with wine lists. The winner will be announced at the Awards ceremony in October. Contact Jon Hyams on +66-80-4718713

**Oct 5-13, 2013, Phuket Vegetarian Festival.**

This festival is an annual event held during the ninth lunar month of the Chinese calendar. Though the origins of the festival are unclear, it celebrates the Chinese community belief that a strict diet of vegetables only will purify mind and body and constitute merit-making. Sacred rituals are performed at all Chinese temples in Phuket.

The processions from each temple show strict vegetarians, piercing their tongues, cheeks and other body parts with sharp objects. The devotees apparently feel no pain and show no sign of permanent injury.

**Oct 17, 2013, 11:30am-2pm, Phuket International Women's Club at Cape Panwa Hotel.**

Another new and fascinating location for the 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@phuketiw.com or contact Carole Dux on +66-76-316711.

**Oct 29 - Nov 3, 2013, 9am-6pm Phuket Thailand Open Powered By PTT 2013**

The Phuket Thailand Open will attract top beach volleyball teams from around the globe. Leading teams to play in the tournament are: Austria, Brazil, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the USA. There will be in total up to 6 Thai teams taking part in the event, of which 3 are in the main draw and 3 in the qualifying. For more information visit pentanglepromotions.com

**Nov 13-16, 2013, 5am-6pm, Phuket International Sport Fishing 2013.**

Registration will be on 13 November from 5pm onwards. Fishing days are 13-16 November. Prize giving party on the 16th. For more information visit: phuket-international-sportfishing-tourament.com or contact KhunUwe Schittek on +66-76 282036 or email uweschittek@yahoo.com.

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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.

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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.

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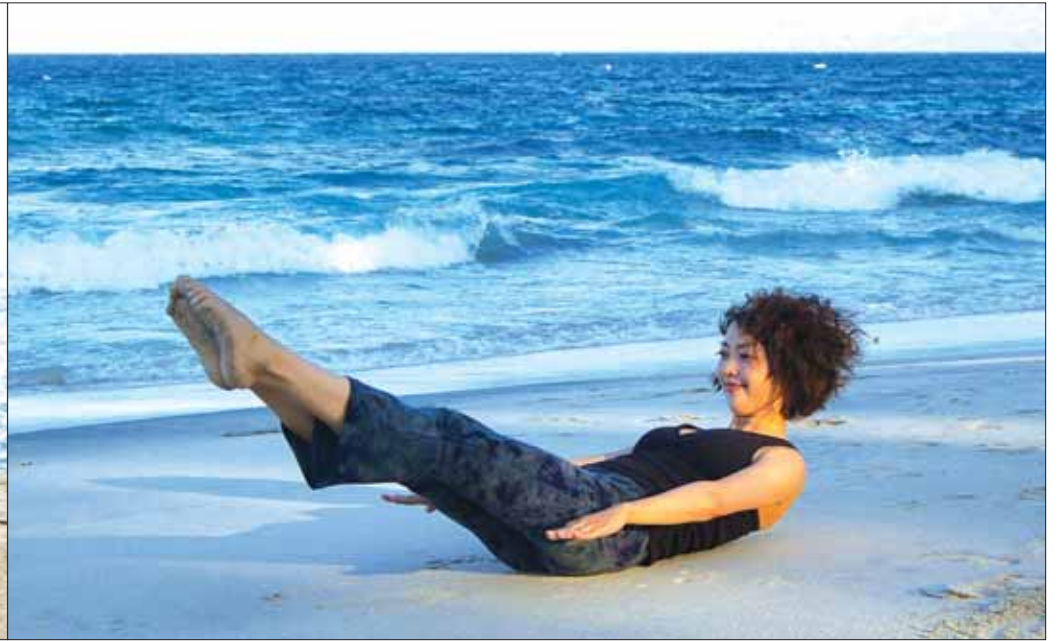
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Online: [www.phuketgazette.net/tv](http://www.phuketgazette.net/tv) | [www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket](http://www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket)

And in 4,600 hotel rooms around the island, international hospitals and Phuket Immigration Office.



# Pilates – art of control



Once you learn the basics, you can practice Pilates on your own and anywhere, but training with a coach once in a while will ensure you exercise in the correct manner. Photos: Supplied

By Maciek Klimowicz

WHEN I asked a few of my friends if they ever heard about Pilates, most didn't have a clue what I was talking about. Some thought it was some kind of food, a few associated it with physical exercise: "It's like yoga isn't it?" they said. Well, not exactly. Like yoga, it does involve a mat and a set of precise moves, but the foundations of these moves are quite different. While yoga is based on ancient teachings of Indian gurus, Pilates is rooted in down-to-earth German science. The method was developed in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by Joseph Pilates, a German physical-culturalist. Since then, Pilates has gained world wide popularity and is now on offer in fitness studios around the globe, including Phuket. To understand the fashionable yet mysterious training method better, the *Gazette* spoke to Santiago Lautz, a Phuket-based Pilates instructor with over nine years of experience.

## What is Pilates?

Santiago Lautz : Pilates is a training system, which in contrast to other training systems, is not so much focused on developing muscles but on finding the way the body works, controlling the movement and finding a balanced posture. Pilates has a very

structured way to teach that and to train the body.

## What is the key to success in Pilates?

Each instructor you ask will give you a different answer. For me it's understanding your body and knowing how to communicate with it. It's a lot about awareness and control over the body. We call it Pilates after Joseph Pilates, who developed this technique in the 1930s, who himself called it Contrology, the art of control.

## You've been practicing and teaching Pilates for nine years. What results do you see?

There is no single goal, no perfection to achieve. It's a constant process. I've seen a lot of changes in my body. Before I started practicing I used to suffer from nervous pains in my legs but all this is gone, as now I know what to do and what not to do and how to move properly.

## When a new person comes and starts exercising, what's the first thing you teach?

In the beginning the student needs to learn a lot of new concepts and first classes might be a bit overwhelming. The first thing I teach is how to engage a core set of muscles on your waist area. It's a little like the special protective belts the heavy weight lifters wear on their abdomen. We are equipped with such belts naturally and need to learn how to use them.



Santiago Lautz, Pilates coach: 'It's good to treat your body right.'

## Is Pilates for anybody, are there any restrictions?

There's exercise for anyone. Pregnant women who should not do much exercise can do Pilates, same goes for elderly people. I have taught students from the age of 11 to the age of 80. People come to study Pilates for different reasons. For some it's just fashion: they saw it on *Sex in the City* and they want to try it. Others want to lose weight, but most of the people stay in Pilates because after a while, they start realizing what their posture is and what the advantages of keeping a better aligned posture are. I would recommend Pilates to sportsmen too. It can improve performance, as one thing that will always benefit any sportsman is to know how to keep the right posture and control his body. Many elite sportsman turn to Pilates these days, basketball players, football players. Even the Chelsea Football Club has a Pilates section.

## It all sounds like a very anatomical, precise exercise. Is a teacher necessary?

It's highly recommended to have a good instructor. A lot of people try and do Pilates following a DVD or a book but if you really want to see the benefits of Pilates, I always recommend to take up private classes. There are many group

classes too, but in the beginning it might seem quite complicated and during a group class the instructor can't pay attention to your specific needs and not all people assimilate the moves in the exact same way, so some people need special approach. Still, it's better to attend a group class than to stay on the sofa and not exercise at all.

## And once you master the basics, can you practice on your own?

Of course. Though our own perception of our body is quite subjective and sometimes we tend to misunderstand it. So it's good to have a class with a professional teacher from time to time to recheck if you are doing things right. But once you know what you're doing, you can practice by yourself.

## What do you need to start? Is there any equipment necessary?

We use a lot of equipment and different machines in Pilates but there is a set of exercises for which you only need a mat. The tools we use are designed to give extra challenge to the body but they also make some things easier. I think that making the mat exercise properly might be even more difficult as you have to depend on your body only and keep good control of it.

## Is Phuket a good place to take up Pilates?

Pilates definitely goes well with the vibe of the island. It's a great place where many people want to show-off their body – on the beach for example. There's so much focus on physique here, so many yoga classes and so on. And there are quite a few Pilates studios too.

## So is Pilates a good way to lose kilograms?

It's not its primary objective. A lot of people come to the classes with that intention but you need to be quite advanced for Pilates to become an aerobic exercise. But exercising isn't just about losing kilograms. Joseph Pilates used to say that in 10 classes you are going to feel different, in 20 classes you are going to look different and in 30 classes you are going to have a brand new body. So if you keep a good routine in about three months you will see a change. You won't become exceptionally muscular but your overall posture, the way your body moves will change. A healthy body is not about how much muscles you have but about how it's organized. I've seen a lot of really skinny people or really fat people with great body organization but you also see tough guys from the gym with muscles everywhere who have a really unhealthy body.

## Does it make any sense to come for a two weeks holiday to Phuket and take up Pilates?

If you do Pilates at home, it's great to keep your routine going and try a different teacher who might point you in new, interesting directions. For people who never tried it, it's a great chance to give it a try and see if they like it. They might bring home some new and healthy habits from their holidays. It's good to treat your body right. When you are older it will punish you or thank you for what you're doing to it now.

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# Popera makes Phuket debut

By Shela Riva

CENTARA Grand Resort's beach was an Italian utopia last Sunday night, with guests of the Donnafugata Winery cocktail party being treated to live Italian musical performances by famed tenor singer Yves Baron – all while enjoying a selection of fine Sicilian fermented grape juices and authentic Italian cuisine. The French-Thai vocalist sang numbers ranging from Italian songs to Italian Opera, and even classic English songs translated into Italian.

The performer, who goes by the artist name "Le Tenor", specializes in a fusion genre known as Popera. He describes it as "a blend of pop mixed with classical influences".

"When I started singing, I had an Opera voice", he told the *Gazette*. "I was listening to a lot of heavy rock, pop rock music and even heavy metal – from Metallica to Guns n' Roses, and I would say I was especially inspired by Freddie Mercury, who was an amazing singer. I discovered that I had what we call a tenor range voice – a total coincidence. So I decided, why not combine the music I listen to, and the music I study? That led to what we now call Popera."

And the mixed genre has shown to be successful, as Mr Baron proudly bears a

growing collection of performances and travels enabled by his music. "I've been to Africa, Asia, Europe and America so far, and I hope that it is only the beginning!" he exclaimed.

"I would love to visit South America, New Zealand and Australia with my music – that would be fun." He has performed at a number of prestigious events; he sang in front of HM the Queen of Thailand, during a Paris trip, which he describes as his "personal pride", among countless others. "There have been many festivals and media events with wonderful musicians and celebrities," he told the *Gazette*. "I once performed Freddie Mercury's Barcelona for a Manchester United Legend tour, because they wanted a rendition of it, as they'd won an important match in Barcelona in their career. So I did my best and think that was great fun."

The singer is currently based in Bangkok as a vocal coach and full-time performer. "I am enrolled in the orchestra group. They hold a Superstar Academy. Anyone can join it, as it's the academy of a TV show called *Thailand's Most Famous*. So that's the first part of the project, and now we've just opened a Superstar college of Asia which means we deliver a bachelor's degree in music performances. I'm involved in the voice major, but there is guitar, dance, acting and modeling."



(Above) Mr Baron performing at the Donnafugata cocktail party at Centara Beach Resort. (Bottom) Guests mingling and enjoying their night during the event. Photo: supplied



"We have people come to us from many local shows: *The Voice*, *Thailand's Got Talent*, *Thailand's Most Famous* and even *Thai Supermodel*."

In between his work with the Superstar academy, Mr Baron continues to spread Popera with his performances; he is look-

ing forward to several upcoming shows: in Bangkok on September 11 and 25, followed by a show at the new Centara in Pattaya, opening in the third week of September.

For more details, check Mr Baron's website: [letenor.pro](http://letenor.pro)

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Avocado trees take some time to grow before they bear their tasty fruit. Photo: You as a machine



Mangosteens hide a delicious tangy fruit beneath their tough purple exterior. Photo: Goosmurf

# Fruit: Food of the gods

AS ANY journalist worth his salt will tell you, it is always easier to amplify or pad out a piece than to abridge it. Unless you are very careful, condensing a piece can result in a lack of clarity, in stylistic obfuscation or worse, some painful wrenching of the sense.

When, in response to a reader's question last week, I selected ten or so fruit trees he might usefully plant in his garden, I dealt only with half of them in my allotted space. Fortunately, I can finish the job this week. No harm done. No editing required.

We ended with some remarks about citrus trees, but the pomelo (or shaddock) got short shrift. A pity, because it is delicious. In appearance and taste, it's like a massive grapefruit, it is the largest member of the citrus family, has a thick rind, a tough inner membrane and consequently, is often sold already prepared and divided into sections. Refreshingly acidulated, it lacks the acerbic edge that characterizes the grapefruit. Its evergreen foliage is typically citrus-like, glossy and strong, but the tree itself is relatively modest in size – somewhere between five and eight meters tall and with a neat rounded crown. Pomelos are usually



**Gardening**  
By Patrick Campbell

grafted, but can be grown from new seed. If pomelos are a feature of most fresh markets, so too are rambutans, longans and mangosteens. Currently it is the season for the soft-spined, red rambutan (it means hairy in Malay) or *nephelium*. A heavy-cropping species, great mounds of the things appear at this time of year in the back of parked pickups or on market stalls. Another sound choice for your garden, the rambutan has neat evergreen foliage, white flowers, and a nice form which makes a splendid landscape tree. And best of all – a fruit with tasty, sweet, translucent pulp around a single stone.

The longan fruit is similar in size and shape and likewise sports a taste of the tropics – exotic sweet flesh, inside a bark-thin, smooth yellow shell. Like the rambutan

it is a heavy cropper and grape-like bunches are sold in season. Conceivably it is a better garden choice, since it rarely exceeds six meters. It likes a free-draining, sandy soil.

Another seasonally cropping tree, the mangosteen, (botanical name *garcinia*) is less common in Phuket, but its larger

fruit shares some characteristics with the longan and rambutan, namely a globular shape and sweet but tangy white flesh encased in a thick shell. In appearance it somewhat resembles a deep purple tomato. Personally, I would be concerned that the tree might outgrow a modest garden.

So too the avocado (*persea*). The specimen in my patch, a substantial evergreen presence, is already three storeys high, but has yet to produce those creamy, pear-shaped delicacies. But it clearly enjoys the island's climate and soil.



Rambutans are a ubiquitous sight in Phuket at this time of year. Photo: Hasan Sabran

## Dog of the week

### Jackpot

FOR those of you who don't already know, Doggie Heaven is a safe haven where dogs who are injured, sick or neglected can come to relax and recover from their sickness and get some love. This is Jackpot, he was found on the street, laying in the gutter and unable to move his sick little body. As you can see he really needed a trip to the vet to get a check up and some serious medicine for his skin infection. With plenty of hearty meals to help put some meat on his bones and most of all some serious love, Jackpot is now on the road to recovery. Jackpot is now back at Doggie Heaven in Laguna recovering and feeling better by the day.

Doggie Heaven helps place homeless dogs with loving families and is located in Thalang. If you'd like to adopt an animal or want to make an appointment, please contact: [sherin.peace@gmail.com](mailto:sherin.peace@gmail.com) or visit [doggieheaven.net](http://doggieheaven.net).

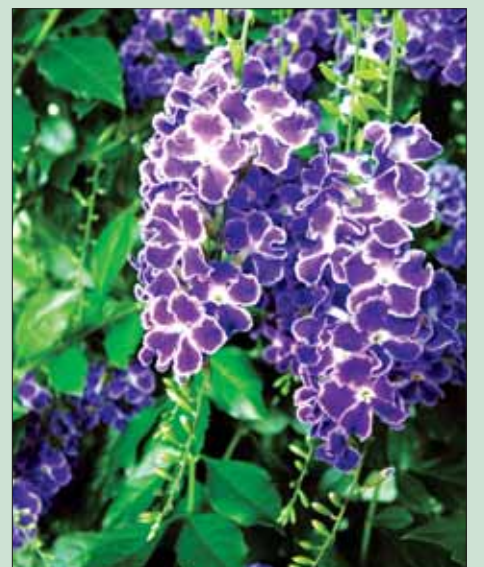


Jackpot is recovering well and getting lots of hugs at Doggie Heaven. Photo: Supplied

## Tip of the week

### Try your shrubs out

A READER is embarking on a major horticultural project for which he has two quotes of between 1.5 and 2 million baht. A substantial outlay. My advice to him has been to experiment with several possible shrubs and small trees (the project is for 700 meters of tough, decorative hedge capable of being pruned) before committing cash. So we have agreed that the best formula is to plant rows of what we hope are the most appropriate evergreen plants at the actual site and see which ones do best in conditions which will match those for the major enterprise. So there will be three rows; one each of *duranta repens* (pigeon berry), *syzygium* or *neugenia* known here as *cristina* (a member of the myrtle family) and *ehretia*, known in Thai as "sai". After three months, we should have a better idea of which species will make the grade.



*Duranta repens* makes an attractive border shrub. Photo: KKMaraia

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



# Aus consul fires parting shots

By Saran Mitrarat  
and Mark Knowles

AUSTRALIA's Honorary Consul in Phuket, Larry Cunningham has announced that he will resign his post on September 30 after nine years on the job. During his time as Honorary Consul, Mr Cunningham has been a consistent and outspoken critic of the corruption and criminality facing visitors to the island.

In an interview with the *Phuket Gazette* he said that he was recently threatened by a government official for his vocal criticism, and rather than be intimidated, he has renewed his call for authorities in Phuket to face up to reality of corruption and criminality that is degrading the island's international reputation as a safe holiday destination.

"Last week I was threatened by a government official – she told me 'you be very careful, because you have a business in Phuket and you live in Phuket.' Now that was a terrible thing to say, and there's going to be a lot of problems as a result of what that person said."

He also said that given his recent experience, finding his replacement may prove to be a difficult task. Maybe nobody wants the job. The last few days in particular have shown that the Honorary Consul's job in Phuket can be a very difficult one. "When you get threatened by a government official, it's not a pleasant experience. So maybe we won't get anyone to apply for the job," he said.

"Those sorts of things are very disappointing when they do happen, because as everyone in Phuket who knows me knows, I have the best interest of Phuket at heart. I have a resort in Phuket and I want people to come to Phuket. But Phuket has been slipping and sliding for the last ten years. The quality of tourists

coming to Phuket now is lower than it has ever been.

"We have pollution, corruption, the highest taxi prices and tuk-tuk prices of anywhere in Thailand. We have aggressive assaults by tuk-tuk drivers, and taxi [drivers] and jet-ski operators and so on. So I think Phuket has a big chance to improve itself with the DSI, if the DSI do really make the changes that they say they will make."

While acknowledging that all visitors must respect local laws and customs, he also expressed his concern at the rising number of Australian tourists that are affected by these problems.

"The number of Australians coming to Phuket have increased quite a lot. When I was appointed there were about 3,000 Australians in Phuket on any given day. Today there's about 25,000 Australians in Phuket on any one day,"

"Now unfortunately some of those Australians behave badly and get into trouble – they do stupid things, they get drunk, they start fights – they steal things, they do things that are impolite, and generally speaking [when they do] they are arrested by the police or taken to jail."

"When that happens, I check with the police that everything is okay and that they pay their fine(s). If they come to Thailand they have to respect the country they come to and they should behave themselves. If they do bad things like that, they're very silly and they don't get a lot of sympathy from me."

"Unfortunately sometimes they are taken advantage of when they only do some small things and this

is where I get upset and angry. Australians are extorted of money by corrupt police and officials in Phuket. Specifically in situations like jet-ski or motorcycle hire, where the damage is fake. Or where there is no damage or where the cost of the damage is just so very high that it's not in keeping with the real damage that was done."

"Now when that happened, I have had to make sure that the Australians rights are protected and they are not ripped-off and extorted for money.

Unfortunately I don't get to see all of them. Some of them do not know that we have an Australian Consul here, and we only find out about the stories later.

"Unfortunately [by] then it's too late. In many instances, they have already paid hundreds of thousands of baht to them.

corrupt officials in Phuket. And this is what we have been trying to eliminate, this is why we are so happy the DSI is in Phuket, because for eight years we have been trying to do something about it and we have not been successful," he said.

Mr Cunningham went on to say that tourists from all countries have similar experiences and that such incidences played a large part in the declining numbers of European tourists visiting Phuket.

"I hope that we will be able to see a new start for Phuket, because Phuket has just dropped and slid away in the last few years – the European tourists have stopped coming because of the problems in Phuket.

"Unfortunately many of the



Australian Honorary consul has been outspoken on many of the issues that Phuket faces. Photo: Gazette file

officials in Phuket want to keep quiet about the problems but if you keep covering up these problems nothing is ever done to improve them.

"You would be much better [off] investigating and trying to fix the problems, and then [be able to] say to people 'we have fixed the problem, here is the new Phuket, taxi fares at a sensible level, no more development, no pollution, no rip-offs by jet-ski operators, no extortion of money by police,'"

"If we had these situations you could then say: 'okay, sure we have had problems in Phuket, but now we have fixed these problems – this is the new Phuket. Please come back and give us a chance'. In the hope that the European tourists would come back to Phuket.

Despite his criticisms, Mr Cunningham said he still loves his adopted home and remains

positive that things will change for the better.

"Phuket is a wonderful place, it has been my home for the last 12 years. I have some very, very close friends in Phuket. Friends in the police force, friends in government, friends in the Phuket tourist association, fellow Honorary Consuls here in Phuket – my friends are probably 70 per cent Thai and 30 per cent non-Thai.

"It has been these Thai people, my Thai friends, who have been encouraging me to work with them to make Phuket a better place. So even though I will no longer be in an official position, as Honorary Consul, my heart is still in Phuket, because I believe Phuket can be better, much better, than what it is now. But it needs strong action, hopefully starting with the DSI, and hopefully followed through from Bangkok.



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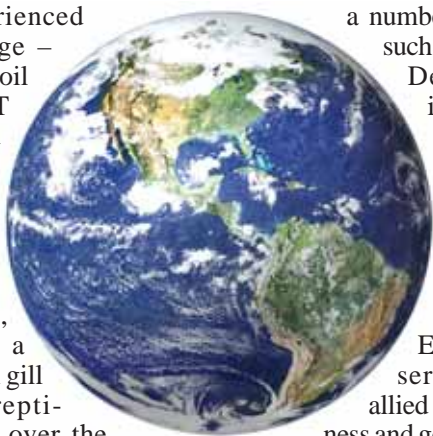
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# Think globally, act locally:

By Patrick Campbell

LET'S draw attention to some local happenings. First some negative ones. "Tainted Tide", a recent *Phuket Gazette* front page article, revealed that Patong's already polluted beaches had suffered yet another setback – a patch of brown, unwholesome water in the bay, perhaps a mindless discharge of sewage from local hotels, or a build-up of plankton, courtesy of contaminants in the sea. Talking of mindless spills, Ko Samui recently experienced an oil discharge – 50,000 liters of oil from a PTT pipeline leaked into the island's waters. It was the fourth largest spill in Thai history. At Shark Point, only days ago, a huge and illegal gill net was surreptitiously draped over the famous dive site. Bad news for the fish and coral colonies, potentially even worse news for submerged divers. Three illegal resorts built offshore on Ko Samet have just been dismantled, but, alas, not before lasting damage has been inflicted on the fragile ecosystem of the seabed.

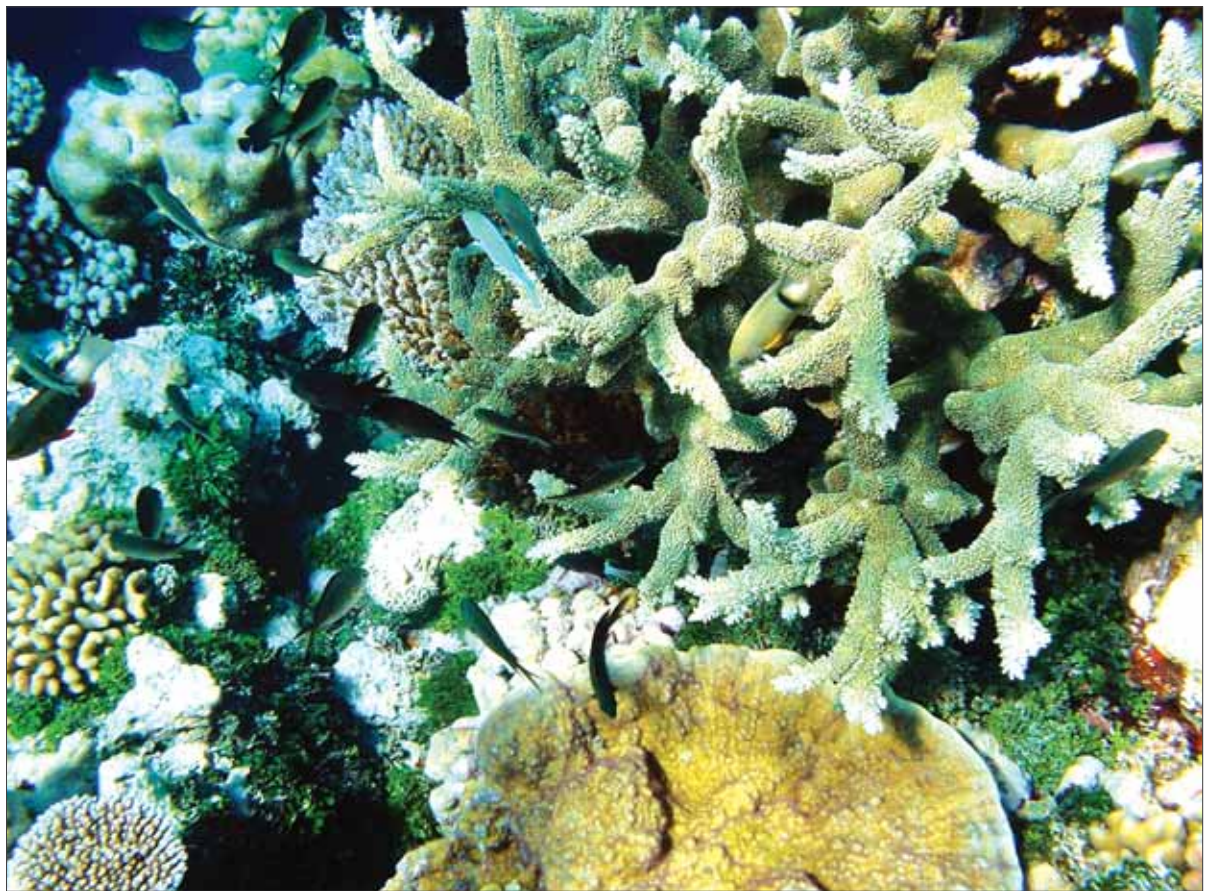


Back on "terra firma", the picture is no better. One reads of "illegal loggers" who have "ravaged over 100 rai of forest" in Bang Khanoon, cutting down at least 50 protected Eaglewood trees, a threatened and commercially valuable species. At the north end of Cape

Panwa, a swathe of National Forest Reserve has been razed to the ground. Recently vandals destroyed tracts of mangrove forest south of Chalong, without any material reason for so doing. One could go on with this litany of destruction without even mentioning speedboat "cowboys", over-fishing, illegal wildlife trade in ivory, pangolins or tokays, land encroachment and development, or the endless dumping of rotting piles of garbage.

There are, however, encouraging signs. Beach clean-ups by schools and environmental groups, a number of campaigns such as "Dive Against Debris", largely initiated by the dive community, the work of Seek, an organization "set up to work with the local community", Go Eco, a marine conservation group allied with local business and government, these and many more are contributing to an increasing sense that something must be done, and done soon. Some forward-thinking resorts, Viridian, Movenpick and Avista for example, are showing that up-scale developments *can* offer a green experience.

There is a catch-phrase associated with environmental awareness which goes: "think globally, act locally". A timely reminder of how all of us, as eco-conscious members of Phuket's community, can both help to rectify these misdeeds on our own patch and increase awareness of the wider picture. It



Corals are under threat in Southeast Asia where 80 per cent of reefs are endangered. Photo: Brocken Inaglor

goes without saying that these malpractices are not confined to Phuket or even Thailand. Despoliation of the natural world is an ongoing global phenomenon; resulting extreme weather patterns dominate our daily diet of news. Floods in Eastern Russia, the worst for 120 years, record levels of inundation in parts of Myanmar, North India and China, a typhoon in the Philippines. Not so long ago, half of Queensland was under water.

If it's not too wet, then it's too dry and too hot. A recent headline

in the *China Daily* screamed: "Meltdown ahead". There have been weeks of atmospheric pollution in Malaysia from blazing forests in Sumatra. A double whammy. Dirt at one end; destruction at the other. And as I write, parts of California's Yosemite National Park are ablaze, with an area larger than metropolitan Chicago reduced to smoldering ash. Redwoods and giant sequoias, the largest and oldest trees on the planet, are being torched.

The cost of all this is staggering. According to environmentalist

Dr Jeff Masters, "at least five billion dollars of weather disasters hit earth during June" – from droughts in Brazil, New Zealand and China to floods in Alberta, Central Europe and Argentina.

Of course, some of these events can justifiably be put down to caprices of nature, as media coverage reinforces our sense that we all live, cheek by jowl, in a global village. Nonetheless, the sheer scale of these catastrophes makes nature less than consistently culpable. Though doubters continue to argue otherwise, most experts now agree that climate change is driven by man's destruction of the planet's natural heritage, by factors such as de-forestation and urbanization. Why? Because while rain-forests and oceans help to redress the balance by absorbing harmful pollutants, man and his infernal machines continue to pump these effluents back into the atmosphere. When nature's resources are depleted past the point of no return, then raised levels of carbon dioxide and worse, gases such as methane, become a suffocating presence. Hence global warming and extremes of climate.

In Phuket, we can hardly ignore the seas that envelop us. But are we aware how crucial they are to the salvation of the planet? Healthy oceans generate 70 per cent of our oxygen and absorb much of the carbon dioxide produced by man. Though we still know little about them, they drive the worldwide weather, our climate and the chemistry of the planet. They provide a home for most of the creatures on earth. Yet we are polluting and destroying these marine ecosystems before we even begin to understand



Cleaning oil spills is costly and labor intense – a lesson Koh Samed learned quite recently. Photo: FEMA Photo Library



# it's your planet



Beach cleanups are just a partial solution. Not polluting in the first place works just as well. Photo: Takeaway

them. Trawlers and factory ships vacuum up not just fish but everything in their path.

But perhaps the most mind-boggling effect of global warming – since it is remote and unseen – is occurring in the frozen wastes of the Arctic. A NASA sponsored mission called “Carve” has issued a doomsday warning. It argues that the region’s permafrost is warming even faster than Arctic air temperatures. And here’s the rub. Vast reserves of carbon and methane are stored deep within this permafrost, a layer of frozen soil that covers 9 million square miles of Canada, Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States. For eons, this frozen tundra, like a giant freezer, has trapped more carbon than it has released. But if this massive area becomes drier and warmer – and this is already happening – scientists believe that most of the stored carbon will be released as carbon dioxide. Yet more hot wet weather and methane would be released. As NASA suggests: “If just one per cent of this permafrost carbon released is methane, it will have the same



Illegal development puts mangroves under threat. Photo: Wing-Chi Poon

greenhouse effect as the 99 per cent that is released as carbon dioxide.”

We know that global warming is behind the melting of the polar ice cap, a process that is producing unprecedented rises in sea levels. These rises, if unchecked, will lead to the submergence of low-lying parts of earth’s land mass, including many archipelagos, by 2040. But the permafrost effect, unseen and unquantifiable, may yet prove to be even more damaging to our benighted planet.



Phuket landscapes are worth preserving. Photo: Rene Ehrhardt

## Act now and save the earth!

CARBON footprint, greenhouse effect, global warming – you can help tackle all these big problems with small, everyday solutions. Here are five things you can do today to keep the planet going for future generations.

### Say no to plastic

Some 600,000 plastic bags are used every day in Bangkok alone, 500 billion are used each year around the globe. Will they ever decompose? Not within your or your children’s (or their children’s) lifetime. Don’t add to this number. Carry your own shopping bag and ask the vendor in 7-Eleven not to pack each item in a separate plastic bag.

### Go veg once a week

The meat industry is one of the most damaging to the planet – some say it produces up to 20 per cent of the world’s total greenhouse gas emissions, not to mention 154,000 liters of water it takes to produce 1 kilogram of beef. Go veg at least once week, for your own health and the health of our planet.

### Stop wasting water

Since 1950 our water use has tripled. Still, only 20 per cent of people have access to running water. For one billion people water is three hours walk away. Stop water running when you’re brushing your teeth or washing the dishes and save the most precious resource of our planet.

### Eat local

This piece of cheese or bowl of cherries might look appetizing but consider how much pollution was made when all the goodies were transported from their place of origin to your plate. Enjoy local, fresh ingredients, eat seasonal food and save the earth with every bite you take.

### Get a coffee cup

Coffee is your fuel? Celebrate each cup...with your personal cup. Instead of using the plastic, styrofoam or paper cups provided by the coffee shop, ask the staff to fill your own cup. It will keep the coffee hot (or cold) longer, make it taste better and make it easier for the earth.



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# Madness of Florida

## Books

By James Eckardt

After reading a series of unsatisfactory books, spoiled by bad prose or clunky plotting, what a relief it was to read this opening passage: "On the hottest day of July, trolling in dead-calm waters near Key West, a tourist named James Mayberry reeled up a human arm. His wife flew to the bow of the boat and tossed her breakfast burritos."

I settled back to enjoy the magical madness of Carl Hiaasen's 13th novel, *Bad Monkey* (Alfred A Knopf, New York, 2013, 312pp). Hiaasen's day job is writing a weekly column for the Miami Herald, where he specializes in investigative reporting on Florida's many environmental scandals. These in turn have provided fodder for his novels.

*Mad Monkey's* plot is a triangular one, taking place in Miami, Key West and the Bahamian island of Andros. The central question is:

Who does the floating arm belong to? And the central character is Andrew Yancy who has been suspended from his position as detective in the Key West sheriff's

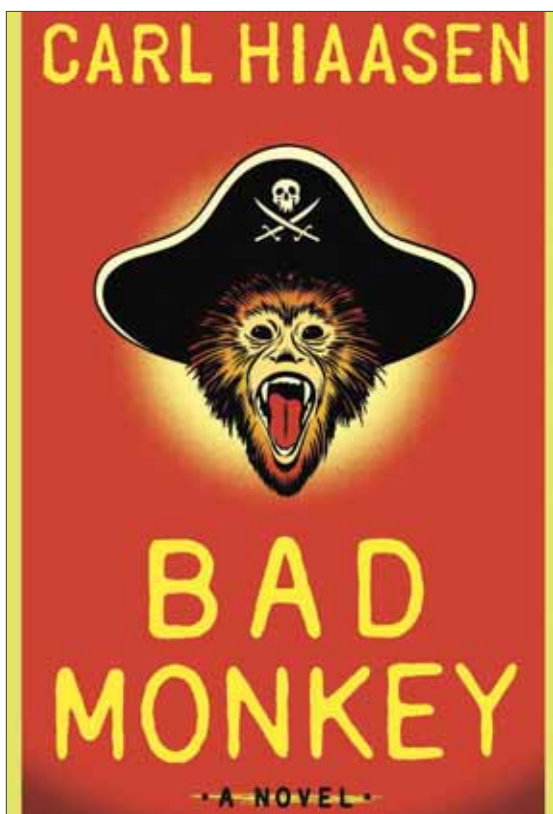
office for committing a public outrage before a crowd of tourists in Mallory Square, to wit, inserting a vacuum attachment up the backside of Dr Clifford Witt for insulting Bonnie Witt, his

teacher in Oklahoma and fugitive from justice for sleeping with a 15-year-old student.

As a favor to the Key West sheriff, Yancy drives the arm up to Miami and the office of the medical examiner, the comely Rosa Campesino, with whom he desperately tries to flirt.

The plot is complicated by the murder in broad daylight outside a Duval Street bar of Charles Phinney, the crewman of the fishing boat that had retrieved the severed arm. This prompts the observation: "The typical Key West murder is a drunken altercation over debts, dope or dance partners. Premeditated robbery-homicides are rare because they require a level of planning and sober enterprise seldom encountered among the island's indolent felons."

Eventually the arm is claimed by Eve, widow of Nicholas Stripling, who had been under FBI investigation for peddling non-existent motorized wheelchairs in a Medicare scam. His death and insurance benefits are convenient for the widow Eve who is accused by her estranged stepdaughter Caitlin Cox of arranging murder. Yancy has his



Cover of Hiaasen's 13th and latest book

wife of fourteen years and Yancy's girlfriend at the time. This romance ends when Yancy discovers that Bonnie is actually Plover Chase, a former high school English



A nasty monkey plays a major part in the novel. Photo: Tambako the Jaguar

own suspicions which leads him to Andros Island where Eve is living with her boyfriend, Christopher Grunion, a developer of high end beach real estate. This project has driven from his humble seaside home a skiff fisherman named Neville who consults with a voodoo witch, the Dragon Queen, to put a spell on the developer. The Dragon Queen takes as payment Neville's ill-tempered pet monkey Driggs, the bad monkey of the title, whom Neville won in a dominoes game and who reputedly costarred with Johnny Depp in *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Driggs plays a major part in the novel.

Meanwhile, Andrew Yancy has the same problem with a greedy developer whose monster spec house under construction has blocked the view of the sea from his home on Big Pine Key. To ward off potential buyers of the house, Yancy resorts to raccoon road kill, a hive of killer bees and two indoor campers,

Plover Chase and her former student Cody, now a pudgy and balding 29, whom she has retrieved from Oklahoma.

At his Big Pines home, Yancy entertains Dr Rita Campesino and confesses to his rectal attack on Dr Clifford Witt. She is unfazed.

"Last week I did a post on a man who had a clarinet up his colon," she reported. "That's not what killed him, by the way. It was a single gunshot to the head by a jealous lover. She played the oboe."

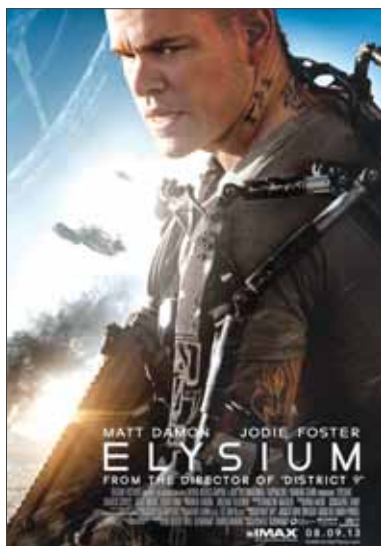
"Shakespeare was born too soon."

Yancy and Rita arrive on Andros Island and pose as a tourist couple to get the goods on Eve and her boyfriend. A hurricane intervenes and plot twists pop up, stop on a dime and skitter off in strange and wonderful directions.

This is the sort of hilarious, highly entertaining read for which God made beaches.

## Upcoming movies

A quick look at September movie premieres in Thailand



**Elysium:** In the distant future, the wealthy live in luxury on a space station while the rest of the population resides on a ruined Earth, where a man takes on a mission that could bring equality to the world.



**Jobs:** The story of the iconic Apple's founder Steve Jobs' ascension from college dropout into one of the most revered creative entrepreneurs of our times. A must see for Apple fans.



**This is the end:** While attending a party at James Franco's house, Seth Rogen, Jay Baruchel and many other celebrities are faced with the apocalypse. Party like it's the end of the world!

For Phuket showtimes and a listing of all releases, log on to [phuketgazette.net/movies/](http://phuketgazette.net/movies/)

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## Hurry up to register for Turtle Fun Run



MAI Khao Marine Turtle Foundation and JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa are pleased to extend an invitation to the general public to participate in the Turtle Fun Run and Mini Marathon 2013, which takes place on Sunday September 15 at Pru Jeh San Lake on Phuket's beautiful Mai Khao Beach.

You can register for the 9th edition of the event, which will feature a 3.5km run and a 10.5 km run, by contacting Mr Kittipan at the Concierge in the JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa lobby (see end info for contact), from now until September 14 from 9 am to 6 pm.

The event program on Sunday September 15 begins with registration from 4:30 to 5:45 am, to be followed by a keynote address from the Phuket Governor, Maitree Inthasut. At 6am the 10.5 km run will start, with the 3.5 km run starting 10 minutes later. The awards presentation ceremony will take place at 7am, along with environmental activities.

For both runs, trophies will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> place finishers and cash prizes of 800-1,500 baht for 1st-3rd place getters (male and female category).

The first 600 registered runners will receive a running shirt and medal, and there will be a trophy for the hotel and running club with the most participants. There will also be a gift voucher lucky draw.

The annual Turtle Fun Run and Mini Marathon – while also aiming to encourage in people a healthy lifestyle – is

a collaborative effort by the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation and JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa to raise funds and awareness of the conservation work done by the Phuket Marine Biological Center and its "The Injured Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Program" to rescue, rehabilitate and release (recovered) injured turtles, dolphins, whales and dugongs.

Phuket's endangered sea turtles – which use Mai Khao Beach as a nesting ground – are facing multiple threats, their numbers having severely depleted in recent years.

Commercial fishing kills thousands of them every year, while many more die from eating or becoming trapped in plastic debris littering the ocean.

Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation was launched in March 2002 during the grand opening celebrations of JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa to raise funds and awareness of the endangered leather back turtles which nest on the Mai Khao beach area. In recent years, the Foundation has broadened its environmental projects to not only conservation of the leather back turtles but also the environment. Several village, reef and beach clean-ups have been conducted in collaboration with the local community, schools and universities.

For more information about the foundation, please contact the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation coordinator via email [info@maikhaoturtlefoundation.com](mailto:info@maikhaoturtlefoundation.com) or call +6689-733-8830.



### SEPTEMBER 7

1812 Napoleon defeated the Russian army near Borodino  
1979 ESPN started transmitting  
1999 A 5.9 magnitude earthquake in Athens, Greece.  
2005 First-ever multiparty presidential elections in Egypt



UNITED 1850 Photo: Nicolas Raymond

### SEPTEMBER 8

1504 Michelangelo's David was unveiled in Florence..  
1888 The first six English Football League matches were played.  
1900 Galveston Hurricane hit Galveston, Texas killing about 8,000 people.  
1944 London was hit by a V-2 rocket for the first time.  
1966 The first Star Trek series premiered on NBC.



CAPITAL 1791 Photo: VinothChandar

### SEPTEMBER 9

1776 The United States got their official name  
1791 Washington, DC was named  
1839 John Herschel took the first glass plate photograph.  
1850 California was admitted as the thirty-first US state.  
1948 The Democratic People's Republic of Korea established.



PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC 1948 Photo: panaxy

### SEPTEMBER 10

1943 German forces begun occupation of Rome  
1963 20 black students entered public schools in Alabama.  
1977 Last person executed by guillotine in France.  
2002 Switzerland joined the United Nations.



WEAPON 1944 Photo: jurvetson

### SEPTEMBER 11

1609 Henry Hudson discovered Manhattan Island  
1941 Ground was broken for the construction of the Pentagon.  
1961 Foundation of the World Wildlife Fund.  
1978 Janet Parker was the last person to die of smallpox.  
1997 NASA's Mars Global Surveyor reached Mars.  
2001 The infamous 9/11 terrorist attack took place.

### SEPTEMBER 12

1683 Ottoman Empire defeated in the Battle of Vienna.  
1940 Cave paintings were discovered in Lascaux, France.  
1959 TV premiere of Bonanza.  
2003 US forces mistakenly killed eight Iraqi police officers in Fallujah.  
2005 Hong Kong Disneyland opened in Hong Kong.



FOOTY 1888 Photo: timsnell



ECO 1961 Photo: Stefan

### SEPTEMBER 13

1898 Hannibal Goodwin patented celluloid photographic film.  
1899 First person in the US killed in an automobile accident.  
1933 First woman elected to the New Zealand Parliament.  
1989 Largest anti-apartheid march in South Africa.  
2001 Civilian aircraft traffic resumed in the US after 9/11  
2008 Delhi, India was hit by a series of bomb blasts.





**Success comes from best tasting consistently every time**  
**To taste is too believe....**

**NOW SERVING**

## PHUKET

### HOTEL

Access Resort  
 All Seasons Naiham Phuket  
 Alpina Resort  
 Amata Patong Resort  
 Anchalee Inn  
 Andaman Beach Suites  
 APK Resort & Spa  
 Aquamarine Resort & Villa  
 Bamboo House Resort  
 Baumanburi Resort  
 Cannacia Resort  
 Cape Panwa Resort  
 Cape Sienna Hotel  
 Centara Grand West Sand  
 Centara Kata Resort  
 Centra Ashlee  
 Club Med Resort  
 Deevana Patong  
 Destination Patong Hotel & Spa  
 Diamond Cottage Resort & Spa  
 Diamond Cliff  
 Dusit Laguna Resort  
 Eden Bungalow Resort  
 Front Village Resort  
 Graceland Resort  
 Hemingway Phuket  
 Holiday Inn Phuket Resort  
 Horizon Karon Beach Resort  
 Horizon Patong Beach Resort  
 Ibis Karon  
 Ibis Patong  
 Imperial Adamas Beach  
 Indigo Pearl Resort  
 Karon Beach Resort  
 Karon Orchid Resort  
 Karon Sea Sand Resort  
 Karon Whale Resort  
 Karona Resort & Spa  
 Kata Beach Resort  
 Kata Garden Resort  
 Kata Sea Breeze Resort  
 Kata Thani Resort  
 La Flora patong  
 Marina Resort  
 Meir Jarr Hotel  
 Mercure Resort  
 Merlin Beach Resort  
 Metade Resort & Villas  
 Moevenpick Resort & Spa  
 Novotel Hotel Phuket  
 Orchidacea Resort  
 Pacific Club Resort  
 Patong Merlin Resort  
 Peach Hill Resort  
 Phuket Island View  
 Print Kamala Resort  
 Ramada South Sea  
 R-mar Resort & Spa  
 Royal Crown Hotel Patong  
 Royal Global  
 Royal Palm Resort  
 Sai Roun Residence Hotel  
 Sea Sun Sand  
 Serenity Resort & Residences  
 SM Resort  
 Sugar Palm Resort  
 Swissotel Resort Phuket  
 Thanyapura Phuket  
 The Beach Boutique House  
 The Kee Patong  
 The Nap  
 The Palm Resort  
 The Viridian Resort  
 Tri Trang Beach Resort  
 Tropical Garden Resort  
 Vijiit Resort  
 Woraburi  
 Yorkshire Hotel  
 Royal Phuket Yacht Club  
 Andaman Embrace  
 Aloha Villa Phuket

### RESTURANT & BAR

Absolute Bar  
 Absolute Celyon  
 Ali Laem Singh  
 Aloha  
 Angus O'tool's Restaurant & Bar  
 Ausie Bar Under Tiger Pub  
 Balboau Restaurant  
 Barbeque Hut Restaurant  
 Blue Coral Bar  
 Bum Bar  
 Butterfly Restaurant  
 Chaba Dang  
 Chaba Restaurant  
 Coffee Mania Patong,kata  
 Cocktails & Dreams  
 D&D Bar  
 Dolphin Bar  
 Delish Patong  
 Dubai Restaurant I, II, III  
 East Restaurant  
 Harry's Steakhouse  
 Hero Bar  
 Hog's Breath Café  
 Honky Tonk Bar  
 Karon Hut  
 Karon Café  
 Kata Food Restaurant  
 Kata karon Seafood Restaurant  
 Kata Seafood Restaurant  
 KHALIFA  
 Lai Mai Hotel  
 Lai Mai Inn  
 Las Margaritas Restaurant  
 M Laem Singh  
 Mai Thai  
 Mali Chic  
 Mali Seafood  
 Mama I,II  
 Marcopolo  
 Mr.tan Seafood  
 Nal ham lomtala  
 Nok Seafood  
 Ocean View Bar  
 Old Sailor & Restaurant  
 Patcharin Seafood  
 Phuket Man  
 Piak paradise  
 PLek Patong  
 Ratchnee Seafood  
 Ryad  
 Restaurants Ann  
 Rosco's Restuarant & Bar  
 Sabai Sabai Thaistyle  
 Salt & Pepper  
 Shake Paradise Bar  
 Shakers Restaurant  
 Sitney Patong  
 Sorrento's Restaurant  
 Sun Rise Bar patong  
 SURF HOUSE PHUKET  
 The Family Rawai  
 Tom Yum Goong  
 Totom Bar  
 Up Seafood Restaurant  
 Viking Restaurant  
 Wamida Restaurant  
 Witapon  
 Yin Bar Patong

## KOH SAMUI

Ananata - Rasananda  
 Baan Chaweng Resort  
 Banana Pan Sea Resort  
 Centara Villas Samui Hotel  
 Central Cottage  
 Chaba Beach Resort  
 Chaba Cabana Resort  
 Chaloklum Bay Resort  
 Chaweng Cove Resotel  
 Chaweng Villas  
 Coco Beach  
 Harbor View Restaurant  
 Ibis Samui Hotel  
 Imperial Boathouse Resort  
 Impiana Resort Samui  
 Islander Samui  
 Kandaburi Resort  
 Le maraya Resort  
 Long Bay Resort  
 Nora Beach Resort  
 Nora Buri Resort & Spa Samui  
 Peace Resort  
 Pha ngan Bayshore  
 Pinnacle Resort  
 Renaissance Resort  
 Sades Restaurant  
 Salad Beach Resort  
 Samui Buri  
 Samui Paradise Chaweng Beach  
 Samui Resotel  
 Samui Verti Color  
 Shamrock Samui  
 Weekender Resort & Spa  
 GILDA GUESTHOUSE  
 The Sea Koh Samui  
 Sabai Bay Resort  
 Fenix Resort Samui  
 First Bungalow Beach  
 Papillon Resort  
 Lae lay esan Restaurant  
 The Five Island Restaurant  
 Crystal Bay Samui  
 The Bamboo Restaurant  
 Terminal D Restaurant  
 Good View Samui  
 Uncle Doll Samui  
 Relax Bar  
 Gringos Cantina  
 Uncle Don's Ice Creamery  
 Classico samui  
 The sea  
 BITINI BAR SAMUI  
 Finix Resort  
 The Island  
 Al's Resort  
 Fair House Villa&Spa  
 Reggae Pub  
 Swing Bar  
 Synergy  
 Kirikayan luxury Pool Villa  
 Kirikayan Buatique Resort  
 Evergreen  
 Frist Bangalow  
 lae lay Esan Restaurant

## KHAO LAK

Seaview Resort  
 The Sensimar Khaolak  
 Bhandari Resort  
 Mukdara Resort  
 Kao Lak Resort  
 Koa Luk Beach Front  
 Koa Lak Laguna Resort  
 Kao Lak Paradise Resort  
 Diamond Beach Resort  
 Apsaras Resort  
 Suwan Plam  
 Sudala Beach  
 MuMu Cabaret Show  
 Royal bangsak  
 Sensimar Khaolak

## KRABI

All Season Resort  
 Ananta Burin Resort  
 Ao Nang Nagapura Resort Spa  
 Ao Nang Beach Western  
 Ao Nang Villa Resort  
 Auyteeya Resort  
 Beyon Resort  
 Blue Mango Restaurant  
 Centara Krabi  
 Coconut Bar Krabi  
 Krabi @ National Park  
 Krabi La Playa Resort  
 Krabi Resort  
 Krabi Thai Village Resort  
 Luan Siam Restaurant  
 Mandawe Resort  
 Mercure Deevana Krabi  
 Peace Laguna Resort  
 Sala Krabi Resort  
 Salathai Resort  
 Sand Sea Resort Lilay  
 Success Resort  
 The Cliff Hotel  
 The Cliff Resort  
 Tubkaak Resort  
 White Sand Krabi Resort  
 Yoo Island Village

## RANONG

Krua Khun kao Restaurant

## TRANG

Anatara Si-Kao  
 Centara Chan Talay Resort&Villa

## PHI PHI

PP Princess Resort

## KOH LANTA

Andaman Lanta Resort  
 Crown Lanta Resort & Spa  
 Lanta Palace Resort  
 Lanta Palace  
 Cha Da Lanta

## TRAT

Centara Koh Chang Tropicana Resort

## CHAING MAI

Centara Duangtawan Hotel  
 Le Meridien Chiang Mai Hotel

## HUA HIN

Springfield @ Sea Resort & Spa  
 Anchana Resort  
 Springfield Village Golf & Spa Hotel

## BANGKOK

Amari Atrium Hotel  
 Arnoma Hotel  
 Bourbon Street  
 Dubai Restaurant  
 Tony Roma Restaurant  
 Siam@Siam Boutique Hotel

## PATTAYA

Centara Grand Resort  
 Marriott Hotel & Resort  
 Secrets Guest House & Bar  
 World of Sport Restaurant & Bar  
 Dee Dee Coffee @ CarreFore  
 Jamtean Palm Beach  
 Nova Platinum  
 Jomtien Thani  
 Page 10 Hotel Pattaya  
 The Residence Garden  
 The Green Park Resort



**Banana**  
**Pineapple & Coconut**  
**Lemon & Lime**  
**Strawberry**  
**Mango**  
**Blue Raspberry**

**Cappuccino**  
**Mocha Cappuccino**



**BLENDERS**  
**AVAILABLE**

**OWN A RESTAURANT COFFEE SHOP OR BAR?**

**BECOME AN OUTLET TODAY CONTACT 076-521518 ( ENG:089-8733233 )**





**JUK'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE:** Find the 10 differences between these pictures.



Artist and brand consultant Miguel Kirjon lives in Phuket with his partner Lin Prachakrich and publishes a series of children's books "Juk's Adventures" in 9 languages. See [juksadventures.com](http://juksadventures.com) for more information.

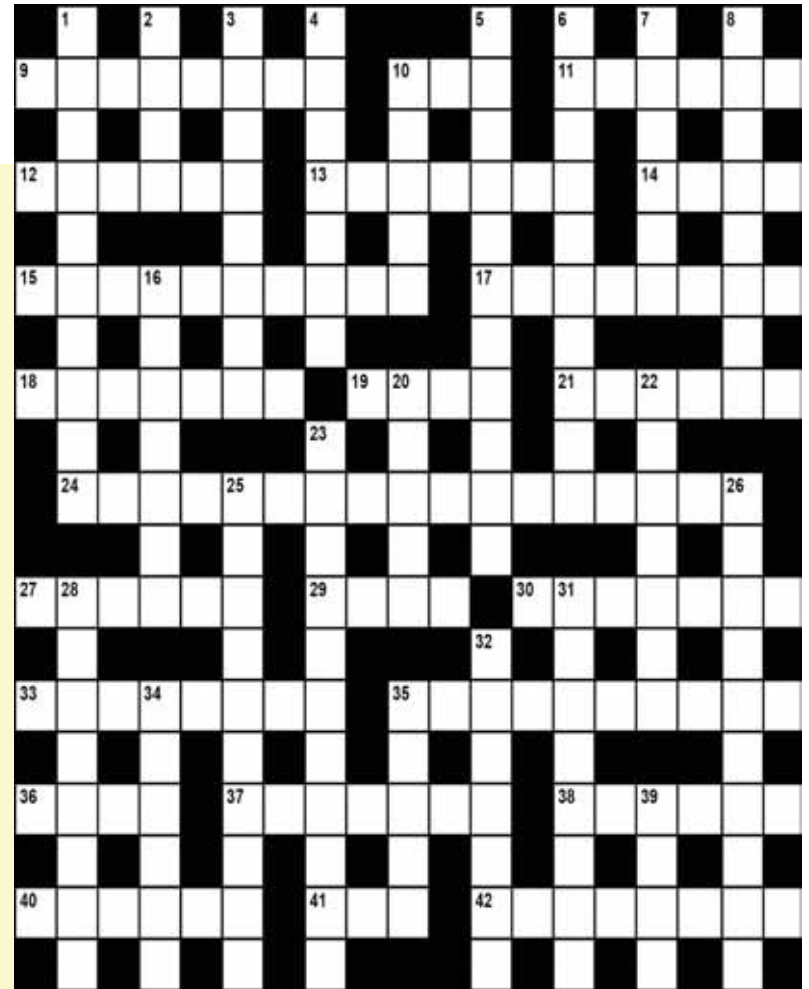
## COFFEE break

### Across:

9. Least corrupt case sent away (8)
10. Be noted as e.g. a worker (3)
11. Medicine to make you ill! (6)
12. Energetic performance I have (6)
13. In favor, get back East, a person under protection (7)
14. Each street right on the map (4)
15. Lobsters, crabs, etc., almost tarnish impeccable service article (10)
17. Disorientated, steer, lay ninety degrees by the compass (8)
18. The whole number to greet in anew (7)
19. Shy actors in a show (4)
21. Bravo, worker, note right repartee (6)
24. Most time, I cop a real change in modern structural medium (9,8)
27. Craving dryness (6)
29. Public transport from market back (4)
30. Tell about a nobleman (7)
33. Hidden method to support access (4,4)
35. Tests meant new proofs (10)
36. Suffering, I nap badly (4)
37. Precise circle right for someone demanding (7)
38. Hotel United Kingdom, pet, about same as Andaman Sea destination (6)
40. Cool one, hot stuff! (6)
41. Is able, almost, anew (3)
42. Met full on, bade rest, loosened up (8)

### Down:

1. Rot, licence could be based on using microchips and transistors (10)
2. Friend, I show the language of Thai Buddhism (4)



3. Produce green tea, out of order (8)
4. Plug park in new poster (7)
5. In ale, revert possibly to being respectful! (11)
6. A short clergyman, one Serb possibly, the French being double-faced (10)
7. Harsh reverse maybe not right (6)
8. Disperse void, less moving (8)
10. Tan forehead, November! (5)
16. Arrange Master out East for old vessel (7)
20. Stadium area moved North (5)
22. Number one some find unpleasant (7)
23. Band is cuter, causing

- disruption (11)
25. New door pitch out East for dealing with bones and muscles (10)
26. Lend gent, he became extended (10)
28. Move towards a church, echo gives migraine (8)
31. Short test, parking the French models (8)
32. Attribute to crabs, i.e. cooked (7)
34. Type the French set fire to (6)
35. Spoil, taint, a giant (5)
39. States second Romeo in old Soviet state (4)

**Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.**

### VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):



Time is still on your side where unfinished business is concerned, but the stars advise Virgoans to put more effort into tying up loose ends. There are indications that the second half of September will bring unexpected challenges and meeting these will strengthen your position in the world of work. Those who have a birthday in the days ahead are forecast to give more priority to personal relationships in the coming year.

### LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



Getting money making enterprises off to a flying start is well starred until the middle of the month. Librans who are prepared to put all their energy into new projects should see success by the end of the year. Those who work from home are likely to think about alternatives as mixing business with pleasure can become a source of arguments with family. Romantic commitments made this week well starred.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



Relaxation is forecast to help recharge your batteries during the days ahead and a calmer cosmic climate has a soothing effect on stressed Scorpions. Those who have

struggled with romantically related issues lately are forecast to enjoy better communication. However, the stars suggest that you will need to work on weaknesses in relationships, particularly where other water signs are concerned. Money matters are auspicious on Tuesday and Wednesday.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Luck is on your side until the middle of this month. Sagittarians who are ready to take a risk in the world of business will spot the right moment to do so. Another fire sign is forecast to give good advice, but an air sign's false promises should be transparent. In the realm of romance, burying your head in the sand is not the right approach to an ongoing misunderstanding.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



Your intuition and intellect will be better synchronized this week. A more down to earth outlook should enable Capricorns to avoid being taken advantage of; there are hints to watch out for a fire sign's sales pitch on Tuesday or Wednesday. In the realm of romance, a water sign's desire to get involved too quickly can send warning signals this weekend. Love with other earth signs is well starred.

## YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



Aquarians could find themselves caught between a rock and a hard place midweek. If this is a situation involving work or finances, a tactful approach should help you to retreat gracefully. In the area of friendships, things might not be quite as simple. The stars suggest that agreements made in the heat of the moment recently can be regretted. Thursday is the most auspicious day to find compromises.

### PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



Being caught in a gray area can try Pisceans' patience this week. The stars suggest that this will be related to bureaucracy in some form and you will have to wait a while for clarification. In the meantime, personal relationships remain well-starred. Those who recently fell out with another water sign should learn that this person is equally keen to forgive and forget. Finances are luckiest on Wednesday and Thursday.

### ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



A busy week lies ahead for those born under the sign of Aries. The stars show that personal finances can require extra attention, possible because of an error made midweek. In the realm of romance, cosmic vibrations encourage the truth to come out around the middle of the month. While this can make or break a relationship with another fire sign, you will be relieved to have clarity.

### TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



Taureans who have been undecided whether to branch out in the world of work should get the green light this week. An offer that is too good to turn down will make a world of difference to your career prospects and bank balance. In the realm of romance, having a crush on an air sign is fine as long as you don't confuse this with falling in love.

### GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Relaxation is top of your agenda, but having time out can compromise progress in the world of work. Geminis are advised to make sure they are available at important times this week – there are hints that a last minute meeting mid-week should not be missed. Where

romance is concerned, you have reason to reflect on a relationship that ended under a cloud. The stars suggest that finding closure will bring peace of mind.

### CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Assuming more control of personal affairs is recommended for Cancerians who have allowed others to have too much freedom. The stars suggest that another water sign's disappointing behavior needs to be addressed before you are taken for granted even more. Earth sign friends can be counted on for support, but air signs are too caught up with their own business. Finances are fortunate this weekend, with a windfall forecast to brighten your mood.

### LEO (July 24-Aug 22):



Wanderlust is likely to lead those born under the sign of Leos to explore this week. The stars show that catching up with old friends can result in last minute travel. Expanding your boundaries is supported by the astral atmosphere during the remainder of September. However, it would not be wise to overlook tedious tasks in the meantime; if you conveniently forget to take care of personal affairs, problems are predicted.



# International Sport

## Speed, straights and storms

BEFORE Spa, I said that we must hope that there had been some breakthroughs to spice-up a

season dominated by Red Bull. It's all getting a bit predictable. I trusted rain to add spice, but it was stubbornly dry at Spa.

I said that both Spa and the uninteresting new Pirelli tyres would favour Red Bull. And they did. Sebastian Vettel took a tedious victory. Webber ran a reverse tyre strategy, started badly and could finally not pass either Mercedes even on soft tyres, so ended 5th.

My predictions were that Mercedes would qualify on pole, with Red Bull near the top of the order. It was indeed Mercedes, Red Bull, Red Bull, Mercedes. As I hoped, Mercedes may have learned to manage tyres, and came in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. But they provided no serious challenge to Vettel, and Alonso out-drove Hamilton. I hoped that Lotus might have developed ways to drive in cold weather and Ferrari might have managed those upgrades it missed. My prediction was that Lotus would qualify in a mediocre fashion. They started 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Kimi Raikkonen's long finishing streak ended with a brake failure, but to be fair he looked off the pace before that. Romain Grosjean finished where he started on 8<sup>th</sup>.

I forecast that Fernando Alonso was in contention to win, but that his team-mate Felipe Massa was going to finish near the bottom of the points. Starting 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, they finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> respectively.

So is it really that predictable now?

Is all we have to interest us Kimi's future seat, the size of Daniel Ricciardo's bottom, and Louis Hamilton's refusal to wear his Mercedes team cap unless he redesigns the strip?

Could Monza change things and return racing to the fore? It's the fastest track of the season with speeds of up to 340 km/h. and the down-force will be very low, which



**Formula 1**  
**By The Digby**

makes the cars even more challenging to drive, particularly around chicanes. This circuit

gives all teams the chance to prove what their cars can do on long straights and it gives the best drivers a chance to shine. Massa and others have plenty of opportunities to get the braking wrong and end up in the gravel at Monza.

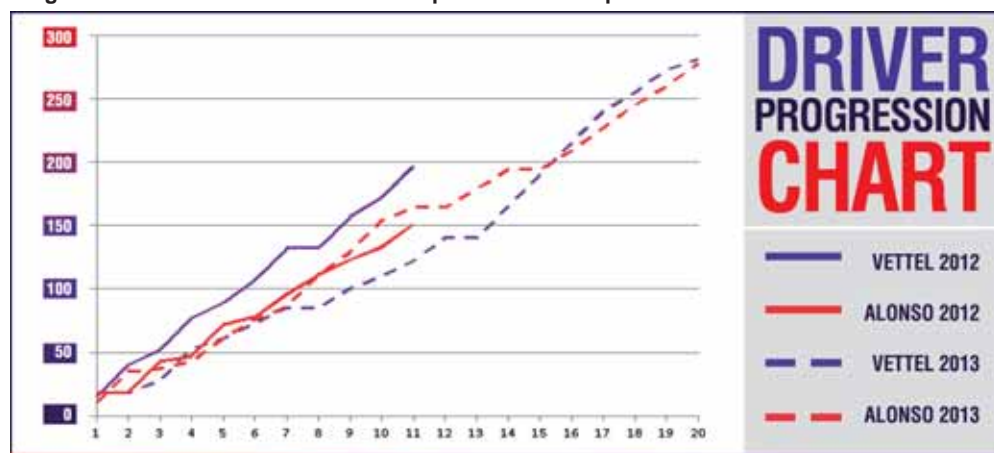
Monza has an exceptionally high pit loss time, which together with low fuel usage drives teams towards a one-stop strategy. So tyres need to be managed; there are huge energy surges through the tyres, and plenty of bumpy sectors and high-speed impacts with kerbs. Overheating and blistering are challenges

Monza will suit Red Bull, but perhaps not as much as many would think. Red Bull has typically had the fastest lap times in the season but not necessarily the fastest straight-line speed. Alonso, Kimi and Hamilton will all be competitive in the right conditions, and we are expecting thunderstorms. Webber may do better than Vettel. McLaren, Williams and Force India will all feel hopeful, I think.

But is it actually possible for anyone to challenge Vettel for the championship now? Arithmetically it is of course. But what does history say? Look at the chart on this page to see Vettel and Alonso's last season and this one. In 2012, at the same point in the season, the gap between Vettel and Alonso was much the same as it is this year, albeit the other way round, yet we had a nail-biting finish to the season. Vettel lagged behind Alonso until Race 16 (equivalent to India this year). In fact Vettel did not seriously start to attack Alonso until Race 13 (equivalent to Singapore this year). Of course, Red Bull suffered from alternator problems last year, but history says that he is catchable by Kimi, Hamilton or Alonso at least. So there is hope.



Red Bull Formula One driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany celebrates after winning the Belgian F1 Grand Prix at the Circuit of Spa-Francorchamps. Photo: Reuters/Francois Lenoir



Monza consists principally of very long straights and tight chicanes. It is one of the greatest tracks in F1. Monza and Monaco are the only two races where teams take aerodynamic components only used at those tracks, so they need to get that

right. The race is on Sunday at 7 p.m. and qualifying is on Saturday at the same time. Join me at The Green Man to watch it on the Big Screen, where we are really hoping for many Big Surprises. The alternative is too horrible to accept.

## Spending big in England but not on Englishmen

**By Sonia Oxley**

RECORD spending by Premier League clubs signaled a desire to keep up the English top flight's self-proclaimed reputation as the best in the world, along with a message that homegrown talent was perhaps not.

With Andy Carroll's move to West Ham for US\$23 million (14 million pounds) the biggest deal involving an Englishman in the latest transfer window, and a trend for the top clubs to sell off rather than buy local talent, confidence in the country's players seems low.

Premier League clubs had spent 630 million pounds (US\$980.53 million) by Monday's transfer deadline, smashing the previous record of 500 million pounds set in 2008 according to business services group Deloitte.

The standout deals were mainly for Spaniards, South Americans and Germans with Mesut Ozil, Fernandinho, Willian and Roberto Soldado joining Arsenal, Manchester City, Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur respectively.

England's Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney could have been a big-name move with Chelsea chasing him for much of the close season before cooling off last week and Everton defender Leighton Baines was



West Ham United's Andy Carroll (R) challenges Everton's Steven Pienaar during their English Premier League soccer match at Goodison Park in Liverpool. Photo: Reuters/Darren Staples

a United target but neither deal came off.

There was a loan deal for England midfielder Gareth Barry from Manchester City to Everton, defender Steven Caulker – who has one cap – moved to Cardiff City

from Tottenham for 10 million but other activity was even lower key.

Midfielder Stewart Downing joined West Ham from Liverpool, Tom Huddlestone swapped Spurs for Hull City and

midfielder Jonjo Shelvey went to Swansea from Liverpool, all for single-figure millions apiece.

The trio of newly promoted clubs, Crystal Palace, Hull City and Cardiff City, were the most active in acquiring English players, mopping up what they could from the bigger clubs for small fees or free.

England manager Roy Hodgson had last week urged clubs to do their transfer business before his squad assembled to prepare for this month's World Cup qualifiers rather than having players make mad dashes across the country to sign late deals.

"We will co-operate with the clubs, of course, but we will be asking them to co-operate with us as well because if it is at all possible to get your business done before 12pm on September 1, we would be very grateful," he said.

He got his wish but ahead of next year's World Cup it does not say much for the quality of his squad that so many of the top players were not even linked with moves to Premier League clubs or further afield.

At least in the case of Rooney, his club were repeatedly made to say he was not for sale in the face of interest but many others never even got inquiries.

– Reuters



# Superkidz youth tennis a smash

OVER 140 talented youth athletes participated in the Chang LTAT (Lawn Tennis Association of Thailand) Junior Championship Southern Zone No 6, contested at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club, which concluded on Sunday, August 25.

Top honors of the event went to Tinnapat Tientawach (12 points), Lerdchai Ronnarong (10 points) and Tapat Paevaronkul (8 points) who become top three (3) of Thanyapura's SUPERKIDZ TENNIS circuit.

Next up in junior tennis is Thanyapura's 2<sup>nd</sup> SUPERKIDZ TENNIS CUP, to be held this

Saturday, September 7 and Sunday, September 8. Interested youth between 8 to 18 years old who would like to compete can download an application form at [thanyapura.com](http://thanyapura.com) (find SUPERKIDZ TENNIS). Entries can be sent to [tslc@thanyapura.com](mailto:tslc@thanyapura.com).

There will be six age groups (8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 years old). Players aged 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17 compete in the older age group. Registration fee for Thanyapura members is 400 baht and 500 baht for non-members. Trophies and awards will be awarded, while points will be accumulated in the clubs rankings.

For more information, please call 076 336 000 ext. 5055.



Thanyapura's top tennis talent on the podium. Photo: Supplied

THANYAPURA SUPERKIDZ				
Personal details				
Line	First name	Family	Nat.	Date of birth Day/Mth/Yr
1	Shane	Rose	Thai-American	Oct 18, 2005
2	Tinnapat	Tientawach	Thai	Feb 12, 2005
3	Natasorn	Boonkerd	Thai	Apr 18, 2005
4	Wachirawit	Singhakarn	Thai	Dec 30, 2007
5	Chanut	Nookong	Thai	Jul 10, 2005
6	Sirivit	Puangjundang	Thai	Apr 17, 2004
7	Lerdchai	Ronnarong	Thai	Feb 7, 2004
8	Alexander	Pierron	Thai	Nov 7, 2004
9	Witawin	Singhakarn	Thai	Sep 22, 2004
10	Pongpat	Songthaworn	Thai	Feb 6, 2004

## Loosening your service grip

YOU have probably noticed that the more pressure you feel in a match, the more tense you become. This is very natural and happens to everyone.

Serving in a close match makes us all nervous, whether you're a player in the 2013 US Open, or in a match against a local rival here on Thanyapura's tennis courts. The tension can have catastrophic effects on your serve and your success.

Before each and every serve take a few seconds to rest the racket in the last three fingers of your non-racket hand, while holding the ball between your index finger and your thumb. This will allow you to rest the racket in the non-hitting hand, so you can fully relax the hand that is going to be holding the racket during the precious moment of contact.

Take advantage of these seconds to shake out your arm to relieve it of all tension. Also, because you are holding the ball lightly between your index finger and thumb, it will



Tennis Tips

By Roger Cochrane

prevent you from squeezing the ball and a light grip on the ball will allow you to keep your toss more consistent when you are under pressure.

The picture below shows a good image of this easy and relaxed way to relieve the stress in your arm before each and every serve.

Go ahead and give it a try next time you're on the court!

Tip by Thanyapura's Tennis Head Coach and from PBI, Roger Cochrane, Email: [tennis@thanyapura.com](mailto:tennis@thanyapura.com)



# Federer's shock loss to Robredo

ROGER Federer suffered a shock loss to Tommy Robredo at the US Open on Monday, ruining the prospect of meeting Rafa Nadal at the only grand slam where the two greats have never played each other.

In the biggest upset of the tournament, Robredo demolished a badly out-of-sorts Federer 7-6(3) 6-3 6-4 in the fourth round, marking the first time in a decade the Swiss master has fallen before the quarter-finals at Flushing Meadows.

"I kind of feel like I beat myself, without taking any credit away from Tommy," a dejected Federer told reporters.

"I kind of self-destructed, which is very disappointing, especially on a quicker court.

"I just couldn't do it. It was a frustrating performance today."

As expected, Nadal safely made it through, recovering after losing a set for the first time in the tournament to beat Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-7(4) 6-4 6-3 6-1 at an electrified Arthur Ashe Stadium.

But his win was overshadowed

by Federer's unforeseen loss against a player he had beaten in each of their 10 previous meetings, spoiling what was looming as the first meeting between the pair in the Big Apple.

"Two times we were one point away. This time we were one match away. But it's always the same," Nadal said.

"When I see the draw, I think about my first round. If I win, I think about my second. That's it.

"I don't see the quarter-finals or the fourth round before the first round. You know how tough is every tournament, every match."

Robredo was almost as surprised as everyone else after one of the biggest wins of his career.

"It's amazing," Robredo said. "For me, Roger, for the moment, is the best player of all time.

"And to beat him in a huge stadium like the US Open and in a grand slam... it's like a dream."

There was an omen even before the match began when officials moved it from the center court to the smaller Louis Armstrong Stadium following

a five-hour rain delay.

US Open champion for five straight years from 2004, the last time Federer played a match away from Arthur Ashe Stadium was in 2006 but refused to blame the court switch for a performance that will raise fresh speculation whether he is capable of adding to his record 17 grand slams.

"That should not be the issue," Federer said. "That's definitely the last excuse you could find."

Robredo will now face Nadal in the quarters, ensuring there will be at least one Spaniard in the semi-finals. There well could be another after David Ferrer joined his countrymen by beating Serbia's Janko Tipsarevic 7-6(2) 3-6 7-5 7-6(3).

The fourth seed will play Richard Gasquet after the Frenchman saved a match point in the fourth set tiebreak before going on to outlast Canada's Milos Raonic 6-7(4) 7-6(4) 2-6 7-6(9) 7-5 in a slugfest that lasted four hours and 40 minutes.

— Reuters



Roger Federer of Switzerland waves as he walks off the court after losing in three sets to Tommy Robredo of Spain in the US Open. Photo: Eduardo Munoz



# Beach V-ball to hit Phuket

THE 2013 FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour will make its penultimate stop at Karon Beach, Phuket at the end of October. This will be the 8<sup>th</sup> successive year that Thailand has staged an Open series women's event on the FIVB calendar.

The US\$110,000 Phuket Thailand Open powered by PTT, which is organized by Pentangle Promotions Co Ltd and the Thailand Volleyball Association will be held from October 29 November 3 2013. The Phuket Thailand Open is the biggest annual beach sporting event in

South East Asia and Thai beach volleyball fans will be able to watch over 50 of the world's top women beach volleyball teams in action on Karon beach. Admission to the tournament is free.

Entries for the tournament close at the end of September and to date 42 teams from 21 countries have already committed to the tournament. Countries who have entered are: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Columbia, Czech Republic, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Paraguay, Spain,

Switzerland, Sweden, Vanuatu, Venezuela and Thailand.

Thailand as host country is allowed two automatic slots in the main draw, with an addition slot available for a wild card entry. The Phuket Thailand Open powered by PTT is played over six days of competition with the qualifying rounds played on Tuesday October 29, followed by two days on pool play between the main draw on October 30 -31.

The final three days of the tournament are played using a single elimination format, with the semi-finals being played on Saturday November 2 and the finals on Sunday November 3. The semi-finals on Saturday November 2 and the finals on Sunday November 3 will be broadcast on TV in Thailand and internationally to over 700,000,000 households worldwide.

Supporting the main beach volleyball tournament are a number of activities including the PTT Schools Cup and PTT Beach Volleyball camps on the finals weekend and a large sponsor activity zone featuring sponsor booths, a beer garden and games and competitions for beach volleyball fans.

Admission to the tournament is free throughout the week

The Phuket Thailand Open is



Thailand's Varapatsorn Radarong shows off her skills. Photos: FIVB

produced annually by Pentangle Promotions Co Ltd of Bangkok in association with the FIVB and the Thailand Volleyball Association. The 2013 FIVB Beach Volleyball World.

– *Phuket Gazette*

This event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the nationally televised 'Phuket Today' show on True Visions. 'Phuket Today', will be covering this event. The half-hour show runs eight times a week, every week, on channels 99 and 58.



The 2013 FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour will be hosted at Karon Beach.



Ayushi Chandaria set a Kenyan National Open Record in the 200m Butterfly.

## Pace yourself



### Swimming Tips

By Randy Simon

THIS is a popular time of year for athletes to make plans and set goals for the new season. However, the smart athlete will see this as a time to evaluate what went well for them and what can be improved upon for next summer. With a little analysis, and some clear direction on what our desired outcomes are, this can be a time for turning weakness into strength!

A great example of this is a swimmer I was working with over the past 8 weeks: Ayushi Chandaria. She came to me to assist her training in preparation for competing at the FINA World Junior Championships in Dubai. She wanted to improve her performance, but we were only 8 weeks away from the meet.

We agreed that pacing her swims would result in a better overall pace that she would be able to maintain for her races. At first it was difficult for her to hold pace, but as she adjusted she got to where she was able to be consistent. Tests we did showed she was ready and able to hold her paces even as she fatigued.

As a result, Ayushi was able to drop time in all 4 of her events, and set a new Kenyan National Open Record in one, the 200m Butterfly! A rare feat for a swimmer competing in a World Championships for the first time. When you have a clear goal in mind, and a solid plan for how you are going to get there, "luck" becomes more about proper preparation meeting opportunity.

Tip by Thanyapura's Aquatics Head Coach, Randy Simon. Email: [aquatics@thanyapura.com](mailto:aquatics@thanyapura.com)

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BRAZILIAN BREAK: Phuket's Cristian Alex and Ayuthaya's Daniel Alberto go for ball. Photo: Steven Layne

# Another day, another draw

By Steven Layne

MORE than 3,000 Phuket FC fans endured yet another disappointing draw last Saturday evening at Surakul Stadium, watching their side come from behind a two-goal deficit to Ayuthaya FC to seize a single point in league play.

The match was both sides' 26<sup>th</sup> of 34 scheduled matches in the Yamaha League One (YL1) 2013 season.

Ranked 7th in the 18-team league, Phuket dominated the opening exchanges, but were unable to put much of a threat on the Ancient Warriors' keeper. It was the 16<sup>th</sup>-placed underdog visitors who would draw first blood in the

35<sup>th</sup> minute, however.

Capitalizing on a volley played in to the box, Ayuthaya's Natthaphat Somsri in a reflex scored on the far post, past a diving Adisak Douangsri to ignite into cheer the hundred-or-so die-hards who'd bused it down from Thailand's ancient capital.

The goal was Nattaphat's 3<sup>rd</sup> of the season and the visitors would get their fill before the half was over, through Nigerian Midfielder Gafar Adefolarin Durosinmi, who on a counter attack, found the end of a well-placed through ball, timing his mili-second of a touch just right to beat a stretched Phuket defense. That goal was Durosinmi's fifth.

A motivational half-time pep talk from Coach Teco must have

sparked something for the home team, who came out playing with much more spirit and determination than the first half.

Following a few scuffles on the pitch, Cristian Alex was awarded a free kick from 59 minutes, and although Ayuthaya's keeper got a hand on the direct shot, the high-velocity strike was clearly fated for the back of the net, prompting the Brazilian international to go on to celebrate his fourth for the club.

Phuket maintained attacking pressure with both Ludovick Takam and Geoffrey Doumeng coming off the bench to reinforce the offensive front.

The equalizer finally came through Eakartit Somjit on 74

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE						
	TEAM	P	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Air Force	26	35	19	16	55
2	PTT Rayong	26	31	14	17	54
3	Bangkok	26	55	42	13	49
4	Port Lions	26	44	30	14	46
5	Korat	26	33	22	17	42
6	Saraburi	26	36	28	8	37
7	Phuket	26	31	26	5	35
8	Trat FC	26	43	48	-5	34
9	BBCU FC	26	26	32	-6	34
10	Krabi	26	32	36	-4	32
11	Nakhon Pathom	26	34	34	0	31
12	Royal Navy	26	34	38	-4	30
13	Khon Kaen	26	29	37	-8	30
14	Sriracha	26	36	42	-6	27
15	TTM FC	26	23	33	-10	27
16	Ayutthaya	26	24	33	-9	24
17	Rayong FC	26	30	47	-17	20
18	Rayong Utd.	26	25	40	-15	18

AWAY	
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7	
SI RACHA vs PHUKET	
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14	
RAYONG FC vs PHUKET	
HOME	
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21	
PHUKET vs TRAT	
AWAY	
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28	
KRABI vs PHUKET	

minutes, who'd broken through a scrambling Ayuthaya back-line to beat the keeper from close range.

Despite multiple chances for Phuket to win the game, Ayuthaya held on to the final whistle, and Phuket would have to be content with yet another single point – their 14th of the season.

Phuket FC now have two

away matches in the coming two weekends, against Si Racha on September 7 and Rayong FC on September 14.

Their next home match will be on September 21 against Trat FC, before concluding the month with an away Southern Derby against the Krabi FC Andaman Eagles on September 28.

## Chonburi Asia futsal club champs

THAILAND'S Chonburi Bluewave produced a stunning comeback to lift the AFC Futsal Club Championship 2013 after beating the 2012 champions Sanaye Giti Pasand of Iran 4-1 in a penalty shootout in an epic final played at the Ocean Arena in Nagoya Japan last Sunday.

With the triumph, Chonburi became the first Thai side to lift the trophy, preventing Sanaye to become the first side to win the trophy twice.

Chonburi players Kritsada Wongkaeo, Suphawut Thueanklang, Jirawat Sornwichian and Nattavut Madyalan converted their

penalties while Mohammed Taheri was the only player who sent the ball past 24-year old Chonburi's Iranian goalie Esmaeil Abbasian Mehr.

Pazos Mendez's Chonburi were the only side in the tournament to go unbeaten throughout. Thueanklang, who scored five goals in the tournament, was adjudged the Abdullah Al Dabal Most Valuable Player of the tournament.

Shenzhen Nanling were adjudged the "fair play" side while Morioka Kaoru netted eight goals to walk away with tournament top scorer's title. – *The-AFC.com and Phuket Gazette*



The 2013 champions of Asian club futsal. Photo: Chonburi Blue

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