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Genuine  
visa runs  
not dead

Foreigners abusing  
'out-in' visa runs  
to face the fire

INSIDE TODAY

May 17 - 23, 2014 | PhuketGazette.Net | In partnership with The Nation

25 Baht

■ MALL GROUP GAMBLES ON ASEAN TOURISM BUMP

# Island lands B20bn pearl

■ BluPearl mall project  
to make Phuket AEC  
shopping destination

By **Woranut Pechdee**

THE Mall Group is set to invest 20 billion baht in the development of a 150rai mega-project in Phuket's Kathu district as part of an 80bn baht venture to open six world-class shopping centers in expectation of Thailand's market flooding when the gates of the Asean Economic Community (AEC) open next year.

"The BluPearl project [in Phuket] will feature shopping malls, hotels, condominiums, office buildings and world-class theme parks," Supaluck Umpujh, the Mall Group's vice-chairwoman said.

"It will be the pearl of Phuket, the pride of the Andaman. It will be a world-class luxury retail and entertainment resort destination in Asia, the same as The Palm is in Dubai."

The recently announced expansion will form a major part of The Mall Group's bid to cash in on the full implementation of the AEC next year...

Continued on Page 6



The Mall Group Vice-Chairwoman Supaluck Umpujh is investing in Thailand. Photo: The Mall Group

**SPECIAL REPORT**

## Med waste worries not dampened

AN ENVIRONMENTAL specialist has voiced concern over whether or not medical waste on the island is being incinerated at a high enough temperature to destroy dangerous bacteria.

The concerns come as the new incinerator is torching rubbish at near capacity, after the old incinerator was shut down, pending budget approval for upgrades.

Full story on Pages 6-7

## Lifeguards back to the beaches

LIFEGUARDS plan to return to island beaches on May 26, after giving in to the government's demands that they work within the limits of the new budget. However, beachguards are waiting for equipment to be fixed before signing any contracts.

Full story on Page 4

## Free WiFi for Phuket

THE 'Smart Province' project will see island-wide free WiFi, as well as a number of paperless services introduced sometime in 2015.

Full story on Page 8

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## This Week



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RPM hands over the reins to new managing director. **Page 33**



**Food**  
An insight into the wonderful world of oysters. **Page 37**



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Pat Campbell answers a curious reader's questions. **Page 38**



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A look at the differences between Indonesia and Thailand. **Page 40**



**Sport**  
FIVB Phuket Open cancelled due to political turmoil. **Page 45**

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# PDRC supporters heed call to mass in Bangkok

By Chutharat Plerin

MORE than 1,000 Phuket supporters of the anti-government People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC) left the island last week to join fellow protesters in Bangkok, and more continue to make their way to the capital.

The move followed a call by PDRC Secretary-General Suthep Thaugsuban on May 8 urging people from throughout the country to join the rallies in the capital.

Large groups of Phuket supporters left on May 8, protest coordinator Amnuay Kumban told the *Gazette* last week.

"Some of them went in private cars, others by public transportation, and some by plane. I believe at least 1,000 PDRC supporters in Phuket have left to join the mass protest in Bangkok," Mr Amnuay said.

Although Mr Amnuay initially thought Phuket protesters would be assigned to join a rally in front of the National Broadcasting Services of Thailand (NBT, Channel 11), he confirmed with the *Gazette* on Wednesday that they were posted at Government House and the Ratchadamnoen rally site.

Mr Amnuay said he did not expect any violence to arise in the protests, but added that the PDRC



PDRC core organizer in Phuket Amnuay Kumban does not expect violence in the capital, but said protesters were prepared for it.

protesters were prepared to react appropriately as many of them did not trust the political machinery behind the government.

"They might have some plan to use violence against us," said Mr Amnuay.

"Several attacks occurred in Bangkok after Yingluck [Shina-

watra] was sacked from her position as prime minister..."

"I know our protesters are not afraid, but I hope that no one gets hurt," Mr Amnuay said.

"We will stay until we are victorious. We want to see a new Thailand, with no politicians involved in the new government."

## Teen dies in fall at work

SARAWUT Kumwong, 17, died on the afternoon of May 8 after falling from the fifth floor of a seven-storey hotel under construction in Phuket Town.

Mr Sarawut's employer, Ekka-pong Jiasakul, told police that Mr Sarawut was being handed pieces of timber by Komkrit Jantorarat, 15, when he fell.

"We do not know what happened exactly. He might have slipped while reaching for the items," Mr Ekka-pong said.

Mr Sarawut died at the scene from the impact, Capt Weerachart Seehara of the Phuket City Police told the *Gazette*.

"Witnesses said that he struck objects on the second floor before landing on the ground," he said.



Mr Sarawut fell from the fifth floor of a building under construction.

Mr Sarawut's body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Police will continue to investigate the cause of the accident, Capt Weerachart said.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Fire ravages workers' camp

FLAMES ripped through a workers' camp in Chalong on Wednesday, destroying half of the houses and leaving the other half badly burned.

Firefighters from Chalong, Rawai and Wichit were called to the scene at about 10am.

"It took us about 30 minutes to subdue the flames. By that time, 10 houses were gone," a firefighter told the *Gazette*.

The camp, comprising 20 houses for staff of Hat Yai Nanthakorn Co Ltd, is located near the Botanical Garden on Luang Pho Chuang Road, he added.

"We believe that the fire started in a house in the middle of the camp. We found an electric



A firefighter battles the blaze.

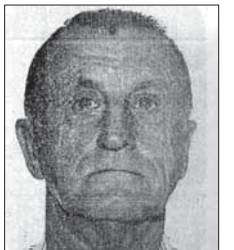
stove-top that we think the owner forgot to turn off before leaving for work," said the firefighter.

"Fortunately, no one was around when the device caught fire. No injuries were reported."

— Saran Mitrarat

## Heart failure claims life of Aussie expat

AUSTRALIAN expat Ronald Douglas Litherland, 67, from Brisbane, Australia, was found dead at his rented home in Cherno Talay on the afternoon of May 11.



Richard Litherland

"Doctors confirmed the cause of death as heart failure," explained Maj Kitthiphum Thinthalang of the Thalang Police.

"There were no signs of a struggle on his body, except for a small wound above his right eye."

Mr Litherland's partner, Jitraporn Hakaew, 38, from Udon Thani, told police that the Australian had been away but had returned to Phuket on May 8.

"He was admitted once at Vachira Phuket Hospital for heart problems," Ms Jitraporn said.

"He had a ticket to fly back to Australia on May 12 to undergo medical treatment."

The Australian Embassy in Bangkok has been informed of Mr Litherland's death.

— Thawit Bilabdullar

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# Hospital launches inquiry into deaths of mum, newborn son

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

DOCTORS at Vachira Phuket Hospital began an inquiry on Monday into the death of a woman during childbirth on May 2 and that of her newborn son just two days later.

The investigation follows a protest led by the distraught husband and father Numporn Intawong and 50 of his family members and friends on May 10.

Mr Numporn, a 42-year-old Patong taxi driver, and his group gathered outside of the hospital when he went to pick up the body of his infant son, Assawin Intawong.

"It has been a week since my wife died on May 2, but no one has called to explain her death to me, to apologize or to offer compensation," said Mr Numporn.

"My wife was given medicine to induce labor that day, but died before our baby could be delivered. So, 30 minutes later, they



A distraught Numporn Intawong looks down at his newborn son's body.

performed a C-section to take the baby out.

"My son died two days later. I want justice for my family and I want this to be a lesson for

other people."

The inquiry will clarify details of the case and search for ways to prevent such deaths in the future, said Hospital Director

Jessada Chungpaibulpatana.

"No doctor ever expects or wants something like this to happen, but sometimes it does. We always try our best to save every patient's life," said Dr Jessada.

The body of the mother, Pornthip Buddeekum, was sent to Police General Hospital in Bangkok for an autopsy to determine the cause of death.

"At this stage, I cannot reveal much more, as we are waiting for the results of the autopsy," Dr Jessada said.

"We expect these results to be back next week. When we receive them, I will call a media conference to clarify the details of the incident with the family, friends and public.

"Our thoughts are with the family of the mother and son. Doctors and representatives from the hospital have attended funeral proceedings at Laem Petch Temple in Patong, and we are helping the family as much as we can."



John Randolph Grieg, 57, was found dead on the floor of the Patong guesthouse where he was staying.

## US man found dead in Patong hotel, no foul play suspected

POLICE on Wednesday ruled out the possibility of foul play in the death of a 57-year-old American national whose body was found in his room at a Patong guesthouse on Monday.

The body of New Jersey man John Randolph Grieg was discovered partially clothed and lying face down on the floor near his bed by PL House staff at about 11pm.

There were signs of heavy blood loss, explained Lt Col Sutthichai Thianpho of the Patong Police.

"Mr Grieg's medical records show that he had undergone surgery for gastrointestinal bleeding in another country," Col Sutthichai said.

Police ruled out criminal activity after inspecting the scene and reviewing hotel CCTV.

"After we ruled out any criminal activity, internal bleeding was named as the cause of death," said Col Sutthichai.

Mr Grieg had checked into PL House on May 1 and was due to check out on May 15.

— Thawit Bilabduar

## Arrested bag-snatchers snitch on sex-drug peddler

USING a tip-off from recently arrested bag-snatchers, police raided a pharmacy on the evening of May 6 and seized more than 10,000 pills of drugs being sold illicitly.

Among the pills were sex aids, antidepressants, steroids and the "date rape" drug Rohypnol.

"Four bag-snatchers told us that they planned to buy Zolam at a pharmacy in Patong," said Patong Police Deputy Superintendent Khunnadet Nanongkhai.

"So we sent undercover officers, and they were able to buy 10 Zolam pills."

After the purchase, the officers identified themselves and arrested Rawiwong Keeratiakarapong, 46, charging him with the sale of Category 2 psychotropic substances,

controlled drugs and dangerous drugs without permission.

Police also charged the pharmacist, Kitiya Niwetworachai, for not being at the shop while it was in operation.

Police seized the pharmacy log book, 1,900 packs of Kamagra oral jelly, 112 pills of Kamagra, 84 Viagra pills, and 8,088 steroid pills, as well as 2,055 pills of Alprazolam, Valium and Rohypnol.

Police are now investigating the shop.

"We need to find out whether the owner is also involved. We have called him in for questioning," said Lt Col Khunnadet.

Mr Rawiwong faces up to five years in prison, a 50,000-baht fine or both. Ms Kitiya was fined 5,000 baht.

— Saran Mitrarat



Rawiwong Keeratiakarapong was arrested in possession of illegal drugs. Photo: Patong Police



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No serious injuries. Photo: Patong Police

## Fast, furious and crashed

A DRUNK driver injured a Phuket motorcyclist early Wednesday morning during a high-speed joy ride in his boss' Toyota Fortuner; the ride ended abruptly when he slammed the SUV into a utility pole.

The driver, 21-year-old Thanawat Janthong, was near the Patong Municipality building when he sideswiped Soonthorn Chot-echaisong, knocking him off his motorcycle. He then drove 300 meters farther down the road before slamming the Fortuner into a power pole.

Though the pole toppled onto the car, crushing the hood and windshield, Mr Thanawat escaped injury. Mr Soonthorn received minor injuries when he fell from his bike.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

# Guards yield; put lives first

By Saran Mitrarat

LIFEGUARDS are set to return to Phuket beaches on May 21 as the lifeguard club gave up its demands for an increased budget at a meeting with the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO) on May 8.

"The conditions they offered us today were the same: 22 million baht to pay for our expenses and an increased salary for 88 guards," Phuket Lifeguard Club President Prathaiyut Chuayuan told the *Gazette*.

The budget was proposed despite a warning that it would result in a 20 per cent cut in the number of lifeguards on Phuket's popular tourist beaches.

Last year, with 108 lifeguards working the sands, 928 people were saved from Phuket's waters. Despite lifeguards' efforts, 23 died.

"We care about people's safety more than money. We can't afford to cut the number of guards protecting Phuket's beaches — there wouldn't be enough of us," Mr Prathaiyut said.

"We will just have to find



Lifeguard Club accedes to PPAO budget; guards will return to beaches on May 21. Photo: Gazette file

another way to maintain our 108 lifeguards. However, we need to increase the salaries of those who have done a great job."

The delay in lifeguards getting back to the beaches as Phuket enters the dangerous Southwest

monsoon season is due to equipment failures. Mr Prathaiyut believes old equipment will be fixed and new equipment coming from Bangkok will arrive in time for his team to take to the beaches on May 21.

"Working with broken equipment could be dangerous for both the lifeguards and the victims," Mr Prathaiyut explained.

"In about two weeks, when all the equipment is fixed, we will sign the contract."

## Iguana-touting duo arrested on Bangla



Sulkeflee Jaetae (left) and Natthapon Kanasing were charged with inflicting harm to an animal and causing a public nuisance. Photo: Patong Police

POLICE arrested two men on Phuket's famed Soi Bangla on May 11 for offering tourists photo opportunities with iguanas.

Police named the two men as Natthapon Kanasing, 23, from Bueng Kan Province in Northeast Thailand, and Sulkeflee Jaetae, 28, from Yala.

"The suspects were charged with inflicting harm to an animal and causing a public nuisance," said Lt Col Sutthichai Thianpho of Patong Police.

The two iguanas were handed

over to the Environmental Conservation Division at Khao Phra Thaeo Wildlife Sanctuary, where they will be examined, treated if necessary and protected.

"It is not illegal for people to have iguanas as private pets, but we do not want this activity on Soi Bangla," Col Sutthichai said.

There were no touts offering photos with the indigenous slow loris or any gibbons when the officers conducted their sweep at 7:30pm, said Col Sutthicha.

— Saran Mitrarat

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# Visa-runners targeted

‘Genuine’ tourists may continue to use consecutive visa-exemptions

By Chutharat Plerin

TOURISTS who can prove they are genuinely staying only short-term while travelling in Thailand will be allowed to leave on “visa-runs” and re-enter the country, Immigration Commissioner Pharnu Kerdlarpphon has confirmed to the *Gazette*.

“Genuine tourists are fine. All they have to do is prove to the immigration officer at the border checkpoint that they really are tourists by presenting evidence such as their travel itinerary, hotel booking or tour bookings,” Lt Gen Pharnu said on Wednesday.

“Then they will be allowed to re-enter the country.”

Gen Pharnu clarified the focus of the new immigration regulation which allows most foreigners to enter the country only once using visa-exempt status.

“The crackdown is all about preventing foreigners from using visa-exemptions and tourist visas to stay in Thailand and work,” Gen Pharnu said.

“We should have done this a long time ago. We have let foreigners work illegally in Thailand on tourist visas for too long. It’s time to stop them.”

The immigration chief was



The new law is aimed at preventing foreigners from working in Thailand on tourist status. Photo: Gazette file

clear that from August 13, any foreigners who fail to prove they are tourists will not be allowed to re-enter the country on visa exemption status, as explained in a formal notice posted on Bangkok Immigration’s website on May 8.

“From August 13, if we suspect any foreigner of working illegally in Thailand on a tourist visa, that person will be detained and deported, even if the foreigner has

not previously completed even a single visa run,” he said.

“People who are deported will be banned from re-entering Thailand for five years, not forever. After that, the foreigner may appeal to re-enter the country.

Gen Pharnu noted that immigration officers were ordered to give special attention to Russians, South Koreans, Vietnamese and Chinese attempting to extend their

stays by completing visa runs.

Ranong Immigration Superintendent Ekkorn Bussababordin confirmed to the *Gazette* on May 12 that foreigners will continue to be allowed to re-enter Thailand on three consecutive “walk-in” visas until August 12.

As reported in the *Gazette* last week, after August 12, such foreigners risk being stranded in Myanmar.



Gen Pracha (left) leaving Bangkok Hospital Phuket last week.

## Ex-deputy PM denies Phuket stroke rumors

FORMER Deputy Prime Minister Pracha Promnok has shot down rumors that he had a stroke while holidaying in Phuket last week.

Gen Pracha was taken to Bangkok Hospital Phuket at about 7:30pm on May 9 after he passed out on his yacht near Naka Island, off the east coast of Phuket.

“I had an allergic reaction to something I ate and fell unconscious. I did not have a stroke,” Gen Pracha told the press.

The general’s comments were supported by Dr Piriya Atisook, deputy director of the hospital.

Gen Pracha, one of nine Cabinet ministers ousted along with caretaker PM Yingluck Shinawatra on May 7, explained that he has a villa in the Chalong area and was on holiday in Phuket when the accident happened.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



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## Fingerprint scanners to debut at Immigration

THAI Immigration aims to begin scanning fingerprints of all foreigners arriving in the Kingdom by the end of the year under a project costing 342 million baht.

"The budget has yet to be approved, but we hope to introduce fingerprint-scanning machines by the end of 2014," Immigration Commissioner Pharnu Kerdlarpphon confirmed this week.

The project is part of the bureau's effort to prevent foreign criminals from entering the country, Lt Gen Pharnu explained.

The scanners will be introduced at every immigration entry point in the country.

Fingerprint scanners were chosen over biometric passport scanners as they are better able to identify criminals who have officially changed their names and have passports under their new identities, Gen Pharnu said.

"We are aware that some of



The scanners are to help catch known criminals. Photo: Stux

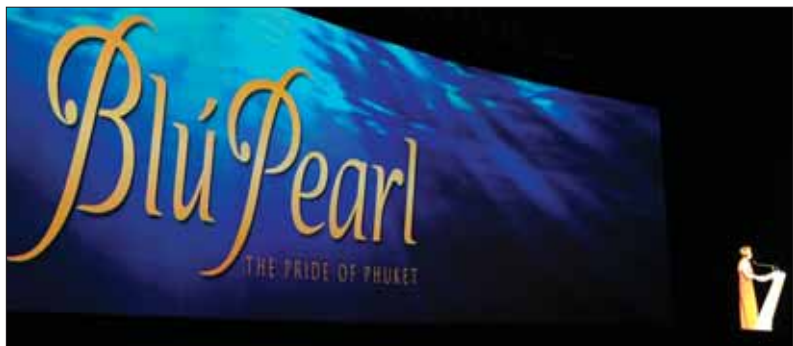
our target groups, such as Russians and South Koreans, are issued biometric passports," he explained. "But biometric passport scanners would not catch people travelling with new documents or those using fake passports.

"You can change your name or your appearance, but you can't change your fingerprint."

The general recognized that scanning fingerprints would not flag any inbound foreigners unless they had a criminal record in Thailand or were wanted by Interpol.

— Chutharat Plerin

## Phuket lands chunk of major mall investment



The Mall Group is investing a total of 80 billion baht. Photo: The Mall Group

From page 1

...However, the BluPearl project, to be situated on Phra Phuket Kaew Road, isn't slated to be finished until 2016.

"Thailand's participation in the AEC in 2015 will herald a major change in the country's position as a leading regional shopping hub and top tourist destination," said Ms Supaluck.

"The improved infrastructure, transportation and airports in key cities is expected to increase inbound tourism from 25mn to 40mn people within the next five years, with the key destination

cities including Bangkok, Phuket, Pattaya, Hua Hin and Chiang Mai."

Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer Watcharin Pathomwathanapong said the project would be good for Phuket as it would offer more shopping options for tourists and residents, but voiced his concern about possible traffic problems.

The five mega-projects that will be soaking up the 60bn baht of the budget not being invested in Phuket are The Emporium, The EmQuartier, The Emsphere, BluPort and Bangkok Mall, reported *The Nation*.

# Medical waste

THE new 960-million-baht incinerator that fired up at Saphan Hin in 2012 is working at near-capacity, torching about 700 tons of trash a day.

Meanwhile, the original incinerator has been shut down pending budget approval of more than 530mn baht for a major overhaul.

The extra load on the new burners is cause for concern, said Nutthakrit Polpetch, the Environmental Specialist at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) Phuket office.

"If the medical waste brought to the facility is not incinerated completely, what will happen to the surrounding community?" he asked.

The original incinerator, which was state-of-the-art when it was launched more than a decade ago, was designed to properly dispose of the medical waste delivered to Saphan Hin from the six major hospitals across the island, Mr Nutthakrit explained.

"There are no health issues when medical waste is incinerated properly. All bacteria are guaranteed to be killed when incinerated for one to two minutes at temperatures between 850 and 1,000 Celsius," he said.

"But right now, medical waste is incinerated with regular trash, and regular trash is incinerated at temperatures between 700 and 900 C."

### MAX BURN

Phuket City Municipality Environmental Division chief Prachum Suriya, who heads the trash disposal center at Saphan Hin, played down any concerns about the disposal of medical waste.

"The two burners in the incinerator that are still in operation can burn at temperatures up to 900 C, which is hotter than the minimum temperature needed to safely dispose of medical waste," he said.

"Although we mix the medical waste with other trash, we always ensure that burn temperatures are at maximum."

Mr Nutthakrit questioned the ability of the current incinerator

**WITH Phuket's primary incinerator out of action while awaiting repairs, an environmental expert is concerned about the facility's capacity to burn medical waste properly.**

**Chief among the concerns is avoiding potential bacterial cloud from inundating the surrounding community at Saphan Hin.**

**The Gazette's Saran Mittrarat reports.**

to consistently burn at maximum heat, especially with the onset of the southwest monsoon bringing heavy rains this month.

"As soon as you start adding wet waste to the mix, the burn temperature is guaranteed to fall," he said.

### FALLOUT

Mr Prachum explained that about 1.2 tons of medical waste is delivered to the incinerator each day.

"We add about 200 kilograms to each burn to make sure all of the medical waste is disposed of on the same day. We cannot stockpile it and burn it later. That alone would be a health risk," he said.

Activated carbon is used to remove all dioxins from air escaping up the smokestack, and calcium oxide (quicklime) solution is used to reduce any acids from air and solid waste, explained Mr Prachum.

"We have sensors at the top of the smokestack to warn us if any unacceptable levels of pollutants are escaping into the air," he noted.

"Also, all ash from the incinerator is placed into landfill pits that are lined with thick rubber walls. This ensures that no pollutants can leach into the soil and

contaminate the ground or a water source."

Mr Prachum proudly stated: "Our facility has passed every annual test conducted by the Pollution Control Department [PCD]. Please have faith in us, we have a good pollution control management system."

### DUBIOUS

Despite Mr Prachum's claims, Mr Nutthakrit remains doubtful that the incinerator is safe when disposing of medical waste.

"First, the PCD tests can only find what they are looking for. The PCD tests for total suspended particulates (TSP), sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, hydrogen chloride, mercury, cadmium, lead, dioxins and the opacity of emissions from smoke at the incinerator," he said.

"However, the PCD tests do not confirm whether or not harmful bacteria are being released into the atmosphere."

Although the emissions from the smokestack might not be visible to the naked eye, Mr Nutthakrit explained that it does not mean the emissions are not harmful.

"As everyone knows, medical waste contains a lot of bacteria,



**'Medical waste contains a lot of bacteria, and bacteria in the air can spread easily, especially when it is windy or if there is a lot of rain'**

**— Dr Nutthakrit, Environmental Specialist**



Staff at the incinerator monitor burn temperatures from the control room. Photo: Gazette file

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# threatens bacterial fallout

and bacteria in the air can spread easily, especially when it is windy or if there is a lot of rain," he said.

"This can seriously affect the people who live or spend much time in the area around there... The people most likely to be affected are those living in the Klong Koh Pee Community, the people who collect garbage from the landfill and the residents from Phuket Town who come to Saphan Hin Park to exercise.

"We have to make sure that we cause no harm to anyone."

Mr Nutthakrit remains so unconvinced that the disposal of medical waste at the incinerator is safe that he sends teams of officers to conduct random checks to ensure the burners are operating at optimal temperatures.

"So far, every time we have checked the burn temperatures were more than 850 °C, but that doesn't mean we will stop keeping an eye on them," he said.

"We must make sure that all trash is incinerated properly."

## NO CHOICE

Mr Nutthakrit admitted that he understood that the staff at the incinerator were doing the best they could under the current circumstances.



The people most at risk are those who live or work near the incinerator in the Saphan Hin area.

"We have no choice. The appropriate incinerator will remain offline until Phuket City Municipality receives the budget to fix it," he noted.

"The municipality applied for the 530mn baht in the fiscal 2015 budget. Other funds will be drawn from the environmental budget, too. They have our full support to get the primary incinerator fixed as soon as possible."

However, Mr Prachum has previously pointed out that even after the budget is approved, it will take about two years to complete a full refit of the original incinerator.

## ON THE ROAD

Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) Chief Dr Kajohnsak Kaewjarus said he had full confidence in the incinerator staff to

competently dispose of all medical waste brought to the facility.

His main concern, however, is the medical waste that doesn't make it to the site.

"Veterinary surgeries and small clinics are not bound by the same strict regulations that hospitals must adhere to, and so many of these businesses simply add their medical waste to their regular trash," Dr Kajohnsak said.

Some clinics deliver their medical waste to the nearest hospital for proper disposal, but often the waste, bundled with daily refuse in a black plastic bag, is dumped on the street as regular garbage or in an unsealed trash can to await collection.

Stray dogs can tear at the plastic bags in the hope of getting a sniff – or a taste – of what's inside, Dr Kajohnsak explained.

To combat the problem, the PPHO has joined a trash-separation project that is to launch in Phuket on World Environment Day, June 5.

Under the project, special refuse bins slated for medical waste will be installed at locales throughout Phuket.

"Garbage trucks dedicated to medical waste will collect the waste to ensure it is not mixed with regular trash when it is picked up," the health chief explained.

Mr Prachum stands united with Mr Nutthakrit and Dr Kajohnsak in his support for the trash-separation project, he said.

"It will help to ensure that medical waste is collected properly and not mixed with regular trash when it is brought to the incinerator.

"This alone reduces the health risk to the public and to our staff."



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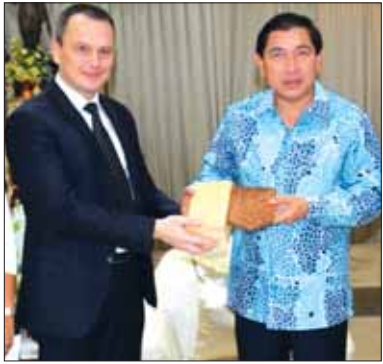


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Ukrainian consul Alexander Zub met with Governor Maitri Inthasut.

## Concerned consul pays Phuket gov a short visit

UKRAINIAN Honorary Consul to Thailand Alexander Zub on May 9 formally expressed his concern about the increasing number of road accidents in Phuket, and to discuss the safety of Ukrainian tourists who visit the island.

"Ukrainian tourists in Phuket tend to rent motorbikes or cars rather than opting [sic] for public transport, which could increase the risk of them being involved in an accident," Mr Zub told Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut at their meeting at Provincial Hall.

"Also, a lot of Ukrainians do not speak English well, which makes it difficult for them to communicate what they need while they are here."

Governor Maitri assured Mr Zub that tourists were a top priority for officers in Phuket, and that there were measures in place to prevent accidents and help foster communication between tourists and locals.

"We constantly work to prevent road accidents by setting up checkpoints throughout the island," Gov Maitri explained.

"At these checkpoints officers make sure that drivers wear their helmets and drive with licences, and they also test for drugs. All of these measures are in place to ensure drivers on the road are safe."

"Also, we have foreign police volunteers from dozens of countries patrolling the most popular tourist destinations on the island, such as Patong, who are available to help tourists at all times."

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

## Bean-picking monkey sets sights high, causes blackout

RESCUE workers were called late in the night on May 8 to save a bean-picking monkey that had escaped from the home of its owner and become stuck at the top of a power pole.

"When we arrived, the owners were trying to undo the rope tied to the monkey's neck, because it had become tangled on the pole," said a Kusoldharm Foundation rescue worker.

The power pole, in Baan Lipon, was so high that a cherry picker had to be used to retrieve the animal.

"It was a high-voltage line, and we were concerned about electrocution, so we called the Thalang Electricity Office for help. When their officers arrived with the equipment, they shut off the power for about 15 minutes so

we could get the monkey down safely," the rescue worker said.

Chamaiporn Hemkaew, 32, one of the monkey's owners, told the *Gazette* that the simian is about one and a half years old and employed.

"She's very good at picking *sataw* [Parkia speciosa]," she said.

The *sataw*-harvester had escaped from Ms Chamaiporn's house and run up the nearby pole before she could be stopped.

"I'm very grateful to everyone who helped rescue my baby, especially the Thalang Electricity Authority Manager who allowed his staff to use their equipment to rescue her," said Ms Chamaiporn. — **Thawit Bilabdullar**



Monkey and owner were reunited.

## Phuket smartens up for 2015

The island is next in line for Thailand's 'Smart Country' project

By Saran Mitratrat

PHUKET is slated to have free WiFi throughout the island as part of it becoming Thailand's next "Smart Province".

"Access to free WiFi is one of the many benefits of the technology we are using to connect the nation," said Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) Surachai Srisarcam.

"Through our 'Smart Country' project, local government offices, police stations and private businesses will all be linked by one network, through which they will be able to easily contact each other to share and access authorized information."

The 95-million-baht budget to initiate the Smart Province project in Phuket will also provide one-stop service centers where, with just a swipe of an ID card, residents can access information and take advantage of paperless public services.

Phuket is slated to "get smart" sometime in 2015.

Last year the MICT's pilot province, Nakhon Nayok, completed the project.

"After Phuket, we plan to expand the project to the rest of the country. However, this expansion could take more time than expected, as we now have a new interim Cabinet and will have to wait for them to approve the next province," Dr Surachai said.

Governor Maitri Inthasut and



Governor Maitri Inthasut signed a Memorandum of Understanding to get the 'smart' project rolling.

Dr Surachai met on May 8 at Phuket Provincial Hall to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to get the project rolling.

Dr Surachai outlined the benefits residents would garner from the project:

1. Communication: Residents will be able to access public records when connected to the network, such as information about their families and authorized

government information.

2. Tourism: Events and tourism-related information will be accessible through the network.

3. E-service: Public services will be faster and more efficient, and paperwork can be done online.

4. Education: Students in rural areas will have access to the same information as students in Bangkok, such as reference materials and lectures.

5. Government office management: The move toward paperless services will create a more efficient and organized work environment for government officers.

6. Budget: The system will save money. For example, provinces can save up to 4 billion baht on election costs, as residents will be able to vote electronically at the smart kiosks rather than on paper ballots.

## Fears of corpse-laden bag dispelled after found not to contain any human remains

POLICE called on the morning of May 7 to investigate a possible corpse wrapped in a bag in Phuket Town found the bodies of two dogs instead.

Residents called authorities after noticing a rotting odor coming from the bag, found outside an abandoned house near the Revenue Department office on Narisorn Road.

Rescue workers who were first on the scene hesitated to investigate.



Officers investigate the bag's contents.

"We were afraid to open it because we thought it might be a human body," said one.

"When the police arrived, we opened it together, and found the bodies of two dogs — a Golden Retriever and a poodle — wrapped in two separate bags."

The dogs looked old and foul play was not suspected, the rescue worker said, before taking the dogs' bodies to be buried at an undisclosed location. — **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



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# Turn off the lights, say officials

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

ENERGY Ministry officials announced May 9 they will launch a campaign calling on all Phuket residents to minimize the electricity each household uses as a precaution against power outages during a month-long upgrade to a major gas field supply line in the Gulf of Thailand.

Residents will be asked to reduce their power consumption between 6 and 10pm each night from June 13 to July 10, Samerjai Suksumet, the director of Energy Policy and Planning, told a seminar at Phuket Rajabhat University.

"These are the peak hours for power use on the island," he said.

Mr Samerjai explained that the supply of natural gas from field A-18 in the Joint Development Area (JDA) between Thailand and

Malaysia in the Gulf of Thailand will be offline for 28 days, starting from June 13, for an upgrade.

"Southern Thailand usually produces 2,300MW per day, but uses about 2,400MW per day," Mr Samerjai said.

To make up the shortfall, power plants in Bangkok supply 700MW per day to ensure there is enough electricity for all of Southern Thailand, he explained.

However, during the upgrade, the Chana Power Plant in Songkhla province, which contributes about 710MW per day to the grid serving Southern Thailand,

will be offline.

"During this period, power plants in Bangkok will supply an additional 250MW per day, making the total power supply from them 950MW per day while the upgrade is carried out," Mr Samerjai said.



'As Phuket is a tourism province, we cannot allow a blackout to happen here'

— Samerjai Suksumet,  
Director of Energy  
Policy and Planning



Residents will need to watch their power consumption while the upgrade is underway. Photo: Ifarn Jamdukor

Losing the Chana input of 710MW while ramping up the supply from Bangkok will result in a small surplus of electricity supply of about 140MW per day.

"This is why we will still need to be conservative in our power consumption while the upgrade is underway," said Mr Samerjai.

Mr Samerjai assured there will not be another major blackout, such as the huge outage that plunged all of Southern Thailand into darkness last year.

"As Phuket is a tourism province, we cannot allow a blackout to happen here," he said.

"We have ordered staff at the

power plants to take all preventative steps necessary to ensure there are no blackouts during the upgrade...

"But if a blackout does happen, we will make sure essential facilities such as hospitals, government offices and police stations are not affected."

## V/Gov vows to fight for water-treatment funds



Black water has flown onto the beach three times this year.



V/Gov Chamroen Tipayapongtada (left) inspecting the canal.

VICE Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada vowed on May 7 to push for funds to expand Karon's water-treatment facilities as soon as possible.

The vice governor spoke as he inspected the recent efforts of Karon Municipality to prevent untreated wastewater in the Nong Harn lagoon from spilling over onto the town's popular tourist beach as it has already three times this year, most recently about a month ago.

"The municipality has taken the first steps to solve the black water problem by dredging the canal, creating an emergency treatment pond, and installing a net at the canal's mouth to snare garbage," he noted.

"The long-term solution is to expand the water-treatment plant in Karon," he acknowledged, adding that he had also asked the Phuket Regional Environmental Office 15 to find a way to improve water flow through the lagoon.

No chemical tests were done

on the lagoon water during the governor's inspection, but V/ Gov Chamroen noted that the water there looked cleaner than it did last month.

"The water looks green and black because it's not flowing, but it's clean," the vice governor stated.

"We found small aquatic animals in the lagoon. If it is safe for animals, it should be safe for humans."

Long-term solutions to the black water problem have been left up to the Wastewater Management Authority of Thailand (WMA), as Karon Municipality officers signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the WMA to take over management of wastewater on March 13.

Black water first flowed across Karon Beach this year on February 24 and was subsequently shown to be connected to the city's inadequate wastewater treatment system.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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The Regional Wing of  
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Security forces to improve teacher safety after another killing in the Deep South. Photo: The Nation

## Security hiked at Deep South schools ahead of new semester

SECURITY has been increased in Pattani province to guard against future insurgency attacks on teachers in preparation for the new semester, reported *The Nation*.

News of the beefed up security comes as a teacher was shot dead while driving in Pattani's Panare district on May 7.

Pairat Jitsen, 50, was the 174<sup>th</sup> teacher killed in the decade-long insurgency in the Deep South.

Bunsom Thongsriphrai, chief of a teachers' federation in the Deep South, blamed lax security for the death of Ms Phairat, saying that female Buddhist teachers remained vulnerable because they were easy targets.

"This has proved that all security operations still have loopholes in the far South – at all times and in every square inch," Mr Bunsom said.

Mr Bunsom said an evaluation of security measures by senior education officials would be conducted before May 16 when the new school semester begins.

Police said two men on a motorcycle shot Ms Phairat and left a note at the scene saying: "This will not be the last".

Ms Phairat, whose funeral will be held at Wat Photharam in Panare, was described as an outstanding senior teacher at Baan Toowa in Ma-Yor district.

Meanwhile, police are following leads into one of the four men seen in surveillance camera footage in the double Hat Yai bombings on May 6, in addition to five other suspected insurgents possibly linked to the attack.

Meanwhile, the head of the tour guides' association in Songkhla, Kul Sunthornwijit, said that the double-bomb attacks had adversely affected the tourism business.

## Rainy season to bring prosperity, say sacred oxen

THE sacred oxen's choice of drinking water and eating grass during the Royal Ploughing Ceremony at Sanam Luang in Bangkok on May 9 was interpreted as a forecast of abundant water and food supply this year.

HRH Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn presided over the annual ceremony on behalf of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, to mark the beginning of the rainy season and rice-planting season.

Caretaker Prime Minister Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan also led caretaker ministers, senior officials, foreign diplomats and mem-

bers of the public to welcome the royal representative, reported *The Nation*.

During the ceremony, in which Chavalit Chookajorn, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, served as the *Phraya Raekna*, the Lord of the Ploughing Ceremony, the sacred oxen were given grass, rice, corn, beans, sesame, liquor and water from which to choose.

This year, the oxen drank water and ate grass, indicating that there will be enough water while rice, food and fruit will be abundant.



Sacred oxen help divine future. Photo: The Nation

## Interim PM seeks elections

THE interim prime minister expressed hope on Monday that February's annulled general election could be re-run soon, and said anti-government protesters would not succeed in getting the Senate to impose an alternative premier.

Ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's caretaker government has remained in office since the Constitutional Court ordered her and nine ministers to step down last week in a nepotism case.

That followed six months of political turmoil in Bangkok, the latest phase of a nearly decade-long struggle between former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Ms Yingluck's brother who was overthrown by the army in 2006, and his opponents.

Before being forced out, Ms Yingluck had agreed with the Election Commission to hold an election on July 20, although the date has not been ratified by HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Caretaker Prime Minister Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan told foreign media that the government would meet the commission on Wednesday to decide the best date.

"Hopefully, we will have an election soon but it may slip, depending on the meeting," he said. "I can't guarantee the election will be successful, but I have high hopes."

Protesters intent on removing Ms Yingluck, who they viewed as a proxy for her self-exiled brother, disrupted the vote in February and the Constitutional Court later annulled it.

Now that Ms Yingluck is gone, the protesters have called for a "neutral" prime minister to oversee electoral reforms aimed at keeping the Shinawatras out of power, and have said they will scupper any vote that takes



Interim prime minister Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan at a press conference in Bangkok. Photo: Reuters

### AROUND THE nation

place before those changes are brought in.

However, Caretaker PM Niwattumrong, who served as deputy prime minister and commerce minister under Ms Yingluck and was previously a senior executive in one of Thaksin's companies, said the election should take place first.

"We cannot stop the election,

that is against the law," he said. "We can have elections first and then reforms."

Protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban, a former deputy prime minister in a government run by the pro-establishment Democrat Party, has called on the upper house Senate, the judiciary and Election Commission to step in and appoint a new prime minister.

Mr Niwattumrong said that would not happen.

"There are a lot of steps they have to do first. They can try but I don't believe they will be successful," he said.

Newly elected Senate Speaker Surachai Liengboonlertchai called

a special session on Monday to look at ways out of what he called the country's biggest crisis.

"We will discuss how to draw up a road map to get Thailand out of this situation," he said. "A neutral prime minister has not yet been discussed as part of the road map."

The military, which has intervened frequently in politics in the past, has stayed out this time despite calls from some anti-Thaksin forces for it to oust the government.

"Military heads have never mentioned a neutral prime minister and this is not something they plan to get involved in," Winthai Suvaree, a spokesman for the army, told Reuters.

Rival supporters are staging sit-in protests at various places in and on the outskirts of Bangkok, raising fears of violence.

Whilst vowing to remain aloof, military leaders have said they could be forced to step in if the violence were to worsen.

Pro-government red shirt activists are demanding a new election as soon as possible.

"Appointing a so-called neutral, unelected prime minister is against the law and, I warn you, it will provoke a violent reaction," red shirt leader Jatuporn Prompan told Reuters.

"Thai people know their rights – they are now politically savvy and will not accept a puppet premier chosen by the elite."

Anti-government protesters started moving from a city park on Monday to a site in front of the United Nations' regional headquarters and closer to many ministries.

"For those joining our final offensive be prepared to stay until we prevail," Mr Suthep told his supporters last Sunday night.

## Pattaya shores up beaches to boost income

THE beach at Pattaya is to be widened to about 35 meters to prevent erosion and boost income from tourists visiting the seaside resort town, reported *The Nation*.

Pattaya City's sand-fill project is expected to begin in October and will take about two years, said Mayor Itthiphol Kunplome.

The extension project will use an estimated 36,000 cubic meters of sand, which comes with a price tag of about 430 million baht. The first 15 meters of the new



Ready to fill out Pattaya's beaches. Photo: The Nation

Mr Itthiphol, who has been the mayor for six years, initiated this beach-extension project in 2010.

The project has already passed its Environment Impact Assessment (EIA), and is undergoing a bidding process.

beach would involve a sand-bag wall to serve as an embankment, while the remaining 20 meters would be of sand. The new beachfront will stretch for 2.7 kilometers and cover about 60 rai, Mr Itthiphol said.

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# China amid Asean

## South China Sea dispute dominates Asean talks in Myanmar

By Robin Chan

ASEAN leaders this week pledged to strengthen unity and solidarity, and called on all parties to refrain from taking actions that would further escalate tensions in the South China Sea, following a week when disputes there threatened to test the cohesiveness of the 10-member group.

The pledge was in a declaration issued at the end of the group's 24<sup>th</sup> summit, at which recent incidents between China and Vietnam, and China and the Philippines, threatened to overshadow the feel-good factor of Myanmar's first-ever chairmanship of Asean.

The leaders also reiterated a call to work towards an early conclusion of a code of conduct to manage disputes in the resource-rich waters without the use of force.

But even as they did so, China sent fighter jets to join the group of vessels tasked with guarding the oil rig HD 981 at the center of



President Benigno Aquino of the Philippines arrives to attend the 24th Asean Summit in Myanmar. Photo: Reuters

a recent collision between one of its ships and one of Vietnam's.

Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said the recent incidents were a wake-up call and made clear the urgent need for a

code of conduct to be completed.

Besides the flare-up between China and Vietnam, the Philippines has also detained crewmen of a Chinese fishing boat near the disputed Spratly islands.

"Such incidents could easily spiral out of control, trigger unintended consequences and undermine confidence in our region," PM Lee said.

— *The Straits Times*

### In brief...

#### Famine still plagues the Filipino poor

SOME 3.9 million Filipino families went hungry in the first quarter of the year, with a marked increase noted among the self-rated poor, according to the latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey. Overall hunger incidence in the last quarter stood at 17.8 percent, marginally lower than the 18.1 percent three months earlier.

The survey was conducted from March 27 to 30 and was first published in *BusinessWorld*.

— *Philippine Daily Inquirer*

#### Singaporean is one step closer to Mars

ROBINSON Law, a 54-year-old widower electrical engineer from Sembawang, Singapore, is among 705 finalists selected for an interview for the multi-billion-dollar Mars One private effort to colonize Mars in 2024.

Over 200,000 people applied last year to join the venture, which has drawn scepticism from scientists and former astronauts. No human has ever landed on Mars.

— *The Straits Times*

## Muslim parties consolidate ahead of Indonesian election

ONLY days after the National Awakening Party (PKB) pledged its support to the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) and presidential hopeful Jakarta Governor Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, the Gerindra Party clinched backing from two other Islamic-based parties, the United Development Party (PPP) and the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS) on Monday.

A PPP national leadership meeting (Rapimnas) early Monday endorsed the decision to join a Gerindra Party coalition. The decision came after weeks of fighting sparked by party chairman

Suryadharma Ali's earlier pledge of support to the presumptive candidacy of Gerindra chief patron Prabowo Subianto.

"Finally, at 2am on May 12, the second PPP Rapimnas agreed to support Prabowo Subianto for president," Mr Suryadharma said after the meeting's closing ceremony in Jakarta on Monday.

Mr Suryadharma also said PPP executives had agreed that Mr Prabowo was the most suitable candidate to lead the country for the next five years.

"For PPP, Prabowo is the only one who meets the requirements to be Indonesia's next leader," he said.

Contacted separately, leader of the PPP faction in the House of Representatives Hasrul Azwar said

Prabowo had the best chance to win in the July 9 election.

"We think that he will likely win the election because he has a clear vision of what to do when he leads this country, whereas Jokowi has never publicly outlined his vision and mission," Mr Hasrul said on Monday.

Mr Hasrul went on to say that PPP executives settled their differences regarding Mr Prabowo's candidacy after considering the former general's leadership capability.

Meanwhile, PKS has expressed its commitment to support Mr Prabowo, although it has yet to announce the decision.

"The decision-making process to join Gerindra's coalition is almost complete. We have reached an agreement on basic principles so it is a matter of time before Prabowo and PKS leaders come to a decision as to when to make an official announcement," said PKS senior politician Hidayat Nur Wahid, who is also chairman of the PKS faction at the House.

In addition to PPP and PKS, the National Mandate Party (PAN) has expressed its unofficial support for Mr Prabowo's nomination.

Meanwhile, the PDI-P has so far secured official support from the PKB and the NasDem Party, and PDI-P executives are convinced that more parties will join its coalition. — *The Jakarta Post*

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## In brief...

## At least 40 die off coast of Libya after migrant boat sinks

AT LEAST 40 people died and 51 others were rescued after a boat carrying mostly sub-Saharan African migrants sank off Libya's coast east of Tripoli, the Libyan government said on May 11.

Libya's porous borders with its sub-Saharan neighbors and its proximity to Italy and Malta have made the North African country a common transit route for migrants trying to reach Europe.

## China dispatches troops to counter 'street terrorism'

CHINA tightened security in its capital on Monday, strengthening police patrols and restricting bulk purchases of gasoline in the wake of a string of violent attacks by Islamist militants.

Beijing police sent out 150 armed patrol vehicles into the city on Monday, the official Xinhua news agency reported, "countering street terrorism and fighting severe violence".

## Former mafia man to serve 7 years

ITALY'S highest appeals court on May 9 upheld a mafia collusion conviction against a close associate of Silvio Berlusconi, a further blow for the former prime minister who began serving a tax-fraud sentence earlier in the day.

The court sentenced 72-year-old Marcello Dell'Utri to seven years in prison for acting as a go-between for the Sicilian mafia and the Milan business elite from 1974-1992. The conviction is definitive and cannot be appealed.

## Venezuela releases student protesters

VENEZUELA said on May 11 it had freed most of the 243 youth activists arrested in raids the week before on street camps set up to protest against President Nicolas Maduro's socialist government.

The public prosecutor's office said in a statement that 11 detainees had been kept behind bars, accused of crimes including possession of arms and drugs.

## Rebels aim to join Russia

By Matt Robinson  
and Alessandra Prentice

PRO-MOSCOW rebel leaders in eastern Ukraine on Monday called for their region to become part of Russia, the day after staging a referendum on self-rule, although Moscow stopped short of endorsing their bid for annexation.

Announcing the result of the vote in one of the two provinces where it was held, a leader of the "People's Republic of Donetsk", Denis Pushilin, said it was now an independent state and would appeal to join the Russian Federation.

"The people of Donetsk have always been part of the Russian world. For us, the history of Russia is our history," he said.

"Based on the will of the people and on the restoration of historic justice, we ask the Russian Federation to consider the absorption of the Donetsk People's Republic into the Russian Federation."

There and in Luhansk, some officials said they might hold a second referendum on joining Russia, like one held in Crimea, a Ukrainian region seized and annexed in March after protesters ousted Ukraine's pro-Russian president.

Donetsk and Luhansk together are home to 6.5 million people, and yield more than 15 per cent of Ukraine's GDP, including about a third of its industrial output which comes from the steel smelters and other heavy industry of the Donbass, one of Europe's most productive coal-producing regions. Their declarations create the biggest new self-proclaimed independent states in Europe since



People stand in line at a polling station to take part in the referendum on May 11. Photo: Reuters

## AROUND THE world

Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union itself broke up more than 20 years ago.

Donetsk separatists said that more than 80 per cent of voters had supported independence. Those in Luhansk said more than 96 per cent did.

Unlike in Crimea, Moscow has not recognized the two regions as independent from Kiev and has

said nothing to suggest it would endorse their absorption into Russia. President Vladimir Putin even called last week for the referendum to be postponed.

The US and European Union both said they would not recognize the results of the "illegal" referendum.

"We will not recognize the so-called referendums of yesterday. They are illegal, illegitimate and incredible," Herman Van Rompuy, president of the European Council of EU leaders, told a news conference in the Ukrainian capital.

Losing Donetsk and Luhansk would be a crippling blow for Ukraine, a country of around 45

million people, the size of France and facing bankruptcy after half a year of turmoil.

If they slip out of Kiev's control without being formally absorbed by Moscow, they would become by far the biggest and most economically important of the self-proclaimed independent statelets Russia protects in other parts of the ex-Soviet Union.

Eastern Ukraine has been plagued by turmoil as Kiev has staged a largely failed military operation to regain control of towns held by the separatists. Authorities said 49 people have been killed in violence in the region of Donetsk since March 13. — Reuters

## Boko Haram will trade girls for prisoners, says leader

THE leader of the Nigerian Islamist rebel group Boko Haram has offered to release more than 200 schoolgirls abducted by his fighters last month in exchange for its members being held in detention, according to a video posted on YouTube on Monday.

The search for the girls intensified as a senior United States administration official said the US deployed manned surveillance aircraft over Nigeria and was sharing satellite imagery with the Nigerian government.

Boko Haram militants stormed a secondary school in the northeastern village of Chibok on April 14 and seized 276 girls. Some have managed to escape, but about 200 remain missing.

In a 1.25-minute segment of the 17-minute YouTube video, scores of girls in black and grey veils sit on the ground, chant and sing.

Mr Shekau, wearing military fatigues and holding an AK-47, then addresses the camera.

"All I am saying is that if you want us to release the girls that we have kidnapped, those who have not accepted Islam will be treated as the Prophet [Mohammad] treated infidels and they will stay with us," he said, according to a translation of his words.

"We will not release them while you detain our brothers," he said. It was not clear if he was in the same location as the girls, although the release of the video appeared to signal a willingness on his part to negotiate.

Mike Omeri, a senior Ministry of Information official, told the press: "The government of Nigeria is considering all options towards freeing the girls and reuniting them with their parents," he said. — Reuters



A woman holds up a sign during a protest demanding the release of the girls. Photo: Reuters

## Authorities seize US\$55mn, alcohol, drugs destined to buy Indian votes

INDIAN officials have seized a record US\$ 55 million in cash, as well as large amounts of liquor and illegal drugs, destined to buy off voters in India's election, the Election Commission said on Monday, as the mammoth vote drew to a close.

The haul was the biggest in Indian electoral history, which has long been marred by allegations of politicians distributing cash, alcohol and food to win support.

At the last general election in 2009, authorities captured US\$ 32mn in cash intended to buy votes. Officials privately concede that the real total is far higher than that ac-

tually found.

The Election Commission also discovered 22.5mn liters of alcohol and about 185,000 kilograms of drugs during searches over a lengthy election campaign that included five weeks of voting to reach India's electorate of 815mn people.

"It is a tough challenge for the Election Commission to check the use of 'money



Candidate Narendra Modi waves. Photo: Reuters

power'," said PK Dash, who leads the expenditure monitoring effort at the agency.

He said that more than 11,000 "flying squads" were deployed to record illegal be-

havior, and thousands of checkpoints helped catch trucks ferrying liquor. Cash was found in many hiding places, including funeral vans and the door panels of cars.

The Election Commission set a campaign spending limit of 7mn rupees for each of the 543 seats at stake in the election, but officials believe that many spent several times that figure, much of it surreptitiously.

Much illegal funding for candidates in India's elections comes from businessmen and even corporations, analysts say, reinforcing the view of many Indians that an unholy nexus between business and politics lies at the heart of rampant corruption.

State funding has been mooted in the past to curtail illicit funding, but the idea has never taken off. — Reuters



# COMO villas stay on point

By Chris Husted

COMO Hotels and Resorts – the name behind Parrot Cay in the Turks and Caicos, as well as city hotels, including the Metropolitan in Bangkok and London – has entered the high-end of Phuket's property market with the launch of 20 exclusive lifestyle villas at the Point Yamu.

The private villas, which became available for purchase in February, are priced from US\$ 1.6 to US\$ 3.5 million.

Point Yamu, located on Cape Yamu on the east side of Phuket, is COMO's first resort in Thailand outside Bangkok and it is also the first property designed for COMO Hotels and Resorts by Italian design talent Paola Navone.

Ms Navone also worked on COMO's first Stateside hotel, Metropolitan by COMO, Miami Beach, which opened in December.

At Point Yamu, the collaboration sees COMO's signature clean lines and pared-back, contemporary style united with the Italian designer's eclectic, colorful ap-

## PROPERTY Gazette

proach and the use of local materials. The combination brings together a palette of bright aquamarines and hot oranges, with Thai artisanal techniques, such as traditional wood tiling and woven rattan adding texture.

The ocean-facing, floor-to-ceiling windows in each room offer panoramic views of the limestone karsts of Phang Nga Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The villas each boast a large living space: over 200 square meters in the nine two-bedroom villas and over 500sqm over two floors in the 11 three-bedroom villas.

Each house has its own private infinity pool with sun decks and lush gardens.

Villa residents share all the benefits of the 81-rai Point Yamu resort, and a rental program is available, making villa ownership a viable, long-term investment.



Villa owners have access to a full range of facilities at the stylish 81-rai Point Yamu resort. Photo: COMO

"This project will attract a diverse range of investors including loyal COMO followers who already know and trust COMO as an operator of world-class resorts with exceptional food, accurate service, and unparalleled wellness programs," said Harry Aposto-

lides, Vice President of Business Development for COMO Hotels and Resorts.

"Villas will appeal to both individuals and families looking for a tranquil location in Phuket to relax and unwind, as well as investors who are looking for a

good yield, but also capital appreciation on a prized asset.

"Phuket is an ideal holiday destination from Singapore and Hong Kong and many daily direct flights make it a perfect retreat for weekend breaks or longer family vacations."



Governor Maitri Inthasut (left) inspects the progress made at the Darasamuth Intersection underpass in central Phuket. Photo: Saran Mitratat

## Contractors head abroad as political turmoil bites

LEADING construction companies are expanding their investment in overseas markets and power-plant projects, as Thailand's 2-trillion-baht mega-infrastructure program continues to be delayed by the prolonged political turmoil.

Among the construction giants securing contracts abroad is Thailand's leading construction firm Italian-Thai Development, which is also responsible for a host of projects in Phuket, including the 600-million-baht underpass at the Darasamuth Intersection near Central Festival and the 850mn-baht underpass at the Samkong intersection near Tesco Lotus on the bypass road.

Ital-Thai CEO Premchai Kannasut said the company's strategy now is to focus on three core businesses: construction, infrastructure projects and mining.

In Mozambique, Italian-Thai has signed a 120bn-baht contract to develop 537 kilometers of railway from Moatize to Macuse and a deep-sea port. The company will

also get the concession to operate the railway's logistics system and the port for 35 years after the project is completed in 2019. It targets an average return on investment from the project of 18%.

Meanwhile, Italian-Thai continues to mine potash in Udon Thani province, and bauxite in Laos.

However, construction continues to be the company's main source of income, as it now has projects valued at 144.29bn baht in Thailand and overseas that will generate revenue through 2020.

The company also plans to bid on 513bn baht of domestic infrastructure projects once the political conflict ends.

"During a period when the country cannot have a new government to consider new investment in infrastructure projects, the group has to generate long-term income from new investments and expand the investment overseas in order to balance our portfolio," he said.

– The Nation



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# Floating on cloud nine

CHALONG-based real estate developers, Phuket9, have been busy. Established in 2004, they began life as Phuket Nature Home and re-branded themselves as Phuket9 in 2011. Throughout the past 10 years they have created an entire community of private lagoon villas, built the Kata Dome Plaza and have now launched into their most recent project – Rawai VIP Villas.

Located just 300 meters from the water in Rawai, and four kilometers to picturesque Nai Harn beach, the Rawai Villa project is located in an area that still retains some quiet charm... /

in an area that still retains some quiet charm while boasting enough infrastructure to support western standards. Those who visit or decide to make the villas their home will have quick access to Tesco Lotus, Makro, Rawai pier, gyms, massage parlors and even the sea gypsy village known throughout the island for its fresh seafood.

Phase one of the project en-

compasses 13 pool villas and an office which will later serve as a public cafe with a garden. Investors currently have their choice of six three-bedroom villas, two of which offer larger garden areas; four two-bedroom villas; and three one-bedroom villas. All villa configurations in phase one will sport their own swimming pools, covered parking, en suite bathroom in each bedroom, terrace, garden and remote controlled gates.

Prices for the phase one units range from 6.9 million to 12.3mn baht for floor plans spanning 160 to 240 square meters. All villas are offered turn-key upon completion coming fully furnished and ready to move into or put on the rental market.

The architectural design will feature wooden roofs, wide cornices, columns and teak wood decoration playing off a brown and earth-tone theme with tropical plants and lush landscaping to



All 13 of the Thai-Balinese style villas have a private pool and covered parking. Photo: Supplied

maintain the tropical atmosphere.

The timeless Thai-Balinese styled villas come with a guaranteed six per cent annual rental profit for five to seven years starting within two months of title transfer.

Sales began in February 2014 with four villas already sold. Phase one completion date is scheduled for March 2015 with phase two pre-sales beginning in November. Phases two and three will add another 30 units of mixed

two to four-bedroom pool villas and townhouses to the 10 rai development. – *Phuket Gazette*

For information, visit [phuket9.com/rawai-vip-villas-new](http://phuket9.com/rawai-vip-villas-new) or call 085-575 3300

## Krabi looks to tap into retiree market

ONE of Krabi's real estate offerings, The Lai Tai in Ao Nang is tapping into the overseas retirement market.

Buyers over 50 years of age can avail of five, 10 or 15-year leases, which are geared to meet their specific requirements.

The developers have also

formed a relationship with the new Krabi Nakharin International Hospital, to offer buyers free medical check-ups.

Krabi looks to be tapping into the Phuket market of older buyers who have long been attracted by the island's quality medical facilities. – *Bill Barnett*



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## Political situation sparks market worries

THE Constitutional Court's verdict commanding Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra to leave office May 7 has heightened the political uncertainty in Thailand. While the verdict has not virtually resolved the current political crisis, it has sparked fears of new violence by the government's supporters. Suphin Mechuchep, Managing Director of JLL, an international property services and consultancy firm, shares her view on how the escalating political tension will affect the Bangkok real estate market.

"Increased political uncertainty will generally have a negative impact on investment sentiment in



Political tension expected to affect property market. Photo: Reuters

Thailand's real estate market as it has dampened investor confidence. The rising political tension will also hurt consumer confidence further, which will have a negative impact on the residential and retail sectors.

"However, we do not expect the current political crisis to lead a

property market collapse. The political turmoil has hurt the country's macro economy, but generally most property developers and owners remain financially strong, and thus a situation where property owners will be forced to sell their property assets at discounted prices in the near future is unlikely.

"A long-term outlook for the Bangkok real estate market remains hard to forecast as it will depend on how the political crisis will progress and be resolved." – *JLL*

JLL is a professional services and investment management firm. For more information, visit [joneslanglasalle.co.th](http://joneslanglasalle.co.th)

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# Taking a tour of yesteryear

ONCE you get past a certain age the inevitable stopwatch remains one of life's constant reminders that this is not a dress rehearsal. That grim humorless man in the dark blue suit sitting at the timekeeper's table without a doubt has no leeway. Forget instant replay baby, this is live action as it happens.

At times, especially in the hot season, when the sun blazes and the air does not even stir a downdraft from a sprinting waiter from the pool bar, my mind turns to the bigger picture. Size does matter, apparently. I've always imagined one

of those full-wall LCD high-definition televisions in my living room, yet have compromised to a mere 52-inch model. It's big, but not as big as it could be.

Looking back at how things have changed during my own mad dash, strangely, I recall the time of black-and-white televisions, when living color meant walking out your front door into a street full of noise, chaos and a peak into the secrets of the human race.

My mind's eye still flashes with memories of being a youngster watching the moonwalk, or of the sadness that filled the air when JFK was shot. Mornings at school were spent talking about a movie or show that aired on the sparseness of only three major networks. This was before cable or the internet. There is a collective memory for those from that time of a shared experi-

## Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

The past, as it always does, seemed a world far away, and nearly unimaginable

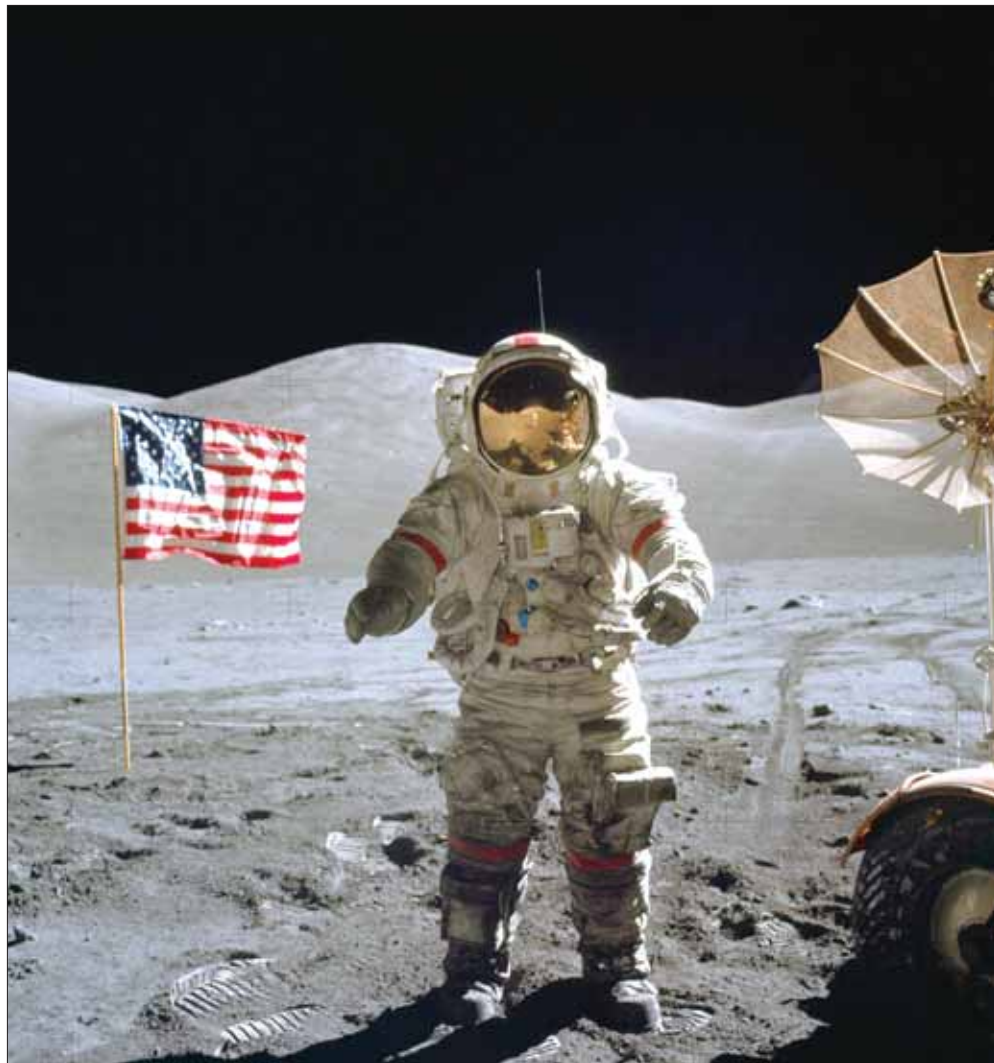
ence before the great long trail of choice came and we all become self-obsessed, one nation under me.

Before my parents passed away, I'd grill them over what life had been like in the old days, the Great Depression, two World Wars and the rise of the American Dream. Of course, my mother's tale of immigrant parents who barely spoke English and those long, hard walks for miles to school. The past, as it always does, seemed a world far away, and nearly unimaginable.

Growing up, science fiction turned to real life as NASA plied outer space. Futurists and comics talked over images of single-manned spaceships, robots who did our work for us and flying cars. Strangely today, over half a lifetime over, we cannot even find a missing commercial airplane, much less take a quick day-trip to Mars.

Some great expectations seem to never change, and for the past century or so – once we get past all that hunter and gathering time or simply raising the average life expectancy past the mid twenties – we've all had time to dream big and imagine a life not lived yet. Eventually, of course, that great scorekeeper rolls back the final zero and it's time to hit the locker room in a very permanent way.

Here in Phuket, the collective tourism picture of Day 1, goes back to the late 1970s and early 1980s, as the backpacking



The nostalgia of a generation can seem like ancient history. Photo: Harrison H. Schmitt/NASA

generation started circling the globe on shoestring budgets and the European snowbirds started flying south each winter for warmer, tropical heat. Bungalows, coconut trees and an exotic laid back way of life invigorated the Robinson Crusoes in mounting numbers.

Today on the island, it has rung true that now "everyone can fly" and it appears everyone does – though those single-seated, personal-space vehicles that we thought would arrive within our lifetime are, in fact, nothing more than perches in some overpriced, aging vehicle driven by a Red Bull

inspired speed freak maniac.

It's funny contemplating the future and what can change within our lives and what cannot. Nostalgia is a game that can be played amongst very old friends, and even total strangers. These days, what brings me back to the here and now is realizing over the span of my life how much things have changed, and more importantly, how much that haven't. Day 2 anyone?

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks, he can be contacted through: [c9hotelworks.com](mailto:c9hotelworks.com)

## Central Group may leave China

CENTRAL Group may phase out its retail business in China to focus on higher potential markets such as Europe and Asean.

The group will this year close mergers and acquisitions deals with local retail operators in three major cities in Europe.

Central Retail Corporation (CRC), the group's retail arm, acquired La Rinascente, a leading luxury department store operator with 13 properties across Italy, in May 2011, followed by Illum, a famous department store in Denmark, in March of last year.

Suthichart Chirathivat, executive vice chairman of Central Group, said last week that the company's retail business in China is facing tough competition from local operators.

Central Department Store has three major branches in China in Hangzhou, Shenyang and Chengdu. Zen Department Store in Shenyang was closed last year.

"It is the time for Central Group to grow its retail business outside Thailand, such as in Vietnam, Indonesia and Europe. We have already enjoyed matured growth within the country," he said.

"In Thailand, we're not able to control such external factors as



Central Group owns Central Festival shopping mall in Phuket. Photo: Steven Layne

politics, but as a business operator, we will do our best. Everything will get better if the political problem is over," he said.

Prin Chirathivat, chief financial officer of Central Group, said that at least 30 billion baht would be invested in retail expansion next year.

"In Thailand, we are looking to invest long term. We will not even change our plan for such good investment projects. Some delay will be made if the Kingdom's economic and political situations are uncertain," he said.

More than 20 billion baht has been invested annually in retail expansion over the past five years. The budget had been raised to about 40 billion baht this year.

"We're negotiating for about 10 potential mergers and acquisitions deals set to expand our retail

business abroad. However, about two to three deals will be finalized this year," he said.

Sean Hill, retail expansion manager of La Rinascente, said the company was analyzing new retail opportunities in Europe. The firm was constructing a store in Rome, which would open by the end of next year.

"We're looking to expand our retail business in four big cities in Europe, which have strong potential in attracting large numbers of tourists and with important economic indications. We're following the plan set by management," he said.

CRC operates 11 department stores in Italy and one in Denmark.

Tos Chirathivat, CEO of Central Group, said growth of its retail sales was not good in the first four months of this year, due to the political and economic difficulties.

"We need to focus on better control of our costs. Thailand can do nothing at this moment even in any AEC implementation activities, as we have no government to take care of them. We need to have the government first to allow the Kingdom's domestic and international projects and activities to be carried on as normal," he said.

– The Nation

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# Balancing good and bad

THERE is an apocryphal “curse” attributed to the ancient Chinese that is typically rendered as: “May you live in interesting times”. While its origins are sketchy at best, its popularity appears to be growing in this new era of digital information overload.

The days of a popular culture developed through a limited mainstream media are long gone. Content consumers are free to choose from a bewildering array of choices on an ever-growing number of platforms, from insightful podcasts on subjects such as physics and cosmology to 24-hour satellite television and internet “news” channels devoted solely to single causes, including crazy conspiracy theories and misguided political agendas.

In this increasingly complex context, far too many people lack the information literacy needed not to be sucked into dubious – and all too often negative – worldviews. Meanwhile, mainstream media is criticized more often than ever before on several fronts, from failure to inform the public of the latest inane doomsday scenario to not printing enough positive news.

In this context, the *Gazette* suspects we are more guilty of the latter than the former. While it remains true to some degree that “bad news sells”, the fact is that there is an existing apparatus for reporting bad news, while many positive developments slip through the reporting net simply because we are never made aware of them.

Fortunately, there are some groups on the island that take the time to recognize individuals or groups who make sacrifices to do the right thing. One such group is the Rotary Club, whose several chapters in Phuket have not only been involved in positive works themselves, but have also gone out of their way to recognize similar works by others.

As just one example, the Rotary Club of Patong Beach chapter recently awarded the Phuket Marine Police one of Rotary International’s Community Service Awards, only the fourth time the illustrious honor has been bestowed upon a Phuket individual or group.

The award was for the Marine Police’s role in helping ensure the sea gypsies on Koh Sireh had an adequate supply of water during the recent protracted drought.

Another such award will be extended to New Zealander Delyse Gibson for stepping up to help a Phuket mini-crepe vendor who lost his only means of making a living to a fire.

We do indeed live in interesting times, but here at the *Gazette* we would not have it any other way. We hope the community will continue to inform us of similar positive developments so that we can offer the best balance of content possible to help create a more realistic worldview for our readers.



## Fight corruption by doing the right thing

*Re: Gazette online, Don't pay money under the table, fight it in court – says Employment chief, May 8*

Very refreshing words. Too many people are intimidated by police and their threat that people will be deported if things get to court.

Not the case – you are far more likely to pay a lesser fine if you face a judge. It seems that the guilty cough up cash to the police and get away with things, and the innocent stand up for their rights.

Only by standing up to intimidation will we beat it.

*Mister Ree  
Gazette forum*

### ...no, it's not worth it

*Re: Gazette online, Don't pay money under the table, fight it in court – says Employment chief, May 8*

If the police insist on arresting you, let them do it. Well, easy to say. Have you ever spent a night in a prison cell in Thailand? Being thrown in a cage with 50 others, amongst them thieves, rapists and murderers, is a rather humiliating experience. All that for some irregularities in the work permit. I would willingly, though not happily, hand loads of cash to a high ranking officer to get out.

*Mike  
Gazette forum*

### Require upgrades

*Re: Gazette online, Phuket lands B20bn slice of Mall Group B80bn shopping center mega projects, May 10*

Phuket should do what most cities in the USA do, and that is to have the developers improve a great deal of the surrounding infrastructure if they are going to do this huge project.

The roads are in great need of improvement to allow traffic to move freely.

*The Original Steve  
Gazette forum*

## Letters

to the Editor

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

### Kudos for bag policy, now add batteries

*Re: Gazette online, Tesco Lotus steps up its 'no plastic bag' campaign in Phuket, May 13*

Good News! I would also love to see every supermarket have a box to collect empty batteries. It requires just a small effort.

Right now, I have such a box at our business, but really, all supermarkets, schools and government buildings should be doing this.

*Tinkerbell  
Gazette forum*

### Focus on road safety

*Re: Gazette online, Ukraine consul frets over tourist safety in Phuket, May 10*

“We constantly work to prevent road accidents by setting up checkpoints...” Gov Maitri explained. “... officers make sure that drivers wear their helmets and drive with licences, and they also test for drugs.”

How about looking at controlling the speed limits and red light runners? It might help.

*Jon  
Gazette forum*

### Keep workers safe

*Re: Gazette online, Teen worker dies in five-storey fall at Phuket hotel construction site, May 9*

The questions to be asked are: why weren't they being supervised properly and what safety precautions were in place – if any.

*Agogohome  
Gazette forum*

### Real ones won't care

*Re: Gazette online, Russian denied entry at Phuket International Airport over 'visa' crackdown, May 11, 2014*

She obviously lives in Phuket and is for sure not a tourist. This is exactly the kind of people that should be booted out, no sympathy.

I'm tired of all these “Visa Run” foreigners who obviously abuse the really rather generous visa rules for tourists.

Real tourists won't care one iota about a case like this; they stay for 2-3 weeks, and if they want, they can get a 3-month visa in their home country.

*Christian  
Gazette forum*

### Wastewater all over

*Re: Gazette online, V/Gov Chamroen pushes for funds for Karon wastewater, May 8*

It's good to expand the Karon wastewater treatment facility, but there remains no treatment in Kamala and Bang Tao, where it is desperately needed.

With all due respect, government officials should not make statements like, “The water looks green and black because it's not flowing, but it's clean,” and “If it [the lagoon water] is safe for animals, it should be safe for humans”. These statements are not necessarily true.

*Don MacLean  
Gazette forum*

### Support the guards

*Re: Gazette online, Phuket life-guards put lives first, agree to PPAO conditions, May 8*

I take my hat off to the life-guards. They should have the proper equipment in good condition and be paid fairly. This should be paid for by the government.

*Alfadiamond  
Gazette forum*

## Phuket Gazette

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# Putting his life on the line for Karon

## FIRST PERSON

I'M NOT afraid to die doing the right thing. People have tried to kill me before, and one time it was very close. But I'm still here. I've told my family not to be sorry if I am assassinated, it just means it was my time to go.

I've been a leader in Karon for more than 10 years, as Phu Yai Baan, council member and president of Karon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), and Kamnan. The position I like best is the one I have now, Kamnan. It doesn't pay big money, but it allows me to be the person bad guys – corrupt government officials – don't like. That suits me. I'm clean. Ask me any questions, but make sure you're ready to answer mine as well.

I have a real estate business. I build houses and rent out apartments, both in Phuket and in nearby provinces. To be honest, I don't need to be Kamnan – I could live a comfortable, normal life with my family if I didn't have this job. But I can't step down, my sense of responsibility won't let me. I know Karon needs me. If someone else with the knowledge, vision and courage to stand up against corruption wanted to take my place, I'd say "take it". But until then, I'll continue to fight.

Right now the biggest problems Karon faces are black water and lack of water. The solutions are simple. There's nothing too difficult to fix.

Everyone needs to manage their own wastewater. Those who



**Winai Chidchiew, 40**, is the Subdistrict chief, or Kamnan, of Karon. He has a Master's degree in the Political Science of Local Development and a Bachelor's in Law from Ramkhamhaeng University. He also has a bachelor's degree in Community Development from Rajabhat University.

Here, he talks about why he does his job despite assassination attempts, and how to solve Karon's problems.

don't must be punished. The authorities need to enforce the law strictly. Hotels found breaking the law should be shut down.

To boost our water supply, we need to build a dam. We have the land for it. I've suggested the idea to Karon Municipality officials several times. It seems like they are not listening.

As for another big issue right now, the lease for the Club Med, the important thing to keep in mind is that local people are getting nothing. The resort company has been leasing a gorgeous location next to the beach for 30 years, at 150 baht per rai per year. How is that even possible? Leasing a unit to sell fish in a fresh market costs more than that. Is the resort beautiful? Only to those who are getting money from it.

I have a lot of foreign friends. When the black water problems came up this year, they called me from overseas to talk about it. I was

surprised they knew. They said they read about it in the *Gazette*.

This is what I like about the English-language media – it can give local issues international attention, which might push the government to work a bit harder to solve problems. And among the Thais who read English newspapers, I'd say about 80 per cent are high-ranking officers who have the authority to fix problems.

I was born in Karon; so was my mother. My father is from Kata. My three kids were born here, and my grandchildren and great-grandchildren will surely grow up here. My goal is to preserve Karon for everyone.

What we need is people who are willing to stand up to corrupt officials. We need people to feel that Karon belongs to them, and that they are willing to protect it. If we all felt this way and were united, it would be very hard for people to do bad things here.

I can stay in the office of Kamnan until I'm 60. If I die doing good things for my home and my people, I won't regret it at all.



Character shouldn't be left behind in the rush. Photo: Leslie Porterfield

## Full speed ahead

THE times are changing, always have and always will – especially in Phuket. Even in the couple years I've been lucky enough to live here, I have witnessed drastic changes all over the island.

One of the most obvious transformations is new structures. Even though I travel around the island frequently, it is shocking how different the skyline looks from one week to the next. Buildings being gutted and refinished, a hotel here, a pool villa there and an endless stream of uninspiring condominiums.

Cranes are constantly sprouting up on the horizon and pick-up trucks filled with Burmese workers continue to rumble along. Roads get wider and more (expensive) cars are delivered to fill them. The island has prospered from a continual influx of vacationers and is barreling headlong into the AEC next year, which could see tourist numbers creep even higher.

With a striving economy comes more people wanting a piece for themselves. I'm always surprised when I ask a Thai where they are from and they respond "Phuket" as people from all parts of the country are represented here. Not to mention the rest of the world, with growing numbers of Russian, Chinese, Japanese.

In its rapid transformation

## Island View

By Jeremie Schatz

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

from the "Jungceylon" fishing village of yesteryear, Phuket's environmental sacrifices have been accompanied by welcome advancements in the quality of life. The province has new hospitals that provide state-of-the-art healthcare, schools for its children and a spectrum of opportunities and industry for all.

But in the eyes of many, the island is pawning off its heritage and character for the promise of a bright economic future. What has been seen as a place with a delicate balance of "first world amenities with third world charm" is gradually seeing the scales tipping.

I worry for the future. It's getting busy and crowded, with infrastructure and regulations struggling to keep up. It's difficult to look past immediate gains to the sustainability of tourism.

It is everyone's responsibility (that means you too, expats) to acknowledge and prioritize the issues that plague the island, and not only provide strong support for those working to eliminate problems, but hold those accountable who do not.

## Issues & Answers...

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

### When you can't kill

I went to my neighborhood fresh market on May 6, and I was surprised to see police officers at one of the stalls. I thought it was a robbery, but people in the market said that someone was selling pork on a *wan pra* (Buddhist holy day) and that is illegal. Is that true?

**Weerasit Putthipairoj, Phuket Provincial Livestock Chief, replies:**

Yes, it is. By law you are not allowed to kill animals on Buddhist Holy Days, which occur four days a month, on half moon days, full moon days and when the moon is dark.

According to the Animal Slaughter Control and Meat Sale Act B.E. 2555, the killing of animals (except poultry) is prohibited from 6pm the evening before the holy

day until midnight at the end of the holy day.

The prohibition also extends to Buddhist Lent, Father's Day and Mother's Day.

The punishment for disobeying the law is as follows:

Killing cows or buffaloes: up to one year in prison, a fine of up to 5,000 baht for each animal, or both.

Killing animals other than cows or buffaloes: up to 3 months in prison, a fine of up to 2,500 baht for each animal, or both.

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)

## Licenses as long as they ever were

A friend of mine recently went to renew his driving license and was told that a foreigner with a non-immigrant O-A visa could not get a five-year renewal anymore, but only a one-year renewal.

Is that true?

**Malo, Patong**

**Konlayut Jattutasri, License Registrar, Phuket Provincial Land Transportation Office (PLTO), replies:**

The rules have not changed; those on O-A visas may only get one-year licenses.

After I moved to the PLTO, I discovered that many foreigners on O-A visas in Phuket had been mistakenly issued five-year licenses.

Instead of calling for all those

people to come in and get one-year licenses, I thought it best just to replace the licenses when they came to renew their permits.

Please do not be confused by non-immigrant B [Business] visas. Foreigners who have work permits are permitted to have five-year licenses.

If you have a work permit, you do not need a letter from immigration confirming your address. Just bring your work permit and copies of the relevant pages.

However, if you do not have a work permit, we require a letter from immigration confirming your address.

We no longer require you to bring two one-inch photos as we now have a camera that can transfer your photo directly onto

the new license.

Charges are as follows:

- One-year motorbike driver's license: 155 baht
- One-year car driver's license: 205 baht.
- Five-year motorbike driver's license: 355 baht
- Five-year car driver's license: 605 baht
- Change of address: 50 baht



Licenses for some visa holders last only a year. Photo: Gazette file



## YOUR Phuket



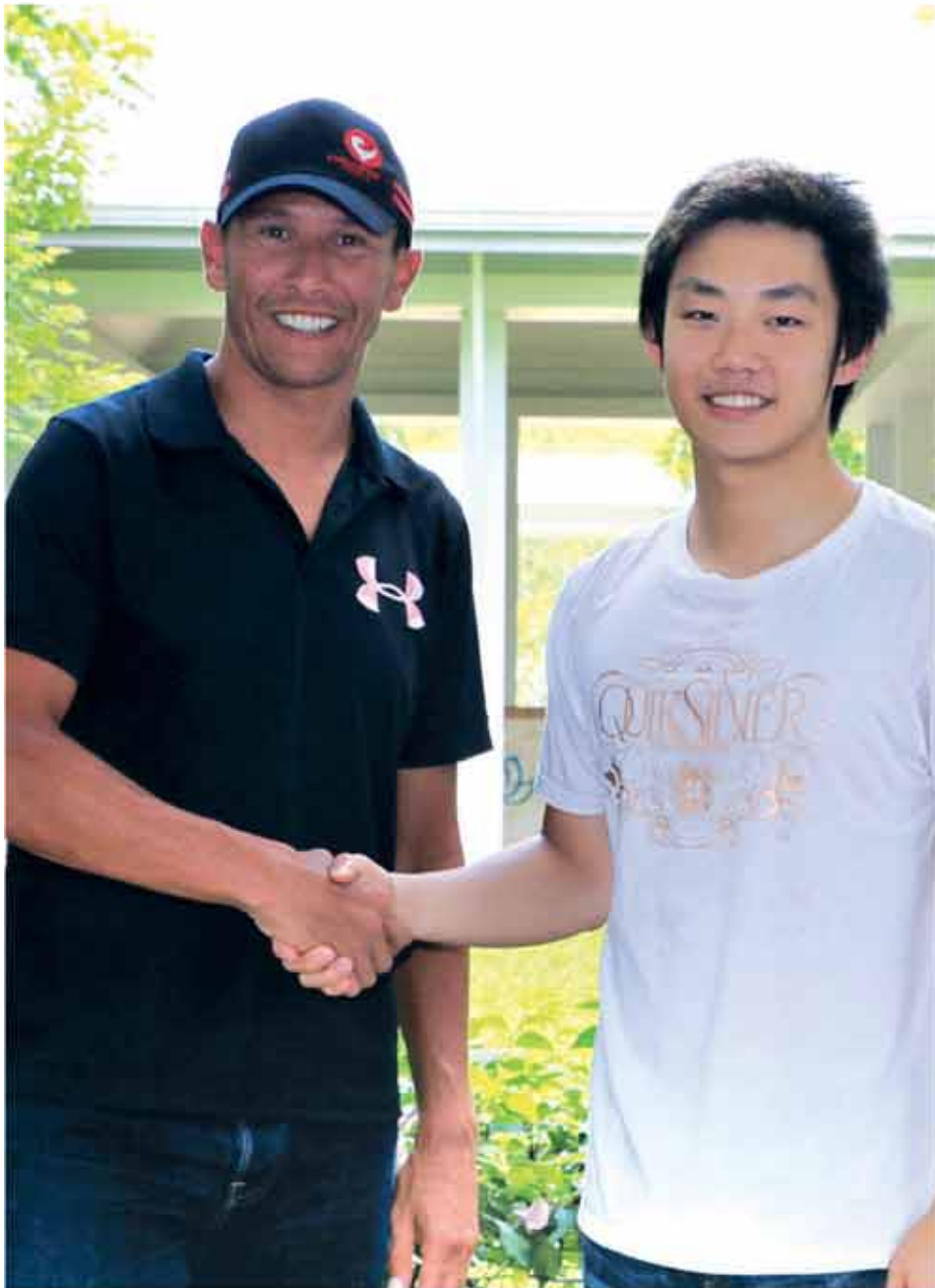
La Parisienne Band's Geoffrey Chaurand and Tiphane Doucet entertained diners on the evening.

## Domaine Pascal Jolivet wine dinner at Boathouse



From left: Boathouse by Montara F&B Manager Pinyo Thipimas; Wine Director Georges Ciret; General Manager Marie-Laure Fleury; and Pascal Jolivet.

## Racing star trains at Thanyapura



Chairman of Thanyapura Phuket Chris McCormack (left) welcomes Thailand's rising star F3 driver Tanart Sathienthirakul for intensive training with his personal coach at Thanyapura.

## AIS promotion trip to paradise in Phuket



Regent Phuket Cape Panwa General Manager Brice Borin (center) extended a warm welcome to AIS brand ambassadors Vilasinee Puddhikarant (right) and Warintorn "Great" Panhakarn (left) during their stay at the resort.

## Toyota opens new dealership



Managing Director of Toyota Phuket Motors Wilanda Na-Ranong (second from right), along with other top executives, celebrated the opening of the new Toyota dealership in Phuket Town.



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

# ISLAND TRADER

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

May 17 - 23, 2014 | [PhuketGazette.Net](http://PhuketGazette.Net)

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

## PROPERTY of the week



See page 21

## JOB of the week

### Ocean Resort Group

See page 25

## INVESTMENT of the week

### U&P Bakery Shop For Sale



See page 26

## BOAT & MARINE of the week

**LEE MARINE**  
*International Marine Brokerage*  
SINCE 1997



See page 29

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

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## Properties For Sale

**LUXURY APARTMENT  
KATA BEACH  
SPECIAL SALE!**

1 bedroom, 60sqm, includes furniture, in the center of Kata, sea level, close to shops, in a charming property with pool, sauna, parking etc. Market price (4.1 million baht). Now 2.6 million baht. Please call 081-788 828 or email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

**2-STOREY  
RESIDENCE**

Well situated 2-floor townhouse with 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large lounge, kitchen and carport on 104sqm land. Well maintained and ready for immediate occupancy in a safe residential estate. Priced to sell at 2.95 million baht. Tel: 081-970 3526 (English), 081-676 2629 (English & Thai). Email: petersoffshore@hotmail.com

**LAND PLOTS  
3.1 MILLION BAHT**

2 plots, each 1,100sqm in a development with underground electricity and security for sale. Conveniently located, only 10 mins from airport, PIA International School, Nai Yang Beach, Ao Po Marina and shopping center. Ready to build, 3.1 million baht per plot. Tel: 081-343 0777.

**KARON SEAVIEW LAND**

300m to beach, yellow zone, for 7-storey condo, 25 million baht. Tel: 081-415 4555 (English). Email: mail1950@free.net.de

**NICE HOUSE  
CHALONG**

400sqm, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. European kitchen, 4 aircons, swimming pool. Sale: 4.9 million baht. Tel: 082-809 2873 (English & Thai).

**LAND FOR SALE  
LOCH PALM**

6+ rai overlooking Loch Palm golf course with stunning mountain views for sale. Tel: 089-839 8255. Email: info@lantaestate.net

**ONE SALE - 3 LUXURY  
APTS. KATA BEACH**

1) 2 really big bedrooms, big kitchen and living room, 135sqm.

2) 1 bedroom, 60 sqm.

3) 1 bedroom, 58sqm.

Total of 253sqm in the center of Kata, sea level, close to shops, in a charming property with pool, sauna, parking etc. Total market price (18.4 million baht). Now 13.4 million baht. Please call 081-788 8280 or email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

**LAND  
NEXT TO LOCH PALM**

Land on main road next to Loch Palm golf course. Ready to build, Chanote, perfect for commercial or residential development. Tel: 081-956 3166. Email: voute.a@gmail.com

**LAND & HOUSE  
FOR SALE**

Location: Phanom District, Surat Thani, near Khao Sok National Park.

- Land: 120 rai + rubber plantation, 8 years old. 6 million baht.



- House: 1-rai area, furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 aircons. 1.9 million baht. Please call 081-667 1637, 082-539 6433.

**LAND IN SOI SALIGA  
RAWAI**

850sqm land for sale in this popular upmarket Soi. Close to international primary school. Full Chanote and house registration, electricity and water supply. Price: 5.5 million baht. Tel: 081-833 7836. Email: silomdon@gmail.com

**MAI KHAO LAND  
FOR SALE**

7 rai, 17 million baht. For more information, please call 081-892 7082.

**2 PLOTS OF LAND FOR SALE  
BAN KOH RAED, PHANG NGA PROVINCE**

1). 121 rai with Certificate of Utilization (N.S.3K), seaview and can see Sarasin Bridge. 1 million baht per rai.

2). 8.5 rai with Certificate of Utilization (N.S.3K), next to the pier of Raed Island. 7 million baht per rai.

The Certificate of Utilization can be changed to land title deed upon request. Tel: 089-471 0202 (Thai), 089-646 3533 (English)

**LAND FOR SALE**

Khok Kloy. 8.5 rai land, Chanote title. 2km from Sarasin Bridge. 1km from Beach. Road access and power supply. Recently measured by government. Only 850,000 baht per rai. Please contact Paew: 089-972 5378. Tin: 089-288 4537 (English&Thai).

**KARON BEACH CONDO**

Oceanfront, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 167sqm, one minute walk to beach. 14.5 million baht. Lease with option? Rent? Please call 090-008 503, +10-40 6728 1124. Email: rtj1111@yahoo.com

**BARGAIN 3-BEDROOM  
SEAVIEW CONDO**

3-bedroom seaview, 164 sqm, foreign freehold, condo for sale in Panwa. Only 6 million baht! Tel: 090-165 8266. Email: nuno@phuketrentalproperties.com

**CHEAP LAND &  
HOUSE FOR SALE**

Land of 35 rai and a house with aircon, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and kitchen at Tambon Bornok, Prachuap Khiri Khan, 20km from Prachuap Khiri Khan Town. The land is 1.3km from Petchkasem Road. Price is only 10 million baht. Nor Sor 3 title deed. Please call 086-615 9719.

**ZCAPE  
1-BEDROOM CONDO  
LAGUNA**

Brand-new, semi-furnished, two 1-bedroom condos (27.7 sqm & 29.41sqm), adjacent units on 6th floor in Zcape development, ready now. Near Laguna, Boat Avenue and beaches. Thai or foreign ownership ok. Both priced at under 2 million baht. Tel: 085-235 1532 (English & Thai). Email: thanasak.nk@gmail.com

**GRAND BOAT  
PLAZA**

Single house, 3 bedrooms, 51sq wah, for sale in Samkong. Near BIS and Central Festival. Price: 5 million baht. Tel: 086-908 2819.

**RAWAI 4-BEDROOM  
POOL VILLA**

715sqm house and 1 bungalow. 4 bedrooms, 330sqm, fully furnished, 12m salt water pool. 12.9 million baht. (Nous Parlons Francais). For more information, please call 080-885 0442 (English), 080-912 8853 (Thai). Email: gerard.saintaubin@gmail.com

**500,000 BAHT  
KAMALA LEASEHOLD**  
Hotel room, 30sqm, complex has 2 pools and jacuzzi. Tel: 084-716 0502.

**BEAUTIFULLY  
FURNISHED CONDO**  
Attractively furnished, fully equipped, 4th floor, 37sqm, 1-bed condo in the Royal Place. Tel: 081-828 0615 (English & Thai). Email: dom 23781@msn.com

**AO PO  
SEAVIEW LAND**

1.5 rai. Constructed access road. Chanote. 300m from Grand Marina. 10 million baht. Please call 082-277 5971.

**3-BED DUPLEX HOUSE  
2.39MB**

Great value, 3-bed duplex house near Laguna. Open plan kitchen, living and dining room. Tel: 087-193 7825 (English & Thai). Email: jasmeeek 666@hotmail.com

**UNDER MARKET PRICE**

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Land & Houses Park, Chal-long. For photo please email: attivitaphuket@yahoo.co.uk

**LUXURY VILLA**

Just 3 minutes from BIS, 900sqm land, 350sqm building, 3 bedrooms + maid room, 4 bathrooms, studio, 14x4m swimming pool, fish ponds. 15 million baht. Contact Alex. Please call 089-651 3250.

**POOL VILLA  
MISSION HEIGHTS**

3 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, huge living room, large swimming pool, priced 12 million baht or 15 million baht, depending on your needs. For more information, please call 076-528024, 087-060 8400 (English). Email: piccharly@gmail.com

**HOUSE IN  
VILLA DOWROONG**

Phuket Town. 3 beds, 3 baths, 47sq wah. Tel: 089-909 2771.

**LAND & HOUSES 88  
NEW**

Chalong, only pool villa, 75sq wah, 3 bedrooms, exclusive modern interior design, corner house. Urgent sale: 9.75 million baht. Contact Thilo. Tel: 089-874 3376.

**HABITOWN  
KOH KAEW FOR SALE**

115sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, includes built-in furniture, 2 floors. Resale down 150,000 baht. Tel: 089-772 7012.

**30 RAI IN TOWN**

Flat land near Dowroong School in Phuket Town. Please call 081-691 25 26

**Baan Yamu  
Residences**

**Condominium available for sale**

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E-mail: info@baanyamu.com  
Tel: 076-310507

**PRIVATE POOL VILLA  
BANG TAO**

Private 1-bedroom pool villa for sale in top condition with a large roof top sala. Only 800m to the Beach. Price: 9.5 million baht. Please call 081-606 5604 (English & Thai). Email: info@phuketse- renityvillas.com, www.phuket- serenityvillas.com/salede tails.php?nom=RB001

**POOL VILLA NAI HARN  
6.4 MB**

Amazing value for money! 2-bedroom pool villa with garden in secured estate, Nai Harn. 6.4 million baht. Must see. No agents. Tel: 093-579 8503 (English).

**SEAVIEW CONDO  
RAWAI**

6.5 million baht, freehold, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Tel: 090-408 3800. Email: adrian\_troy@yahoo.com

**UK HOUSE  
PROPERTY SWAP**

Permanent exchange offered of very spacious extended, detached 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, garage, 3 reception rooms, etc. mortgage free, situated in UK, to swap for suitable property in good secure location in Phuket. Will also consider apartments. Please call 080-046 2845. Email: Lynne.Morze langan@yahoo.co.uk



## Properties For Rent

**HOUSE IN KATHU**

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, aircon, WiFi, kitchen. Located in Sabay Village, Kathu. 16,000 baht per month. For more information, please contact as follows: Tel: 089-203 9270 (English & Thai), 089-185 5318. Email: mathurot28@gmail.com

**HOUSE FOR RENT**

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-266 7191.

**CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE**

Phuket city, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus, 45sqm, 3 Fl at the corner with swimming pool view. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, hot water, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, 24 security and internet provided). Pls contact 086-4769612. Email: annanot1@hotmail.com

**RAWAI BEACH CONDO**

One bedroom, great views, 8,500 baht per month. Tel: 086-057 7714.

**MASSIVE APARTMENT**

Patong. Big pool, WiFi, kitchen, 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-271 70 92. Email: bricothermal@hotmail.com

**PATONG APARTMENT FOR RENT**

Condo: pool, security, 46sqm, fully furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

**CONDO IN TOWN FOR RENT**

The Base, downtown condo, opposite Central Festival. 1 bed, 1 bath, fully furnished, kitchen, key card, CCTV, security, car park. Tel: 081-537 9878, 089-729 8472. Email: tiwus@hotmail.co.th

**HOUSE FOR RENT PASAK SOI 8**

Near Laguna. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished with swimming pool. 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-087 3820.

**FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE**

1-3 bedrooms, Chalong area. Start from 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at <http://palaigreen.weebly.com>

**PATONG QUIET HOUSE**

2-bedroom, 1-bathroom house, large pool and enclosed yard, great for pets or kids, furnished, very nice, long term rent: 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-882 1963 (English), 088-464 3835 (Thai). Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

**HOUSE FOR RENT / SALE THALANG**

Fully furnished, 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Tel: 094-595 2451, 094-595 1444. Email: rightherephuket@gmail.com

**ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS**

Serviced apartment, studio. 1 / 2 bedroom(s), 1 / 2 bathroom(s), rooftop, pool, free WiFi. Tel: 076-203208, 081-892 0038. [www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com](http://www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com)

**DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDOS**

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

**ROOMS / APARTMENT FOR RENT**

Fully furnished. Price from 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

**POOL VILLA FOR RENT**

Bang Tao area. 1-2 bedroom, fully furnished. Price from 20,000 baht. For more information, please call 093-713 2278.

**NAI HARN HOUSE 2KM BEACH**

2-bedroom house for rent with aircon. Quiet Soi, walk to the beach. American owned. Tel: +1 048 0286 3866 (English) +1 062 3217 8117 (English & Thai). Email: kkareth@gmail.com

**SURIN BEACH**

1-2 bedroom(s). 300m to beach. Fully furnished. Direct pool access. Please call 081-835 0158 (English). Email: jgstryker@gmail.com

**FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE**

3 bedrooms, 400sqm, free WiFi and cable TV. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311. <http://palaigreen.weebly.com>

**TOWNHOUSE PHUKET TOWN FOR RENT / SALE**

In Supalai City Hill Estate, very quiet, safe, convenient. 3 years old, 2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, WiFi, decorated, shady garden, well-maintained by original owner. For sale: 2.8 million baht ono. Or long-term rent: 10,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 089-874 0061. Email: ste phenfein@gmail.com

**SPACIOUS 2-BED POOL VILLA**

Spacious Thai-style pool villa for holidays and vacation rent. This villa is an unbelievably large property for 2 bedrooms, ideal for your family. The villa is located in a nice, quiet neighborhood, but still near to the beaches, shops and restaurants. This villa comes fully equipped with everything you need. Available for the next 6 months. Minimum rental 1 week. Tel: 091-523 2776 (English). Email: farang742@gmail.com

**NEW COZY POOL VILLA**

Bang Tao close to Tesco Lotus and beaches, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, maid's room, private pool, furnished, aircon, parking, small garden, long term: 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-737 1687.

**B.L. APARTMENT**

At Kathu, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, hot shower, ADSL, swimming pool, garden and car park. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

**NEW CONDO FOR RENT**

Short or long-term rent at Kathu, fully furnished, swimming pool, fitness, quiet and secure. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com For further information, please see our website at [www.phuket-condo.net](http://www.phuket-condo.net)

**LUXURY APARTMENT @ PATONG**

Fully furnished, daily and monthly. For more information, please call 081-892 5983 (English & Thai), 081-894 4730 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-292149. Email: nanaivillaphuket@gmail.com, [www.nanaivilla.com](http://www.nanaivilla.com)

**HOUSE FOR RENT**

Long term, Boat Lagoon, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, fully furnished. Contact Fon. For more information, please call 084-629 32 44. Email: fon-daki@hotmail.com

**3-BEDROOM HOUSE FOR RENT**

Located between Tesco Lotus & Bangkok Phuket Hospital, opposite Club House Pool. Please call 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at <http://sites.google.com/site/phuketvillasamkong>

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**THAI STAFFS WANTED**

To work in a hotel: 1) Front Reception, full time. 2) Cook, part time only. 3) Groundkeeper, daily cleaning of pool, garden and walkways. Tel: 076-345251, 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

**FEMALE STAFF FOR TAO MASSAGE**

Tao massage therapy center, previous experience in massage preferred or training for happy caring people. Contact Dave. Email: day47@gmail.com

**JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT NEEDED**

To assist with the accounting tasks, including accounts receivable. Good spoken/written English and pleasant personality are a must. Tel: 076-227281, 081-893 5492 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-227073. For further information on the job, please see our website at [www.aquamasster.net/job.html](http://www.aquamasster.net/job.html)

**LOOKING FOR MANAGER AT WAKE PARK**

Aged 25 years or older, permanent resident of Phuket, Russian speaking with excellent knowledge of English and preferably Thai. Official papers (no benefits, work permit), salary starts from 30,000 baht. Tel: 089-870 2796. Please send CV to opaopa543@mail.ru

**BANDS NEEDED**

Slippery Club needs bands that can play danceable songs. Details negotiable. Tel: 089-873 1867 (English & Thai). Email: minami007.jn@gmail.com

**SWEDISH STAFF WANTED**

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

**PROPERTY SALES MANAGER**

We are now looking for an experienced Sales Manager to operate our office in our condominium development. You will handle all agencies on the island and make sure our project reaches its goals and targets in selling our available units. Multilingual is a plus and experience in the Phuket property market is a must. Terms and conditions will be negotiated. Please contact us via [info@phuket-condos-homes.com](mailto:info@phuket-condos-homes.com)

**PROPERTY MARKETING MANAGER**

Phuket's leading real estate agency is now recruiting a Marketing Manager (foreign national) to oversee our marketing venues and operations. You will be coordinating the marketing staff in terms of schedules, motivation and making sure the production is at its peak. You need to have major experience in Marketing and know your way around Phuket. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152 (English). Please send your CV with recent picture to [info@phuket-condos-homes.com](mailto:info@phuket-condos-homes.com)

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT WANTED**

Thai national only. Admin support to management at Phuket Fit resort. Sec-retarial and administrative tasks. Please contact: [liam@phuketfit.com](mailto:liam@phuketfit.com)

**SOCIAL MEDIA TO HELP DOGS!**

Soi Dog Foundation seeks a Social Media Officer to lead our Facebook page and create and publish content. Excellent creative writing, strong video and photo skills, and empathy for animals required. Tel: 087-263 0827, 081-788 4222 (English & Thai). Email: [gregg@soidog.org](mailto:gregg@soidog.org) Learn more at [www.SoiDog.org](http://www.SoiDog.org)

**GUEST SERVICES**

At Escape Hunt Phuket, Kathu, 5 days per week. Tel: 082-7899620. Apply and inquire to [phuket@escapehunt.com](mailto:phuket@escapehunt.com)

**YOGA TEACHER WANTED**

Qualified yoga instructor to teach at PhuketFit Resort. Please apply with resume and qualifications. Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: [liam@phuketfit.com](mailto:liam@phuketfit.com)

**ENGLISH-SPEAKING GUIDES**

Phi Phi Island. We are looking for 2 English-speaking guides for our overnight boat tour which leaves from Phi Phi Don. The job is to entertain and keep our customers safe. If you look after our customers well, we will look after you. Contact Siripan. Tel: 087-382 9163.

**Phuket Gazette**

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

**CLASSIFIEDS ADMINISTRATION 1 POSITION**

Qualified candidates will be:

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged 22 years up
- ▶ Service-minded with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Able to work well with large numbers of advertisers, both foreign and Thai

and should have:

- ▶ A Bachelor's Degree from a recognizable university
- ▶ A good sense of organization and respect for details
- ▶ Knowledge of basic office software, InDesign and PageMaker would be a plus.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Anna at [Anna@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:Anna@PhuketGazette.Net)

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasatttri Rd, Koh Kaew  
A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-273555, ext 102 Fax: 076-615240

**RESORT STAFF WANTED**

Urgently: night reception, house-keeping, restaurant and kitchen staff. Tel: 076-613903, 089-723 1128 (Thai), 085-227 8864. Email: [yussies@gmail.com](mailto:yussies@gmail.com)

**ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER**

Looking: TO min 2 yrs exp. Com+spiff+monthly bonus. WP+SS. Tel: 076-342794, 088-450 1833. Contact: [hr@davidvacationclub.com](mailto:hr@davidvacationclub.com)

**BUILDING MANAGER @BANGTAO**

Bachelor's degree, excellent in both written and spoken English, strong analytical and problem-solving skills. Tel: 076-238299. Email: [Thomrath.Anantaworapoth@ap.jll.com](mailto:Thomrath.Anantaworapoth@ap.jll.com)

**OFFICE ASSISTANT**

Siam Real Estate requires a Thai office assistant with English and computer skills, based in Rawai. Must be organised and have good communication skills. Tel: 076-288908. Send CV to [dew@siamrealestate.com](mailto:dew@siamrealestate.com)

**AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE**

We are currently seeking trusted, fluent in English, professional candidates for the position of advertising sales representative in Phuket. Level/salary range: up to 40,000 baht (first-full year earnings potentials). The position is open for Thai and foreigners (work permit required). Kindly send your resume by email. Email: [info@phuketitaly.com](mailto:info@phuketitaly.com)

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

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

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

**PATONG**

- NEW Andy's Real Estate Agency (Opp. Savoeys Seafood)
- ▶ Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza)
- ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza)

Tel: 076-341644  
Tel: 076-344521-2  
Tel: 076-290468

**PHUKET CITY**

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

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

**CHERNG TALAY**

- ▶ Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: 076-325586

**RAWAI**

- ▶ The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: 076-388144

**KARON**

- ▶ EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

Tel: 076-396911

**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)**

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

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



**EUROPEAN CHEFS**

We are hiring Sous Chef and Executive Chef. We want both full-time. Good salary and work permit for the right candidate. Tel: 081-905 8353. Email: hr.bangtao@oceanresortgroup.net

**ADMIN HOTEL WANTED**

Experience needed in Microsoft Excel and Word. Daily record on cash income, stocks, timecards, and booking vouchers. Good comments in English writing and speaking working under GM. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

**MARKETING EXECUTIVE WANTED**

Urgent! Real estate marketing @ HomePro Chalong and Patong. Must speak English and be positive and flexible. Average income: 25-50,000 baht per month. Email: kannikar\_8@hotmail.com www.thaiglobalconsulting.com

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT**

A private family is looking for a personal assistant to be located in Bang Jo, Phuket, full time, start as soon as possible. Must be fluent in Thai & English educated, love animals, be flexible with work hours, be a fast and motive worker. Attractive salary offered, please email CV to sherin.peace@gmail.com

**BRANCH MANAGER**

ISS Facility Services require Branch Managers for 2 new locations in Had Yai and Koh Samui. Preferred applicants are English-speaking Thai nationals, degree educated with previous experience in property or hotel management. Excellent salary and benefits on offer. Tel: 076-610315, 081-958 6879. Email: scott.d@th.issworld.com

**PROJECT SECRETARY (THAI) WANTED**

At least 3 years experience in the construction industry. Able to speak, write and read English and Thai. Full understanding of Microsoft Office (Excel, Outlook and Word). Salary based on experience, excellent benefits. Send your CV to info@avcphuket.com

**RUSSIAN SALES REP. WANTED**

Russian lady sales needed for real estate. Highest commission in Phuket. Located on Patong Beach, Phuket. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

**SALES MANAGER**

For designer ladies fashion boutique in Surin. Good salary plus commissions, must speak English. Tel: 085-153 1403.

**VILLA MANAGER (LIVE IN)**

Manager of house team, House keeper, Food & Beverage, Repairs. Excellent spoken English, leadership, service-minded skills. Own car. Tel: 087-881 0003. Send CV to hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com

**PR & MARKETING**

The View Condominium.  
- Female, 20-35 years.  
- To promote the property with prospective customers at our booth  
- Coordinate with recruiters  
- Collaborate with team  
- Language: English and Russian or English and Chinese. Tel: 086-439 9996, 081-666 6622. Email: sales@theviewphuket.com, info@theviewphuket.com

**KARON CLIFF**

Hostess, maid, engineer, waiter, and kitchen staff wanted. Tel: 087-265 6089.

**EARN 30,000-120,000 BAHT/MONTH**

Cruise ship staff needed. Work 3-7 month shift. All expenses paid. Must speak English. Tel: 093-728 1003 (English). Send resume / photo to jobs@sea staffing.com

**YACHT STEWARDESS**

Thai national, 2 females, good English, salary+ tips. Tel: 087-384 2743(Thai). Email: info@yacht-charter-thailand.com

**RECEPTIONIST WANTED**

For small guesthouse near the beach in Patong. Good salary and benefits. Some spoken and written English and computer skills preferred. contact John. Tel: 092-069 7408. Email: jmiles@inet.net.au

**TEACHERS WANTED**

Chalermprakit School is looking for native English speakers. A bachelor's degree and TEFL are required. Tel: 085-781 9162. Send your CV to swpk\_mip@yahoo.com, please contact Clark

**FOOD AND BEVERAGE MANAGER**

New 4-star hotel in Malaysia looking for young and energetic expat to run the food and beverage department. Previous experience in similar position not required but this position requires a strong kitchen background. Email: Nazri@an casanet.com

**PHP PROGRAMMER**

Seeking a PHP programmer with experience in Code Igniter for a long-term project. Tel: 094-316 6005 (English & Thai). Email: john@jpdigitaltech.com

**HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED**

To manage and ensure the cleanliness of our operation. Must be a dynamic team worker with a pleasant personality. Contact us. Tel: 076-281227, 081-893 5492 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-281227. Email: jtisser@aquamaster.net

**3 WAITRESSES FOR RESTAURANT**

Three English-speaking waitresses wanted for restaurant. Thai national only. Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

**RESTAURANT STAFF**

New restaurant "Thai Basil". Bartender: 15,000 baht. Waiters/waitresses: 14,000 baht plus tips. Manager: 25,000 baht. Soi Bangla, 58/7-8, contact, between 4pm and 7pm. Email: office@thaibasil.phuket.com

**THAI RECEPTIONIST NEEDED**

Small Tree House Resort in Khao Sok (Surat Thani) is looking for 2 receptionists (Thai only) with proper English skills. Salary from 10,000 to 15,000 baht depending on experience, accommodation, 3 meals a day and social security are free of charge provided by the resort. Tel: 081-273 8324 (Thai). Please send an email to kaosok.hotels@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.khao sok-hotels.com

**Ocean Resort Group**

is currently seeking

- Guest Relations Officer
- Native speaking Russia Kids Club host

Requirements:

Male/ Female. Minimum 2 years similar experience, fluent in Russian + English and experience working in Thailand.

Please email your English resume to:

hrsunwing@oceanresortgroup.net or call +66 76 314 263 ext. 7732.

**NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER**

Brainy House is looking for part-time native English teachers. Start as soon as possible. Tel: 076-522822, 080-907 7466 (English & Thai). Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

**COOK / CHEF**

Cook wanted in a small Ban Moon noodle bar, to cook basic Thai and European food. Room available as part of wages. Tel: 083-690 7014 (English). Please call or email micknppr@hotmail.com

**THAI FEMALE BUSINESS PARTNER**

Needed for proven farang entrepreneur, full training in massage therapy, any age, all offers considered. Tel: 094-652 2029.

**RAW FOOD CHEF WANTED**

Thai national: raw food chef, good salary + benefits! Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

**NANNY**

Must be experienced with child care. Needed after school and weekends for two young boys. Thai only. Tel: 081-978 7756. Email: scot@paresaresorts.com

**WEB DEVELOPER / PROGRAMMER**

Bachelor's degree in related field. Knowledge of PHP, Javascript, jQuery, MySQL required. 2 years experience, English speaking. Send CV to hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com

**FARANG HANDYMAN / THAI MAID**

Live-in farang handyman (with all tools) and maid (Thai), available for hotel or luxury villa. Can attend interview immediately. Contact Lee. Tel: 081-787 9767.

**GM TOP ECO-RESORT KHAO SOK**

Manager must speak good Thai, be strong in web marketing, knowledge of local nature, and people skills to deal with Thai staff, resort guests, local community. Farang with Thai partner welcome. Work permit, housing and meals provided. Compensation: 1.2 to 3 million baht/year depending on experience. Email: dicksandl@gmail.com

**Live in Town?**  
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at  
**iTree Complete Printing Service**



Simply write out your ad,  
pay and leave it with  
**Khun Nan: (076-255425)**

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

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

**Live in Patong?**  
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at  
**Andy's Real Estate Agency (AREA)**



Simply write out your ad,  
pay and leave it with  
**Khun Andy: (076-341644)**

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

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

**Looking for a JOB?**

**Looking for a better candidate?**

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at **WWW.PHUKETGAZETTE.NET!**







## Business Products &amp; Services



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

- Experienced nannies.
- Nutritious meals.
- Reasonable rates.
- Skill development activities

## CALL NOW:

081-868 7676 (English).  
080-525 3135 (Thai)

## SEO-SOCIAL MEDIA INTERNET

A customized campaign by our SEO specialists will improve your Google ranking and focus your internet marketing efforts. Free quote. Please contact by email: julianburgess@myway.com

## VISA SERVICES

UAE and Singapore for 3 days. For more information, please call 080-697 1860. Email: sky75@list.ru

## MASSAGE THERAPY AT YOUR PLACE

Thai traditional massage: 500 baht per hour. Aromatherapy massage: 1,000 baht per hour. Call for reservations. Open daily 9am-10pm. Tel: 092-464 8471.

## WORLDWIDE AIR TICKETS

Our service is for domestic and international flight tickets. Open daily from 8.30am to 9pm. Delivery service. Please call 081-537 2655, 085-571 4489.

## 40FT SEA CONTAINER

For sale: secondhand sea container 40ft. I can send a photo. Please contact Rob for more information. Tel: 084-744 4648 (English). Email: vb331@hotmail.com

## STRESSED OVER PARTIES?

Plan your party for all your supplies at Party Always. We are located at Wana Park Cherng Talay. For more information, please call 076-620 166. Email: karen\_leong sk@yahoo.com.sg

## Lost &amp; Found

## STOLEN HUBLOT WATCH REWARD

During a house burglary in the Surin Beach area around April 22, a Hublot bracelet watch in pink gold was stolen. Reward of 100,000 baht will be paid to anyone who can advise on the watch's return. Tel: 083-280 9100 (English), 087-290 1019 (Thai). Email: johanhultner@hotmail.com

## Personal Services

## INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING

US licensed counselor. Children-Adults-Families. Phuket mental health counseling. For more information, please call 086-271 8153 (English). Email: parwgk@aol.com

## LEGAL SERVICES

Contract drafting, counseling, civil & criminal action, court interpreter. For more information, please call 089-873 6533. Fax: 076-273399. Email: info@suwatchana-law-office.com

## Personal Services Wanted

## NANNY WANTED



I am looking for a full time Thai nanny for Angela - 3 years old. Must love kids. Flexibility important as it can be 15 hours one week and 40 hours another week. Full monthly salary, regardless of the hours spent. Must have a driver's license and speak English. Angela is in school from 8am-3pm. Working hours: after 3pm on week days and weekend work can appear. Please respond by email: torben@buskjensen.dk

## Education



## Oak Meadow International School

From 1 - 16 Years Old  
Providing quality, affordable primary education

076 521 550

www.oakmeadowphuket.com



## Miscellaneous For Sale

## SOLD SECOND HAND



- Musical instrument. Jazz guitar. Price: 35,000 baht.
- Orange amplifier. Price: 40,000 baht.
- Vintage French-style bookcase. Price: 170,000 baht.
- Showcase. Price: 180,000 baht.

Please contact 081-667 1637 (Thai), Khun JP 082-539 6433 (English)

## Personals

## JOIN RAWAI BACKGAMMON CLUB

For free. Tel: 081-370 9661.

## BACKGAMMON

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

## Phuket Gazette

PROMOTION PRICE  
Your Ad on **PGTV**

## CLASSIFIED AD ORDER FORM

STANDARD AD (Text only): **140 baht/line**

## OPTIONS (NEWSPAPER ONLY - NOT WEB):

Special font / layout	250 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box	250 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box with red headline	350 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box with black background	350 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box with color background	500 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photo	650 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tick here:

NUMBER OF INSERTIONS: ..... issue(s)

## ONLINE OPTIONS:

Web link	350 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photo	500 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>

All ads in the newspaper run online automatically and free charge.

## TELEVISION OPTION:

Your ad with photo displayed by PGTV on 3 cable networks, 70 times a week

350 baht



Total cost of your classified ..... baht

Each line is **140 baht**, with a minimum of 4 lines (headline included). All ads must be paid in advance. The editors reserve the right not to publish any unsuitable material. In the event of non-publication of an advertisement for any reason, the publisher's liability shall be limited to the amount paid for the advertisement.

Please note: We are unable to offer refunds for any unused ads.

For more information, Please call 076-273555.

Email: Kookai@phuketgazette.net, or Diao@phuketgazette.net

## SAMPLE ADS

## TOYOTA HILUX HERO

Pick-up, 4-door, 2.4L diesel. Good condition. Stereo. Only 95,000 km. Carefully maintained, service record available. Quick sale at 120,000 baht. Tel Khun Noi on 076 668126/7.

Standard: 840 baht (incl VAT)

Standard + Special font/layout + Box:  
1,340 baht (incl VAT) →

## NATIVE TEACHER OF ENGLISH TO YOUNG CHILDREN SEEKS CHALLENGING POSITION IN PHUKET

I will move to Phuket soon. Three yrs teaching in Bangkok

Phone Mr Reece  
(02) 668-1268

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

..... (Headline)	
.....	
.....	
.....	560 Baht
.....	700 Baht
.....	840 Baht
.....	980 Baht
.....	1,120 Baht
.....	1,260 Baht
.....	1,400 Baht

Online: www.phuketgazette.net / tv | www.youtube.com / PGTVPhuket



## Rentals

Click 125i: 3,500 baht per month, CBR 250R: 8,500 baht per month, PCX: 5,500 baht per month. Tel: 081-978 15 58. Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

**Live in Karon?**  
**Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at**  
**Euro style tailors**

Phuket Orchid Resort & Spa

Luangphochuain Rd

Karon Beach

Patak West Rd

Patak East Rd

Euro Style Tailors

Phuket Island View

Simply write out your ad,  
pay and leave it with  
**Khun Anand: 076-396911**  
**081-536 5550**

**GAZETTE CLASSADS** - they work  
because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads  
in print every week, all published simultaneously  
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**The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!**



THAILAND'S LEADING BROKERAGE & NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP

**LEE MARINE**  
International Marine Brokerage  
SINCE 1997

Please visit our website for more used power & sail listings:  
[www.leemarine.com](http://www.leemarine.com)

**Feature Boat**

► Riviera 37 \$225,000 USD **REDUCED**

► Symbol 57 \$460,000 USD

► AIDhaen 360SF \$90,000 USD **BRING OFFERS**

► Fusion 40 340,000 Euro

► Riviera Offshore Express \$499,000 AUD **PRICE REDUCTION**

► Island Packet 40 120,000 Euro

► Fountaine Pajot Lavezzi 40 \$319,000 USD

► Northwind 60 250,000 Euro **PRICE REDUCTION**

► Jeanneau 45 SO Performance \$230,000 USD **BRING OFFERS**

Martin Holmes Mobile: 081 891 7057 Email: martin@leemarine.com  
 Marcus Overman Mobile: 081 968 1437 Email: marcus@leemarine.com  
 Jim Poulsen Mobile: 081 891 3237 Email: jim@leemarine.com  
 Mark Heath Mobile: 081 787 9408 Email: mark@leemarine.com

**leemarine.com**

**50FT BERTRAM SPORTFISHER**

1989 Bertram 50S convertible. Price: 7 million baht. Tel: 087-834 5293. Email: sfiori@hotmail.com

**HOBIE CAT 17**

Catamaran for sale: Hobie 17 with wings, road trailer, beach trailer. Tel: 086-773 4538 (English). Email: skgf@skgf.asia

**BAYLINER 190**

115hp Mercury 4-stroke. 15hp auxiliary 4-stroke, new 300W stereo, GPS, trailer, Thai registered, 2009, price: 590,000 baht. Tel: 084-584 6795 (English). Email: hanspaessler@me.com

**FIBERGLAS ONE ENGINE BOAT**

Speedboat for sale. Made in 2012, engine 115hp overhauled in 2013, excellent condition. Price: 350,000 baht. Tel: 087-897 0076 (English). Email: kp@ppc.cz

**SELLING YOUR BOAT?**

Just around the corner, now is the right time to get her listed, Boatshed phuket. com are always looking for new listings, big or small, power or sail, to meet the demand for quality boats. Contact Alan Giles. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

**FAST FOLDING TRIMARAN**

American designed 29ft fast, folding Trimaran for sale with trailer. Suitable for racing or cruising. Thai registered, ex-pat owned. Tel: 085-781 9756 (English). Email: awildgoose@awildgoose.co.uk For full details and price, please go to [www.awildgoose.co.uk](http://www.awildgoose.co.uk)

**BOAT INSURANCE** LBI

**Lambert Brothers Insurance Brokers**

- Boat insurance quotations from different insurers
- Competitive rates
- Comprehensive coverage
- All other types of insurance provided

Contact Khun Paew, Ton, Tux or Jane at our office  
Phuket Boat Lagoon  
paew@lambertbrothers.co.th  
Tel: + 66 76 273 385

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

**SEARAY 280 SUNDANCER**

2 new engines 300hp fitted 2013, includes trailer and covers. Price: 4,250,000 baht. Tel: 081-968 3118. Email: info@procarpentering.com

**RIB WILLIAMS 325 TURBOJET**

Williams 325 turbojet for sale. 2010, excellent condition. 40 knots in 4 seconds! Sunbrella covers. Price for new unit: 991,620 baht. Price now: 550,000 baht! Tel: 093-631 0874 (English), 084-744 4304 (Thai). Email: 345589@inbox.ru

Yachting Freedom Since 1984

**SIMPSON MARINE BROKERAGE**

2013 Lagoon 400S2 - EUR 357,000 **Reduced**

2008 Azimut 47 - EUR 499,000 **Reduced**

2011 Princess 42 - USD 650,000

2012 Fusion 40 - EUR 345,000

Sistership

Yachting Freedom begins with a call to our team:

Sergio Loiacono +66 (0) 86 277 3360 sergio.l@simpsonmarine.com  
 Максим Волков +66 (0) 84 745 9900 maksim.volkov@simpsonmarine.com  
 Adam Blackmore +66 (0) 81 892 8919 adam.blackmore@simpsonmarine.com  
 Nicole van de Wall +66 (0) 93 140 5088 nicole.vandewall@simpsonmarine.com

**13-METER CRUISER**

Wooden hull cruiser registered for 17 people. Cost 1.6 million baht, but will sell for 700,000 baht. Just refurbished. Tel: 082-414 6931 (English). Email: phil@krabikonnect.com please see our website at [www.krabikonnect.com/](http://www.krabikonnect.com/) #boat-for-sale/c10mg

**NEW ALESSANDRO MARCHI**

Hypalon RIB (LOA 24'). High quality Hypalon tubes. Free Chart plotter and VHF, 175hp 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and trailer. 1,695,000 baht. Contact Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

**CAPELLI RIB FOR SALE**

Capelli RIB, 8m. 250hp Yamaha 4-stroke outboard motor with 361 hours. Garmin GPS with Blue chart for Southeast Asia. 860,000 baht. Tel: 076-348134, 084-626 4969 (English). Fax: 076-348134. Email: neef@wanadoo.fr

**FOR SALE: HOBIE BRAVO 12'**

Fantastic little Hobie Catamaran. Great for kids and adults wanting a fun dinghy boat responsive in light wind. Length 12'. Sail area: 86sqf/8sqm. Email: jezntat@gmail.com or call our Thai mobile: 086-685 9359, or to Singapore: +65-977 38457.

**SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S****Cryptic crossword****COFFEE break**

Abbreviations: UPPER CASE (if used as part of anagram, in brackets).

Normal spelling: lower case.

Anagrams: *italic* (indicated in clue by words 'out', 'possibly', 'strangely', 'wild', or similar).

Letters left out: underlined.

Across: 9. DESERTER: *steered* 10. GOA: turn-A 11. UNLESS: U.N.-less 12. SPINAL: S-plain 13. NAITHON: *ahotinn* 14. NOTE: not-E 15. INTERACTED: in-T-reacted 17. LEATHERN: *learnthe* 18. DISPUTE: *sideput* 19. AGOG: a-go-G 21. INTACT: in-tact 24. DESPERATE MEASURES: *resumesseparated*(E) 27. CRADLE: Cr-deal 29. INTO: in-to 30. PARAGON: *nor a gap* 33. FOURTEEN: *fenroute* 35. FRONTSEATS: *fortestsan* 36. ADIT: A.D.-it 37. TALIBAN: *banalit* 38. SWEATY: *westay* 40. ASHLAR: (L)harsh 41. SIR: is(REV)-R 42. CHANGWAT: *nagwatch* Down: 1. KEEPINMIND: maintain fashionable concern 2. LEAN: incline 3. STALWART: *startlaw* 4. GRANITE: *train*(E.G.) 5. PATHOLOGIES: *hopeitsgoal* 6. QUANDARIES: *asquireand* 7. CLINCH: Cl.-inch 8. ESOTERIC: *sorecite* 10. GRIND: *riding* 16. EXPOSED: Ex.-posed 20. GREAT: *target* 22. TERRACE: (R)create 23. NATIONALIST: country a leaning 25. ELEMENTARY: *merelyanet* 26. SPORTSMAN: *spotmaster* 28. ROUNDISH: *idrushon* 31. ARTESIAN: *sireatan* 32. CORNICE: cor-nice 34. RATTLE: *letrat* 35. FIBER: (B)fire 30. ERGO: *rogeR*

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# Clean the Beach Boot Camp parties on Phi Phi

Over fifty tourists, locals and expats joined Krix Luther in celebrating the one-year anniversary of Clean the Beach Boot Camp by taking the workout and cleanup off Phuket to Koh Phi Phi, where they set a new record for the amount of trash collected.



Founder of the Clean the Beach Boot Camp Krix Luther.



Clean the Beach Boot Camp founder Krix Luther hands over the rubbish to Tero Kenmas, manager of The Adventure Club, for proper disposal.



The event, sponsored by the 'Phuket Today' show and Blue World Safaris, collected a record amount of rubbish after a short workout.



Blue World Safaris Owner Mike Sallows (blue trunks) takes part in the workout before joining the cleanup.



The Blue World Safaris catamaran made a stop for participants to watch dolphins as part of the outing.

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# Older, wiser, wealthier

## Top five mistakes people make en route to a happy retirement

### Finance

By David Mayes

I AM a big believer that it is much less painful to learn from the mistakes of others than from our own. Unfortunately, it is much more difficult since the pain that comes along with making the mistake yourself has a tremendous reinforcement effect. However, there are few common blunders that are so easily avoidable that it boggles my mind how many people make them.

#### Don't spend more than you earn

This is a disease made popular by America. Instead of delaying gratification and reaping the rewards that savings and investments bring to you later in life, many in the modern world of finance choose today at the expense of tomorrow.

Racking up an ever-increasing mountain of debt can destroy your chances of becoming financially independent. Get in the habit now of sticking something away every month, and if you are in debt use a portion of those savings to begin the journey towards becoming debt-free.

#### Don't over-invest in depreciating assets

There will never be enough money to buy all of the toys you want. Even if you could, they would need to be replaced, maintained and a bunch of smart engineers will shortly be designing even better and pricier toys.

Cars, boats, tablets, smartphones, televisions, clothing and many other things often claim the lion's share of an individual's discretionary income. Some of these are unavoidable purchases, but the percentage of our income that goes into them is not carved in stone. It has always amazed me how many people I know with the smallest

incomes seem to be the most fixated on upgrading their wardrobe, car, phone or other disposable item.

#### Stay sane with leverage

Going crazy with leverage is very tempting when things are going well and asset prices are advancing rapidly. Especially dangerous is debt that carries variable interest rates as your future liabilities are uncertain.

Many very wealthy families, banks and even sovereign governments have been brought down due to the inherent dangers of debt. It may increase the gains in good times, but it can put you into the poor house in bad times. Bad times will always come and to be frank, oversized returns are just not needed. There are few times when debt is often unavoidable of course, such as a mortgage on your first home.

#### Beware of liquidity

You should have your money invested in asset classes corresponding to the correct time frame for when you need to access and use it. Too many people place short-term money into long-term investments and are later forced to sell at a loss to meet liquidity requirements.

There is no such thing as too large of an emergency cash reserve. Most of life's major cash flows – rents, schooling fees, retirement, and so on – can be fairly easily foreseen, so it is just a function of planning accordingly.

#### Never place all of your eggs in one basket

This can never be said too many times. I have seen too many "nothing can go wrong" mishaps to know how damaging and stressful they can be. No promise of chance at gain is worth it, when simple compounding interest at a low rate of return is all that is needed to achieve exponential real growth.



Make these mistakes and you will never end up like him. Photo: digitaldeconstruction.com

These rules get right to the heart of growing and protecting wealth. Earning more than you spend means you will always be saving and adding to your nest egg.

Placing the savings into appreciating assets and avoiding large, leverage-induced losses will mean the ability of your nest egg to provide should also always be growing. Diversification will further protect that nest egg from any of the potential dangers ever present in the investment landscape.

Real financial independence comes about when the passive income from your nest egg becomes large enough that you no longer have to work to continue to save

money. That day should come for everyone if they follow these simple rules, as they are based in fundamental and simple mathematical concepts.

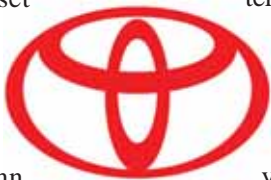
It doesn't matter if you are back home or here in Phuket, math is the same everywhere and doesn't change when you cross borders.

David Mayes MBA lives in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expatriates around the globe, focusing on UK pension transfers. Faramond UK is regulated by the FCA and provides advice on taxation and pensions. He can be reached at david.m@faramond.com or 085-3358573.

# Toyota goes Eco in Phuket Town

It took 280 million baht, excluding the land value, to set up a new Toyota Showroom in Phuket Town; but now it's here and ready to please.

As the first "Eco showroom" in southern Thailand, and eighth in the whole country, the new Toyota Phuket Motors showroom dedicates 30 per



cent of itself to plants, and the interior incorporates a sea theme, which provides a relaxing and refreshing atmosphere for customers who pay the outlet a visit.

The new outlet deals in both new and second-hand cars, offering genuine Toyota parts as

well as a number of services including car body repairs, paint services and more. An experienced team of mechanics certified by the Toyota Institute will deliver all the services with state-of-the-art tools.

The "Eco showroom" concept was created in order to raise the standard of Toyota showrooms and service centers and to make them more environmentally friendly.

– Phuket Gazette

Toyota Phuket Motors is located in 56 Mealuan Road, Tambon Taladnear, Muang, Phuket 83000. For more information contact the call center at 076 360500 or sales department at 076 360555, Fax : 076 360596



The new Toyota showroom in Phuket Town offers a number of services in an eco' atmosphere. Photo: myhsu



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# Welcome: RPM hands over the reins to new managing director

MICHAEL Ayling, former Managing Director of Laguna Resorts & Hotels, today began his new role as Managing Director/General Manager at Royal Phuket Marina (RPM).

"The goal is to make RPM a destination, not just a marina, and Michael has vast experience in this field," RPM Chairman Gulu Lalvani told the *Phuket Gazette*.

Mr Lalvani also revealed plans for RPM to develop several high-end hotels in time to open in 2017.

Mert Ulusoy will continue in his current role as General Manager until the end of the month, Mr Lalvani confirmed to the *Gazette*.

"He will be leaving to pursue other interests. On behalf of the entire team at RPM, I wish him every success for his future endeavors," Mr Lalvani said.

The overlap in work roles is to

"allow ample time for a seamless handover", Mr Lalvani added.

Mr Ayling, British by birth, but now also an Australian national, resigned from his position with Laguna Hotels & Resorts on May 31, 2012 after 12 successful years with the company. His resignation was made in order to enter private consultancy.

"Michael Ayling has enjoyed a varied career spanning three continents in the disciplines of finance and general management in the financial services, hotel, hospitality and property development sectors," Mr Lalvani said.

"He brings with him a wealth of relevant experience to help make Royal Phuket Marina the destination in Phuket."

Mr Ayling has significant experience in the management and development of integrated resorts through his positions as the Finance



RPM's new Managing Director Michael Ayling. Photo: Supplied



Michael Ayling has accepted the role as Managing Director/General Manager of Royal Phuket Marina. Photo: Helicam

Director, and then the Managing Director of Laguna Resorts & Hotels, for a total of 12 years, during which he was responsible for:

- Overseeing eight hotels at two different locations (including two Banyan Trees, a Dusit Thani and a Sheraton Grande)
- The Laguna Phuket golf course
- Property development, construction, marketing and sales operations of over 300 residences
- A vacation ownership program
- Estate management and rental pool operations
- Establishing and managing

numerous corporate juristic entities (CJEs) for condominiums throughout Laguna Phuket

- A central facilities management operation (including laundry, landscaping and transportation)
- Fostering relations at both local and central government levels
- Development and implementation of numerous corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives
- Managing the corporate governance, legal and reporting requirements of a listed company in Thailand

Mr Ayling was also an Executive Director for Laguna Vietnam

Limited, a fund developing an integrated resort in Central Vietnam that was under construction during his time with the group. Specifically, he was responsible for establishing the property sales operation, as well as the design, development and construction of the Nick Faldo Championship Golf course.

Mr Ayling was also significantly involved in the successful initial public offering (IPO) of Banyan Tree Holdings Ltd on the Singapore Stock Exchange in 2006 and was also a member of the Banyan Tree Hotels Executive Committee. – *Phuket Gazette*

## Jungceylon enjoys Q1 boost in traffic

JUNGCEYLON Patong has announced a 20 per cent increase in clients for the first quarter this year over its figures during the same period in 2013.

The increase has resulted in the daily averages at the Phuket shopping mall jumping from 45,000 – 50,000 visitors a day to 50,000 – 55,000, explained Chief Executive Officer of Jungceylon Patong Phuket Prawit Janyasittikul.

Jungceylon is projecting a seven per cent increase in revenue this year, reaching about 800 million baht, he added.

However, with the low season dominating quarter two and three, Jungceylon

will shift its focus toward the Asian and Middle-Eastern markets, said Mr Prawit.

"Additionally, we will be promoting ourselves to locals through corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs," Mr Prawit said.

Jungceylon has boosted its event and marketing budget this year by 3 million baht, bringing it up to 45 million.

The budget will be evenly split between events and marketing, Mr Prawit said.

"Since last year, we have seen a sharp increase in the number of Asian and Russian tourists. So, in addition to creating marketing information in Thai and English,

we are providing Jungceylon in-store media in Chinese and Russian in order to serve and communicate more efficiently with members of these market groups."

Last year, the company invested 50 million baht to develop three new zones: Beauty Zone, The Port Zone and Silang Boulevard Zone.

"With those renovations complete, Jungceylon has started to develop a Food Court Zone and That's Siam Zone. Both are slated to be in operation before the high-season.

The That's Siam Zone is planned to house 130 shops, including 40 massage



Jungceylon Patong Phuket CEO Prawit Janyasittikul. Photo: Supplied

parlors and two spas, making it the largest Thai Art and Crafts area in Phuket, Mr Prawit noted. – *Phuket Gazette*

## Angsana welcomes new GM

ANGSANA Hotels & Resorts' has appointed Albert Ocasio as the new general manager of their flagship property Angsana Laguna Phuket.

Mr Ocasio joined Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts in January 2011, when he was formerly the Hotel Manager at Banyan Tree, Vabbinfaru, in the North Male Atoll in the Maldives. He was promoted to general manager at Angsana Velavaru in April 2012 before transferring to Angsana Laguna Phuket.

Mr Ocasio has extensive experience in the hospitality industry



New GM Albert Ocasio. Photo: Supplied

with more than 17 years in the luxury travel market. Before joining Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts,

he held positions at Ritz-Carlton properties in the United States, Middle East, Mexico and the Caribbean. He also played a key role in various pre-openings and task force assignments with both Banyan Tree and Ritz-Carlton.

A native of Puerto Rico, Mr Ocasio spent his formative years travelling throughout the United States, Europe, Central America and the Caribbean with his family, as his father was an officer in the United States Army.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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# In the middle, westward bound

## Books

By James Eckardt

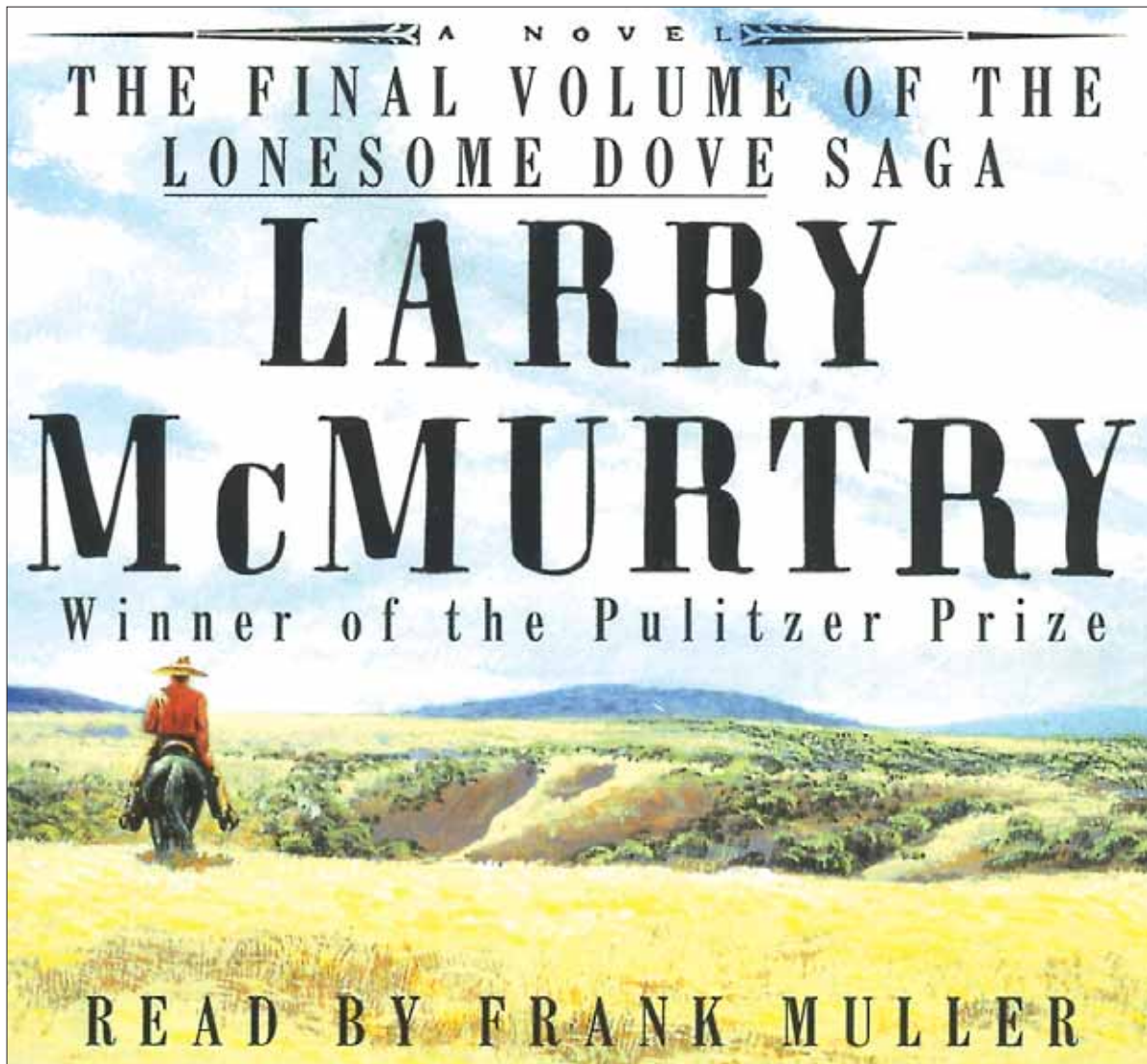
LIKE the ancient Greek dramatists, Larry McMurtry began his epic tale of the Old West in the middle. *Lonesome Dove* is a novel about two aging ex-Texas Rangers who run a cattle herd from the Rio Grande to Montana in 1876, after the Sioux and Cheyenne have been defeated following Custer's Last Stand.

Among McMurtry's 30 novels, *Lonesome Dove* is probably his most famous, winner of the 1985 Pulitzer Prize and source for a wildly popular TV mini-series starring Robert Duvall and Tommy Lee Jones as the Ranger captains Augustus McCrae and Woodrow Call.

A decade later, McMurtry filled in the saga with two more novels about their teenage years and old age. In 1997, he published *Comanche Moon* (Simon & Schuster, New York, 1997, 716pp), which features the two Rangers in their prime, battling Comanches and Mexican bandits from 1855 till a few years after the Civil War – the story any reader of *Lonesome Dove* will yearn for.

McMurtry doesn't disappoint. The very first line plunges you into the tale: "Captain Inish Scull liked to boast that he had never been thwarted in pursuit – as he liked to put it – of a felonious foe, whether Spanish, savage, or white."

He is leading a Ranger troop of 12 men on an all-night chase through freezing sleet along the Palo Duro Canyon in pursuit of a Comanche horse thief named Kicking Wolf. Among the Rangers are Call and McCrae.



Larry McMurtry never abandoned the pursuit of his characters in *Comanche Moon*. Photo: Supplied

Kicking Wolf not only eludes them, but sneaks into their camp to steal Captain Scull's famous horse, the gigantic white stallion Hector. To gain even more fame, Kicking Wolf decides to take Hector to the most famous bandit in Mexico, Ahumado, the Black Vaquero. Before setting off in pursuit with his Kickapoo tracker Famous Shoes, Scull appoints Call and

McCrae as new Ranger captains to lead the troop back to Austin.

On a later mission, they come across numerous ranches that have been burnt out, with men horribly mutilated, and women and children taken captive by Comanches. In their absence, the great war chief Buffalo Hump has led 900 warriors in a raid that takes them all the way to Austin and the sea.

Buffalo Hump, Kicking Wolf, Famous Shoes, Slow Tree, Worm, Three Birds, Blue Duck – the Indians are major characters in this novel. Only one, Blue Duck, makes an appearance in *Lonesome Dove*, 20 years later, because he's the last one running free as a renegade bandit leader.

By 1876, the Comanches, ravaged by epidemics, relentless

warfare and the extinction of the buffalo, have been corralled on reservations in Oklahoma. But in 1855, they control half of Texas. The warriors resemble the Homeric Greeks in their appetite for everlasting fame. No matter how savage they are in warfare and torture, they are given to solitary prayer, meditation and ritual singing. They are also scrupulously polite among themselves and abhor rudeness. Buffalo Hump exiles his son Blue Duck for being a braggart and rude to his elders.

The Comanche chief foretells the end: "Buffalo Hump knew that the bluecoat soldiers would come in the thousands someday. They would not come this year, but they would come; there were as many of them as there had once been buffalo. It was a bitter truth, but the truth. The young warriors who were even then stringing white scalps on their lances would either die in battle or end their days... growing corn on the little patches of land the white men let them keep."

Witness to it all would be McCrae and Call and the other members of their Ranger troop – Deets, Pie Eye, Jake Spoon – who, in pursuit of the missing Captain Inish Scull, would come across the border hamlet of Lonesome Dove at its founding. We learn how *Lonesome Dove* got its name, about how Gus McCrae, the amiable lover of whiskey and whores, got his heart broken three times, and how the iron-willed Woodrow Call blew his chance for a loving wife and son.

Like the Texas Rangers, Larry McMurtry never abandons the pursuit of his characters, ornery, funny, hard-bitten, immortal.

## Fast and forgetful: speed reading apps driven by hype

AS READERS plug into the insurmountable amount of information pouring from the internet, the desire for knowledge consumption – though not new – abounds. We want to download expertise. (We've all seen the Matrix.) We want information; we want it all; and we want it fast. Enter speed-reading applications.

Now, the hype surrounding speed reading apps such as Spritz, Velocity, Speed Reader Trainer and Accelerad have not gotten to the point at which users expect to be plugged into the grid and download the information – our bodies twitching as if on the verge of a seizure. However, the apps do claim to boost reading levels from 200 to 400 words per minute to more than 1,000 words per minute. At that rate, you could put a novel to bed in about 90 minutes.

Spritz has stolen most of the tech headlines with its "Optimal Recognition Point", which the Boston-based company spent three years developing based off older technology called Rapid Serial Visual Presentation (RSVP).

"It positions words in a spot on a display where you can recognize the word without moving your eye... About 80 per cent of reading time, conventionally, is spent moving your eye from one word to the next. So just placing each word in a spot where you don't have to move your eye saves you a lot of time, and in that time, your brain can process the word you just read, and prepare for reading and recognizing the next word," Frank Waldman, co-founder and CEO of Spritz, told *Here & Now* in March.

Speed-reading tools are nothing new, having been very popular back in the 1950s. And the science that has backed them has always been seen by skeptics as shaky.

"When you factor out the amount of time spent thinking through complex and unfamiliar concepts – a rarity when people read for pleasure – reading is an appallingly mechanical process. You look at a word or several words. This is called a 'fixation', and it takes about 0.25 seconds on aver-

age. You move your eye to the next word or group of words. This is called a 'saccade,' which takes about 0.1 seconds on average. After this is repeated once or twice, you pause to comprehend the phrase you just looked at. That takes roughly 0.3 to 0.5 seconds on average," University of California eye-tracking researcher Keith Rayner told *LifeHacker*.

Dr Rayner's research presented in "Eye movements and information processing during reading" counters the claims of speed-readers and speed-reading app developers, who both claim that comprehension is sufficient.

"You can practice going faster and you probably will, but when you start going too fast you'll start losing comprehension. Most speed-reading methods involve getting rid of subvocalization [internal speech made when reading]. Research shows that when you do that and the text is difficult, comprehension goes to pieces," Dr Rayner said.

"Then with RSVP, words come pretty fast, but working memory gets overloaded and words come in faster than you can deal with them."

But then again, maybe all of the tech



I'm sorry, what did you say you were reading? Photo: Ryan Hyde

gurus and scientists are missing the point.

Reading is about more than ticking titles off of a list and compiling information – it's about character. It's about a latte in a coffee shop and a cute girl in the corner who asks you what you're reading, and that moment when you have to close the book and look because it had taken you to an entirely different world.

– Isaac Stone Simonelli



## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### May 17, 6pm-10pm. BBQ & Grill Night

Bistro by Two Chefs Karon is firing up the grill. You can eat all you wish of grilled pork, chicken and salmon. Together with the yummy sauces, salads and potatoes. Then you can finish your dinner with some of the home-made desserts. Large parking available. The bistro has aircon and an outdoor dining area. The price for the Grill & Desserts buffet is only 395 baht. For reservations call 076 396243 Email reservation@twochefs.com or go to twochefsbirodeli.com.

### May 17, 10am-6pm. IELTS in Phuket

An International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test will be held in Phuket and organized by Phuket Australian Visa and Student Services (AVSS). To register for the test contact: 076-210934 or 086-595 5148, email avssouth@gmail.com or go to theavss.net.

### May 23, 6-11:30pm. Beatles Tribute Night at Two Chefs.

We serve a large buffet with smoked salmon, pulled pork burgers, roast beef, stuffed pork tenderloin, Yorkshire puddings, grilled rib-eye steaks with bearnaise sauce, pork crackling, lamb stew, bloody-mary mussels, strawberry tarts, chocolate cup cakes, apple crumble pie and much more. All this plus the show and a welcome drink for only 795 baht for adults, 395 baht for kids.

The famous Two Chefs house band will be doing a full 20-song set with the most famous Beatles classics. We start serving the buffet at 6pm, then at 9pm the

Two Chefs Beatles Tribute show will begin. Make your reservations now! Email: karon@twochefs.com, visit the website at: twochefs.com, or call 076-286479.

### May 31, 5-10pm. Neon Night Run

The Neon Night Run is a unique, fun running party! With race distances for both young and old, plus great music and colorful bright lights. Fun for the whole family with BBQ, stalls, kids entertainment, face painting, prizes for best neon costumes, glow sticks, etc. Schools compete to win the new Thanyapura Cup. Entry fee for individual runners/walkers is 300 baht. Everyone welcome. Register now at thanyapura.com/ event.

### June 7, 9am-midday. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

A family musical held at Phuket Town's Simon Star Theater. A wonderful experience for children, parents and grandparents! A great visual treat with dances, music and pictures to be taken with your favorite character.

Call 091-326 0276 for more information and ticket bookings or email indiafilmworks@gmail.com.

This event is sponsored by PGTV and the *Phuket Gazette*.

### June 12 to July 13. FIFA World Cup in Brazil

Football (soccer) fans around the world look forward to the excitement of the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the World Cup. This year will be played in arguably the top footballing nation on the planet. Here in Phuket,

most of the games will be aired live in the morning hours, though many restaurants and bars will certainly screen reruns of all the matches.

### June 28 to July 27. Ramadan

Muslims worldwide, or roughly a quarter of the planet's population, observe Ramadan as the 9<sup>th</sup> month of their calendar, a time for fasting during the day hours and feasting at night.

### July 11. Asarnha Bucha Day

This full-moon day of the 8<sup>th</sup> lunar month (traditional Thai calendar) commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining Enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago. Evening candlelit processions are staged at all Thai Buddhist temples.

### July 12. Buddhist Lent

This day of a full moon marks the start of the Buddhist Lent, or rains retreat – the three-month annual retreat observed by Theravada practitioners. It is the traditional time for Thai males to ordain as monks, informally observed as the start of the rainy season, when the south-westerly monsoon is in full force.

### July 16-20, 10am-11:30pm, Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek

Four days of world-class yacht racing in Phuket, combined with four nights of beachside parties at the five-star Cape Panwa Hotel. If it's time you got out on the water, then come sailing and join one of the crews, or sign up as crew on one of the Classics. Experience sailing on the East Coast of Phuket.

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 79 [HD] and 107 [SD]), are proud to sponsor this event.

### August 12. Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday

HM Queen Sirikit Kitiyakara's 82<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, celebrated as Mother's Day in Thailand. Her Majesty's birthday is a public holiday.

### October 23. Chulalongkorn Memorial Day

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

### November 4, 09am-4pm. PIWC presents The Melbourne Cup

The PIWC presents The Melbourne Cup, "The Race That Stops a Nation". For more information visit piwc-phuket.com

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 79 and 107), are proud to sponsor this annual charity event.

LOCAL COVERAGE	NATIONAL COVERAGE	INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE
<b>Phuket Cable</b> Coverage: All of Phuket Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10.30am, 6pm, 9pm Saturday-Sunday: 10.30am, 9pm <b>Rawai Cable</b> Coverage: Rawai, Kata, Karon Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10am, 1pm, 7pm, 10pm <b>KDTV</b> Coverage: Phuket's West Coast from Patong to Cherng Talay Channel: 10 Daily: 8.30am, 2.30pm	<b>MCOT World</b> Tuesday: 12.05pm & 7pm Wednesday: 6pm Thursday: 1pm & 8pm Friday: 9am Saturday: 1pm Sunday: 6am <b>Truevisions HD</b> Channel: 79 <b>Truevisions SD</b> Channel: 107 <b>PSI TRUE TV</b> Channel: 37 <b>GMMZ</b> Channel: 103	Broadcast to China, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Turkey, UAE, and many other countries around Asia and beyond. <b>Thaicom 5 Sat 3520H</b> Tuesday: 12.05pm & 7pm Wednesday: 6pm Thursday: 1pm & 8pm Friday: 9am Saturday: 1pm Sunday: 6am

Online: [www.phuketgazette.net/tv](http://www.phuketgazette.net/tv) | [www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket](http://www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket)  
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# For love of the half shell

## The life and times of the world's most famous mollusk: the oyster

By Ian Lancaster

I WAS an investor in an oyster farm in Singapore for five years. It was a great experience. I learned lots the hard way and though I never made it a financial success, I had a lot of fun doing it as a pastime.

**Oysters – Early History**  
There is significant evidence that the ancient Romans not only enjoyed oysters, but actively cultivated them. The Dutch who settled New York 400 years ago found American Indians with large stockpiles of shells and for about 300 years, New York was famous for its oysters.

**Essential male food**  
The joke goes: “Why do you order a dozen oysters? You hope one will work later that evening.” Scientists confirm. Medical research has shown that oysters have one of the highest naturally occurring levels of zinc which is important for the male reproductive system. Oh, and they won't make you fat.

**They like it cool**  
Oysters usually take two-three years to grow to an edible size of 70-85mm in shell length. Oysters usually spawn when the water temperature rises to 20-23C and a single oyster can release as much as 50-80 million larvae. When an oyster spawns, it loses its texture and a great deal of body weight and is no longer very attractive or tasty. Some farmers have been caught off-guard thinking their oysters are almost ready for market, only to see a sudden rise in water temperature which causes the oysters to spawn and destroys their marketability for at least six months. Traditionally, this meant that oysters have been grown in

the cooler waters of the world, in Canada, Northern USA, France, Belgium, Ireland, Japan and Australia and New Zealand in the southern hemisphere.

These days, “Pacific” oysters account for about 98 per cent of the crustaceans, which originate from Japan and were introduced to North America in the 1920s and to France in the mid 1960s. They also dominate the oysters grown in Australia where originally 90 per cent were “Sydney Rock” oysters, and today 90 per cent are the “Pacifics”.

Young oysters are called spat and they usually like a lower salinity of 20-25 parts per million (ppm), whereas adult oysters prefer a higher salinity level of 25-30 ppm. If you look closely at an oyster shell, you will often see two distinct colors which occurs when the oysters are moved from a nursery to an environment where they undergo a final growth stage.



An oyster farm in Scotland. Photo: Mick Garratt

**How long they last**  
Oysters may start life in the wild during the spawning season or in specialist hatcheries, which these days produce millions of oyster spat that are then sold to farmers when they are 5-10mm in length.

The wild oysters either attach to man-made structures such as wooden racks, grow on rocks or, most commonly, on a sandy ocean floor.



Oysters are a good source of protein, vitamins, minerals and Omega 3s, and are low in cholesterol. Photo: Guido

Oysters are normally grown either subtidally or tidally. The subtidal oysters spend their whole lives below the water which means they feed more and grow faster. However, they never really develop their muscle sufficiently, so when they are out of the water they will probably last 4-5 days if kept cool and moist. Tidal oysters on the other hand spend about 2-3 hours out of the water at low tide so the “seal” is a lot better and they will last up to 10 days.

A normal oyster is a diploid with two chromosomes, but a technique was developed about 30 years ago to engineer triploids with three chromosomes. These sterile oysters are becoming popular as they have several advantages. The most important is that they don't threaten the native species as they don't reproduce. The other benefits flow from this; since they do not spawn they hold their shape and texture all year round, and so can

be harvested more frequently. You can usually tell the difference as the diploids will be creamier (eggs and sperm) and the triploids have a slight metallic or even zinc taste.

**Open, swallow, repeat**  
Shucking, or removing the shell to get at the meat, is an art form and the best shuckers can do a dozen oysters a minute. Ideally, the oyster should be shucked just before eating, should retain some of the salt water to add flavor and should never be washed in fresh water as it will lose some of the taste.

Oysters are almost never frozen, as the ice crystals will pierce the membrane, resulting in a mushy texture. The exception is when liquid nitrogen is used to flash freeze the shellfish, a technique developed in New Zealand and elsewhere.

Oysters are filter feeders and are susceptible to disease and contaminants in the water. However, if the water clears, over time the

oyster will come back. Oysters are often placed in holding tanks where the water is circulated for 24 hours through ultraviolet light to kill any bacteria. Most top restaurants will have seawater tanks to keep the oysters alive and fresh.

Apart from serving oysters *au naturel* with just lemon squeezed over them, another favorite is oyster shooters or subtle cooking such as Kilpatrick style (with cheese, Worcestershire sauce and bacon).

Champagne, a crisp white or a rose are the perfect wines to wash down an oyster.

**Oysters in Thailand**  
*Hoi naang rom* means oyster in Thai, but be careful as *hoi* is often taken as a generic word for shell fish. Not to mention the second meaning of the word *hoi*, referring to a part of the female anatomy. So don't be surprised if you get either a strange look or a laugh when you say “I like eating hoi”.

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# Uncharted territory



## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

STIMULATING responses from readers such as Ken Banks often act as a catalyst, leading “yours truly” to regions of the botanical world uncharted in earlier articles.

Ken writes: “I suspect that the *cassia fistula* you wrote about... is the *dok khun*, celebrated here in Khon Kaen as the symbol of the city (along with the dinosaur). Is that correct? Also... could you give me a scientific name for the fruit in the attachment?”

He goes on to make a general point by remarking that “it is hard to nail down what plants on sale in local nurseries really are. Vendors, for the most part, seem to know only the Thai names for plants, although there are gratifying exceptions. So, if I were to try to track down the rhododendron you mentioned... I don’t know how I would do it... Having lived in the Pacific northwest... where ‘rhodies’ are endemic, I am in love with these plants. I’m eager to find tropical varieties which will thrive here, in Isarn.”

Your first inquiry, Ken, is the simplest to answer. The golden shower tree (*cassia fistula*) is indeed, and as you suggest, usually called *dok khun* in The Kingdom, though it is also known, rather more grandly, as *ratchaprupek*.

As for your photograph of yellow fruits, they look to me like marian plums (*maplang* or *maa prang*).

The botanical name for this plum, a member of the small *anacardiaceae* family, is *bouea macrophylla*, a name so obscure

I failed to locate it in any of my plant books. Related to the mango, the yellow fruit is, as your picture demonstrates, rounder and smaller (about 3-4 centimeters) and it has skin so taut you expect it to burst like a balloon when you bite into it. The flavor, however, is delectable and mango-like, sweet with a hint of acidity. Hence, its common name of plum mango. Even the large seed can be eaten – it is purple, almond shaped and tastes bitter.

The tree probably originated in Malaysia, but it is grown commercially in Thailand, and since it bears fruit in April and May, is available right now at your local super or fresh market. That, I imagine, Ken, is where you took your photograph.

The ribbed leaves are also mango-like, and when young, are frequently used in salads. Moreover, the tree is sometimes deployed as an ornamental since it has dense foliage and grows to about 20 meters. Definitely worth considering if you have a spacious garden.

The name marian plum is a bit of a misnomer as it is not, strictly speaking, a plum or even a member of the vast *prunus* genus which includes not only plums, but peaches, nectarines, apricots, cherries and – surprisingly – almonds. But as with all these species, the fruits are technically drupes, that is to say they contain a hard stone which protects the seed within.

However, only in the case of the almond do we eat the seed – with all the others, we devour the succulent outer layer. So, perhaps the marian plum should be reclassified botanically, since it shares these characteristics. For the mo-



The *cassia fistula*, or *dok khun* or *ratchaprupek*, is celebrated as the symbol of Khon Kaen. Photo: Mauro Guanandi

ment, it remains beyond the pale, corralled in a separate group.

Where it does differ from all the *prunus* genus is in its climatic needs. All plums – damsons, sloes, greengages, Victorias and the rest, come from temperate climes, and they both require a period of cool weather to set fruit successfully, and ample moisture during the budding phase. Without these conditions, the embryonic buds will fall. On the other hand, the consistently high temperatures of the

tropics are tailor-made for the marian plum.

As for your other observations, Ken, they deserve and will get, another airing. Suffice to say that my experience regarding nurseries is similar to yours – frequently frustrating. So I always go equipped with Engel’s *Field Guide to Tropical Plants of Asia*, which has both individual photographs and Thai names. The only snag is that it is getting a bit long in the tooth and needs a revision. And

by the way, it does not mention rhododendrons at all.

In fact, the Indian rhododendron I wrote about, *melastoma melabathricum*, a small bush with dark green leaves and deep purple single flowers, barely qualifies as a “rhodie” at all. To single out some Thai possibilities from the 800 true species and more than 10,000 hybrids, most of which are cool climate shrubs, will require an entire article on its own. I promise to have a go...



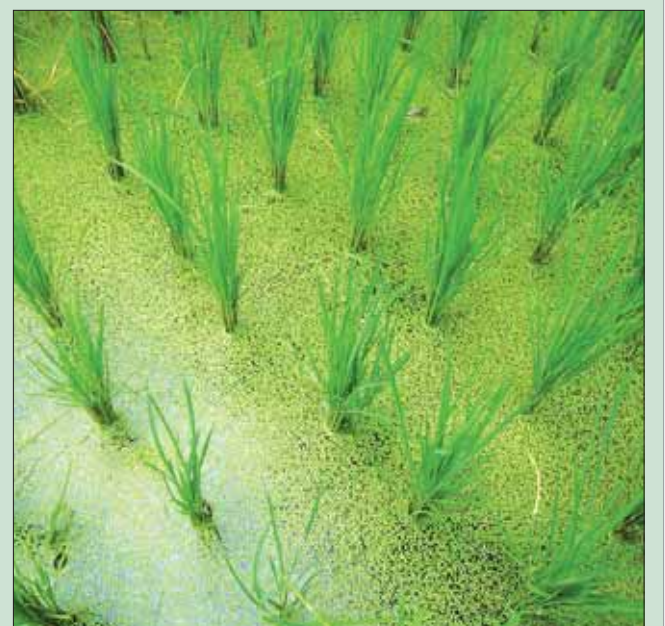
Watch out for small, but flavorful, marian plums this month. Photo: Tu7uh

## Tip of the week

### Water issues

THAILAND has about 800,000 cubic meters of rain per annum, but can only actually utilize a mere 40,000 of this natural bounty. In northern Thailand, rice, the staple grain, is a very thirsty crop and requires massive amounts of water to thrive, but here in Phuket, the huge increases in consumption are driven by property development – by the demands of millions of visitors and by improvements in standards of living which mean running water, flush toilets and showers. At present, a number of domestic wells are beginning to run dry as the water table drops.

As gardeners, we must try to conserve water in this prolonged drought by cutting down on inessential watering. Grass, for example, which currently looks sere and brown, will quickly recover once the monsoon arrives. Mulch areas around plants to conserve moisture, and if you don’t already have a rain-water system, install gutters and a large plastic tank.



Rice is a thirsty crop that needs a lot of water. Photo: David Wiley



# Fighting the Zen Koan syndrome



The other day I met my friend Fardley Nerdwell in our favorite bistro, looking disconsolate.

"Something wrong, Fardley?" I inquired, ordering up a round.

"Wrong" does not begin to describe the catastrophe that has befallen me," Fardley lamented. "As you know, I've spent the past three years teaching English to my girlfriend, Noy. Despite many disasters in miscommunication, outbursts of mutual frustration, and fierce quarrels, I've finally got Noy to the point where she can communicate in comprehensible English."

"Then you should be happy," I observed.

"Ah," Fardley moaned, "but now it's started all over again. Noy thinks I did such a great job teaching her English that she's brought her little cousin Oy down from Buriram and wants me to teach her, too."

"Uh-oh," I murmured.

"Yes," Fardley groaned. "Now a whole new program of linguistic disasters awaits me. I bet you don't know who Thurma Uman is."

"Um, let's see," I said. "Thurma Uman. Ah, that's got to

be Uma Thurman."

"Yes," Fardley said. "Thurma Uman is one of Oy's favorite actresses. And I bet you don't know who Kinnet Patto is."

I scratched my head. "That's a tough one," I admitted.

"Gwyneth Paltrow," Fardley said. "Another favorite actress. But you can probably guess what a holly keptor is."

"Sounds like a kind of cyborg," I ventured.

"No. A helicopter. And kam char?"

I was stuck, and shook my head.

"Clam chowder. How about banana speak?"

"Ah, that must be the language bananas use," I said. "Or maybe the name of a rap singer. Banana Speak would be a fine name for a rap singer. Especially if he's a banana."

"Banana split," Fardley said.

"Sounds to me like you've got to work on Oy's pronunciation," I said. "How about some sprightly pronunciation drills, like 'Isabella Rossellini's thirty-three thimbles thrilled the children'? Or the ultimate one-word tongue-twister for Thai students: 'parallelogram'?"

"That would do it, all right,"

Fardley agreed. "Now, here's a story for you. My buddy John is

married to a girl from Oy's village, and he's coming down to Bangkok. When I told Oy, she asked, 'Why come?'

"I said, 'Well, he's got to get a new passport from the US Embassy.'

"Oy said, 'No, no! Why come?'

"I just told you, Oy," I said. "He's coming to get a new passport."

"Oy was really getting upset now. 'No! Why! Why! Why come two?'

"By now I was baffled. What the hell was she talking about? 'Why come two?' It sounds like one of those Zen koans, and Oy was getting madder and madder. 'Why! Why!' she screamed, and finally burst out in Thai, 'Phanraya ja maa duay reu plao?' - Is his wife coming too?"

"Ah," I breathed, enlightened. "'Why' means wife! She was saying, 'Wife come too?'"

"That's right," Fardley sighed, taking another sip of beer. "And if she wasn't, Oy would have asked, 'Why why no come?'"

"Sounds like a Zen koan, all right," I agreed.

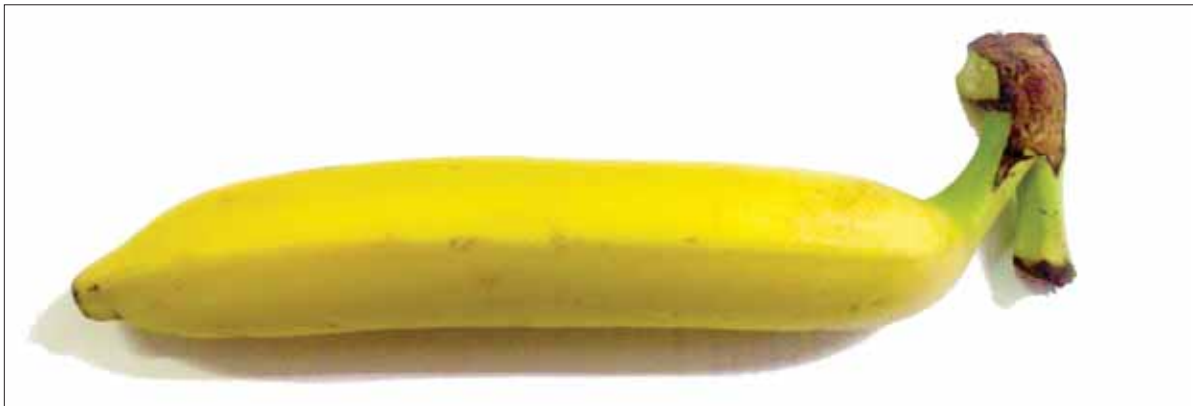
*You can extend your sympathy to Fardley through Ye Olde Curmudgeon c/o s.tsow@outlook.com.*




Kinnet Patto also known as Gwyneth Paltrow. Photo: Andrea Raffin



Uma Thurman goes in Thailand under the name Thurma Uman.




Banana Speak would be a fine name for a rap singer. Especially if he's a banana. Photo: Ben Aston


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# Indonesia is in the details

By Maciek Klimowicz

TRAVELLING to Asia from the West is always an intense, exotic experience, but traveling around Asia while living in Asia, is not quite the same. With no thermal shock or jet lag to weaken the traveller's senses, he starts paying more attention to details, and that's where the devil is.

My recent trip to Java and Bali provided me with a chance to do just that. Here's how different Indonesia is, when observed from a Phuket resident's perspective.

## The cars are clean

It's not that they are filthy in Thailand, but it's striking how clean they are in Indonesia. The car wash, or *cuci mobil* in Indonesian, is one of the most common service businesses you encounter on Indonesian streets, and their effect can be seen as you stare at clean cars stuck in insane traffic jams, through the window of your clean and cheap taxi.

## The pleasure of reading

After three years in Thailand, I managed to tame the basics of local language. I can buy my food, ask for the bill. Still, Thai script is too much and remains for me an unsolved puzzle. In Indonesia, things are quite different – it's the common use of the Latin alphabet that allowed me to enjoy the pleasure of reading. Naturally, I had no idea what I was reading, but just being able to pronounce the words in the newspaper or on a street sign made the place more familiar and welcoming.

## Communication breakdown

Believe me, English in Thailand is not that bad. Especially in Phuket, where most of everyday business can be taken care of using the *lingua franca*. Indonesia is a different story, as English skills among most of locals I had the pleasure to encounter are next to non-existent. This, combined with my poor Indonesian language skills (the aforementioned *cuci mobil*, plus *bebek* (duck) and *bintang* (star and the most popular local beer) are about all the words I remember) could easily lead to some tense situations. Luckily, Indonesians have their equivalent of *mai pen rai*. Confused? Irritated? A simple *sama sama* should calm the situation down and bring the smiles back to the faces.

## It's way to expensive!

A dinner at a street food stall – 80,000, a train ticket – 200,000, taxi ride – 20,000. All these zeros get me quite confused and leave the impression that Indonesia is way to expensive...

## Except that it's cheap

Things look quite differently when you convert Indonesian rupiah to Thai baht. It turns out that it's Thailand that is expensive! Be it a street food lunch or shopping in a boutique, most merchandise is 20-50 per cent cheaper than in Phuket. And this is where the numerous zeros of the Indonesian currency came in handy – they stopped me from spending all my money on shopping.

## It smells funky

It's one of the thirdest things I noticed coming to Jakarta from Phuket – it smells different. The air is filled with the sweet scent of *kretek* cigarettes, the food smells differently, lacking the familiar aromas of kaffir lime, lemon grass and galangal and the air in high altitude hill stations is crispier. All this combined makes up for an interesting, exotic concoction. If there was one Thai smell I missed in Indonesia it's the aroma of jasmine rice. I must admit, I got used to the good stuff while living in Thailand and the plain, Indonesian *nasi* doesn't quite hit the mark anymore.

## Safety first

By no means is traffic in Indonesia any better than in Thailand – in fact it seems worse. The roads aren't safer either, as there is no lack of drivers with suicidal and homicidal tendencies. But take a closer look, and something seems a bit off in the busy traffic of Jakarta or Surabaya. It takes a moment to grasp this tiny, yet significant difference between Thai and Indonesian drivers – but there it is, the latter wear helmets when riding motorbikes. And after months of seeing helmets in front baskets, in road side ditches, basically everywhere, but not on motorcyclists' heads, it makes for a unusual view.

Talking about drivers' strange behavior – it was in Java, in the town of Jogjakarta, where I met a taxi driver who didn't want money for the ride, just because I didn't have change. Good luck trying that with a taxi driver in Phuket.



Is something hiding behind the smile in Indonesia? Photos: Maciek Klimowicz

## Buy something, anything

There's an abundance of street trade in Thailand, mostly confined to street stalls though. In the hawkers category, Thailand is way behind Indonesia. In my few days in Java, I was approached by hawkers selling plastic toy planes, children apparel, men's hats, canvas paintings, volcanic rock sculptures, mini editions of the Koran, parachutes, teddy bears, rubber lizards, kites, cigarettes... the list goes on.

## The good people of Indonesia

Indonesians seem like genuinely friendly folks, taxi drivers included. Yes, haggling is a must, but what was missing is the ever-present tourist scam lurking around the corner, the feeling that there's something behind the smile. Except for the few touts in Jogjakarta who lured me into an "art gallery" where I almost got brainwashed into buying an over-priced piece of fabric, nobody tried to cheat me and not even once did I feel forced to buy something I didn't want. Refreshing.



The streets of Indonesian cities look different, thanks not only to popular becas.



Just a three-hour-flight from Phuket the volcanic landscapes of Java are out of this world.



# Molding Olympians

By Phuket Gazette

CHRIS McCormack, four-time triathlon world champion and executive chairman of Thanyapura Phuket, was in Bangkok recently to promote Thanyapura's "Road to Tokyo" campaign as part of the launch of their Elite Junior Sport Academy (EJSA) Program.

"This is something the whole team at Thanyapura is tremendously excited about. We are confident we have created a unique and very important offering in this part of the world with the launch of these special sports and education opportunities for gifted young athletes," said McCormack.

Thanyapura Phuket has unveiled its new, elite program that aims to tap into the best young and talented Thai athletes aged 13-18 and propel them to gold at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The program is initially going to focus on three sports: tennis, swimming and triathlon.

Not only will the athletes train with world champions and world-class coaches at Thanyapura's cutting-edge facilities, but they will also get a great education through Thanyapura's international-standard boarding school – the Phuket International Academy, an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School.

"I don't believe there is any other institution or organization offering the complete package that a promising young athlete needs to be the best in mind, body and spirit, which is what we confidently promise and deliver. Thanyapura's facilities are literally Olympic-standard, our coaches comprise the best in their fields and our educational offering is second



Athletes will be trained by world-class coaches and receive an international-standard education. Photo: Thanyapura

to none, with a boarding facility now offered in addition to our highly regarded day school which offers a full IB program," McCormack said.

"My life was underpinned by a good education – my Mum insisted on it. Thanyapura provides a solid foundation in education, sport and emotional growth. It's the sports and education model of the future, today. Now is the time the next crop of champions and Olympic hopefuls will start to draw ahead of the pack and come to the attention of national squads and top coaches and star-makers."

The question is, however, are Thailand's athletes good enough

to win gold at the Olympics?

"Absolutely, there's lots of potential, especially if we get some of the top talent available into our stream early enough. These acad-

emies could easily make the difference between someone fulfilling their Olympic dream or spending a lifetime wondering. There's one thing I can promise: Through support and encouragement as well as the very best coaching and

sports medicine methods, we will extract every ounce of talent out of an athlete," said McCormack.

EJSA already selected its first athlete as ambassador for the program, a swimmer by the name of Tanakrit "Nok" Kittaya. At the

2013 SEA Games, Nok earned four gold medals in the Thai National Age Group Championships, and set a new Butterfly record at the Singapore National Age Group Championships in March 2014.

From August 2014, full board and week-day boarding options at a purpose-built, state-of-the-art residential facility will be available to students and athletes aged 13 to 18, complete with an exclusive sports scholarship program that will see gifted athletes streamed into elite international sporting colleges upon successful completion of their secondary education.

The next tryouts for the 2014 ESJA and scholarships will take place during the Thanyapura Excel and Sport Performance camps during the July school holidays.

For more information, call 076 336 077 or email [info@pia.ac.th](mailto:info@pia.ac.th).



A brighter future for Thai students with YES. Photo: The Nation

## Say YES to Thailand's youngsters

MICROSOFT Thailand recently awarded certificates to 200 students from six schools after they completed IT studies under the Tech Training to Help Extend Youth Empowerment Space (YES) program in Phuket.

YES is one of four schemes under Microsoft's global YouthSpark program launched in Thailand last year.

Under YES, Microsoft works with the National Council for Children and Youth Development (NCYD) to train educators and students throughout Thailand to enhance their IT capabilities, including cloud computing.

"The advent of cloud computing creates vast new opportunities to extend education opportunities to all students and to prepare them to compete in the AEC [Asean Economic Community]," said Hareesh Khoobchandani, managing director of Microsoft Thailand.

"There are five Cs of new competencies our students must learn. Collaboration and communication are two of them. This is why we are pleased to partner with Microsoft and NCYD to put technology in the hands of our youth to get them on the path to develop those competencies so they can have greater employability and a brighter future," said Governor Maitri Inthasut. – *The Nation*

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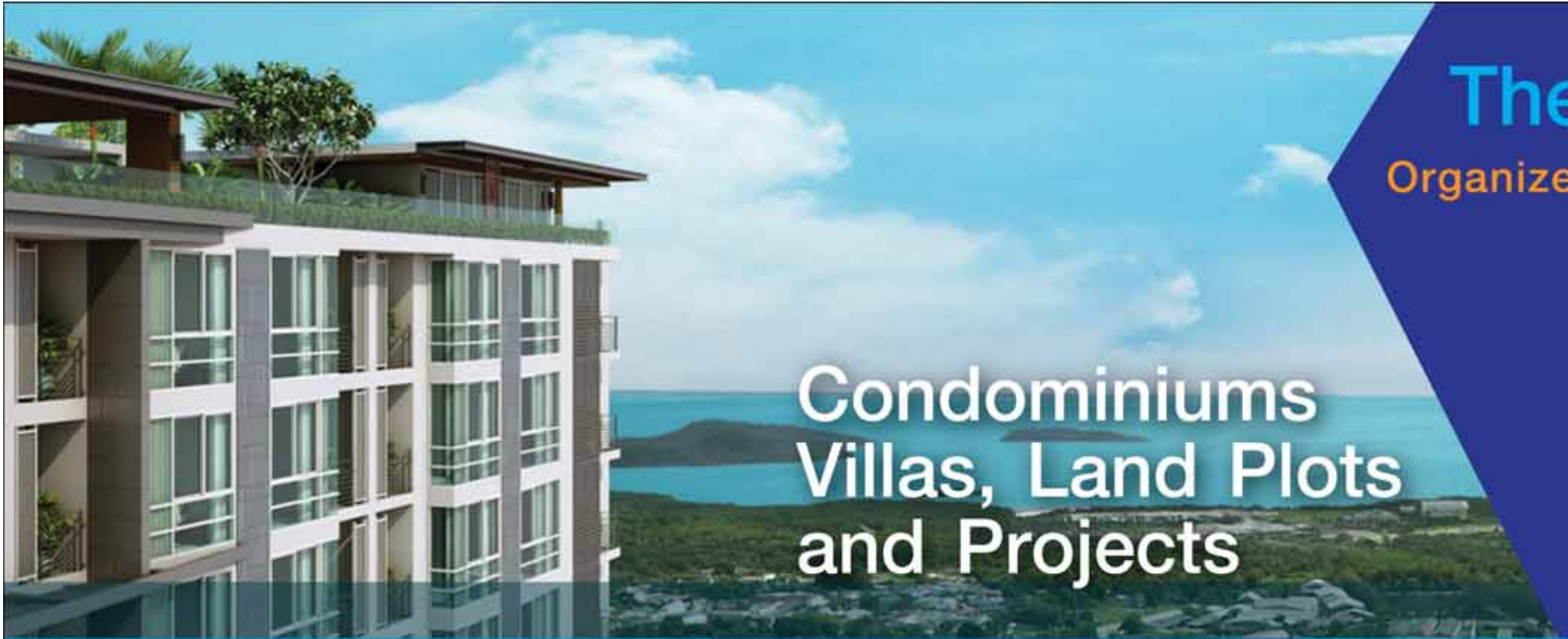
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## Words from the wise

"It's the sides of the mountain which sustain life, not the top."  
 – Robert M. Pirsig, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: An Inquiry Into Values*

"You teach me, I forget. You show me, I remember. You involve me, I understand." – Edward O. Wilson

## Hard

	3						8	
2		7					1	6
	1		4		6		3	
		5		6		9		
			7		5			
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	2		3		1		7	
4		3				8		1
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## Medium

7		1	2		9	4		5
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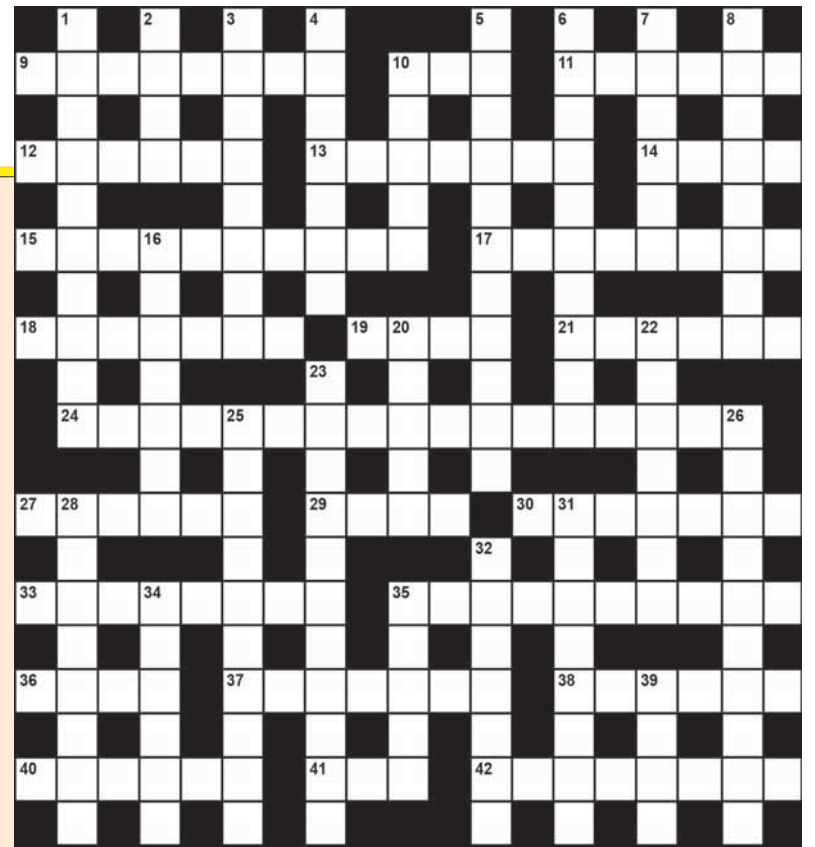
**SUDOKU:** Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE  
break

## Cryptic Crossword

## Across

9. Carefully steer red absconder (8)  
 10. Turn adult to an Indian state (3)  
 11. Except when United Nations fewer (6)  
 12. Second plain operation is to do with backbone (6)  
 13. A hot inn opened in a Phuket beach (3,4)  
 14. Observe not echo (4)  
 15. In time reacted, surprisingly worked together (10)  
 17. Learn the fabrication is of hide (8)  
 18. Distressed side put argument (7)  
 19. Eager for a turn. Grand! (4)  
 21. Unbroken in diplomacy (6)  
 24. Possibly resumes, separated out East by last-ditch efforts (9,8)  
 27. Credit deal arranged for crib (6)  
 29. Fashionable to show avid interest (4)  
 30. Nor a gap opened, ideal! (7)  
 33. Changed fen route number (8)  
 35. For tests an arrangement for places next to the driver (5,5)  
 36. Nowadays it is an approach to the mine (4)  
 37. Banal, it could be a movement of fundamentalists (7)  
 38. We stay untidy, covered in perspiration (6)  
 40. Left covered by harsh sculpted hewn block (6)  
 41. Master is back, right? (3)  
 42. Nag, watch out, in a Province in Thailand (8)



## Down

1. Remember, maintain fashionable concern oneself (4,2,4)  
 2. Incline to spare (4)  
 3. Start law rewritten for the strong (8)  
 4. Long-lasting rock shifted by train e.g. (7)  
 5. Hope its goal is to produce studies of diseases (11)  
 6. A squire, and upset by predicaments (10)  
 7. Secure a metric measure of volume, move slowly (6)  
 8. Abstruse, so recite carefully (8)  
 10. Donkey work, riding out, not I! (5)  
 16. Old girlfriend sat for a painting uncovered (7)  
 20. Super, possible target has no

## time (5)

22. About right, create new level space next to the building (7)  
 23. For country, a leaning to be a patriot (11)  
 25. Simple, merely a net being woven (10)  
 26. Possibly spot master of group who play together (6,4)  
 28. Almost rotund, I'd rush on wildly (8)  
 31. Naturally flowing well, Sir, eat an assortment! (8)  
 32. Goodness! Nice plaster molding! (7)  
 34. Unnerve, let rat out! (6)  
 35. Filament black in roaring fire (5)  
 39. Roger possibly not right, therefore (4)

## TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



Exploring options can help Taureans realize that a situation is not as cut and dried as they believed. Your practical nature should ensure that everything is done so there is space to concentrate on creativity. The stars show that those with a birthday during the coming days can find romance when they least expect to during the year ahead. This week, making the first move toward another earth sign can work out well.

## GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



The stars show that you will be attracting a lot of attention this week, which can have both positive and negative results. Geminis who have been trying to remain low-key could find this becomes impossible. However, where romance is concerned, those who are single and seeking should be spoiled for choice. The social scene is buzzing this weekend and your charisma attracts people who can become compatible friends.

## CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Your world of work is well-starred this week. This is the time for Cancerians to reach out a little further, even if this is only to make contacts for future possibilities.

Tapping into forgotten resources encourages you to touch base with a past colleague who can make useful introductions. Where romance is concerned, a fire sign's heightened sensitivity may cause arguments this weekend. Money matters are auspicious on Monday and Tuesday.

## LEO (July 24-Aug 22):



The stars indicate that Leos' self-confidence will be enhanced by success of some sort this week. In the world of work, the remainder of May should be a more productive time than the first half of this month was. Where romance is concerned, another fire sign's habit of being unavailable starts to send warning signals this weekend. Those already committed have smoother communication with their partner's family.

## VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):



Where a personal dilemma is concerned, Virgoans who feel stuck between a rock and a hard place may still be able to find a way out. The stars advise that a water sign can give valuable information that you can use to your advantage. In the realm of romance, those who feel their freedom is being compromised are advised to raise this subject sooner rather than later.

YOUR  
horoscope  
By Isla Star

## LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



Shared finances fall under the spotlight this week for those born under the sign of Libra. If business is concerned, there are hints that another air sign has not told you the whole story; it would be wise to examine agreements more closely before continuing to collaborate with this person. Within the realm of romance, a water sign partner is ready to admit that their spending habits have become a problem.

## SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



Your hopes are high during the second half of May, and with valid reason. Scorpios who have been trying hard to finalize a work-related project are forecast to be pleased with the outcome. A fire sign's negative reaction can give cause for doubt, but the stars suggest that this is due to their own lack of success lately. A romantic relationship with an air sign is put to the test this weekend.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Sagittarians are advised to take some steps back before committing to anything serious this week. The stars suggest that you could be caught off guard by an enthusiastic earth sign who is determined to make use of your skills for their own gain. Personal relationships and finances should not be mixed; any loans you make in the coming days could be hard to claim back. Hot days for romance are Thursday and Friday.

## CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



If cash is in short supply at the moment, Capricorns will be pleased to hear of a chance to earn a little extra. However, the stars indicate there may be a risk involved that you should consider carefully before committing. Where personal relationships are concerned, silence is golden. There are hints that someone has entrusted you with a sensitive secret that could be tempting to share this weekend.

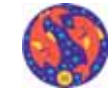
## AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



Organization can be hard for Aquarians to face, but practical planning will be necessary if all is to be accomplished this week. Excitement is in the astral atmosphere and there

are signs that you could forget about some of the more mundane, but essential responsibilities. The stars advise using your talents wisely as there are hints energy can be wasted on a project that has little chance of success.

## PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



The stars recommend talking to someone about a problem that you cannot find a solution for. A cloudy cosmic climate should give way to clearer skies toward the end of the week and Pisceans will soon see that luck is on their side. Keep a cool head with finances this weekend as you can be encouraged to spend more than you can afford. Romantic interest in a fire sign is kindled this weekend.

## ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



What starts off as a minor cleaning-out project can lead Arians much further. The stars indicate that either redecorating your existing home or even searching for another one could be on the agenda for the rest of May. In the realm of romance, a budding relationship with an earth sign picks up pace. Those already committed could be pleased when their partner announces they are ready to leave a stressful job.



# FIVB Phuket Open cancelled

THE promoters of the FIVB Beach Volleyball Open in Phuket have decided to cancel the event scheduled for October 15 to 19 citing continued political unrest in Thailand as the reason for their decision.

With the safety and security of players and officials of paramount importance, the FIVB have accepted the promoter's decision to cancel the event.

The next FIVB events planned are the Xiamen Open from October 7 to 12 followed by the Parana Open in Argentina from October 28 to November 2. Additional Open events are in Doha (Qatar) and Chennai (India) in November, then the 2014 beach volleyball sea-

son will round off with a men's only Open event in St Denis de la Reunion and the Durban Open from December 9 to 14.

The Phuket Open was one of two women's only Open events scheduled for 2014 after Prague (Czech Republic) in May.

The FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour has attracted huge international interest with worldwide TV coverage to over 700 million households.

Last year's Phuket Thailand Open powered by PTT beach volleyball tournament, the penultimate stop on the 2013 FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour, gained plenty of interest from local sports fans who had the opportunity to watch

more than 50 of the world's top women's beach volleyball teams vying for the gold medal position on the podium, eventually secured by the Chinese players, Chen Xue and Xinyi Xia.

Thailand has hosted a total of eight FIVB World Tour events (all women's) over the last eight years with Phuket hosting the first six events and Bang Saen the site of the 2012 event before it returned to Phuket last year.

The FIVB will pursue negotiations with promoters who may be interested in staging an Open Event during that same period to provide players with yet another opportunity to compete internationally.

— *Phuket Gazette*



Thailand has hosted eight FIVB World Tour events. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

## Surf, friends and good time

SET the thruster aside and dust off the noserider, it's nearly time for the Pearl of the Andaman Longboard Classic.

Hosted by Surfing Thailand (ST) in collaboration with Andaman Sea & Surf, the Longboard Classic is a one day surfing competition reserved for boards nine-feet or longer to be held in Kalim on May 24.

The competition is one division open to all who wish to participate. The event organizers say "It's all about surf, friends, and good times. In the fashion which long boarding is so famous for. The laid back lifestyle, vibe and enjoying cruising the waves."

Registration fee is 600 baht, which includes an event t-shirt and lunch and a chance to win prizes

from the sponsors. Surfers will have a shot at the first place prize of a Firewire Sub Moon 9.5 longboard donated by one of the event's main sponsors, Firewire Surfboards. Subsequent prizes will consist of goodie packages from other sponsors.

The organizers are expecting more than 200 visitors and 30 competitors from around the region. Event sponsors will be represented and include: Surfing Thailand, Andaman Sea & Surf, Firewire Surfboards, Quiksilver, Roxy, Salt Water Dreaming, Bigfoot Industries, Kaab Gluay restaurant, Phuketsurf.com, Plus Alpha Surfboards and the Surfrider Foundation Phuket.

ST has hosted a number of surfing competitions annually over

the last 10 years. The competitions have varied from big open events with multiple divisions like groom (children's), women's, longboard, open and masters to specialty events such as the Pearl of the Andaman Longboard Classic. ST has organized a host of other events in the past including Quiksilver Surf Competition's and the Thailand Surf Series.

ST is a nonprofit organization governing all wave riding activities, including bodyboard, bodysurf, jet surf, kitesurf (in waves and freestyle), kneeboard, longboard, paddle surfing (prone, paddling with hands), short board, skimboard, stand up paddleboard (SUP), surf kayak and tandem. ST is dedicated to the development of these sports in Thailand and provides guidance and advice to all its members on matters such as competition, judging, surf education, adapted surfing and anti-doping.

As a recognized member of the International Surfing Association (ISA), ST is recognized by the



The winner will take a Firewire Sub Moon 9.5 longboard home.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) as the world governing authority for surfing. ISA is a member of Sportaccord, the Association of IOC Recognized International Sports Federations (ARISF), the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and the International World Games Association (IWGA).

— *Phuket Gazette*

For more information about the event visit [andamanseasurf.com](http://andamanseasurf.com)

FIXTURE			
		TRAT FC	PHUKET FC
Trat Stadium 6 pm			
*dates subject to change			
YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE			
PL	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Nakhon Ratchasima	11	25
2	Angthong FC	11	24
3	Bangkok FC	11	21
4	Saraburi FC	11	19
5	TTM Customs	11	19
6	Phuket FC	11	18
7	Phitsanulok FC	11	18
8	Royal Navy	11	17
9	Chiangmai FC	11	15
10	BBCU	11	15
11	Ayutthaya FC	11	14
12	Pattaya Utd	11	13
13	Roi Et Utd	11	11
14	Trat FC	11	11
15	Krabi FC	11	11
16	Nakhon Pathom	11	9
17	Khon Kaen FC	11	6
18	Sri Racha FC	11	2
*Last Update: 13/05/2014			
FTPL 2014			
Next Fixture			
		Khon Kaen	Khon Kaen
MAY 17 at 4 pm			
@The North Eastern University Gymnasium			
*dates subject to change			

## Glow and run in the dark at Thanyapura

GRAB your glow sticks and get ready for the Neon Night Run, a glow-in-the-dark family run and party at Thanyapura Phuket.

The races and festivities start at 5pm and run until 10pm on Saturday, May 31, just a week before the Laguna Phuket International Marathon, making the Neon Night Run a perfect warm-up for the big race.

Both children's and adults run-

ning events will be staged on Thanyapura's professional athletics track. The central pitch area will host the Neon Night Party with bright lights, balloons, face-painting, a jumping castle, market vendors, food and beverage stalls, barbecue fare and a DJ for the after party.

Everyone is welcome and anyone can enter the races. Phuket's schools and sports clubs can put teams together with at least five girls

and five boys. The school team that collects the most points for the most entrants and top race results will be awarded the perpetual Thanyapura School Cup. Parents and teachers can also contribute points.

There are four fun-run categories for kids, ranging from 500 meters to three kilometers, a 1500 meter run for school parents and teachers, a two kilometer open relay for teams of four runners and a

five kilometer open fun run and walk. Medals will be awarded to top three male and female runners in each race and for the best team performances. In addition prizes will be awarded for the best neon costumes.

— *Phuket Gazette*

For more information contact Thanyapura on 076 336000, or register online at [thanyapura.com/event/neon-night-run-party](http://thanyapura.com/event/neon-night-run-party)





# Record dive within reach

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THE results are in from last month's We Freedive Suunto Series at Phuket Country Home in Chalong, with American Walter Johnson again dominating the event.

Mr Johnson set the bar high at the dynamic with fins event, as he has done both in the dynamic without fins and static apnea events earlier this year. During his dive, Mr Johnson covered 125 meters setting a new personal best in competition.

"Walter's 125m was so easy for him that

a US national record seems quite within reach," Association Internationale pour le Developement de l'Apnee (AIDA) judge Richard Wonka told the *Phuket Gazette*.

The US record is 200m, still a considerable distance behind the world record of 281m held by Goran Colak from Croatia.

The dynamic with fins event, saw the smallest crowd at a We Freedive Suunto Series event so far, with only three competitors. However, the judges were happy to hand all contestants white cards for the first time the series' short history.

"Clean dives" result in white cards, while those competitors pushing too hard, resulting in breaks in protocol, receive red cards.

The Phuket We Free Dive Suunto Series has taken on a unique format of the competition, which ranks the control, safety and beauty of the dive above time and distance, explained Mr Wonka. The competitor that collects the most white cards during the series will win a Suunto D6i dive computer. Nonetheless, points accumulated for time and distance are added to diver's AIDA records.

The other two divers competing in the event

also had personal bests. Lauri Immonen, from Finland, dove into the deep end after having come to train with We Freedive several days before the event, signing up last minute. Mr Immonen covered 85m.

Melanie Long from Scotland set her best at 82m.

*The next competition in the series, open to everyone interested in freediving, will take place at Phuket Country Home on May 25. Those interested in joining the static apnea event can register at [wefreedive.org/booking](http://wefreedive.org/booking)*

# The Academy of Football lands in Phuket

By Maciek Klimowicz

HAVING trained the likes of Joe Cole (West Ham, Chelsea, Liverpool, Lille), Rio Ferdinand (West Ham, Manchester United) or Frank Lampard Jr (West Ham, Chelsea), West Ham's Academy coaches are coming to Phuket to do what they do best – teach others to play at the top of their game.

The Elite Residential Soccer Course Phuket 2014, organized by the Bangkok Soccer School and featuring West Ham United FC Academy Coaches, will take place on Thanyapura grounds from July 6 to 11. For five days and five nights the course participants will immerse themselves in the spirit of world-class football, and improve their ability and confidence as players. The aim of the training camp is to inspire children aged 8-16 who have aspirations within football – whether it be to play to their highest possible ability, obtain a scholarship at a university or play professionally – to show them the level that they need to reach, and assist them in attaining it.

## THE PROGRAM

Coaches at West Ham United pride themselves on creating players with style, creativity and teamwork. Sessions during the



Thanyapura offers excellent sporting facilities and 5-star accommodation for the course participants. Photo: Supplied

course will incorporate exercises, games and drills designed to challenge and train the player's body and mind, and help them focus on key elements of the game.

Technical workshops will look at the ideas and philosophy of the West Ham United Academy, and the key attributes that are necessary to become a "complete player". This will include a focus on the social, physical and psychological aspects needed by individual players. In addition,

essential information about diet and nutrition will be provided to help players perform to their maximum level.

## THE COACHES

With just four West Ham Academy coaches travelling to Phuket, the numbers of players who can benefit from this unique experience is limited to 64. A Bangkok Soccer School coach will assist one West Ham Academy coach at all times and each team of two coaches will be lim-

ited to 16 children to ensure the highest quality of training at all times during every session.

Among the coaches travelling to Phuket is Mark Phillips, an experienced player and manager, and devoted West Ham fan and a coach to The Academy's elder players. Mark will be accompanied by Bob Glozier, known as Mr West Ham, an experienced professional player for West Ham United dedicated to coaching Academy boys of all ages. Rick Simons, an experienced player now devoted to both scouting for, and coaching West Ham United's youngest players will also attend. The fourth coach is Carl Walker, currently the U8's coach and a scout for this age group who has already impressed The Academy's directors, proving himself an enthusiastic, knowledgeable coach.

## THE LOCATION

The course will take place in Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club's excellent sporting facilities and in the comfort of its residential provision. Young players will be able to enjoy its state-of-the-art sports pitches, and make use of its swimming pool, tennis courts and fitness center. Thanyapura's restaurants will cater for all players' needs with breakfast, lunch and dinner each day.

Outside of the sessions with the West Ham Academy coaches, Bangkok Soccer Schools and

Thanyapura staff will be on hand at all times to take care of and supervise the children.

After fresh air, good food, lots of activities and fun, children will return home healthy and refreshed.

They will be able to look back on a time of fun, friendship and learning in a healthy, natural environment.

## THE ACADEMY

Fifteen years after the famous Bobby Moore and Geoff Hurst began their careers at West Ham United, "The Academy", as it has since become known, has been under the direction of Tony Carr MBE. In recent years, the England team has almost relied on his apprentices – five of whom took the field for Chelsea and Manchester United in the 2008 Champions League final.

Like other academies in England, the training activity behind the scenes at West Ham United is very secretive. In Phuket, young players will have the opportunity to receive the training given to the best players in England.

## THE DETAILS

The course is suitable for players aged 8-16 who can look forward to a full-board 5-star accommodation for five nights, two coaching sessions per day Monday to Friday, use of Thanyapura's top-notch sports facilities, pick up and drop off from Phuket International Airport, fun activities organized for evenings, a field trip off-campus, a safe and secure environment and round-the-clock supervision by qualified staff.

The full residential course package price is 40,000 baht with a 5,000 baht discount available for early booking (before May 31). The non-residential early bird package is 18,000 baht; 20,000 baht if booked in June 2014. There is a deposit of 20 per cent payable upon booking with the balance to be paid by June 15.

*For booking email [coaching@bangkoksoccerschools.com](mailto:coaching@bangkoksoccerschools.com). For more information, contact Stuart Welham on 021-494647, 083-270 3337 or email [s.welham@bangkoksoccerschools.com](mailto:s.welham@bangkoksoccerschools.com).*

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# Rio Ferdinand leaves Man Utd

By Ken Ferris

FORMER England defender Rio Ferdinand is leaving Manchester United after 12 years and more than 400 appearances having won almost every major honor in the game, he said on Monday.

"I have thought long and hard over the last few months about my future and, after 12 fantastic years playing for what I regard as the best club in the world, I have decided the time is right for me to move on," Ferdinand said on his website.

British media reported that the 35-year-old Ferdinand, who played 454 times for United and scored eight goals, was not of-

fered a new contract by the Old Trafford club.

He won six Premier League trophies, two League Cups, the Champions League and the Club World Cup after joining from Leeds United for 29.1 million pounds in 2002 to become the most expensive player in English football at that time.

"I joined Manchester United in the hope of winning trophies, and never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined how successful we would be during my time here," Ferdinand said.

"There have been so many highlights, playing alongside some great players who have become good friends, winning my first

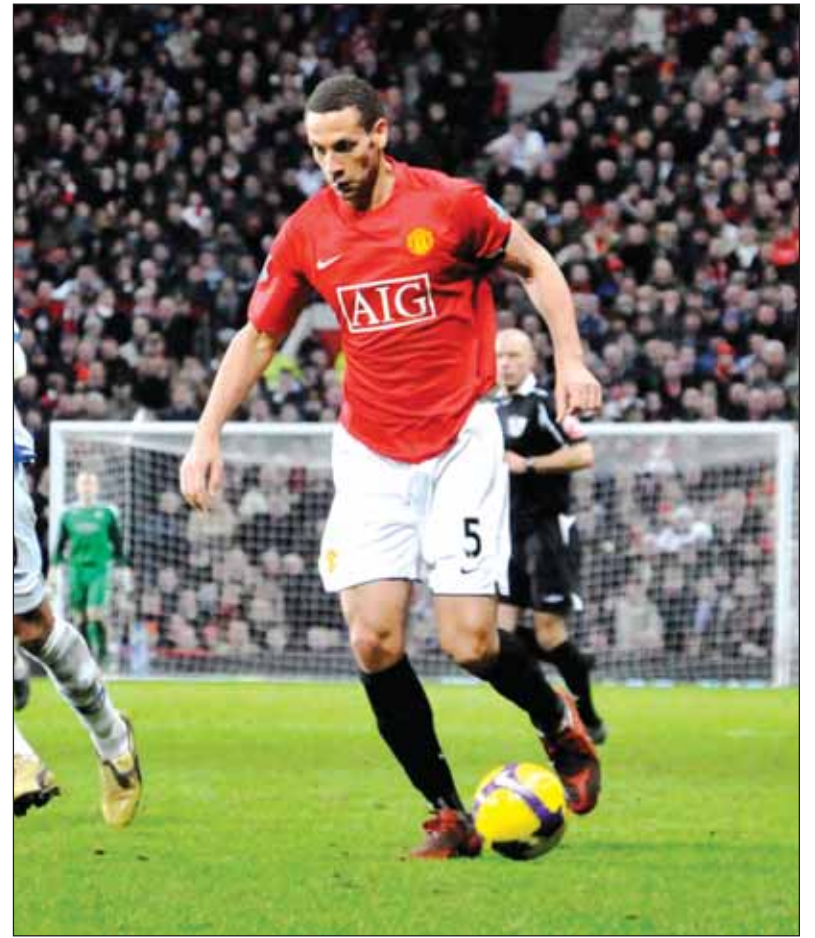
league title and also that fantastic night in Moscow (winning the Champions League) are memories that I will cherish forever.

"Circumstances didn't allow for me to say goodbye the way I would have liked but I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my teammates, staff, the club and the fans for an unbelievable 12 years that I'll never forget. Winning trophies I dreamed about as a kid came true at this great club."

Ferdinand has not decided whether he will continue playing.

"I am feeling fit and healthy, ready for a new challenge and looking forward to whatever the future holds for me," he said.

— Reuters



Rio Ferdinand played 454 in Manchester United colors. Photo: Paolo Camera

# Leicester eye top five in Premier League

By Patrick Johnston

LEICESTER sealed a place in the lucrative top flight of English football by winning the Championship title last month, ending a decade-long absence from the Premier League.

Like all promoted clubs, survival is the initial goal for Leicester but billionaire chairman Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha has grander notions in the years ahead.

"We want to stay in the EPL as long as possible," Vichai told reporters in Bangkok on Monday after the team enjoyed a three-day

stay in Phuket.

"But we won't take the huge leap to challenge the league's top five clubs immediately.

"Do we have a chance to beat them? Yes, we have, but I think we need to establish our foothold in the league first and then we think about our next step.

"It will take a huge amount of money, possibly 10 billion Thai baht (181.70 million pounds), to get there. But that doesn't put us off. I am asking for three years, and we'll be there."

Leicester, three-times League Cup winners, were relegated from the Premier League in 2004 and

then fell to the third tier in 2008.

Manager Nigel Pearson took them back to the Championship at the first attempt before leaving for Hull City, only to return in 2011 and lead them up to the top flight.

The former Sheffield Wednesday and Middlesbrough defender shared Virat's optimism.

"We have to be adaptable when we play big teams. But, the important thing is we're going with a belief that we can achieve," he said after showing off the Championship trophy to fans in the Thai capital.

"I want to set high standards for ourselves. The next challenge

for us as a club is to establish ourselves in the EPL.

"We're not going to make up the numbers. We want to be competitive. We've tasted success now. It's important we continue to improve everything, about ourselves. So, we can challenge for the top five.

"But, of course, one step at the time. The boys are really looking forward to playing with some of the best teams in the world."

Virat, who previously had a VIP box at Chelsea where he also bought advertising space for his King Power retail group, took over Leicester with a consortium in 2010.

He said he had ignored the opportunity to invest in a Premier League club in favor of taking on the challenge of leading one there.

"After spending time studying many clubs, I fell in love with Leicester. One reason was the team's colors, which were the same as my company's," he said.

"The other was the fact that they were playing in the second tier at the time. I thought if we bought an EPL club it wouldn't be challenging enough. If we could lead this team to the EPL, that would be a real challenge."

— Reuters



Leicester FC arrived in Phuket for a well deserved holiday. Photo: M. Klimowicz

find out more at : [www.yaowawit.com](http://www.yaowawit.com)

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- pre-used or new football boots, kits and sporting equipment (balls, rackets, etc.) Any boys or girls items will be accepted and happily used on the playing fields
- funds to the container conversion project which will be used for the production of organic farm products

The Year 12 students will be collecting the above items and will distribute them up at the school in June as part of the Group 4/CAS service trip to Yaowawit School. Our students will host Art and English activities, design and build the container conversion for use in the production of organic products which helps raise funds, as well as help out in the organic farm and herbal learning centers.

The school was set up as an educational and skill training facility for the community's children after the Tsunami affected the area in 2004. Yaowawit School currently provides assistance to up to 120 children in need of their services.

Donations can be made to the **British International School, Phuket** marketing office on the first floor of the main building

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