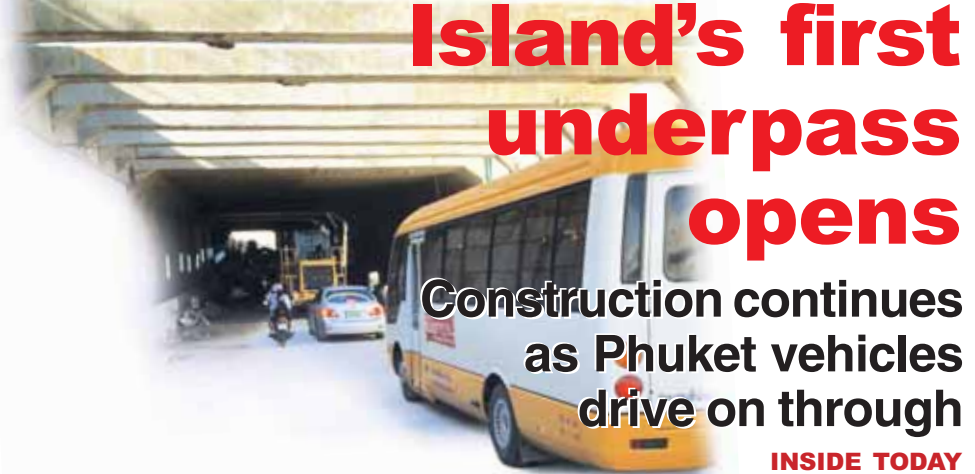


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**INSIDE TODAY**

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## ■ 'THE FIRST FEW HOURS ARE CRITICAL' MISSING

■ **Policy change for faster response times in missing child cases**

By **Woranut Pechdee**

ANXIOUS parents of missing children no longer have to wait 24 hours before police can take action to find them, under a new policy revealed by Phuket City Police Superintendent Sermpan Sirikong last week.

"Now, when someone in your family goes missing, you can inform police immediately," said Col Sermpan.

The new policy came into sharp focus this week when the worried parents of 13-year-old Sirinut "Nong Guy" Chaowalart made a public appeal for any information to locate their daughter, who disappeared from the family home in Rassada last Saturday.

Nong Guy was found alive and well, staying at a friend's house in Thalang, on Wednesday, much to the relief of her parents.

"I received the missing person report from Nong Guy's sister on Saturday night," said Lt Pittaya Thanawut.

"We did not have much information, but at least we were able to send out an alert to patrol officers throughout Phuket and share this information among people registered on the police Line chat group.

"The next day, Nong Guy's mother arrived



**New police policy set to find missing children and protect families.** Image: Chutharat Plerin

from Bangkok and gave us photos of Nong Guy, which we quickly shared."

Col Sermpan explained that steps were taken to heighten public awareness of the dangers of kidnapping following the kidnapping and rape of 6-year-old "Nong Cartoon" in Bangkok last December.

Anti-kidnapping posters have already been distributed in Bangkok schools and in some other provinces, he said.

"In Phuket we have not been given the order to distribute these posters yet, but if

your child or someone you know goes missing, you can notify the police immediately," Col Sermpan explained.

Col Sermpan cited the case of a mother currently wanted by police for abducting her two British-Thai daughters from their natural father as being one that might have benefited substantially, if Pattaya and Phuket police had been able to take action earlier.

However, some Phuket schools have...

*Continued on Page 4*

**Hard Rock Cafe GM arrested for killing in Sydney, Australia**

THE General Manager of Hard Rock Cafe Phuket was arrested for his alleged role in a decades-old cold case murder in Australia.

Gerard Caleo, 42, was arrested by Homicide Squad detectives after what they said was a major breakthrough in the gruesome murder of Rita Caleo.

*Full story Page 3*

**Numbers plummet for expats' famous Ranong visa run**

THE number of people attempting to re-enter Thailand at the once-popular visa run destination of Ranong has dropped by about 50 per cent according to visa run companies and Ranong Immigration officers.

The sudden drop in numbers comes after the August 13 deadline for implementing the Kingdom's stricter policies for visa-exemption stamps in an attempt to crack down on foreigners working illegally.

*Full story Page 7*

**Billion-baht battle rages over legality of land title deeds**

THE Land Department has set up a task force to re-affirm the Royal Forest Department's investigation results that deem two land title deeds for 65 rai worth more than a billion-baht illegally issued.

If the Land Department concurs, the land owner's lawyer has vowed to take the case to the courts in order to protect his client's investment.

*Full story Page 5*

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## This Week



### Business

Wine knowledge is power in highly competitive Phuket. **Page 29**



### Property

Dig up a great deal at Sansiri's dcondo Mine in Kathu. **Page 31**



### In Focus

Delve into one of Thailand's largest industries – rubber. **Page 34**



### Boating

Monte Carlo yachts gently match style with performance. **Page 35**



### Well-being

A look at the difference between food allergies and intolerance. **Page 37**



### Sport

Royal Patronage over WMC marks a milestone for Muaythai. **Page 38**

Saturday



33 - 25

Sunday



33 - 25

Monday



33 - 25

Tuesday



32 - 24

Wednesday



32 - 25

Thursday



33 - 25

# 'Ya Ice Butcher' slays friend, attacks another

By Woranut Pechdee

ONE man died, while a woman lay seriously injured in hospital on August 14 following an attack by a drug-crazed man thought to be high on *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine).

Phuket City Police were called to a dormitory on Santisuk Soi Mai Luan Road at 6:30pm, where they found the 25-year-old suspect, Niwat Sampoosri, locked in the room attempting to kill himself.

"Mr Niwat had attacked his 22-year-old girlfriend, Rarinya Putthawong, with a meat cleaver," said Capt Pornthip Chumsri of the Phuket City Police. "A friend of the couple, Chalernpol Pasurawiroj, 25, tried to help Ms Rarinya. However, Mr Niwat attacked him with the cleaver too."

Mr Chalernpol and Ms Rarinya managed to escape the room and were quickly transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital with severe injuries after rescue workers arrived.

Mr Chalernpol, who suffered deep lacerations to his chest, was pronounced dead upon arrival by doctors. Ms Rarinya suffered wounds to her abdomen.

Following the pair's escape, Mr



Police broke down the door to stop Mr Niwat from killing himself.

Niwat locked himself in the room and attempted to commit suicide.

"He locked the door and was yelling and screaming. He then drank fabric softener and attempted to cut his own throat and wrists. After that, he tried to electrocute himself," said Capt Pornthip.

Police spent more than an hour trying to coax Mr Niwat out of the room, but eventually resorted

to breaking down the door.

"We stormed the room and overpowered Mr Niwat. He was then transferred to VichiraPhuket Hospital by Kusoldham rescue workers," Capt Pornthip said.

Mr Niwat is to be tested for *ya ice* and charged with murder and deadly assault with a weapon. Additional charges might also be brought, Capt Pornthip added.

# Russian's death ruled suicide

POLICE have concluded that a Russian tourist found dead in his Phuket hotel room died of self-inflicted wounds, after eliminating the possible involvement of a ladyboy seen in his company.

Fedor Vasilev, 33, from the Sakha Republic, was found dead on August 13 with seven stab wounds to his chest and a deep

laceration running the length of his forearm.

Police tracked down ladyboy Mesa Promkerd, 35, and brought her in for questioning, but quickly concluded that she was not involved in the Russian's death.

Additionally, police said that three pages of handwritten notes in Russian that were found discarded in a

bathroom bin corroborated the theory that Mr Vasilev had killed himself.

"The papers turned out to be a suicide letter," said Lt Col Sutthichai Tianpho of the Patong Police.



Fedor Vasilev

– Saran Mitrarat

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## Scores of alleged taxi mafia members shuffle into court

THE first 70 of 108 Phuket taxi drivers facing charges for alleged involvement in the taxi mafia appeared in court for their preliminary hearing on Monday. Those unable to fit in the court room were told that they would be seen by the court in early September.

The drivers were charged for gathering more than five people for illegal activities carried out by criminal associations.

"We cannot say much at the moment as our cases are being processed," one Karon

taxi driver, who declined to be named, told the *Gazette* on Monday.

"We will have a lot to say when we are able to speak to the media. I will say now, however, that I denied the charges. The charges are too much for us."

The driver confirmed that he, and some of the other drivers, have court dates set for September 1.

"Some of the other suspects and I will give further statements in September," he said.

— Chutharat Plerin



Police arrested 108 suspects. Photo: Gazette file



The crushed Benz. Photo: DDPM Patong

## Mercedes-Benz, tuk-tuk crushed in rainy landslide

A MERCEDES-BENZ, a tuk-tuk and four other vehicles were crushed in a landslide after a deluge of rain saturated a Patong construction site on August 15.

"There were six vehicles parked at the site, as it is close to the owners' homes. When the land below a retaining wall gave way, part of the wall collapsed," said Wisit Methasunthornwat, head of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) Patong office.

"Fortunately, no one was hurt. We are now working on removing the dirt and remnants of the wall."

The vehicles crushed by the earth and cement wall on Soi Nanai, about 200 meters from 50 Pi Road, included a Mercedes-Benz, a tuk-tuk, a Honda City, a pick-up truck, a rescue worker truck and a motorcycle, Mr Wisit said.

Patong Municipality officers were dispatched to the construction site to investigate whether or not the landowner had permission to build on the site, Patong Municipality Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Poonsak Naksenaare told the *Gazette*.

"If the owners do not have permission, we will report them to the police," Mr Poonsak said.

— Chutharat Plerin

# Hard Rock GM arrested over grisly 1990 murder

By Gazette reporters

HARD Rock Cafe Phuket General Manager Gerard Caleo, 42, was arrested in Australia for his alleged role in the gruesome murder of Rita Caleo, reported the *Sydney Morning Herald* on August 15.

Mr Caleo was arrested by Homicide Squad detectives after landing in Sydney on a flight from Kuala Lumpur at about 6am. He has been charged with solicitation to commit murder, accessory before the fact to murder and accessory after the fact to murder.

A manager from Hard Rock Cafe Patong declined to comment to the *Gazette*.

However, it is believed that Mr Caleo is the brother of Mrs Caleo's husband, Mark Caleo.

Mrs Caleo, 39, was stabbed to death on August 10, 1990. In an adjoining bedroom were her two children. Her body was found at 1:30am by a live-in nanny who heard suspicious sounds.

Her husband was at work at the time of the killing, according to police.



Gerard Caleo was the GM of Hard Rock Cafe in Patong. Photo: Gazette file

Detective Inspector John Lehmann, from the Unsolved Homicide Team, told the *Sydney Morning Herald* that Mrs Caleo's killing was made to look like a robbery.

"An intruder broke into the house and she was attacked in her bedroom," Inspector Lehmann said. "It was a horrific murder."

Mrs Caleo's death came less than a year after her millionaire brother, Michael Chye, was shot dead as he drove his Mercedes into the garage of his mansion in Woollahra.

The gunman managed to successfully flee the scene.

An inquest into his death in 1991, about two years later, found

that Mr Chye, his sister and her husband had been involved in a dispute over a 107-million-baht property, reported the *Sydney Morning Herald*.

Inspector Lehmann said that police believed the same people were responsible for both Mr Chye and Mrs Caleo's deaths.

"We do think that both the murders are linked. Rita Caleo was murdered some 10 months after the murder of Dr Michael Chye, and yes... we do believe that the same persons are responsible," Inspector Lehmann said.

The inquest into Mrs Caleo's death in 1991 heard that she had handed her solicitor a sealed envelope just three months before her own death.

The envelope read: "To be opened only if my death is unnatural." Inside were the names of two people she accused of organizing the assassination of Dr Chye.

Mrs Caleo wrote in the letter that if she died an unnatural death, the same people would be responsible.



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## Police put paid to crackdown on closing time

PATONG Police have denied rumors of an order demanding that they more strictly enforce the 2am closure of nightlife venues in Phuket's premier party town.

"I'm sorry, but I've not heard about this," said Patong Police Superintendent Chiraphat Pochanaphan when asked about the rumored order.

Col Chiraphat offered no further comments. However, both Patong deputy superintendents, Lt Col Suthichai Chaiyarat and Lt Col Khunnadet Nanongkhai, confirmed that no special order had been handed down.

However, police have been asked by Phuket Provincial Police Commander Peerayuth Karajedee to make rounds after midnight to boost tourist confidence in their safety, Col Suthichai noted.

"Everything we are doing is to improve tourist safety," he said.

— **Saran Mitrarat**



Col Chiraphat

# Island swamped by deluges

By Gazette reporters

FLOODS across Phuket late last week saw Patong Police Station inundated twice within two days and traffic at the critical underpass intersections on the bypass road drawn to a halt.

The flood alerts started pouring in before dawn on August 15, when a heavy rainstorm blasted through Phuket, leaving the carpark and first floor of Patong Police Station underwater.

"The flash flooding started at about 5am and lasted a couple of hours," said Lt Col Suttichai Tianpho of the Patong Police.

"Some of our computers were damaged during the flood, as we were not able to move them to a higher floor in time. The water is now being drained from the building. Everything else at the station is running normally."

Motorists on Nanai Road and Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road also found themselves stuck in flood waters brought by the deluge.

"Flash flooding also inundated Phang Muang Sai Kor Road, which runs behind Jungceylon shopping mall," said Col Suttichai.



Motorists navigate the rising flood waters in Patong. Photo: PR Dept

Patong Hospital was affected by the storm, but able to recover quickly.

"Rainwater flooded the carpark, but our ambulances were still able to get in and out. It has now been drained," Patong Hospital Director Sirichai Silpa-archa confirmed.

Less than 24 hours later, Patong Police were scrambling to move everything from the first floor to

the second floor as the station was swamped again.

"The water is about up to our knees in the station," said Col Suttichai last Friday. "The computers and case files are still on the second floor due to the flooding yesterday. Right now, we're getting the refrigerator to the second floor."

Further east, on the bypass road, flooding slowed traffic to a

crawl at Tesco-Lotus intersection, where knee-deep water caused long tailbacks.

The underpass construction site was also flooded, though construction manager Chalernpol Wongkiattikun said that the severe weather was not expected to cause delays to the project.

"We have a special drainage system that is also backed up by large water pumps that can drain water from the site within 24 hours," Mr Chalernpol said.

By Monday afternoon, blue skies over Phuket heralded a welcome reprieve to the downpours, but only after humidity had reached 98 per cent and more than 47mm of rainfall had been dumped on and around Phuket Town within just three hours.

However, the Thai Meteorological Department Phuket office warned that more heavy rain was due to arrive by this weekend.

San Jantharawong, chief of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM), warned for small boats to stay ashore during heavy weather and urged tourists not to swim where red flags are posted on the beaches.

## New policy designed to find missing kids fast

From page 1

...already taken the matter into their own hands.

"Every morning, each of our teachers checks a list of students to make sure all students are present," said Utain Jitsamruoy, director of Satee Phuket School.

"If someone is missing, the teacher will call the parents to make sure that the student is taking the day off. If parents tell us that the student is not at home, then we will notify the police immediately."

In one Phuket cold case, Samudchaya "Nong Pin" Yanyunya went missing at the age of 12 in December 2011. She had skipped school on that day and gone to a Phuket Town internet cafe to use the popular social networking portal Facebook and "do homework".

Just 11 days after Nong Pin's disappearance, the girl's mother, Samruay Saenthaweesuk, voiced her fear that the 12-year-old might have been abducted by someone she met online while using Facebook.

The possibility of such predation was confirmed by reports the day before from Nakhon Sri Thammarat where 37-year-old Phuket resident Wimol Srida was arrested for raping three teenage girls he met on Facebook. The youngest was just 13 years old.

In April this year, fast action by a Phuket village headman prevented the abduction of a 4-year-old boy.



Phuket City Police Superintendent Sermpan Sirikong. Photo: Gazette file

Worried parents of the boy, named by police only as "Nong Ice", in less than 24 hours reported their son missing from their home.

"After failing to find him, village headman Sangkom Sinthupradit went to Phuket's main bus terminal with the parents and many local village defence volunteers to see if he was there," explained Col Sermpan.

At the station, the search team found the boy, and the couple attempting to abduct him and take him to Bangkok.

The results of searches for 7-year-old Natthapa "Nong Dear" Papkaew, who disappeared last year, were tragically different.

Days after Nong Dear went missing on a Friday night from her neighborhood in Chalong, bone fragments – later confirmed to be hers via DNA testing – and her tattered clothing were discovered in a nearby wooded area.

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# Fight for Freedom

## Battle begins over claim to billion-baht prized resort real estate

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE Land Department has set up a task force to establish whether two land titles covering 65 rai at Freedom Beach – with an estimated value of at least 1 billion baht – were legally issued.

The task force was officially formed last Friday and has 60 days to submit its findings, Land Department Deputy Director-General Thammasak Chana told the claimant, Eakkachai Sae-Iw, and his lawyer, At Srisamut, on Tuesday.

The two *Chanote* titles, numbered 98414 and 98415, are both alleged to cover land within the Khao Nakkered National Forest.

“We received a request from the Royal Forest Department asking us to revoke the titles as they said they had confirmed the land in question is within a protected forest,” Mr Thammasak said.

“If the new task force agrees and asks the Land Department to revoke the titles, the claimant will have 30 days to appeal.”

Mr Eakkachai’s lawyer, Mr At, said he will appeal any decision to revoke the titles.



Eakkachai Sae-Iw used the land titles to secure a 400mn-baht mortgage.

“If the Land Department decides to revoke the titles, the court may not agree – and the court is the highest authority,” he said.

Mr At claimed that Mr Eakkachai had evidence that the

land was acquired before the area was declared a national forest and that he could prove purchase of the land through a tax payment receipt – the lowest form of land claim available in the Kingdom.

“I stand by my words that the two plots are fully legal,” he said. “I believe somebody wants to pick on my client, so they filed a complaint against him.”

Mr At did not elaborate on who might have targeted Mr Eakkachai for investigation, but did reveal that the land – which he estimated to have a value of “at least 1 billion baht” – had been used to secure a mortgage of 400 million baht.

“The complaint is affecting my client as people who are looking to buy the land have lost their confidence,” he said.

“While this drags on my client is responsible for paying interest on the 400mn-baht debt. My client was going to build a resort on the land, but the project is on hold because of this complaint.”

The dubious origins of the land titles came under scrutiny by the National Counter-Corruption Commission (NACC) in 2012 in a probe that revealed that “at least 13 officials were involved in illegally issuing land titles”

At that time the land was estimated to be valued at more than 3bn baht.



Thammasak Chana

## Officials set on reclaiming 700 rai of park land

MORE than 700 rai of public land inside Sirinath National Park could be returned to the public by September 16 if land documents under investigation by the Land Department are found to have been illegally issued.

“I am quite confident that most of the [12] documents [under investigation] were illegally issued. We are just waiting for officers from the Land Department to finish their investigation,” said Director-General Nippon Chotiban of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) on Monday.

“I am also confident that none of the Land Department officers would risk their livelihoods by approving illegal land documents.

“If all of the 12 plots [under investigation] are found to be illegal, we will be able to reclaim at least 700 rai of public land.”

Land Department Deputy Director-General Thammasak Chana assured that the Land Department is taking the investigation “very seriously”, and that it would be complete by September 16.

“We are working hard to determine the land ownership. We are also in the process of confirming all documents from applicants who attempted to upgrade their land deeds from a *SorKor 1* to a *Chanote* title,” he said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Patong scion Prab Keesin not above the law: officials

PREECHAVUDE “Prab” Keesin, son of former Patong Mayor Pian Keesin, must remove the sandbags from the beach in front of his Patong Bay Garden Resort or else he will have to answer to the military, Kathu District Chief Sayan Chanachaiwong vowed this week.

At an inspection of the resort for alleged beach encroachment last Friday, officials watched as a backhoe broke apart several sandbags that formed a seawall to protect the resort from high-tide waves (see page 9).

However, work on removing the sandbags

stopped soon after the officials moved on to Tri Trang Beach, south of Patong. The sandbags were still on the beach on Monday.

Mr Sayan explained on Tuesday that the backhoe could not continue work due to the incoming high tide last Friday afternoon.

Prab Keesin promised that he would clear the beach after the southwest monsoon season was over – sometime in late October.

“If we removed them now it would damage the resort and it would be dangerous for our guests.”

– Woranut Pechdee



The sandbags remain on Patong Beach, for now.

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# Lucky B26mn lottery winners make education priority

A PHUKET couple who won 26 million baht from the national lottery last weekend have set their children's education as their top priority in spending the windfall prize.

Sutin Nuanjan, 46, and his wife, Puangkaew 39, discovered on August 16 that they had won millions of baht.

"On Wednesday [August 13], we went to the market in Rawai and asked a lottery vendor there for tickets with the number 8240, as that is the number of our car registration," Mr Sutin told the *Gazette*.

"But the vendor only had 662842, and that turned out to be the big winner."

Mr Sutin was with friends near his house

when he heard that the winning number was 662842.

"I didn't mention anything to my friends, but I quickly, quietly walked home to check with my wife that it was true," he said.

"She showed me the ticket; we hugged and cried."

An officer at the Government Lottery Office in Bangkok confirmed to the *Gazette* on Monday that the couple had won 26mn baht.

The lottery win came as a welcome reprieve as the couple were worried about their meager income and their children's future.

"I was laid off from the [now closed for refurbishment] Royal Phuket Yacht Club two months ago, and my wife is a teacher's assistant at Wat Sawang Arom School in Rawai," Mr Sutin told the *Gazette*.

"We will share the money among our four daughters. Of the two youngest, one is still at school and the other is at university, so we will make sure the money pays for their education first."

The couple will also make merit by donating to nine Phuket temples and will have *nang talung* (shadow puppet plays) performed in Rawai for five days and nights, Mr Sutin said.

— Woranut Pechdee



The couple bought ticket number 662842.



Doctors are concerned about Ms Samrong's mental recovery.

## Argument over cash woes ends in suicide bid

A WOMAN plagued by financial woes was rushed to hospital on August 15 after she ingested a lethal insecticide.

Chamnan Kornsuwan, the woman's boyfriend, called Thalang Police to the scene at about 10pm.

"I think she tried to kill herself because of the financial problems we're having. We had an argument. She told me she was going to poison herself, but I didn't believe her," he said.

About 10 minutes later, Mr Chamnan found her unconscious on the kitchen floor with a bottle of insecticide next to her.

Ms Samrong was rushed to Thalang Hospital where doctors closely monitored her condition before later discharging her.

Hospital Director Arnon Kaewbumrung confirmed that a resident psychologist was following up on Ms Samrong's recovery.

"With cases like this, we are always concerned about the patient's mental well-being. Such patients need extra attention to make sure they make a full recovery," he said.

— Thawit Bilabduddar

# Cyclists push beyond halfway mark from Sweden to Phuket

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

WITH a five-day sprint across Turkmenistan behind them, a group of cyclists who departed Sweden in April for the fair shores of Phuket to raise money for a local post-tsunami orphanage have now crossed the halfway point – on target to arrive well in time for the 10<sup>th</sup> tsunami anniversary.

"The desert race through Turkmenistan was incredibly hot and dry. We had 500km to cover and could only get a five-day transit visa," one of the cyclists, Calle Wollgard, told the *Gazette*. "Before that, we had done Iran quite quickly – our bodies were a bit worn out, but we managed."

With more than 8,000 kilometers under their belts, and about 8,000km more to tackle before crossing the bridge to Phuket, morale is high for Calle, Fredrik Jessen, Tomi Blumen and Christofer Johansson.

"Right now, we are in the city of Buchara, Uzbekistan. A couple of days ago we reached a milestone when the meter showed 8,000km, which means halfway!" Calle said.

"Morale is good, I think. Of course there are days when you don't want to cycle, and of course there are days when we don't love each other. But we are starting to see the end of this journey."

The positive attitude of the group, which has been quintessential to the team's outlook from



The Swedes, with Turkmenistan behind them, have passed halfway.

the start, continues despite Tomi and Fredrik suffering from serious stomach problems.

"To be honest, I also don't feel 100 per cent either," Calle said.

Once they have recovered, the team's next big challenge is China.

"It's the biggest country on our route. We'll have to cover about 5,800km of desert, mountains, small villages and big cities – it's going to be awesome."

With regular updates rolling in, the children of the post-tsunami orphanage Barnhem Muang Mai

are keeping tabs on the team.

The orphanage, which will be the benefactor of the charity ride, is run by Susanne Janson and Hans Forssell, who have set up a room to allow the children to follow the cyclists' epic journey.

"We have a special room at Barnhem that we call 'The Happy Tour Room' where the children can follow them [the cyclists] on the map, paint the flag of each country they enter and learn a little bit about all the countries. And the children love to watch the small

movies they are posting online," Susanne said.

Before the trip got underway, Susanne explained that she and Hans would be following the journey with a mixture of horror and joy, as Calle had become a kind of little brother to them.

Now, both Hans and Susanne follow Calle and his team's journey with joy.

"I guess I should say that it has been a little bit scary – but it hasn't, as we have kept close contact."

"I am filled with happiness from all of their stories about how helpful and kind the people they meet on their way have been – opening up their homes, giving them food – and so on."

Hans said that the team's stories of kindness have been touching.

"Being a westerner you hear about Serbia or Iran and you hear about those places in a geopolitical context. The average person, 'the-man-in-the-street' in these places is just so amazingly kind," Hans said.

When Calle was recently asked about the most extraordinary portion of the trip – since last speaking to the *Gazette* – it was the kindness of the Iranian people that bubbled to the surface.

"The people are just amazing: they invite you to have food and shelter almost every day; they are cheering for you all the time; and if you need any kind of help, they are always there for you – we just loved it."

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# Numbers dive for Ranong visa runs

By Chutharat Plerin

BOOKINGS for Phuket's renowned "Ranong visa run" have plunged by as much as half, a fall that is threatening the once-daily service that has become a hallmark experience for many expats.

The number of people attempting to re-enter Thailand at Ranong has dropped by about 50 per cent, popular Phuket visa run companies and Ranong immigration officers confirmed to the *Gazette* on Monday.

"We cut the Ranong run because we don't want to deal with the strict enforcement," said a representative at one Phuket visa run company that declined to be named.

"We can take only people holding non-immigrant B [business] visas there, which means about five people instead of 10 – it's financially not worth it."

However, another well-known visa run company, KBV, explained that they were continuing the run, but now only irregularly.

"We still go, but only if we have 10 customers for the van. We now offer visa runs to other places, such as Satun [on the Malaysian border], so we advise our customers to go there if needed," said Preeyapan Aditthepwarangkul, the owner of KBV Visa Run.

"Immigration officers are strict on visa-exemption stamps. So we always suggest that our customers call us ahead of time for the most up-to-date information about what is happening."



Ranong visa stamps in expats' passports won't be as common as they once were. Photo: Gazette file

Since the order to tighten up on visa-extension stamps came into effect on August 13, the number of visa runners at the Ranong border has halved, confirmed Ranong Immigration Superintendent Aekkorn Butsababodin.

"Since then, our officers have refused to allow foreigners to re-enter Thailand if they had just completed a visa-exemption stay," Col Aekkorn said.

"The drop in numbers has been so significant that I have even been contacted by officials in

Myanmar asking what has happened to the tourists in Thailand."

The strict enforcement comes as Thailand attempts to crack down on foreigners abusing the system and working illegally.

"It is not only Ranong. The rule applies to every border checkpoint throughout the country," Col Aekkorn said. "Even tourists entering on their first visa-exemption stay may be refused at the border if we suspect that they will be working illegally in Thailand."

However, Sadao Immigration

Deputy Superintendent Banphot Kittivira pointed out on Monday that genuine tourists had nothing to worry about.

"Genuine tourists will be fine. All you have to do is prove to the officers at the border that you are a legitimate tourist, so either have the right visa or the necessary documents to prove your legitimacy," Col Banphot said.

"A travel itinerary, hotel bookings, tour bookings or any other similar travel documents will be helpful proof."



Police confirmed that the targeted bank would be refunding all victims in full. Photo: Redspotted

## Skimmers bank 1.4 million from Krabi ATMs

MORE than 1.4 million baht was skimmed from the accounts of 43 ATM card holders across the bay from Phuket in Krabi between August 7 and August 13, Krabi City Police revealed last week.

"After questioning victims, it appears that the skimming has mostly targeted Bank of Ayudhaya customers," Col Wittaya Meksai of the Krabi City Police said.

Col Wittaya added that some of the victims included Bank of Ayudhaya card holders withdrawing money from ATMs belonging to other banks.

Police confirmed that Bank of Ayudhaya would take full responsibility for the skimming and compensate in full all customers who had lost money.

"Police are now collecting information from all banks in Krabi to locate the ATMs that were fitted with skimming equipment. After that, we will check the CCTV footage in the targeted areas to see if we can identify the suspects," Col Wittaya said.

Those falling foul of the scam included Taweepong Charoenrup, captain of Krabi FC, who discovered that more than 300,000 baht had been illegally withdrawn from his Krungthai Bank account via an ATM in Taiwan.

– Saran Mittrarat



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Officials and ClubMed representatives inspect the grounds.

## Club Med gives green to Kata

THE five rai of public land returned to the Kata-Karon community when Club Med was given a new lease on life on August 11 will be developed into a public park.

"Representatives of the public and Club Med decided that the best way to use the land will be to develop a green space where everyone can exercise and play sports," said Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Paiboon Upatising on Saturday.

The resort would cover all construction costs of the park.

The *OrBorJor* leased the plot to Club Med in 1985, with the 30-year lease set to expire in September next year.

Club Med was able to renew the lease for only three years.

Although President Paiboon initially reported that the land to be handed back covered three rai, he confirmed last Saturday that the full area of public land reclaimed covered five rai.

— **Woranut Pechdee**

# Phuket's first underpass opens, building continues

By Chutharat Plerin

THE 600-million-baht underpass located beside the Central Festival Phuket shopping mall is now open to northbound vehicles, Phuket Highways Office Director Samak Luedwonghad confirmed to the *Phuket Gazette* on Tuesday.

The underpass was opened on Saturday from 10am to noon and then opened to traffic again on Tuesday after it was determined that the road surface for northbound traffic at ground level was unsafe.

"After opening the underpass for two hours on Saturday, we closed it to allow traffic to travel as normal. However, on Monday we discovered yesterday that the road surface wasn't safe for northbound traffic due to drainage issues derived from the recent heavy rains," Mr Samak said on Tuesday.

Though the underpass is open, the northbound traffic cannot make a left-hand turn toward Makro along Wichit Songkram Road. Those wanting to turn toward Kathu are advised to drive north until they can access Bang



The unofficial opening of the underpass came days ahead of the planned opening. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

Yai Road.

The underpass was originally slated to open for a mid-May trial, but was set back by heavy rains.

The unofficial opening of the underpass comes days ahead of the planned opening at the end of this week. However, with the project 85 per cent complete, it is expected to be functioning

smoothly by next week and completely finished by the beginning of October.

"Construction workers are focusing on repairing the road surface and removing construction waste from the roadway. Motorists should be able to make left-hand turns toward Kathu by next week," Mr Samak said.

Mr Samak urged motorists to drive carefully while the underpass is still under construction, and to be patient with any tailbacks.

"Please drive slowly and carefully. We have only one lane open for northbound traffic right now. Any accidents there would produce enormous tailbacks," Mr Samak said.



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# Tear downs rage on

By Woranut Pechdee

A MASSIVE military sweep of some of Phuket's most popular beaches on August 14 saw almost two dozen illegal structures forcefully removed and charges pressed against the business owners.

"We are following orders from the National Council for Peace and Order [NCPO]. Multiple business owners have ignored the order to remove their establishments, so we are doing it for them," said Col Somchai Ponatong of the Army's 41<sup>st</sup> Military Circle.

The owners of the establishments have been ordered to present themselves to local police or the Navy to face charges for encroachment, failure to obey an official order and building without permission.

"If they refuse to present themselves, they could be taken to military court," Col Somchai added.

The Navy started demolishing the Windsurf Shop and Restaurant and Tri Trang Restaurant, but left standing Patong Bay, owned by Prab Keesin, son of former Patong



Demolition began on many of Phuket's most popular beaches in accordance with an order issued by the NCPO.

Mayor Pian Keesin.

"Patong Bay will stay, as Mr Prab was able to present a legitimate *Chanote* title. We have already checked its legality with the Land Office," Col Somchai said.

Officials also visited the White

Box Restaurant on Kalim Beach and found that restaurant staff had already begun tearing down parts of the building the military had ordered them to remove.

"The Navy did not interfere in the tear-down of White Box, as

staff were already doing it themselves," said Col Somchai.

Later that day, officials inspected and ordered torn down more than a dozen structures that were encroaching on Nai Yang beach and on Cherng Talay beaches.

## Waterfall area inspected for encroachment

AN INVESTIGATION squad on Sunday inspected developed areas allegedly encroaching on the protected forest surrounding the Wang Kee Aon Waterfall in the hills of Patong, one of the places HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej visited on a trip to Phuket in 1959.

The team, composing Royal Forest Department (RFD) officers and Navy personnel, were following up on complaints from residents that claimed the area had been overrun by construction.

"The complaints said that many buildings had been constructed in this area, diminishing the natural landscape," said Cheewapap Cheewatham, a former Sirinath National Park chief who now serves as director of the RFD's Forest Protection and Fire Control Division.

"We found that there are at least three construction sites near the waterfall. Additionally, PVC pipes have been installed upstream to divert water to nearby households, which diminishes the volume of water flowing to the waterfall."

Although officers believed that the area looked like it had been encroached on, Mr Cheewapap said that they would have to wait for verification from the Land Department and aerial photo interpretation of the land boundaries to be completed.

"We can't move forward until the land title documents for the buildings are checked and the boundaries determined. However, the waterfall is in a protected forest area, so if we can prove that the construction sites are encroaching, the buildings will be demolished," he said.

— Kraitsada Mueanhawong

## Ancient remains unearthed, WWII shipwreck discovered

ANCIENT human bones have been unearthed along with clay pots believed to be up to 5,000 years old in Khao Na Wang Mi in Krabi, across Phang Nga Bay from Phuket.

Following the discovery in a cliff area in Thap Prik, north of Krabi Town, the Phuket-based 15<sup>th</sup> Archaeology Office director Riam Phumpongphaet said the office would register the area as an protected site to prevent further damage.

Ms Riam said the belief that an area must be registered before being granted protection was incorrect.

When an ancient object is discovered and confirmed by the Fine Arts Department, the significance of the find is sufficient for the

area to receive protection status, she said.

News of the discovery of ancient human remains in Krabi came as the Fine Arts Department on Monday dispatched divers to inspect a sunken ship, possibly from World War II, about a kilometer off Chumphon.

Fine Arts Department archaeologist Siri Ploymukda led divers to investigate the shipwreck, lying at the bottom of Thong Kho Bay in Tambon Bang Nam Jeud.

The team found the ship, 50 meters long by 8m wide, on a shallow seabed.

Mr Siri said an initial inspection to determine the metal-hulled boat's origins would take three days and then there would be a week-long investigation. — *The Nation*



The ship, possibly from WWII, was found at the bottom of Thong Kho Bay off the coast of Chumphon. Photo: The Nation



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## AROUND THE nation

### No debt with new budget, says NCPO

GEN Prayuth Chan-ocha, head of the Army and the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) told the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) on Monday that the proposed 2015 fiscal year budget would not leave problems or debt for the country.

Gen Prayuth proposed the 2.575-trillion-baht budget on Monday for approval by the NLA. The budget will adhere to the principles of economic sufficiency, reported *The Nation*.

The assembly voted 183 in favor of supporting the bill on the first reading, while three abstained.

The Army chief expects the economy to recover in the latter half of this year on the back of a clearer political situation and effective budget measures.

# Japanese man may have fathered at least 12 Thai surrogate babies

By Amy Lefevre

THE lawyer of a Japanese man suspected of having fathered at least 12 babies using Thai surrogate mothers, submitted DNA samples to Thai police on Monday in a bid to clear his name.

The 24-year-old man, Mitsutoki Shigeta, identified by police as a Japanese national who travelled frequently in and out of Thailand, has not been charged with any crime.

His lawyer, Kong Suriyamonthon, said his client wants to clear the allegations against him.

"It's a DNA sample, yes. He wants the truth to be known," Mr Kong said on Monday, adding that he did not know whether Mr Shigeta would return to Thailand.

He declined to confirm Mr Shigeta's whereabouts, but said that the samples had come from Japan.

Col Naiyawat Padermchit of the Metropolitan Police Division 4 said at least 12 babies tested were fathered by Mr Shigeta.

Thailand has been gripped by surrogacy scandals recently, following allegations that an Australian couple had abandoned their Down's syndrome baby with his Thai birth mother, taking only his twin sister back to Australia.

Earlier this month, Thai police discovered nine surrogate babies with their nannies and a pregnant surrogate mother at a Bangkok apartment, dubbed the "baby factory" by media. Police later said that they had found more babies, all suspected of being fathered by the Japanese businessman.

"We have intelligence that [Mr Shigeta] is a rich man and his father gave him a lot of money. We also know he took children from Thailand to Cambodia,"

**'It's a DNA sample, yes.  
He wants the truth to be  
known'**

**— Kong Suriyamonthon,  
Mitsutoki Shigeta's lawyer**



Japanese businessman Mitsutoki Shigeta is said to have fathered at least a dozen babies from Thai surrogate mothers. Photo: The Nation

Thailand's Interpol director, Apichart Suriboonya, told Reuters, adding that police had not yet found any link to human trafficking.

The National Council for Peace and Order has given preliminary approval for a draft law to make commercial surrogacy a criminal offense. — Reuters

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## Boiler explodes, 22 injured in accident



The boiler explosion occurred early on August 17. Photo: The Nation

A BOILER exploded at a dyeing plant in Samut Prakan's Muang district on August 17, injuring 22 workers and residents. Several nearby homes were also damaged in the accident.

Of the injured, 17 were migrants including a Myanmar national in charge of running the boiler. Four others were from a Thai family living next door to the factory.

The entire plant and its machinery, owned by Wongwisit Dyeing Co, was destroyed. Damage was estimated to be about 10 million baht, reported *The Nation*.

The site has been declared off-limits pending an inspection by police to determine the cause of the accident. No one has been charged yet.

The explosion blew out the upper and lower lids of the five-meter-tall by three-meter-wide boiler and sent the main unit flying some distance away from its original site. The explosion levelled six homes and damaged a few others while setting fire to machinery on the other side of the

building. The blaze was extinguished in 30 minutes.

Police said six workers were on duty, including the operator, identified as Sor Mon San, 25, who was taken to the intensive care unit of a hospital with burns all over his body from scalding water.

A police source said there may have been problems with water pipes cooling the boiler, causing steam pressure to build up and exceed the safe limit resulting in the explosion.

Thawee Kaewchart said the pre-dawn blast sent him and two children diving into a ditch by their house, which was flattened by the force of the blast. Mr Thawee had burns on his arm and both of his children had burns on a large part of their bodies.

Jeerasak Sukhonthachart, permanent secretary of the Labour Ministry, said registered migrant workers would be provided assistance from the Social Security scheme while those unregistered would get initial assistance from their employer.



# Helping those who help our neighbors

## FIRST PERSON

THE Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation was established on September 27, 1976. The original purpose of the organization was to form a team of workers that would collect bodies that had been abandoned, buried in random places or involved in an accident. Workers would be called to retrieve the bodies, then they would pray for the deceased and have a funeral ceremony so that the person's soul could move on.

We did this because of our faith, and we did it to help others.

A group of 19 people made up the original administration board when Kusoldharm was founded. Now, there are 50 paid staff and about 300 volunteers, some of whom have been working with us for almost 20 years.

The foundation has evolved and adapted since its modest beginning more than 40 years ago. Nowadays, we do a lot of social and charity work apart from our duties as a rescue foundation.

It is no secret that this is a hard job. Not many people would willingly do the work that our staff do.

I am always watching over my staff very closely. People in our foundation must love each other and always have a positive attitude, as our job is to help others.

I work hard to gain the trust and respect of my staff, and if one of our members is disrespectful



**Benjawan Tamphanuwat**, 66, from Bangkok, is the president of the Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation. She first served as head of the organization from 2000-2002, then took up the post again in 2009.

Here, she talks about the importance of maintaining a positive, productive and safe working environment so that rescue workers, both paid and volunteer, can work together as a harmonious team and be ready for any situation they may face.

or causes any problems, I will not keep them around.

I greatly admire my staff and volunteers for having the heart to help other people while asking for little or nothing in return.

Every worker must pass a training course with the Phuket Provincial Health Office in order to take part in lifesaving missions. The course includes CPR certifications, first aid techniques and more.

Our workers are normally associated with the grisly business of saving lives on the road, but we also train our staff in marine search and rescue. We are having to adapt to the ever-increasing number of water-related accidents in seas near the island. Many of our staff members and volunteers have learned essential techniques to save others, and even themselves, in the case of a marine emergency.

We must be ready to deal with anything – on land or in the sea.

The organization is run solely on donations. However, we never send our staff out to collect money. The only way a donation can be made is by visiting our headquarters in Phuket Town.

Our focus is on Phuket, but we also help out if there is an accident or disaster in other provinces.

For example, in 1989, a plane crashed in Phang Nga, and many people died. Kusoldharm Foundation coordinated with Phang Nga provincial authorities in retrieving bodies from the crash site.

And of course, when the 2004 tsunami hit, Kusoldharm rescue workers served tirelessly.

We work 24 hours a day, seven days a week and all of our services are done for free.

No one is forced to join our team. They all follow their heart and passion, and most volunteer. I believe that is why we are still here and why we are always getting stronger.



Phuket taxi drivers could learn from Borneo drivers. Photo: Saran Mittrarat

## Taxis, take notes

### Island View

By Alex Stone

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

THE world renowned destination of Borneo is, without a doubt, full of wonders: wild orangutans, the rare proboscis monkey, "head houses" with plenty of human skulls to go around, schools of hammerhead sharks and incredibly friendly taxi drivers.

Flying halfway around the world to remote Malaysian Borneo isn't worth the trip only to witness the honest, fixed-rate taxi drivers at work, but it is certainly something to reminisce about upon return to Phuket and when involved in a taxi transaction, particularly at Phuket International Airport.

Unlike the chain-smoking taxi drivers that often greet visitors at Phuket Airport with dress shirts unbuttoned and attitudes meant to establish a fictional level of dominance, the drivers in Borneo were well dressed and incredibly polite.

On the way out to see the orangutans at the Semenggoh Wildlife Centre, one driver began talking about how certain local plants are used in traditional medicines for a variety of illnesses. He wasn't selling anything, he was simply imparting information he thought we would find interesting.

Such conversation makes a person feel good. There is something undeniably welcoming about the interaction.

One of the main differences between Phuket and Borneo taxi drivers boils down to language

barriers. Drivers who are confident in their English-language skills – much easier to find in Borneo than Phuket – are more likely to initiate a casual conversation, acting almost as informal tour guides while taking a person to exactly where they asked to go, with no additional stops to book unwanted tours.

Beyond English-language skills and a general hospitality that puts most Thai-taxi hospitality to shame, the drivers in Borneo charged reasonable prices.

There isn't a long pause as they attempt to calculate how big of a sucker they think a person is (so they can adjust the price accordingly). It's a quick response that seems so reasonable the act of bartering feels rude.

In general, people, especially tourists, don't mind the price of a taxi. What they mind is the feeling of being ripped off.

Come the AEC 2015, I would welcome the drivers of Borneo to Phuket, as Phuket has a bounty of its own reasons to visit. Decent taxi drivers could make all the difference to countless peoples' experiences here.

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

### Legalities of profitable video blogs

I have a YouTube channel showing a video diary of my travels around Thailand. I am trying to understand what laws I need to be aware of in relation to my current and past activities. Is uploading videos to YouTube considered work? Does it matter if I have YouTube ads turned on or off? I have many other videos on my channel, which I made 100 per cent outside Thailand – before my arrival. If I have ads turned on and am being paid for these

past activities while I am in the Kingdom, is this considered work?

*Concerned vlogger  
Thailand*

**Yaowapa Pibulpol, chief of Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO), replies:**

No, it isn't, as long as the upload is for fun or to share for free.

However, if you turn on YouTube ads while living in Thailand, or post them in your own blog where they can collect revenue, this could be considered work.

Even if you posted videos while outside Thailand, but then turned on ads while here, this would be considered work, as you are making money while in the country.

However, if you activated the ads before entering the country, and still received revenue once here, this would not be considered as working.

### Can you tell me where the beach is?

Is there a statutory definition for "beach" in Thailand? For example, the area of land below the mean tidal height? Or that area of land below highest astronomical spring tide? Or something else?

*Hydrographer  
Bang Tao*

**Somyot Laochoo, director of the Phuket Land Office, replies:**

The Land Office has no exact definition of what constitutes a beach. The definition is controlled by the Marine Office.

Anytime we have to deal with measuring land next to the beach, we have to work with the Marine Office and make sure the plot of land is not on the beach.

**Phuripat Theerakulpisut, director of the Phuket Marine Office, replies:**



Not sure where the beach ends and where it begins. Photo: Saran Mittrarat

Some laws mention the word beach, but there is no precise definition of what exactly is a beach.

For example, Section 117 of the Thai Navigation Act BE 2456 says, "No person shall construct buildings or other structure encroaching over, in or underwater of any river, canal, marsh, reservoir, lake using as a communication path or for a common use of the public, or of the sea within Thai waters or on the beach of such sea unless permission is obtained from the

Harbor Master."

But the act does not give any definition of what a "beach" is.

However, Marine Department regulations give two definitions for "coast" or "shoreline".

One definition, for where there is no beach [no sand], is the high tide mark.

The other definition, for where there is a beach [sand], is where the water meets the "sea bank" – that is, where land meets the sand, beyond high-tide mark.

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)



# A step in the right direction

THE welcome news that the Royal Thai Police no longer need to wait 24 hours before launching a missing child search is one of the greatest leaps forward in policing policy in years (see page 1).

A regular reader would not have to flip through a pile of back issues to know of the countless international law-enforcement conferences reported over the years – and the standard photo opportunities of local police targeting “bad guys”, primarily in the hope of saving Thailand from losing face and defending the nation’s lucrative tourism reputation.

This latest move targets the saving of lives of those most valuable to any society: children.

It also brings the Royal Thai Police in line with world standards. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has Child Abduction Rapid Deployment (CARD) teams across the United States.

“The first few hours after a child is abducted are critical,” says the FBI on its website, although admitting that the CARD teams were only established in October 2005.

However, the FBI brings some common sense to the problem – and a counter to the Thai Police mantra that they do not have enough officers: the FBI has only 60 CARD officers who make up five teams working the entire US.

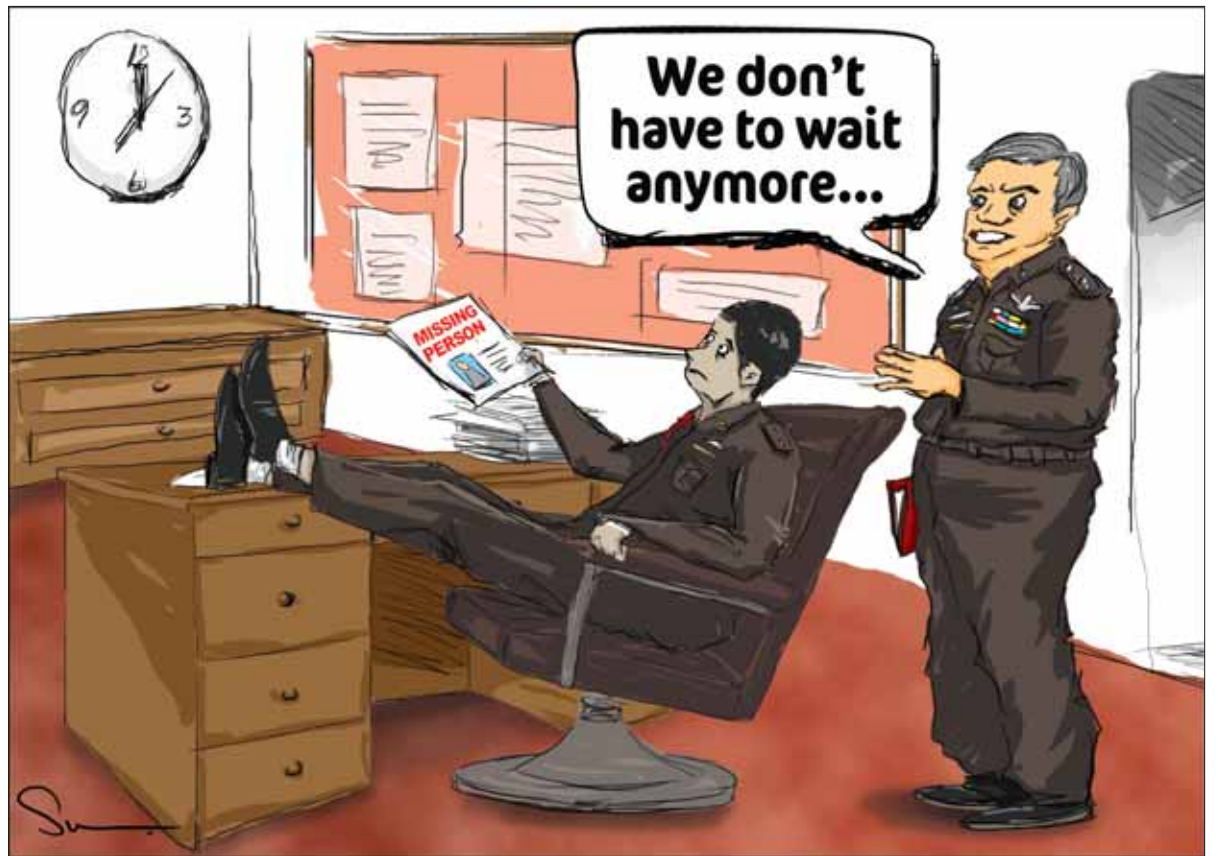
The policy shift also caters well to the changing social fabric of Phuket, where many parents are from other provinces. Most Thais in Phuket are not Phuket natives, and many of them leave their children with elderly family members or friends while they work. Sadly, as the tragic tale of Nong Dear shows, anytime a child is out of sight of his or her parents could be a time for worry.

To their credit, the Thai police now (unofficially) use to their benefit another recent cultural shift – the Thai dependency on being connected online. Police use the chat application Line to update the media on breaking news stories. News of a missing child can be quickly spread the same way.

Of all sad irony, the case of missing Nong Pin in 2011 highlights how she herself could have been using at the time of her disappearance, one of the greatest tools in locating missing persons: she was last seen in an internet cafe using Facebook.

The global online networking portal has 24 million users in Thailand, who collectively send more than 5.5 billion messages each month. Yet despite the plethora advertisements that target a specific Facebook readership, the *Gazette* has yet to see one localized public notice for a missing person.

Mark Zuckerberg, 29, has yet to sire children, but has amassed more than 893.48bn baht from Facebook. Maybe he can afford to spare a few localized ad slots to promote missing children notices – if the Royal Thai Police can seize the initiative.



## Take away jet-skis, not restaurants

Re: *Gazette online, Military bulldozes Phuket beach structure, owners to face charges, August 14*

Very sad to see the Windsurf and Tri Trang Beach Restaurant demolished. Both provided much needed facilities on the beach.

I cannot understand the removal of beach chairs and umbrellas from the beach – there is very little natural shade available – yet we are still plagued with noisy jet-skis who have very little regard for swimmers.

Phuket Oldie  
Gazette forum

### Culture of apathy

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket road safety: Time to tank it in, August 17*

As a Canadian expat living in Phuket for the past 17 years, I have found that it is not so much a “culture of carelessness”, but more a “culture of apathy” that seems to permeate the very core at every level of Thai society.

They know what the rules are, but they just don’t care.

Police and military enforcement with steep fines and/or jail time is urgently required for all traffic violations. Be careful out there.

Ian  
Gazette forum

### Beware of both still and flowing water

Re: *Gazette online, Patong Police Station goes for a swim during Phuket flash flood, August 15*

A flash flood is fast moving water that can sweep people and even cars away, with only 20 or so centimeters of depth.

That water in the picture is as stagnant as it gets. The danger is contagion from sewage. I would not be standing around in it.

The Night Mare  
Gazette forum

### Letters to the Editor

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

### No hope for change

Re: *Gazette online, We can't save drivers from themselves: Phuket police, August 16*

Insane driving will continue until the police are actually out on the roads giving out tickets. Everyone drives like a maniac... because they can.

Why not speed up and go through red lights if there are never any repercussions?

Road stops for no helmets doesn't improve safety. Cops in pursuit vehicles are the only thing that could work, but Col Sakchai says there are no plans for that. So driving will remain insane here.

Kamalala  
Gazette forum

### Back off the beach

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket official assures Patong kingpin not above the law, August 19*

Which part of “now” do you not understand? If the low season weather causes damage to your resort, it is obviously built too close to the public beach.

Phil Phelan  
Facebook

### Heavier fines needed

Re: *Gazette online from The Nation, Nationwide wheel-locking campaign kicks off, August 19*

A great start but they should start towing cars away and impose heavy fines to re-claim them.

The drivers would think before doing it again, for sure.

Gary Holden  
Facebook

### Can the Army stay?

Re: *Gazette online, Patong Police deny Mother's Day shakedown on Soi Bangla, August 13*

What this is indicative of, is that corruption remains the primary driving force in Phuket, and that the NCPO has pushed the criminals (including corrupt police) off to the side to lay low for awhile.

However, they are so accustomed to corruption that they can't stay away.

They seem addicted to wrong behavior, all the way up. I think the Army needs to take care of everything in Thailand for at least another 10 years – minimum.

Hmmm, not good  
Gazette forum

### Boost surfing tourism

Re: *Gazette online, Club Med giving green to Kata, August 18*

This is an ideal spot for a skate park for kids. With Surfhouse at one end of Kata Beach, a skateboarding bowl at the other, and ocean surf in between, it would become a mecca for surf tourism.

Mike  
Gazette forum

### Hoping for foresight

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket's first underpass opens as construction continues, August 19*

Will this be a 300-million-baht swimming pool or not? Let's hope they had the foresight to allow for the annual monsoon rain and don't blame “unusual monsoon rainfall” if it does flood.

Hopefully this will be the answer to the traffic congestion problem. It may also serve as the role model for the proposed Patong tunnel in regards to drainage. Good luck, boys.

Skip  
Gazette forum

## Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### Until August 28, 2-4:30pm. Kidz Activities by Quest

During July and August, kids and parents are invited to visit Canal Village every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon to take part in the kids' activities program of the day, which include treasure hunt, wacky games, bbq chefs, and kids vs wild, all taking turn for an afternoon of kids' entertainment.

"Kidz Activities by Quest" is the highlight activity during Laguna Phuket's Summer Family Promotion, a trove of extra benefits and added value for all Laguna hotel guests which include free dining for kids, free kids' golf, free Laguna Tours Excursions and extra beds (terms and conditions apply).

For more information call 076-362300 or visit: [lagunaphuket.com/events/family-festival](http://lagunaphuket.com/events/family-festival)

### September 6-7, 8:30am-4:30pm. Phuket Cycling Fest 2014

Phuket Cycling Fest 2014 kicks off in Phuket Town with advanced race of 70km, intermediate race of 26km and a beginners race of 10km. The program also includes a bicycle workshop as well as a meet and greet event with Thai celebrity "Wan Wan". Entrance fee of 350 baht includes a T-Shirt. For more information call 076-212213

### September 18, 11:30am-2pm. Phuket International Women's Club September Lunch

The September lunch will be at Bollywood, Phuket Town. Early booking is recommended as seats are limited. All are welcome. Members 600 baht, guests 750 baht. For more information contact Maggy Wigman on 86-594 1758, email [info@piwc-phuket.com](mailto:info@piwc-phuket.com).

# Phuket Cycling Fest 2014

## September 6-7, 8:30am-4:30pm



### October 4, 7pm. Dinner and Rock Party at Bliss

Dinner and Rock party at Bliss in celebration of giving to needy kids in Phuket through the Rotary Club of Patong Beach. Opens at 7pm and closes at midnight. Tickets are 3,000 baht at the door or 2,500 baht in advance.

For more information call 081-892 9207, email [davidarell@yahoo.com](mailto:davidarell@yahoo.com) or go to [rotarypatong.org](http://rotarypatong.org). This event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

### October 16, 11:30am-2pm. Phuket International Women's Club October Lunch

The October lunch will be at Divino, Cherng Talay. Early booking is recommended as seats are limited. All are welcome. Members 600

baht, guests 750 baht. Contact Maggy Wigman on 86-594 1758, email [info@piwc-phuket.com](mailto:info@piwc-phuket.com)

### October 23. Chulalongkorn Memorial Day

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V.

### November 4, 9am-4pm. PIWC presents The Melbourne Cup

The PIWC presents The Melbourne Cup, "The Race That Stops a Nation". For more information contact Maggy Wigman on 86-594 1758, email [info@piwcphuket.com](mailto:info@piwcphuket.com) or visit [piwc-phuket.com](http://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.

### November 6. Loy Krathong

A festival traditionally performed on the full moon night of the 12<sup>th</sup> lunar month, which usually falls in November. Loy Krathong is not a public holiday

### November 7-8. 2014 BISP International Football Tournament

British International School Phuket (BISP) in Thailand is proud to host for the thirteenth consecutive year, the seven-a-side Football Tournament. Over 1,000 young players from all over Asia are expected at this exciting competition.

For more information email BISP Athletics Director Jeff LaMantia at [jlamantia@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:jlamantia@bisphuket.ac.th)

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.

### November 20-22. The Phuket International Sportfishing Tournament (PIST)

Registration on November 19 from 6pm onwards at the Tamarind Bar & Grill in Chalong. For more info, visit: [phuket-international-sportfishing-tournament.com](http://phuket-international-sportfishing-tournament.com).

This annual event, now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, is proudly sponsored by 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).

**Looking for a place to stay?**  
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## Phuket today

Phuket Gazette

**BROADCASTING PHUKET TO THE WORLD**  
 Phuket Today takes the Pearl of the Andaman to an international audience. PGTV's one-hour show features the personalities, lifestyle, sports and leisure activities that make Phuket famous.

Produced by PGTV, the show is designed to promote Phuket to tourists and the international community in Thailand.

LOCAL COVERAGE	NATIONAL COVERAGE	INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE																										
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <b>Now on Truevisions HD 79, SD 107</b> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <b>Phuket Cable</b>            Coverage: All of Phuket            Channel: <b>1</b>            Monday-Friday: 10.30am, 6pm, 9pm            Saturday-Sunday: 10.30am, 9pm         </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <b>Rawai Cable</b>            Coverage: Rawai, Kata, Karon            Channel: <b>1</b>            Monday-Friday: 10am, 1pm, 7pm, 10pm         </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <b>KDTV</b>            Coverage: Phuket's West Coast from Patong to Cherng Talay            Channel: <b>10</b>            Daily: 8.30am, 2.30pm         </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <b>MCOT World</b> </div> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 30%;">Tuesday:</td><td>12.05pm &amp; 7pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Wednesday:</td><td>6pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Thursday:</td><td>1pm &amp; 8pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Friday:</td><td>9am</td></tr> <tr><td>Saturday:</td><td>1pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday:</td><td>6am</td></tr> </table> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-top: 5px;"> <b>Truevisions HD Channel: 79</b>  <b>Truevisions SD Channel: 107</b>  <b>PSI TRUE TV Channel: 37</b>  <b>GMMZ Channel: 103</b> </div>	Tuesday:	12.05pm & 7pm	Wednesday:	6pm	Thursday:	1pm & 8pm	Friday:	9am	Saturday:	1pm	Sunday:	6am	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <b>Broadcast to China, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Turkey, UAE, and many other countries around Asia and beyond.</b> </div> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Thaicom 5 Sat</td> <td style="text-align: right; color: red;"><b>3520H</b></td> </tr> <tr><td>Tuesday:</td><td>12.05pm &amp; 7pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Wednesday:</td><td>6pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Thursday:</td><td>1pm &amp; 8pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Friday:</td><td>9am</td></tr> <tr><td>Saturday:</td><td>1pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday:</td><td>6am</td></tr> </table>	Thaicom 5 Sat	<b>3520H</b>	Tuesday:	12.05pm & 7pm	Wednesday:	6pm	Thursday:	1pm & 8pm	Friday:	9am	Saturday:	1pm	Sunday:	6am
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Online: [www.phuketgazette.net/tv](http://www.phuketgazette.net/tv) | [www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket](http://www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket)  
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## YOUR Phuket

# Crystal Wild Resort soft opening

Honored guests were recently invited to celebrate the soft opening of Phuket's latest luxury resort located at Cape Panwa. A gala dinner was held at Kong Kang restaurant, an open-air venue under Crystal Wild Resort. The buffet featured authentic Thai food and guests enjoyed a Thai dance performance.



From left: Wichain Makseengern, chef de partie; Somruetai Rookun, commis chef; Nisit Sappasarn, chef.



From left: Ardchara Khoo-aroon, president; Sunida Chooapan, guest; Methaporn Urapanarnan, guest; and Mongkontep Khoo-aroon, general manager

## Two year anniversary of Le Versace and happy birthday to Ant

Staff, management and friends of Le Versace restaurant in Patong recently celebrated the venue's second anniversary.



From left: Praewprawlin Inchomchuen and Warraporn Noiladtee



From left: Chawalit Sanguanporn; birthday girl Radhilin Ant; and Niphatcha Wichainbun

## Beach BBQ party at Impiana

Impiana Resort Patong Phuket invited local travel agents and media to join in a 'thank you' party at Sala Bua restaurant. Impiana's new General Manager for Thailand David Xavier who oversees three of Impiana's properties in Phuket and Koh Samui, hosted the party.



Impiana's new General Manager for Thailand David Xavier welcomed guests at the party.



From left: David Xavier, general manager; Pond Guinault; Kansirinphat Poolsiri; Satra Satrapai, director of sales and marketing.



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

# ISLAND TRADER

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

## PROPERTY of the week



See page 17

## JOB of the week

**HEAD  
MAID / NANNY  
(travelling)**

See page 21

## PERSONAL SERVICES of the week

**Phuket Mental  
Health  
Counseling**

See page 23

## BOAT of the week



See page 25

## HOT Promotion – Gazette **CLASSIFIEDS**

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## Properties For Sale

**PALM BREEZE CONDO**  
Nai Harn, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, Fully furnished. Urgent sale US\$199,000. No agents! For more information, please call 081-956 1077.

**NICE STUDIO APT, B 1.5 MILLION**

Studio of 36 sqm. Phuket Town at Green Places. Quiet. Details on request. Tel: 095-437 9062 (English). Email: lilly@mail.ru

**HOUSE FOR SALE NAI HARN**

3-bedrooms, fully furnished, 5 minutes to the beach. Reduced to 3.9 million baht for quick sale. Tel: 088-168 5032.

**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.

**BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED CONDO**

Attractively furnished, Fully equipped, 4th floor, 37sqm, 1-bed condo in the Royal Place. Tel: 081-828 0615 (English & Thai). Email: dom23781@msn.com

**APARTMENT FOR SALE IN BOAT LAGOON**

2-bedroom, marina apartment for sale in Boat Lagoon, north of Phuket Town, in a residential maritime township surrounded by commercial plaza and sporting facilities. Fully furnished, private carport, large swimming pool available for residents. Living area: 198sqm. Freehold. Price: 11 million baht. Tel: 080-789 4500 (English & French). Email: Chris tophe.soula@hotmail.fr

**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.

**2-BEDROOM BUNGALOW KOH KAEW**

Near Intschool. Western kitchen, air con, quiet estate. 2.95 million. Tel: 087-999 6174(English). Email: gtbbkk@yahoo.com

**BUILDING BANGLA - PATONG**

25 million baht, XL commercial / residential building in Soi Bangla Square, Patong. 4 floors + 6m frontage. Over 360sqm in total. For more information, please call 087-881 7600 (English & Thai). Email: cocodiorster@gmail.com

**PHUKET NEW CONDO FOR SALE**

2-bed, 2-bath. Sugar Palm Condo. Right at Suan Luang Park with direct access to superb park, lake and ocean views. 10th floor, corner unit, 90 sqm. 10 min to Central shopping center, 20-30 minutes to beaches. 65,000 baht per sqm. Call Noi 087- 269 8492.

**LAND FOR SALE**

Back of Loch Palm, 510sqm, part of a small gated community of 2 villas, next to small lake. Chanote title and, if interested, complete house plans provided for free. 6 million baht, negotiable. For more information, please call 087-266 4583 (English), 082-440 6884 (Thai).

**LARGE SEAVIEW HOUSE AT LAYAN**



3 rai, Chanote. Price: 54 million baht. Tel: 081-787 4383. Email: ruggdan@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.

**SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE KAMALA**



2.75 rai 4,500sqm. Nor Sor 3 Kor title, ready to be built, building permit, electricity, road access, only 10 mn baht/rai. Tel: 088-768 0942. Email: pascal.elephantboutiquehotel@gmail.com

**LAND FOR SALE IN UDON THANI**

59 rai: 150,000 baht per rai. Beautiful land, perfect for resort living. Many big trees and a creek, very peaceful mountain views. Next to a national park. Power, water, easy access. 15 minutes from airport. Beautiful part of Thailand. Contact Nisa 086-211 1599. (English & Thai). Email: moon\_nisa@hotmail.com

**LAND FOR SALE**

Close to the beach in Mai Khao. 4,136 sqm. Chanote title 16.9 million baht. Negotiable price. Contact Khun Tik. Tel: 085-784 7218 (English & Thai). Email: khurutphuketproperty@gmail.com

**LAND - PATONG BEACH**

Opposite White Box restaurant. Sea View & beach front. 48 million baht/rai. Plots of 22 rai, 10 rai, and 4 rai Tel: 084-847 9977 (English & Thai), 084-058 8892 (English & Thai). Email: info@pacificlightshotel.com

**VILLA WITH POOL**

4-bedrooms, pool villa for sale, Fully furnished, 12.5 million baht or rent long term: 75,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-729 2989. Email: tabppg@gmail.com

**ENTERTAINMENT PALACE**



Magnificent penthouse in Karon with panoramic sea view apartment. Reduced by 10 million baht for quick sale, includes an additional two-bedroom apartment. Now 46 million baht. Freehold. Please call 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

**TOWNHOUSE PHUKET TOWN FOR SALE / RENT**



In Supalai City Hill estate. Very quiet, safe, convenient. 3 years old, 2 storeys, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, WiFi, decorated, shady garden, well-maintained by original owner. For sale: 2.8 million baht ono. For more information, please call 089-874 00 61. Email: stephenfein@gmail.com

**REAL SEAVIEW LAND**

Seaview land, Yamu hills, 0.967rai 5.5million baht, freehold, Chanote. Tel: 084-625 5090. Email : yamu.hills.sunrise@gmail.com

**LAND AND HOUSE PARK**

3-bedrooms, 2-bathrooms, 2-storey house for sale. 200 sqm land, for photos. Tel: 084-845 4743. Email: attivitaphuket@yahoo.co.uk

**PATONG SEAVIEW CONDO**

Located in Andaman Beach Suite, this 120 sqm, 12th floor apartment consisting of 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and 3 balconies, a spacious living room and spectacular sea-views has everything you need for comfortable living. Close to shops, the beach (2 minute walk), access to swimming pool and other facilities. Tel: 076-341879 (English). Email: jayney mac@yahoo.com.au

**BEACHFRONT VILLA RAWAI**



800sqm, 3-4 bedrooms, 2 living rooms, private beach, from 35 million baht. Sale: 29.9 million baht. Email: gm@thenetworkproperty.com

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

**3-BEDROOMS 2-BATHROOMS IN COMPOUND**

Villa in good compound with sport club. Furnished, opposite Laem Hin Seafood & Maeju, near PIADS. For more information, please call 081-719 0014. Email: nacky2u@hotmail.com

**ZCAPE 1-BEDROOM CONDO LAGUNA**

Brand-new, semi-furnished, two 1-bedroom condos (27.7sqm & 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

**LUXURY POOL VILLA**



Within unique development - 8,700,000 baht. Please call 081-077 1765. Email: phuketformations@gmail.com

**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. Tel: 089-651 3250.

**FOR SALE / RENT SEA VIEW**

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**FREEHOLD POOL VILLA**



From 1.1 million baht. 800m from Nai Harn Beach. For more information, please call 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

**POOL VILLA FOR SALE / RENT**



Rawai, 800sqm land, Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Price: 15 million baht. Contact Nisa. Tel: 089-674 4898.

**TITLE CONDO 2BR REDUCED**

Rawai: 66 sqm, 6.5 million baht if closed within in 30 days. Tel: 089-772 7136 (English). Email: tedlee fisher@hotmail.com



## Properties For Rent

**PATONG 1 BEDROOM**

Patong 1-bedroom unit, seaview, quiet, security, gate, aircon, power, WiFi. 18,000 baht per month. Call Tam. Tel: 080-383 3060.

**CHALONG HOUSE FOR RENT**

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and 3 aircons. Tel: 087-266 7191.

**HOUSE FOR RENT**

In Chalong, 4 bedrooms with furniture and swimming pool. Call wokki. Tel: 080-144 1168. Email: max\_mrp@hotmail.com

**3-BED VILLA RENT KAMALA**

Villa in Kamala, 3 bedrooms all air con, 4 baths all ensuite, bath tub in master, Fully furnished, Euro kitchen, wash machine, Internet, cable TV, large garden so dog/cat OK, abundant free water, central hot water. Facebook: house rentkamala. Price: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-773 4538. Email: skgf@skgf.asia

**LUXURY 1 BED PATONG**

100 sqm, pool, Fully furnished, WiFi. Price: 18,000 baht per month. For more information please call 081-271 7092. Email: bricothermaland@hotmail.com

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Modern kitchens, large pool, free WiFi, maid, cable, parking, gym. For more information, please call 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

**PATONG 1 & 2 BEDROOM UNITS**

Modern kitchens, large pool, free WiFi, maid, cable, parking, gym. For more information, please call 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

**CONDO FOR RENT IN TOWN**

Furnished condo with aircon, TV, fridge. Gym and pool. 7,500 baht per month until September. For more information, please call 081-978 1558. Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

**HOUSE FOR RENT/SALE THALANG**

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

**FOR RENT, RAWAI / NAI HARN**

Vassana Residence and Palm Breeze resort. Starting at 30,000 baht per month for long-term rent. Sea view rooftop deck and bar overlooking the Andaman Sea. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. LCD TV in every room, swimming pool, washing machine in every apartment. 160sqm in size, free WiFi. Tel: 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.com, www.premierpropertiesphuket.com

**LOVELY APARTMENTS FOR RENT**

Please contact 081-539 9612, 087-633 1472. Email: chrispalmer56@gmail.com, www.pukeyomefc2.web.fc2.com/phuketcondorent.htm

**KATA BEACH APARTMENT**

Nice 1 bedroom, kitchen, WiFi, spa, Fully furnished, 500 baht per night. Tel: 086-595 8512 081-970 4638 Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

**KARON OCEANFRONT LUXURY APT**

5-star, 1 bedroom. Pools, quiet area. 24,000 baht per month. Available now. Tel: 087-531 1124 (English&Thai). Email: dfenocchio@hotmail.com, www.karonhill.altervista.org/

**7,000 BAHT PER MONTH**

1-bedroom house, furnished, WiFi + cable TV, quiet area. For more information, please call 081-892 4311. http://panwagreen.weebly.com

**FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE**

3-bedrooms, 400sqm, free WiFi and cable TV. 25,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-892 4311. http://palaigreen.weebly.com

**BRAND NEW MODERN POOL VILLA**

Brand New Modern Pool Villas (2 & 3 beds). Fully furnished. Free WiFi, Satellite TV, Pool & Garden Maintenance. Between Cape Yamu & Ao Po Marina. Tel: 081-893 5270, 093-014 5072. Email: srupouy@gmail.com, www.tropicalhouse.net

**APARTMENT FOR RENT PATONG**

Condo pool, security, 46 square meters, Fully furnished. For more information, please call 089-728 4005 (English&Thai). Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

**2-BED APT PATONG**

100 sqm, pool, Fully furnished, WiFi. 18,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-271 7092. Email: bricothermaland@hotmail.com

**VILLA FOR RENT NAI YANG**

3-bed, Fully furnished. Long time rental. 21,000 baht per month. Please call 084-847 4377 (English), 084-842 6147 (English & Thai). Email: info@thaidreams.se

**4-BED, 3-BATH NEAR LAGUNA**

4-bed, 3-bath with private pool, landscaped garden, and only a few minutes drive to Villa Market and Laguna. Short and long term. Available now. Please call 089-655 7480. Email: suppamas@live.com

**KATA BUNGALOW SOI 4**

Fully furnished, 1 bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, terrace, WiFi and cable TV. Price: 9,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-606 2827(English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

**HOUSE FOR RENT**

Near BIS single house. 3 bedrooms, Fully furnished, airconditioners, furniture, kitchen. 28,000baht per month. For more information please call 081-892 1732. Email: ann@siammileage.com

**200SQM WAREHOUSE**

Near Chalong circle, modern lockup. Price: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-082 5707.

**HOUSE FOR RENT**

3-bedrooms, 2-bathrooms, 4 aircon. Fully furnished with small garden, quiet area. Rent 15,000 baht / month. Tel: 086-690 0626. Email: bcarrent@hotmail.com

**KATHU GOLF AND VALLEY VIEW VILLA**

1, 2 and 3 bed Kathu golf and valley view villa. For rent, big pool, 4 km to BIS. Quiet, on top of a private hill. Fully furnished. Maid, WiFi, security. Long-term 35,000, 38,000 and 75,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 087-269 8492.

**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: annanoi1@hotmail.com

Let us take your ad to the top of Google with a 20% discount!



Your key to fast-track placement and easy payment for ads at Thailand's LARGEST classifieds marketplace. Hundreds of new ads every week! Like to have one?

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

**Live in Rawai?**

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at The Network property office



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Anna: 076-388144, 086-4780201, 088-1685032**

**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!**



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



# Phuket Gazette

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

## SUB-EDITOR

- Fluent in English
- Able to work to strict deadlines
- A team player
- Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- Newspaper experience and/or layout skills, especially in PageMaker or InDesign, required.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to [editor@phuketgazette.net](mailto:editor@phuketgazette.net)

## The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

## OPC'S WANTED. KOH SAMUI.

OPCs wanted for Koh Samui. Good sales people. Must speak English. Good salary. Tel: 077-413598, 093-680 2498. Email: [opcbigsy@yahoo.com](mailto:opcbigsy@yahoo.com)

## CHINESE PROPERTY REP

Phuket's leading agency is now looking for one position only to represent us and deal with our Chinese speaking clients. You should have extensive knowledge in sales and know Phuket island well. Reading and speaking Chinese is a must. Terms and conditions will be presented at the interviews. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Please send your resume to [info@phuket-condos-homes.com](mailto:info@phuket-condos-homes.com) For future details, please see our website at [www.phuket-condos-homes.com](http://www.phuket-condos-homes.com)

## PART-TIME TEACHERS NEEDED!!

Native speaker for English, Chinese and Japanese. Bachelor's degree or higher. Must be able to teach various ages of students. Tel: 076-219337, 095-429 5251 (English & Thai). Email: [nyc.phuket@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.phuket@gmail.com)

## SALES REPRESENTATIVES

English speaking TO and Sales Reps needed. Experience in timeshare only. Start immediately. Tel: 076-342794, 088-450 1833. Email: [hr@davidvacationclub.com](mailto:hr@davidvacationclub.com)

## LOOKING FOR LIVE-IN NANNY

Full-time, to take care of 8-year-old daughter. Play & do activities with children after school. Require English speaking. Tel: 090-070 9633 (English). Send CV to [dae@skgf.asia](mailto:dae@skgf.asia)

## ENGLISH TEACHERS NEEDED

ELT Phuket is looking for teachers. Competitive salary and bonuses. Apply within. Tel: 084-847 3033. Email: [maxbeardsley@gmail.com](mailto:maxbeardsley@gmail.com)

## LIVE-IN HOUSEKEEPER

Live-in housekeeper wanted for small family in Kathu. Duties include cleaning, laundry, some childcare and cooking. Excellent salary. Tel: 094-593 0729 (English). Email: [ritaloui@sedobson@hotmail.com](mailto:ritaloui@sedobson@hotmail.com)

## HOST FOR TOUR GROUP

Looking for part time host / guest attendant in Phuket. English speaking. High pay. Email us. Tel: 098-487 4168 (English). Email: [aarenlee@ilike-phuket.com](mailto:aarenlee@ilike-phuket.com)

## COPY WRITER

Siam Real Estate require an English speaking freelance copy writer with experience in real estate copy. Flexible working- times; own hours. Good rate per copy. Tel: 076-288908. Send CV to [jobs@siamrealestate.com](mailto:jobs@siamrealestate.com). NO calls.

## THAI EXECUTIVE CHEF NEEDED

The Chakri Group of Restaurants has 6 successful restaurants throughout KL, Malaysia. We are recruiting Executive Chefs with hotel experience of a minimum of 7 years. Tel: (60) 03-5569 2211, +60 016-227 7610. Email: [cal\\_eeen@chakri.com.my](mailto:cal_eeen@chakri.com.my) [www.chakri.com.my](http://www.chakri.com.my)

## VILLA MANAGER / ENGINEER

English speaking Thai national with strong background in electrical or mechanical engineering for onsite living and management of Team for two large villas in Kamala. Must have driving license, computer skill and be technically competent acquainted with new technologies. Ability to handle accounts, payroll and monthly payments of invoices desired. Tel: 081-968 1178 (English). Please email [alinda-jane@kohplus.com](mailto:alinda-jane@kohplus.com) for more information.

## FINANCE MANAGER 40-50K

Compensation based on experience. Seeking a motivated individual to take on this challenge. Qualified accountant to bring all accounting / reporting functions in-house. Must have experience in preparation of management reports, and also financial reports for auditing. Must have experience in systems/process implementation, payment & approval policy, design reports. Must have experience VAT / WHT / Social Security. Must have experience in tax planning. Quickbooks experience a plus. Email: [julio@tigermuaythai.com](mailto:julio@tigermuaythai.com)

## MARKETING STAFF

Fast-growing real estate company is looking for marketing executives to join our property booth in Patong. Female / Thai national - Friendly personality and outgoing communication skills, fluent in English, multilingual is a plus. Good salary and attractive commission. Send your CV with recent photo to [helena@phuketabc.com](mailto:helena@phuketabc.com). Tel: 076-613680, 087-267 3747 (English). Fax: 076-613680. Email: [helena@phuketabc.com](mailto:helena@phuketabc.com)

# 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, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew  
A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-273555, ext 102 Fax: 076-615240

## P.A. / COMPANY SECRETARY

Managing Director of multiple companies is looking for a Phuket-based, native English-speaking foreigner or a Thai national with native English speaking capabilities. • Company Secretary experience is a must. • Experience as an Executive Assistant with strong organizational/detail-oriented administrative skills. Must possess excellent business e-mail correspondence skills. Must also possess excellent note-taking skills and be very computer savvy and proficient with Microsoft Office. Tel: 090-916 3460 (English). Email: [securecomm@yahoo.com](mailto:securecomm@yahoo.com)

## 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: [hrrbangtao@oceanresortgroup.net](mailto:hrrbangtao@oceanresortgroup.net)

## BOAT CREW

Two positions available on the Chalong-based premier power catamaran Blue World – a Chinese Speaking Tour Guide and a qualified Boat Engineer. Both vacancies are for Thai Nationals. Excellent conditions and rates of pay. Please send photo and CV to Mike. Tel: 085-475 0447 (English). Email: [blueworldsafari@gmail.com](mailto:blueworldsafari@gmail.com)

## 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!**

## Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

### CHALONG

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

### PATONG

- NEW** **Andy's Real Estate Agency** (Opp. Savoy Seafood) Tel: **076-341644**
- **Taurus Travel** (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: **076-344521-2**
- **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: **076-290468**

### PHUKET CITY

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

### CHERNG TALAY

- **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**

**Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!**



**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

**DIGITAL CONTENT /  
MEDIA ASST.**

Knowledge in Graphic Design/ VDO Editing (Adobe Suite preferred) - Fluent in written and spoken English (Native-Level Preferred Thai national) - Ability to take pictures and VDO is an advantage. Please send your CV to aey@princessyachtssea.com or call 076-238060.

**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: jtissier@aquamaster.net

**SALES / OFFICE  
REPRESENTATIVE**

Starting in August for 6 months at the Yacht Haven Phuket. Good computer / English skills. Yacht charter company, open to foreigners. Tel: 081-270 2449 (English), 081-978 6086. Fax: 076-273476. Email: mel@phuket-yachts.com

**PHUKET HOME  
SERVICE**

New maintenance company looking for staff: woman to clean, plumber, baby-sitter, ++. Contact: info@home-phuket-service.com or call 083-105 2707 (12.00-20.00) . www.home-phuket-service.com

**RESTAURANT  
MANAGER REQUIRED**

Experienced Thai restaurant manager needed to run modern contemporary restaurant. Good organization skills and fluent in English. Salary 20,000 to 30,000 baht per month, depending experience. Tel: 076-223677, 086-509 7510 (English), 095-419 7670. Email: simon@colonial-connection.com

**THAI EXECUTIVE CHEF  
NEEDED**

The Chakri Group of Restaurants has 6 successful restaurants throughout KL, Malaysia. We are recruiting Executive Chefs with minimum 7 years of hotel experience. Tel: (60) 03-5569 2211, +60 016-227 7610. Email: caleen@chakri.com.my www.chakri.com.my

**MK EXECUTIVES  
REAL ESTATE**

Phuket's leading real estate agency is looking for 2 new marketing executives to work in our property booths and offices in Patong and Rawai. High salaries and commissions are given to the right candidates. Please send your resumes / cv to info@phuket-condos-homes.com Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152 (English). Email: andres@phuket-condos-homes.com

**Marketing Staff Wanted**

Staff needed to join a promotions team to work in Real Estate. Thai female with good English communication skills.

Please call 089-594 6888. Email: info@arthouse.asia

**FILIPINO STAFF  
WANTED**

Need lady for office work only. Please reply with CV only. Tel: 081-893 7720. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

**SALESPERSON**

Sales person wanted for smart home systems integration company. Please email CV. Tel: 084-443 9863 (English). Email: daragh@techworx.asia

**PHUKET VIDEO  
MAKERS**

Looking for cameraman and video editor, easy terms. Please call Alex 085-212 8447 (English).

**RENTALS CONSULTANT  
100K+**

LivePhuket.com is the Number 1 holiday rentals platform in Phuket. We require a talented and smart Rentals Consultant. You have the opportunity to easily earn over 100,000 baht every month! Must be a Thai national and have excellent English, written and spoken. Tel: 092-474 6157. (English) Email: paul@livephuket.com

**LICENSED BOAT  
CAPTAIN SAMUI**

For wooden boat under 20 tons at Koh Samui for snorkeling day tours. Tel: 077-961911, 081-737 1984 (English & Thai), 081-396 8383 (English & Thai). Email: tks@tourskohsamui.com

**RESTAURANT  
MANAGER REQUIRED**

Experienced Thai restaurant manager needed to run modern contemporary restaurant. Good organization skills and fluent in English. Salary 20,000 to 30,000 baht per month, depending upon experience. Tel: 076-223677, 086-509 7510 (English), 095-419 7670. Email: simon@colonial-connection.com

**EVENT / PR MANAGER**

Well established event taking place in Phuket every December requires a Thai or Foreign national who has exceptional English language skills, reading, writing and speaking. Must be able to meet deadlines, work on own initiative and be a team player. Tel: 076-346927, 081-979 6320 (English). Email: gordon@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

**Head Maid / Nanny (travelling).**

A French / Thai family of 4 based in Phuket is looking for a Head Maid / Nanny to accompany them during their travels abroad.

**Location :**

- Based in Phuket with regular travels abroad.

**Job Description :**

- When in Phuket:
  - Control the quality of work of 2 to 3 maids.
  - Train maids by showing the right techniques and standards.
  - Be hands on and lead by example.
  - Help for service during receptions.
  - Accompany kids at school and other activities when needed (with driver).
  - Cook when needed (if skills allow).
  - Go and buy food at market or supermarket when needed.
- When travelling abroad:
  - Be a nanny for 2 kids (8 and 4 years old).
  - Perform cleaning of accommodation.
  - Do some laundry.
  - Support petty tasks as assigned (such as helping some food preparation).

**Skills and abilities :**

- Some English needed for travels abroad.
- Children lover.
- Must enjoy travelling and discovering the world.
- Ability to drive a motorbike is a plus.
- Ability to drive a car is a plus.
- Cooking skills are a plus.

**Nationality :**

- Thai or Filipino

**Benefits :**

- Minimum salary 25,000 baht per month.
- Salary plus daily allowance when travelling.

Please send the resume with the recent photo to

hrmgr@wineconnection.co.th or  
hrmgrphuket@wineconnection.co.th  
Or call 076-282411 # 14 for more information

**CHINESE REAL  
ESTATE SALES**

Siam Real Estate require experienced Chinese speaking sales person with good English and computer literacy. Tel: 076-288908. Send CV to jobs@siamrealestate.com or see www.siamrealestate.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

**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!**

**Live in Karon?**

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at  
**Euro style tailors**



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  
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!](http://WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!)







## Business Products &amp; Services



**DINO DAYCARE CENTER**

Accepting children 3 months old - 5 years old. 7am-7pm.

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

**CALL NOW:**  
081-868 7676 (English).  
080-525 3135 (Thai)

**DINODAYCARECENTER**

**INSURANCE SERVICE**  
Car, Motorbike, Health, Travel, Property Service at home, call to make appointment. Tel: 087-267 4342 (English). Email: agentsmithr@gmail.com

**VISA SERVICES**  
UAE and Singapore for 3 days. Please call 080-697 1860. Email: sky75@list.ru

**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

**MASSAGE THERAPY AT YOUR PLACE**

Thai traditional massage: 500 baht per hour. Aromatherapy massage: 1,000 baht per hour. Open daily 9am-10pm. For more information please call 092-464 8471.

## Club Memberships Available

**GOLF MEMBERSHIPS FOR SALE**

Lifetime Phuket Country Club and Loch Palm memberships for sale. 550,000 baht and 500,000 baht. Incl. maintenance fee for 2014 & transfer fee. Tel: 081-979 7047 (English), 084-752 4605 (Thai). Email: petemorrow@hotmail.com

**PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB MEMBERSHIP**

Family lifetime membership for sale 485,000 baht or best offer. Includes transfer fee and maintenance until end of the year 2014. Tel: 085-152 5616.

## Personal Services Wanted

**GERMAN TEACHER NEEDED**

We are looking for a German teacher for a 10-year-old child from 22-28 Dec 2014 and for 1 Jan 2015 - every morning for two hours in Patong. Tel: (41) 079-3696 535. Email: bharati.schneider@gmail.com

## Golf Stuff

**CALLAWAY GOLF CLUBS**

Big Bertha, 3 woods, 9 irons, putter and bag, 5 years old. Tel: 084-818 6045.

## 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)

## Computers

**IMAC**

21.5" / 13,000 baht. 4GB RAM / 500GB HD. Wireless keyboard & mouse. For more information please call 076-510143.

## Personals

**BACKGAMMON**

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

## Building Products &amp; Services

**WOOD WORK AND MORE**

Built in Furniture for homes, kitchens, flooring, deck-ings, wardrobes, etc. Teak deck-ings for boats and interior work, anti-fouling and osmosis repairs, and fiberglass and gel coat works. We're also an authorized applicator of Xypex, crystallization waterproof systems. Yes, All for Wood and More! Tel: 076-243089, 081-968 3118, 081-271 3228. Fax: 076-238947. Email: info@procarpente ring.com

## Personal Services

**PHUKET MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING**  
US Licensed Mental Health Counselor

"the right therapist can make the difference"

-Depression-Anxiety/Stress-School and Behavioral Problems-ADD/ADHD-Divorce/ Life Transition-Parenting  
-Sexual/Child Abuse Issues-PTSD

Experienced Teen/Adolescence Counselor: •Behavioral Problems •School/Academic Problems  
•Blended Family Issues •Marital/ Divorce •Physical/Sexual/Emotional Abuse  
Phuket Mental Health Counseling- A Registered Thai Company  
parwgk@aol.com - Mobile: 086-271 8153.



**Phuket today**  
Phuket Gazette

**Hot deal!**  
**Classified Ads on TV**

Your Classified Ad will appear on the Phuket Today show, broadcast on 3 cable networks and running 24 hours a day via in-house TV in over 4,000 hotel rooms around the island.

**Cable TV coverage – broadcast 68 times a week throughout Phuket.**

**Catch the show at these times**

**Phuket Cable Co (PC) - Covers all Phuket Channel 1, with 19 shows a week**  
Mon to Fri: 10.30am, 6.00pm, 9.00pm  
Sat & Sun: 10.30am, 9.00pm.

**Rawai Cable - Rawai and Chalong, Kata, Karon.**  
Channel 1, with 28 shows a week  
Mon to Sun: 10.00am, 1.00pm, 7.00pm, and 10.00pm

**KDTV (Kamala Cable TV) - Covers Patong, Kamala, Surin, Bangtao.**  
Channel 4, with 21 shows a week  
Mon to Sun: 7.00am, 11.30am, 11.00pm

**Now available in 4,222 premium hotel rooms around the island, all day every day.**

- Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket: 254 rooms
- Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort: 470 rooms
- Kata Beach Resort & Spa: 275 rooms
- Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort & Villas: 77 rooms
- Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket: 262 rooms
- Millennium Resort: 418 rooms
- Holiday Inn Resort & Spa: 405 rooms
- Movenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach: 364 rooms
- Karon Beach Resort & Spa: 80 rooms
- Andara Beach Resort & Spa: 62 rooms
- Amari Coral Beach: 197 rooms
- Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa: 664 rooms
- Destination Patong: 390 rooms
- Serenity Terraces Resort: 68 rooms
- Dewa Naiyang Phuket: 96 rooms
- Regent Phuket Cape Panwa: 210 rooms

**More Info?** Please call 076-273555. Email: Kookai@phuketgazette.net

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



**Saloon Cars****HONDA JAZZ 2004**

130k but still looks and drives like new. 200,000 ono. Tel: 081-958 6512 (English), 081-787 8559 (Thai). Email: mns wilson@gmail.com

**CHEVROLET CAPTIVA**

Red SUV, 7 seats, 2007 model, 2.4l V6, Tiptronic / Automatic. Excellent Condition. One farang owner since new. 500,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 081-837 5774. Email: slarti@onthenet.com.au

**TOYOTA VIOS G 2009**

116,000 km, 1<sup>st</sup> class insurance till May 2015, airbags, ABS, EBD, blue book. Tel: 092-079 7875. Email: bytheair@gmail.com

**NEW JAZZ FOR RENT**

Full option, 1<sup>st</sup> class insured, special rate for long-term rental. Tel: 080-521 9888 (English & Thai), 084-051 1955 (English & Thai). Email: sornin\_s@yahoo.com

**2011 PAJERO 4X4**

Mitsubishi Pajero 2.5GT 4x4 model. Expat owned for 3 years. 60,000 kilo metres. Recent service and new turbo. Usual GT refinements, aircon front and back, electric everything. Good condition. Green book, etc. Price: 720,000 baht. Tel: 081-787 6055, 081-787 6055 (English&Thai). Email: wheelykingzoom@hotmail.com

**HYUNDAI EXCEL**

1992 sedan, manual in fair condition, cheap car for wet season. Price: 50,000 baht + o.n.o. Tel: 091-653 9049 (English).

**HONDA CITY 2007 AUTO**

EXCELLENT CONDITION. One lady owner. Regular Honda service. 90,000km. First Class insurance til Jan 2015. Price for sale 320,000 baht o.n.o. For more information, please call 089-874 2942. Email: chantal.fernandes@gmail.com

**CAMRY 2.0G**

82,000km. Black. New paint. First-class insurance. Price: 675,000 baht. For more information, please call 081-895 4480.

**Rentals****CARS FOR RENT: JAZZ, VIOS**

Delivery with Insurance. Long term rent from 14,000-16,000 baht per month. Please call 081-537 7137 (English & Thai). Email: app\_wilawan@yahoo.com

**CAR RENT @ FAIR PRICES**

We offer low prices in high season. Book now and get our discounted prices from 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-847 4377 (English), 085-655 2613 (English & Thai). Email: info@thaidreams.se

**RENT MOTORBIKE 1800 THB/MTH**

Honda Dream 1800THB/MTH, Wave i 2400THB, Honda Click auto 2800THB/MTH. Tel: 086-683 7162. Email: yosompetch@hotmail.com

**JAZZ 12,000 BAHT/MONTH**

Free delivery service. Please call 081-607 8567. Email suksavat@hotmail.com, www.phuket-carrent.net

**Pick-ups****ISUZU D-MAX CAB 4**

4WD, 2008, automatic, 105,000km, 4 new tyres. Price: 460,000 baht. For more information, please call 081-894 6968.

**ISUZU MU 7 SUV FOR RENT**

This car is fully loaded, including GPS. Low season special price. Long time rental @ fair price. Please call 084-847 4377 (English). Email: info@thaidreams.se

**VW CONVERTIBLE**

04 model, automatic, 115 HP, 75,000km. For more information, please call 091-040 8869.

**TOYOTA VIOS 1.5L, 2005**

4 door; 5 speed. Auto windows, new air conditioning and clutch, one foreigner lady. 225,000 baht o.b.o. Call the number above. For more information, please call 089-970 5795. Email: free mancapital@gmail.com

**Others****NEW EXCAVATOR**

Kubota UIS-3, runs only 48hr with standard 40cm bucket and rubber belt. Extras: 20cm bucket and steel belt. Please call 089-588 4550.

**ISUZU D-MAX PRESTIGE Z**

Year 2012, 60,000km. Price: 850,000 baht. For more information, please call 088-753 7491 (English). Email: rus.zapes tate@mail.ru

**Motorbikes****HARLEY DAVIDSON VROD**

Beautiful, loved and cared for. 2004. 1130 cc vrod, new types, new battery, lots of extras to many too list. 35k kilometers. 100% legal bike with green book. 475,000 baht. Tel: 087-462 3791 (English). Email: steven peel@yahoo.com

**LUXURY CAR**

**PORSCHE 911(996) Cabriolet**

Year 2000 with hardtop, metallic silver, AAS serviced, 36,000km, very nice. Price: 4.59 million baht.

Contact Khun Lerd  
Tel: 087-263 6706  
(Proton Showroom)

**Wheels & Motors**

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

\_\_\_\_\_ (heading)

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► **Imago 48**  
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► **Sunseeker 53 Manhattan**  
695,000 GBP

► **Sunseeker Manhattan 63**  
880,000 GBP  
**BEST BUY**

► **Cambria 50**  
\$125,000 USD  
**MASSIVE PRICE REDUCTION**

► **Fusion 40**  
320,000 Euro  
**PRICE REDUCTION**

► **Morgan 60**  
\$349,000 USD

► **Luc Bouvet Custom 52**  
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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

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### 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

### CHEAP DIVE COMPRESSORS

Bauer Mariner 250, year 2006, price baht 140,000. L&W 245 year 2002 + another L&W 245 as spare parts. Total baht 70,000. Both in working condition. Tel: 081-370 3376 (English), 081-970 7480 (Thai). Fax: 076-280074.

### PACE 40FT SPORTFISHER



Twin CAT 3208 TA, needs repair, new fiber glass and paint to hull October 2013. Urgent sale. Price: 800,000 baht ono. Tel: 082-839 7701. Email: ger ryhodes@live.com.au

### NORTHSHORE 46 (1987)

Well-maintained lifting keel sloop, 56hp Yanmar 4JH Diesel (2005), just reduced to 95,000 AU\$. For details contact Alan Giles. Tel: 084-842 6146. www.Boatshedphuket.com

### BERTRAM 35 FLYBRIDGE (1982)

2 x 215hp Cummins Diesels, an inexpensive example of these quality sport fishers. Reduced to only 77,000 US\$ For details contact Alan Giles. Tel: 084-842 6146. www.Boatshedphuket.com

### CHEAP DIVE COMPRESSORS

Bauer Mariner 250, year 2006, price baht 140,000. L&W 245 year 2002 + another L&W 245 as spare parts. Total baht 70,000. Both in working condition. Tel: 081-370 3376 (English), 081-970 7480 (Thai). Fax: 076-280074.

### 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

### CLASSIC S & S SWAN 57 KETCH

The last of the Sparkman & Stevens Swans, a beautifully presented, elegant yacht with many recent upgrades. Only US\$349,000, will buy this top quality head turner. For details contact Alan Giles. Boatshedphuket.com. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

### VOLVO PENTA 380HP



Marine engines for sale: Volvo Penta TAMD71B, 6 cylinder, 380hp, 2500 rpm, turbo charged. 1) Engine number 207112 4065, with reverse gear box Twin Disc MG-507, 198:1, 5M74752. 2) Engine number 2071 1240 64 with reverse gear box Twin Disc MG-507, 198:1, number 5M7 474. Net Weight: 850kg per engine. Two silencers: MGS IN/OUT 5', 45°. Price: 1 million baht per engine. Tel: 081-306 1150 (English & Thai). Email: rm2@food comthailand.com

### HYPALON DINGY 3.3M



Brand-new, UV cover, storage cover, pump, oars, kits. Only 110,000 baht. Tel: 089-971 0278. Email: eddyelan@yahoo.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@wana doo.fr

### A STEAL FOR A QUICK SALE



2007. Italian demo yacht. Cranchi 47ft. Hard top. Fully loaded with tropical aircon, genset, electrical winches, garage, roof. Ray Marine premium navy, BBQ, ice maker, 3 fridges, Bose sound, neon light. Twin 570hp with reliable shaft drive, under 300hrs. Brand-new condition. Price: 335,000 euros. Tel: 089-971 0278. Email: eddyelan@yahoo.com

### HARD TO FIND TEAK BOAT



This 80-year-old solid teak boat is ideal for a Phang Nga Bay live aboard, or a land-based guest house. 1.5 million baht. Call John on 090-798 5605. Email: johne mango@yahoo.com For current pictures and finish out options, www. facebook.com/TeakBoatPhuket

### HOBIE CAT 16

New mainsail, beach wheels, mast float, boat cover, racing harness, lifejackets. 150,000. Tel: 087-976 0066 (English). Email: peterfb999@yahoo.co.uk

### JEANNEAU SO 37 (2001)

2-cabin owner version, In-mast furling, Yanmar 3 cyl diesel. Only 39,950 GBP For details contact Alan Giles. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

### JEANNEAU SO 37 (2002)

Yanmar 3 cyl diesel, never chartered and in very good condition, competitively priced at 69,950 US\$ For details contact Alan Giles. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com Boatshedphuket.com

### NEW KARNIC 2052

Deep V Hull, Hydraulic steering, Bimini, Stereo & marine heads. Full factory warranty, special low season price 799,950 THB inc VAT. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: boats@andamanboat sales.com

### FRASER 41 (1988)

Solid construction by De Kleer Brothers in Canada. A successful competitor on the local racing scene. Perkins 4108 50hp auxiliary diesel. For details contact Alan Giles. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com Boatshedphuket.com

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

### DECK HAND

For 31m motor yacht. Yacht Haven Marina. To handle lines and anchor, clean inside and out. Live aboard. Thai National. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-417 8715 (English).

### SALE BY OWNER

Due to low usage - 2007 Gulf Craft 33/F W/A, 2x225 Suzuki (300 hours), aircon, generator, jack plates, RIB dinghy, many extras. 6.1 million baht. Tel: 089-873 3713 (English). Email: erwin.a.hardy@gmail.com

### FIBERGLASS 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

### SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

#### Cryptic crossword

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. SEVENTEEN: s-event-een 10. AIRFORCE: *icarefor* 12. ERNE: *rene* 13. ATTACH: *chat*(Ta) 14. JANITOR: Jan-1-tor 15. INSURANCE: *curesinan* 17. TECHNICAL: *thancecil* 18. KESTREL: *lestrek* 20. ANCHOR: *ranch*(O) 21. TOME: to-me 24. SPOTLESS: place-below 26. PAYMENTS: *manypets* 28. ARMY: *mary* 29. BUCKET: *tuckbe* 31. PRECEDE: *rep-cede* 34. PARTIALLY: *iparty*(all) 36. CARPETBAG: *getbarcap* 38. RETITLE: *letrite* 39. TAMBON: *bantom* 40. PLAN: p-L-an 41. AMERICAN: *acinema*(R) 42. ORANGEADE: *doagreen* Down: 1. ASTERISK: *ratekiss* 2. EVENTS: *sever*(T) 3. SENTINEL: sent-*line* 4. INSANE: *asnine* 5. PATHETIC: *thepacti* 6. TRAJECTORY: *tocarryjet* 7. MORNING: M-*nogrin* 8. ACETIC: ace-tic 11. TROLLEY: *tellroy* 16. RARITY: *tryair* 19. SAPAM: *mapas*[up] 20. ANS: Ans. 22. OUTRE: *route* 23. SEVERE: sever-E 25. EBULLIENCE: E-bull-*niece* 26. PIT: pit 27. HAMPERS: hampers 30. KEYSTONE: *tonyseek* 32. ENGINEER: E-*ingreen* 33. DISTURB: D-*sirbut* 35. RETIME: *remitt*(E) 36. COMMON: shared 37. BALLAD: ball-A.D.



# Looking for a boat?

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## Private Aircraft and Flight Services in Phuket

## Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS



**Built: 1976**

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



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

### Specs:

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

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

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

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

## HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?

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

## AIRPLAY ALTIS MICROLIGHT

Superb trike with Konig radial engine. Great economical fun. Little used. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-111 6457 (English & Thai), 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: [kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk)

## 1999 ROBIN 2160i

I would like to sell my Robin aircraft or trade it for a 4-seat Cessna or Piper (based in Hua Hin). The Robin: TTAf 300hrs. SMOH 60hrs. This is a well-equipped, two-seat aerobatic aircraft. Has the Christen inverted oil system. Excellent inside and outside. King KMA24 audio panel, KX155 nav/com, KI203 vor, KY197A comm, KN64A dme, KR87 adf, KT76A transponder, CSPA400 i-com, FP5 fuel computer, CHT, OAT, Pitot heat. Price: 4 million baht. Please contact Thom. Email: thos\_w@hotmail.com

## TECNAM P-92

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

350hrs. Tel: 081-840 8418.

## YOUR HELICOPTER

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### Unique development - 124 Rai

If you would like to:

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**Call Robert: 081-810 4510 (Eng. Ger.)**

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+66 94 386 2294, по-русски.



# General Aviation

- Aircraft for Sale
- Aircraft Sharing
- Aircraft Wanted
- Aircraft Charter
- Aviation Services
- Flying Lessons

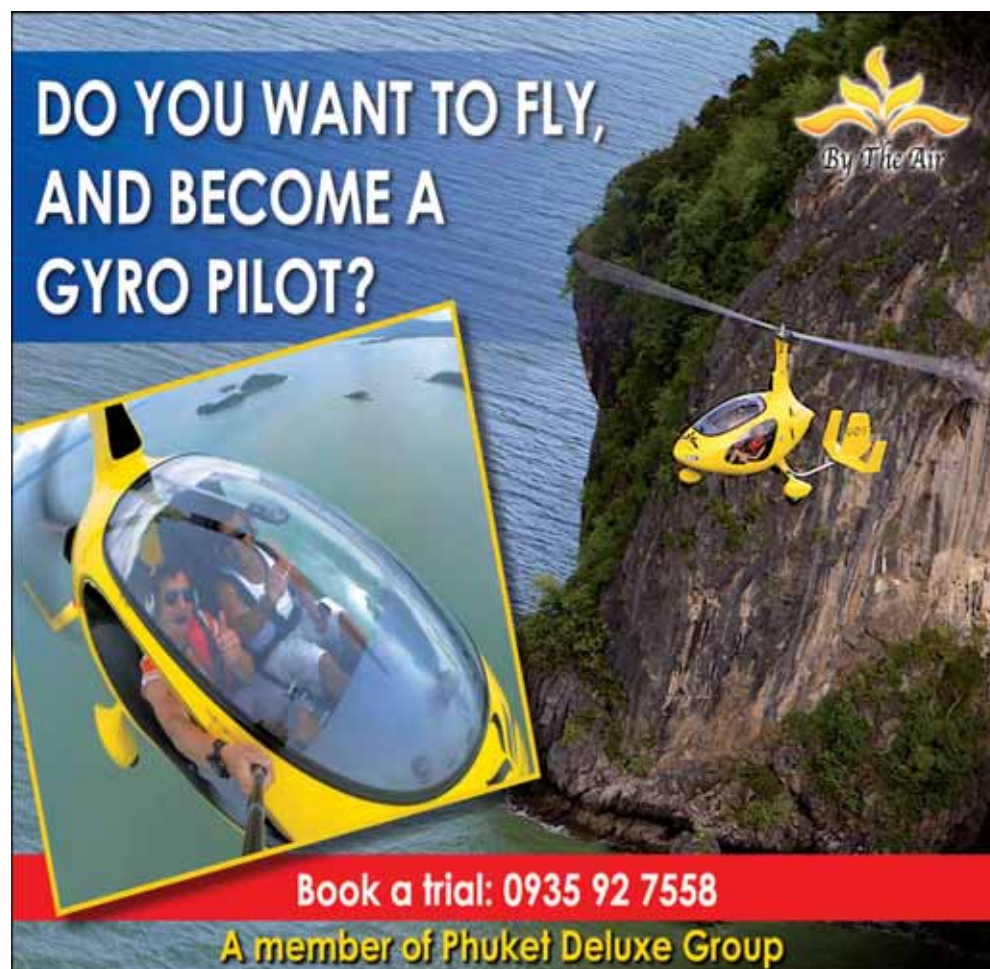
**Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.**

	(heading)

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All advertising must be paid for in advance.

**DO YOU WANT TO FLY,  
AND BECOME A  
GYRO PILOT?**



**Book a trial: 0935 92 7558**

**A member of Phuket Deluxe Group**



## Tree planting and turtle release

Grand Mercure Phuket Patong participated in a tree planting and turtle release conservation event at Sai-Kaew beach, organized by the Department of National Parks and Local Government.



Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut helped release some juvenile turtles.



Grand Mercure Phuket Patong staff members helped to plant trees during the conservation event.



Private aviation buffs at Phuket Airpark rolled out their planes last Sunday and flew to Trang where they met with former Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai. Seen here at the former PM's home are (L to R): Janpen Arno; John Magee; Mr Chuan; Trang OrBorJor Assemblyman Raluek Leekpai; Airpark owner Robert Suchard Raksangob; and Airpark Operations Manager Pat James.

## Panwa Games 2014

Four resorts on Cape Panwa, including Radison Blu Plaza Resort Phuket, Phuket Panwa Beachfront Resort, Regent Cape Panwa and Sripanwa Phuket recently host the Panwa Games.



From left: Suwit Bundam; Denis Claude Alix Martin; Bjorn-Henning Buth; Amornmas Suksirisamphan.

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A high quality residential project you can trust from Land & Houses.

Start at **6.3 MB\***

Project owner: L.H. Muang Mai Co., Ltd. Managing Director: Pittaya Tantipiyakij. Registered Capital: 900 Million Baht (Fully Paid). 88 Land and Houses Koh Kaew Phuket, Location: Thepkasatri Rd. Koh Kaew Sub-district, Amphur Muang, Phuket, Title Deed No. 2948, 104515, etc. Project Area 53.58 Rai, Financial Institution: Sam Commercial Bank Public Co., Ltd. Construction Start: March 2013 Expected Completion: 2015 applying for Operation License. After full payment is completed, transference is made within 7 days.





### Words from the wise:

"What's right is what's left if you do everything else wrong."

"No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world."

"You're only given one little spark of madness. You mustn't lose it."  
— Robin Williams

#### Medium

	4		3		6		9	
2		3		9		5		4
	6						1	
1				7				9
	9		2		3		7	
8				6				3
	2						8	
4		8		2		9		6
	7		6		8		4	

**SUDOKU:** Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. ©Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

#### Hard

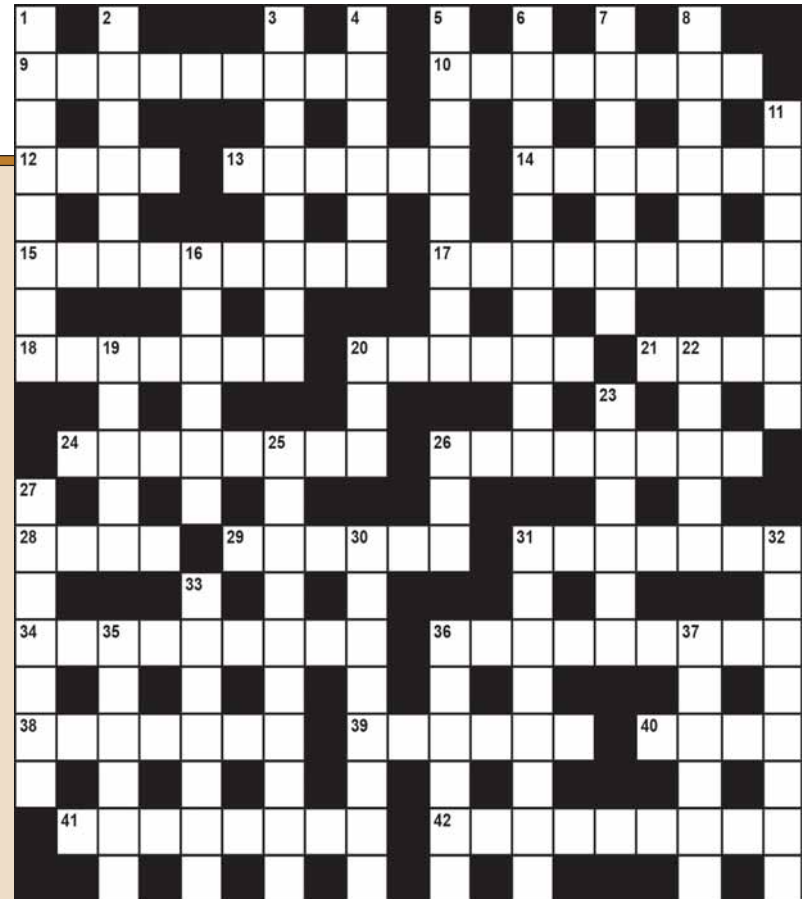
			5		9			
		2	4		6	1		
	9			1			4	
4	1						5	3
		7				4		
2	6						1	9
	7			3			6	
		4	2		7	9		
			8		5			

## COFFEE break

### Cryptic Crossword

#### Across

9. Number of event seen outside (9)  
10. Possibly I care for the service in the air (8)  
12. René disturbed a sea eagle (4)  
13. Join chat, upset about thanks (6)  
14. January One high point for the caretaker (7)  
15. Cures in an arranged indemnity (9)  
17. Other than Cecil concerned with science (9)  
18. Les, trek out to find a hawk (7)  
20. Ranch spread out around circle in moor (6)  
21. A large volume to me (4)  
24. Very clean place below (8)  
26. Settlements with many pets moving about (8)  
28. Mary upset the soldiers (4)  
29. Tuck be possibly in the pail (6)  
31. Rep maybe to give up and go first (7)  
34. Maybe I party including everyone to a limited extent (9)  
36. Possibly get bar cap, travel holdall (9)  
38. Let rite change, give another designation (7)  
39. Ban Tom from a Thai Sub-district (6)  
40. Scheme to pan out large (4)  
41. A cinema could be about right coming from the States (8)  
42. Do agree an unusual summer drink (9)



#### Down

1. Rate kiss maybe from star sign (8)  
2. Time in seven different contests (6)  
3. Guard sent out line (8)  
4. Crazy as nine could be (6)  
5. Causing sadness by the pact I arranged (8)  
6. Possible to carry jet in orbit (10)  
7. Mark no grin possible in the early part of the day (7)  
8. Champion involuntary spasm from acid type (6)  
11. Tell Roy, arrange truck (7)  
16. Try air new collectors' item (6)  
19. Turn up map as showing village on Phuket (5)  
20. The short answer (3)  
22. Weird route winding about (5)  
23. Harsh part, note (6)  
25. Exuberance of Eastern ox upset niece (10)  
26. Match against mine (3)  
27. Holds up the picnic baskets (7)  
30. Tony, seek different part upon which the rest relies (8)  
31. Or planes could be one's own (8)  
32. Bring about echo in green movement (8)  
33. Daughter around, Sir, but trouble (7)  
35. Make a new schedule to remit out East (6)  
36. Shared as usual (6)  
37. Song and dance nowadays (6)

### CANCER (June 22-July 23):



There's temptation and there's temptation, and though a highly desirable purchase seems to be

calling your name, you don't have to splurge. Yet, the upside is that money-making opportunities can be more plentiful, and if so, now is the time to take advantage. Indeed, this can be a very productive week if you're willing to make a plan and stick with it.

### LEO (July 24-Aug 23):



A heart-warming Venus-Jupiter link means that people, or more possibly one person, could easily

fall under your spell. In addition, you can generally seem to attract good fortune as your personal charm works its magic. So, if you need support for your ideas, you'll very likely get it. Yet, where money is concerned, don't plump for an offer until you're sure it's for you.

### VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23):



You may find you're doing a lot of problem-solving in your sleep, with the answers you get

seeming perfectly tailored to your needs. What's more, your creative

vision can help you shine in everyday situations as it perfectly complements your practical abilities. As the sun powers into your sign on Friday, you'll be buoyed up and ready for action.

### LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



Despite all the hustle and bustle, and of course fun, associated with an active social life, you might need more time to reflect on issues Libra. And should something come up that requires your attention, do act upon this. As the sun switches signs into Virgo, this becomes more possible because you're entering a phase when you'll naturally crave peace and quiet.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



A top-notch opportunity might inspire you to push extra hard regarding a goal or ambition. Yet, it's not all about work, as this week's alignments hint that your personal charisma can also have

a lot to do with any success you might enjoy. However, to truly capitalize, do take time to think things through as you'll be in a much better position to take positive and sustained action.

## YOUR horoscope By Patrick Arundell

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Though new adventures and friendships may seem vibrant and exciting, choose with care where to invest your energy in order to get truly tangible results. Meanwhile, you might be caught up between work or personal goals and the needs and demands of the family. Finding a balance could be crucial to your overall success this week.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



Current positive trends are amplified this week as you could find yourself in the right situation to take advantage of a fabulous opportunity. However, when it comes to communication, what you say may have more of an impact than you imagined, so choose your words carefully if dealing with a partner or someone close to you.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



This week's influences are perfect for smoothing over any rough spots in a relationship and for increasing your social reach. Yet, you'll need to be vigilant on the financial front if you're contemplating making a major purchase or closing a deal – so be sure to carefully analyze the small print. Indeed, it might help to review your money goals and reflect on your spending habits.

### PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



Your creative approach to the various problems and situations you encounter may net you a promotion or the admiration of your peers or friends. This is a side of you that others might come to appreciate more and more. Yet, the advice of someone with a decidedly practical approach could enhance your list of accomplishments even more.

### ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



Romantic and creative opportunities can blossom this week. A liaison may develop wings and become something special or a

creative project could take off. Later, your ability to multitask can come into its own, especially if you're juggling opportunities associated with work or a personal ambition. Try not to skimp on the detail, though.

### TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



You're right in the middle of the action at home as you play host, dive into a flurry of crafty or arty activities and set the world to rights for you and your family. Go easy on Tuesday though, regarding money matters, as things may not be what they seem. On Friday, as the sun eases into Virgo, reject anything impractical and opt for the facts.

### GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



A message or note may be a cause for celebration and this good news can raise a smile. There's a lot to look forward to this week and you're in a prime position to take advantage. Yet, matters on the home front might not be quite so clear cut, especially if there's a clash with career or goals. Perhaps it's time to look more closely at your priorities.



# Wine knowledge is power

By Maciek Klimowicz

**T**IMES when a waiter in a restaurant could get away with just about any wine recommendation – a white for the fish or a random red to go with meat – are luckily over. These days, customers are more and more knowledgeable and demand an ever-growing level of service. Better trained staff can be the key to success, especially in Phuket's highly competitive environment.

The fact that local food and beverage and hospitality establishments are aware of the connection between better staff training and increased competitiveness could be clearly seen during the recent Intensive California Wine Training Program organized by World Class Wines Co, Ltd and California Wines Co, Ltd in cooperation with WineCraft held at Patong's Holiday Inn. The hotel's conference hall was packed with representatives of such renowned establishments as Trisara, JW Marriott, Outrigger, Avista and others, who attended the two-day training with hopes of expanding their knowledge and gaining appropriate certification.

The course, conducted by international wine specialist, Singapore national Lim Hwee Peng, a Certified Specialist in Wines (CSW), focused on the wines of Napa Valley, California, one of the world's smallest but most diverse wine growing regions, which in its relatively short, 150-year history, has produced some of the world's greatest wines. Everything, starting with the region's wine industry origins, its most influential characters, soil, weather profiles and much more, was covered during the training, accompanied by a number of premium Napa wines to create a perfect match of knowledge and fun.

"The world of wine is a constantly evolving universe – a never-ending learning journey," explained Lim Hwee Peng. "It's a constant process not of trying to catch up, but of staying ahead of the game. This is why it's important for wine professionals to get as much certification as possible," he added.

According to Lim, such train-



Singaporean wine scholar and international wine specialist Lim Hwee Peng led the two-day training course.

ing builds confidence and competency, which helps wine and food professionals in their day-to-day jobs, enabling them to answer any question a well-traveled and knowledgeable guest might want to ask.

"It's not enough to say whether a wine is fruity or not. People know more and more and that's why courses like this have a future here," he explained.

And being in Thailand and Southeast Asia in general, this might be more true than anywhere else. On one hand, wine is not a part of the region's native culture, so more time and effort is needed to propagate it. On the other, the

demand is ever growing as is the understating of the wine culture in these parts of the world. Lim, who has had a chance to observe this growth through his years of providing wine knowledge to local hospitality and food professionals, confirms.

"The service I'm providing here is for a niche market, but I do notice growth. Just a few years ago, during such training, I needed a translator to help the audience understand what I was explaining. Not anymore. Now I can crack jokes and everybody understands. I think this shows how it's all developing. And it's very encouraging to see this

improvement."

Any conversation about wine culture in Thailand cannot be complete without the mention of outrageous taxes and import duties resulting in excessively high prices of wine in local outlets. But according to Lim, it's nothing that should deter anybody from the wine business here.

"Many people complain about high duties and tax problems, but if you speak to the locals and let them know that you intend to do business with them, they will tell you that these are just small issues to overcome and it shouldn't prevent people from doing business here."

## UCaaS market in APAC to expand



UCaaS includes online meetings and video conferencing. Photo: Asim18

**O**VER the past few years, the Unified Communications-as-a-Service (UCaaS) market has been experiencing tremendous growth in the Asia-Pacific region and is expected to continue until 2018, helped by strong growth in verticals that have highly mobile workforces, such as high-tech, professional services, logistics, travel and hospitality services.

The UCaaS market is defined as an integrated communications and collaboration environment that combines or unifies voice, video and text communications delivered through hosted, cloud and managed services.

The Asia-Pacific UCaaS market is expected to grow from 53 billion baht (US\$1.67bn) in 2013 to 95bn baht (US\$2.98bn) by 2018, at an estimated CAGR of 12.4 per cent. The telephony services segment is the most widely adopted market, and it is likely to maintain its prominence in the future. Although the audio conferencing services segment has matured, it is expected to remain an important segment throughout the forecast period. Mobility, video-as-a-service (VaaS), web conferencing and cloud contact center services are expected to be the key growth service segments.

Frost & Sullivan has evaluated the top 10 service providers in the Asia-Pacific region and assessed them using the Frost Industry Quotient (Frost IQ) matrix. The Frost IQ matrix is comprised of four quadrants: champions, challengers, defenders and explorers.

The Frost IQ is a proprietary Frost & Sullivan vendor assessment tool that accurately operationalizes and captures the merits and challenges faced by technology vendors in their respective segments and geographies. The tool aims to provide key decision makers with a localized yet objective perspective of the industry in a highly heterogeneous business environment.

– *Phuket Gazette*

## In brief...

### Hua Hin cleans up

**V**ENDORS in Hua Hin started to gradually move out of the beach areas on Sunday evening and were ordered by Hua Hin Municipality to finally clear out by Monday.

Authorities have also scheduled a "Big Cleaning Day" in order to return the beaches to their natural state and ensure that restaurant and food stall owners keep their food prices.

Vendors who wish to continue operating in the beach area, must strictly abide by the new rules set by the NCPO. – *NNT*

### Rubber prices down

**T**HE Rubber Research Institute of Thailand has predicted that the rubber price in the country will drop due to the decreasing oil price, currency appreciation and economic slowdowns in the Eurozone and China.

The institute's projection was based on the rubber price on the Tokyo Commodity Exchange and the 7-month record-low oil price. The strengthening of the baht and concerns over economic slowdowns in the Eurozone were also influencing factors. – *NNT*

### Investors applauded

**I**NVESTORS from more than 20 companies have met for discussions with the Chief of the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) General Prayuth Chan-ocha.

The NCPO Chief thanked the 25 investors and seven Federations of Thai Capital Market Organizations in recognition of their great contribution to Thai trade. The group has invested around 510 million baht (US\$16mn) recently, however, they will be encouraged to double their investment outlay in the near future. – *NNT*

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# The business of education

## Preschool learning app aspires to build a solid academic foundation

By Jeremie Schatz

THAI tech startup Taamkru recently received support from several organizations including Silicone Valley based 500 Startups resulting in an infusion of US\$620,000 from a seed funding round.

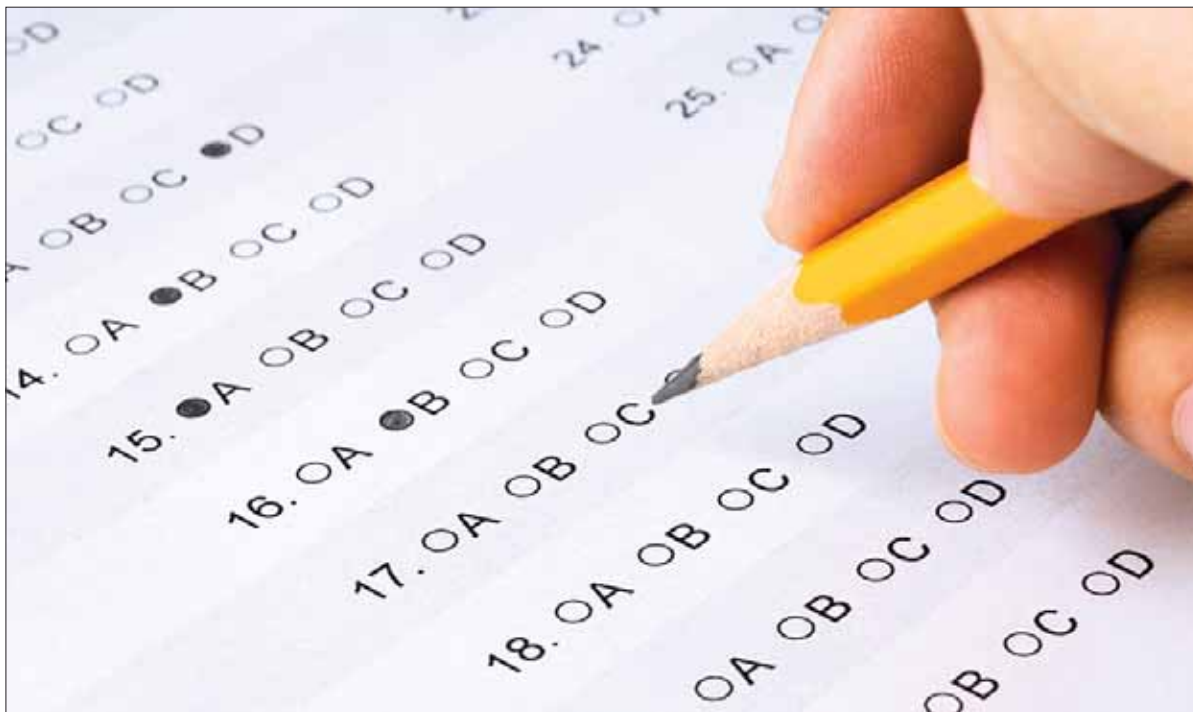
Taamkru (Thai for “ask the teacher”) aims to raise the standard of education for preschool-aged kids in the Kingdom and beyond through a series of mobile and web apps.

The Taamkru team consists of four founders who each bring a specific piece of expertise to the Taamkru puzzle. From child development to coding, the team has garnered the attention and support needed to get their startup off the ground.

The free Taamkru app seeks to take advantage of Thai’s outright obsession with mobile technology by infusing an element of education into the endless varieties of mindless games that have reached pandemic levels of popularity.

The app’s creators hope to bridge the ever-elusive gap between education and fun. They are encouraging educators to cast aside boring workbooks in exchange for a more modern and engaging method of education.

Participants’ responses are con-



Taamkru looks to turn attention away from traditional workbooks and make learning fun. Photo: Alberto G

tinually logged and the app adapts to the student’s progress, ensuring that they aren’t left behind or bored with content that doesn’t challenge them.

An even more noteworthy feature of the app is that it allows parents to monitor their child’s progress in real-time and compare it with the results of other kids in a nationwide database.

In a recent interview, Taamkru

CEO and cofounder Wicharn Manawanitjarern said that after about six months, they have now reached 100,000 active users across the multi-platform app.

Although they certainly seek to monetize the app, they have strong motivations to raise the level of early childhood development in Thailand from its current low standing. UNICEF claims that only 84 per cent of kids 3-5 years

old attend early childhood development centers and only two-thirds of those centers meet quality assessment standards.

Furthermore, out of 65 participating countries in the Programme for International Student Assessment, Thai students ranked 48<sup>th</sup> in reading and science and 50<sup>th</sup> in mathematics. In education, Thailand falls in 8<sup>th</sup> place out of 10 Southeast Asian countries. This is

despite the fact that in 2010, Thailand spent 22.3 per cent of the national budget on education according to World Education News & Reviews.

Within the first two months following its release in January, Taamkru reached the prestigious ranking of number one on the Thai app store in both the kids and education categories. Credit for the app’s rapid succession to popularity can be partially attributed to its availability in Thai, English and Chinese as well as lessons across English, IQ, mathematics and science.

Taamkru has accrued more than one million creative exercises with a new lesson added every-day to keep the content fresh and engaging.

To further validate their credibility, Taamkru ensures that all of their content aligns with the standards of the Ministry of Education.

But perhaps the success and impact of Taamkru can best be summed up in one word: accessibility. Most children already have access to the tools needed to take advantage of Taamkru – a phone or tablet and internet access.

It might seem overly optimistic to expect a simple app to pull the floundering Thai education system up from the depths, but at least it’s a step in the right direction.

## Local start-ups pitch for success

LOCAL entrepreneurs recently gathered at Prince of Songkla University Phuket to share ideas and pitch their start-up companies to potential investors. The event in Phuket was part of Echelon Thailand 2014. Echelon is a tech industry conference, organized by Singapore based company e27, which aims to bring together entrepreneurs and investors in order to boost the number of successful tech start-ups in Thailand.

Three local start-ups pitched

their business plans during the Phuket event, two hotel booking online services and one online education service.

Echelon Thailand 2014 in Bangkok will host over 700 influential business leaders, venture capitalists, promising start-ups, and the regional press, making it the hotspot for any company interested in grasping the attention of today’s decision makers in the international technology industry.

– Mark Knowles

## The efficacy of seasonal timing strategies

### Finance

By David Mayes

THERE is a lot of confusion over whether it is possible to time to the markets. If you are speculating, or trading, you rely on technical analysis of some sort and do, in fact, time the market. As an investor on the other hand, you should look at underlying fundamentals and attempt to make a purchase when it represents value as a stand-alone investment or contributes to desirable attributes when looked at from a portfolio perspective. That said, there is a statistically significant seasonal tendency which has been well documented and has produced great results in real time.

Sy Harding has been writing a newsletter making real-time calls based on his seasonal timing strategy since 1990. He has had impressive performance and done much better than a buy and hold strategy. The question is though, is this luck or will this be repeated in the coming 25 years as well? If you look into the statistics behind his strategy, the answer is that it likely will. The caveat is that it also may not, and a little explanation of statistics and game theory may help understand why.

Over the last 15 years, the strategy has returned 271.5% compared

to the 147.8% return obtained by buying the DJIA (Dow) and holding onto it, while simultaneously missing the crashes of the dot com bubble and the financial crisis of 2008. This makes the strategy look bullet-proof, but in statistics we rely on the law of large numbers to achieve results close to statistically significant averages. The next 25 years is a relatively small sample size, and so deviation from the longer term historical averages could easily occur. Deviations often occur in runs as well, meaning that there may be a bunch of years close together where the normal relationship fails to hold. Anyone who has played roulette knows how the wheel can put up an extremely long run of black or red as soon as you start betting against it.

On the other hand, there are very good explanations why the phenomenon behind the old Wall Street adage of “sell in May and go away” normally holds. For one, many traders take holidays over the summer and the lack of volume often leads to negative reversals (a lack of volume behind an advance is often interpreted by technical traders as a sign of weakness).

There is also good reason why December and January are good months on average. Many fund managers buy stocks that have performed well over the year to

be able to show on their annual statements that they are holding them. This is known as window dressing and the increase in volume has the opposite interpretation by technical traders as the one mentioned above. Also, most employees receive their annual bonuses in the beginning of the year and inevitably some of this finds its way into the markets.

On any given year or over a short number of years this strategy may not work, but in the long run the seasonal timing strategy is one of the few that actually stand up to statistical measure. Anybody can easily duplicate Sy Harding’s strategy on their own via a discount broker and the ETF with the symbol “DIA”, which represents a low cost basket of the stocks that make up the Dow. The activity requires strict discipline however, so if you find that you are not able to stick to it 100%, then you will be better off with a buy and hold strategy or dollar cost averaging.

David Mayes MBA lives in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expatriates throughout South East Asia, focusing on UK pension transfers. He can be reached at 085-335-8573 or david.m@faramond.com. Faramond UK is regulated by the FCA and provides advice on taxation and pensions.



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# Dig up a deal: dcondo Mine

By Mark Knowles

DCONDO Mine is the latest in Sansiri's popular condominium projects in Phuket under the dCondo brand. According to Suriya Wannabuit, Sansiri executive vice president of project management and marketing, the success of the company's dcondo developments is due to their central locations near Phuket Town and their affordable entry-level prices. "Many of our dcondo customers are young working couples, but we are also attracting a lot of single executives," he said.

Dcondo Mine is located in Kathu on Phra Phuket Kaew Road, just west of Tesco Lotus Samkong and close to Central Festival and Big C. Sansiri says dcondo Mine was inspired by the island's

**PROPERTY**  
**Gazette**



Central courtyard and pool.

tin mining past and developed with an 'Industrial Loft' style in a prime location. The location offers great lake and mountain views from many units as well as a large central courtyard and huge swimming pool, which serves as the community hub for the development; it also features a modern-style clubhouse for socializing, events and parties.

Consisting of 436 units spread over two eight-storey buildings, the project also offers a fully equipped fitness room to complement the centerpiece 70-meter swimming pool surrounded by lush landscaped gardens.

Other facilities include a 24-hour security service, CCTV monitoring and key card access.



There are two styles of unit to choose from: Studio and two-bedroom. Photos: Supplied

There are two styles of unit to choose from: Studio and two-bedroom. At 29 square meters in size, the studio units have their own balcony, kitchen area and bathroom, while the 60sqm two-bedroom units come with an en-suite master bedroom, dining area and living room. Each unit has a holistic functional design and maximizes space for residents.

Units are priced from 1.6 million to 4mn plus, and until September 30, discounts of up to 1.5mn baht are available under Sansiri's "Make it Yours" promotion.

Speaking of the 'Make It Yours' campaign

Mr Suriya explained, "Sansiri will offer the 'Make It Yours' campaign for 11 Sansiri developments on Phuket including dcondo Mine, dcondo Kathu-Patong, dcondo Creek, Habitia Koh Kaew, Habitown Koh Kaew, Burasiri Koh Kaew, B-Avenue, The Deck Patong, Baan Mai Khao Phuket, The Base uptown and The Base downtown. The special offer includes a discount equivalent to 10 times the deposit value (up to 100,000 baht) off the purchase price, available on special units.

For more information and prices visit [sansiri.com](http://sansiri.com) or call 1685.

## Gateway provinces see jump in land prices ahead of AEC

CHIANG Rai and Udon Thani are among those reaping benefits of plans to link Thailand with neighbors

Land prices for residential development in key gateway provinces to neighboring Asean countries have risen by between 20% and 50%, even though the Kingdom's 2.4-trillion baht mega-infrastructure projects will not get under way until next year.

The provinces witnessing such boosts are Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai in the North and Udon Thani and Nong Khai in the Northeast, where developers believe that despite the delay in mega-projects due to the political situation and the ruling junta's reassessment of state spending, there will be continued strong residential demand in locations to support the country's logistics system after the Asean Economic Community (AEC) comes into effect next year.

Meanwhile, demand to develop residential projects around the mass-transit routes in greater Bangkok remains strong, with developers confident that new and extended routes under construction will kick off in the next three years.

Land prices in the main provinces central to the country's logistics system connecting to neighboring countries are increasing following rising demand for residential, retail and manufacturing development, despite the fact that the new investment in mega-infrastructure projects still awaits final approval by the next government.

Issara Boonyoung, director of the Business Housing Association, said that though investment in a double-track rail system will not

start until next year, demand for land in gateway provinces had been on the rise since last year.

This is most pronounced in Chiang Rai, which is the gateway to Yunnan in China, and Udon Thani and Nong Khai – the gateways to the Lao capital.

Investment in these provinces is for residential, retail and warehouse development in support of the country's logistics-system links to AEC countries.

Kittipol Pramote Na Ayudhya, director of the Thai Real Estate Association, said the master plan for the infrastructure and logistics system would change the country's property business across all sectors – not only residential projects.

"We see retail businesses expanding their investment to support demand in the provincial market, which leads to residential, warehouse and manufacturing expansion to the provinces in the next stage," he said.

Infrastructure investment will change the country's demographics, and also expand development from Bangkok and its suburbs to the provinces in the future, he added.

However, most property firms continue in a wait-and-see mode, and will decide their next moves if and when the ruling National Council for Peace and Order gives its approval to the 2.4tn baht master plan to develop Thailand's infrastructure and logistics system

The bulk of the budget, at 741.4bn, is for two high-speed rail routes linking with Southern China, Laos, Malaysia and Singapore to facilitate expansion in trade and investment in the region.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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# Warning signals for Phuket's unlicensed accommodation sector

PART of every real estate cycle across Asia since the early 1990s is the appearance of exotic property investment propositions. Imagine it's Groundhog Day and the past is destined to replay, time and time again. We can always count on the condominium hotel sector to surge as we crest a wave of undying consumer exuberance.

Over the past few months as part of our island property research I've come across between 20 to 30 new developments offering rental programs, term guaranteed returns and rental yield investment opportunities. As I start to read the information, what remaining hair there is on the back of my head starts to stand on end.

The majority of these projects are informal options for unit buyers who can, of course, avail themselves of the unique opportunity to cash in on the island's boom. Vague descriptions ramped up return projections, often-promised long-term returns, and numbers that defy any historical paradigm – we have seen them all in the Phuket marketplace.

Where the sector has some very credible players, at the other end of the spectrum, are developments which don't have hotel licenses and avoid paying any form of tax. They do not report guests



**Property Watch**  
By Bill Barnett

**/ Certainly, there are issues for developers or operators who may wish to obtain licenses for hotel operations but due to the vague hotel geared legislation, are unable to qualify even if they wanted to. /**

to immigration as the law requires, nor do the budding hotel-type operators have experience in the running of hospitality operations.

For hotels that pay tax, obtain permits, and operate under the applicable legal system, this is clearly not a fair playing ground. For the island, taxes that should rightly come back into the infrastructure arena are not paid and guests at many of these establishments put themselves at a safety risk, given that their presence in condominiums or villas is often unknown to authorities. In times of emergency, no one knows that there is an actual tenant.

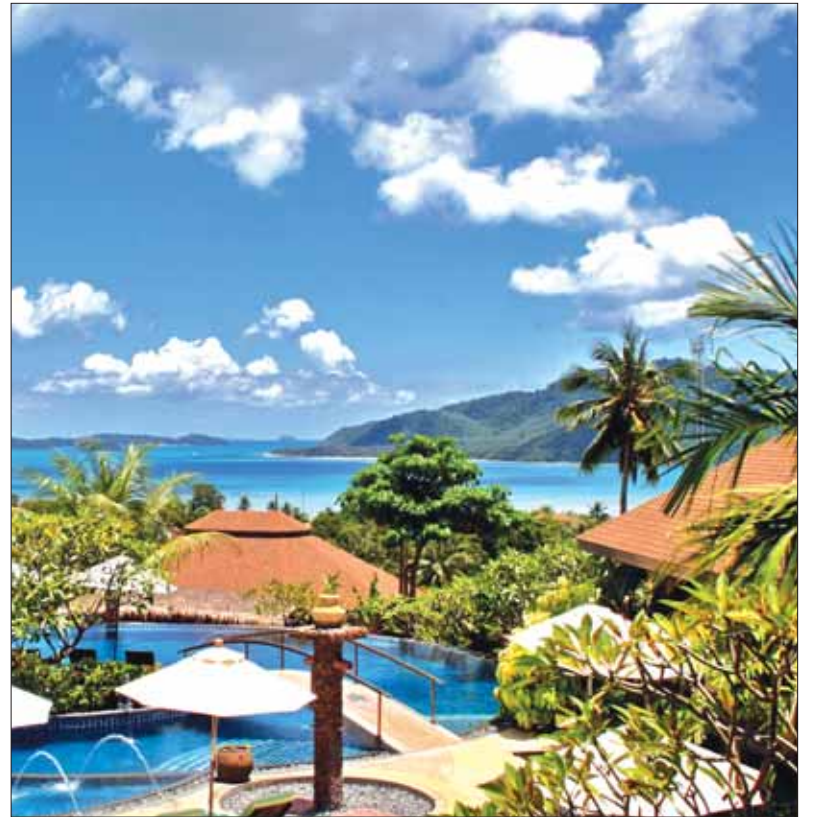
Certainly, there are issues for developers or operators who may

wish to obtain licenses for hotel operations but due to the vague hotel geared legislation, are unable to qualify even if they wanted to.

At a time when Phuket's hotel supply edges closer and closer to the 50,000 room level, the reality on the ground is that a swelling new inventory of unlicensed establishments is creating a substantial gray accommodation market. Management of these properties, given they have no statutory requirements, can offer low-cost prices which legitimate hotels simply cannot. At the end of the day, if increasing quality is the island's tourism mandate, this alternative market could easily derail the process.

More critical though, is consumer protection for real estate buyers. The island's buying demographic is shifting and the new markets are perhaps a bit more inclined to take the offering of high-sustained rental yields at face value. As history has shown, this clearly will not be the case. Non-traditional accommodation typically prospers when there is a hotel undersupply. But once hotels are plentiful these offerings can only effectively compete on lower prices to induce demand.

While I'm a big fan of entrepreneurship, and also to some extended, well-crafted, hospitality-led residential offerings, the sector



**There is often no guarantee that a hotel-managed property investment is going to stay that way in the long term.** Photo: Hochgeladen von Usbart

does have a very dark side. As buyers have found, in developments such as Laguna's Allamanda, there is often no guarantee that a hotel-managed property investment is going to stay that way in the long term.

For the island's government the issue of addressing both unlicensed establishment and creating broader, more practical ways, that villas and developments which offer rentals can come into the mainstream, are much needed. As for vigilance in consumer protection, potential buyers need to appoint experienced legal advisers to read the fine print and need to ask serious questions about managed properties.

Sadly, Phuket is not alone in

this debacle. Bali has experienced the same growing pains. What's amazing is to see the skyrocketing fortunes of Internet accommodation booking giant AirBnB, whose growth depends on so many properties operating without licenses or paying tax. At the end of the day, tourism remains Phuket's primary growth engine and the bigger it becomes, a rational degree of regulation is simply mandatory to control the beast within.

*Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9Hotelworks. He can be contacted through: c9hotelworks.com. See more of Bill's writing on his hotel industry focused blog The Phuket Insider.*

## Thailand scoops beach awards

THAILAND has taken the number one spot in the new Global Beachfront Awards with an amazing 1,250 "true beachfront" hotels. Thailand beat out the USA and Mexico in second and third place respectively.

The awards, organized by the Beachfront Club website that maps and details seaside hotels around the world, are the result of a recent survey of more than 11,000 hotels in 109 countries.

According to the website "true beachfront" means only those hotels directly on the beach or oceanfront, with no road or traffic between the rooms and the water. The website has more than 12,000 qualified hotels in its database. Thailand's win over so many heavyweights of global tourism might surprise some people, but it also comes as Thailand reached the Top 10 tourism destinations worldwide for the first time, coming in at Number 10 in 2013 with 27.4 million international visitors.

In the five years between 2009 and 2013 Thailand recorded the world's highest rate of tourism growth by a wide margin. And the largest number of those visitors, by far, were headed for Thai beaches. Bangkok is a hugely popular stop-

over that now attracts many millions of visitors annually, but the number of those visitors continuing north to Chiang Mai and other cultural destinations is just a small fraction of those heading south to Thailand's famous beaches.

Beach-lovers in both Europe and North America are now seeking new, more pristine sands in an era when long-distance travel is faster and cheaper than ever. The longer travel times to the new beach destinations in Southeast Asia are now affordable for millions of beach-lovers.

Spain, where beaches are also the major attraction, gets over 60 million tourists a year. But the rise in Spanish tourism over the past five years totalled just 16 per cent, tiny beside Thailand's whopping 88 per cent increase.

A more pristine, natural environment ranks high among the desires of visitors from developed countries, and even among the new wave of visitors from highly urbanized China. Thailand's beach environments are – relatively speaking – in reasonably good condition. Nevertheless, environmental degradation and over-development are perhaps the greatest current threats to Thai beaches, and these

dangers continue to rampage across its islands and beaches largely unchecked.

The country's thousand-plus beachfront accommodations span every price and quality range, from five-dollar backpacker huts to super-luxurious, international five-star resorts. The new wave of creatively-designed, boutique beach resorts is helping push Thai accommodations to the forefront, while still offering something for every taste and budget.

While Southeast Asia recorded the world's fastest growth in tourism between 2009 and 2013, Thailand was the biggest winner, taking 40 per cent of all visitors to the region.

Thailand's beach tourism industry faces so many dangers from environmental degradation and over-development that its chances of retaining the top spot in beach tourism well into the future is in doubt. The first major clean up of encroachment on Phuket's beaches was initiated by the military government in July 2014. For now, Thailand's beach environments remain more natural than most, while the future remains uncertain.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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# The summer of the American Century

ONE word can best describe the 63-year-old American author Bill Bryson: Genial. His 17 books are all told in a breezy, affable, humorous, intimate, first person style that immediately ingratiates itself upon the reader. He has written funny travel books about America, Britain, Europe and Australia. *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* is a memoir of his childhood in Iowa. Having spent most of his adult life in England, he delves with some authority into the differences between American and British English. His masterpiece is *A Short History of Nearly Everything* which covers the development of human knowledge from the Stone Age to the present.

His latest book, *One Summer* (Anchor Books, New York, 2014, 509pp), focuses on a few months in 1927 that marked the pivot of the American Century. This was a summer of roaring prosperity, of the rise of radio, movies and tabloids, of Charles Lindbergh's solo flight across the Atlantic, Babe Ruth's 60 homeruns, the Jack Dempsey-Gene Tunney fight and Al Capone's rule over Chicago. Bryson brings it all back to life.

He offers, for example, this thumbnail portrait of Captain Charles Nungesser, a French air ace and early rival to Charles Lindbergh.

"With his Gallic charm and a chestful of medals, Nungesser proved irresistible to women, and in the spring of 1923 after a whirlwind romance he became engaged to a young New York socialite with the unimprovably glorious name of Consuelo Hatmaker. . . [Her father] opposed his daughter's marriage to Captain Nungesser on the grounds - not unreasonable on the fact of it - that Nungesser was destitute, broken-bodied, something of a bounder, unemployable except in time of war, and French."

## Books

By James Eckardt



! This was a summer of roaring prosperity, of the rise of radio, movies and tabloids, of Charles Lindbergh's solo flight across the Atlantic, Babe Ruth's 60 homeruns, the Jack Dempsey-Gene Tunney fight and Al Capone's rule over Chicago. Bryson brings it all back to life. !

This was also the summer of Babe Ruth, "the most brilliant, headstrong, undisciplined, lovable, thrillingly original, ornery son a bitch that ever put on a baseball uniform". With Lou Gehrig batting beside him, he made the New York Yankees the greatest team in history. Their partnership would eventually sour. "By the 1930s, Gehrig would hate Ruth

as passionately as it was possible to hate a person. The fact that Ruth reportedly had by that point slept with Gehrig's wife would seem, not surprisingly, to have had something to do with that."

If baseball was America's national sport, boxing ran a close second. Heavyweight bouts attracted a huge crowd and media frenzy. Jack Dempsey was boxing's hero. He dispatched the heavyweight champion, the giant Jess Willard, in this fashion: "Dempsey charged from his corner and smashed Willard's jaw so hard that he broke it in thirteen places, then followed up with a hook that sprayed six of Willard's teeth across the canvas." It was a more brutal time. Bean balls and brawls were common in baseball too.

For all the heroes of the age, however, none matched Charley Lindbergh. The world had never seen such mass hysterical adulation. Later manias over the Beatles and the American moon walkers were nothing compared to the mob scenes that accompanied Lindbergh's grand tour of America aboard his *Spirit of St Louis*.

Bootlegger Al Capone was wildly popular too. "Chicago was to corruption what Pittsburgh was to steel," Bryson notes. "It refined and cultivated it, and embraced it without embarrassment." Capone would soon come undone by the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre. But not before the American gangster became enshrined in Hollywood movies.

"Moviegoers around the world suddenly found themselves exposed, often for the first time, to American voices, American vocabulary, American cadence... Spanish conquistadores, Elizabethan courtiers, figures from the Bible were suddenly speaking in American voices. With American speech came American thoughts, American



Babe Ruth hit his 60<sup>th</sup> home run in 1927. Photo: Library of Congress

attitudes, American humor and sensibilities. Peacefully, by accident, and almost unnoticed, America had just taken over the world."

It was also a time of unparalleled hatred: hatred of blacks and other "inferior races", especially the Jews. Hitler and the Nazis did not spring from a vacuum. They had long befriended Charles Lindbergh who gave a speech in September 1941 for the America First isolationist group. He urged American to stay out of the war in Europe and blamed warmongering by Britain, Franklin D Roosevelt and the Jews.

Three months later, Pearl Harbor was bombed. Lindbergh was no longer the hero of the age.



Bill Bryson. Photo: Wes Washington

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# For the love of latex

By Jeremie Schatz

VISITORS to Phuket are often perplexed by the many things going on around them. Following a recent visit to a working rubber plantation and whirlwind tour of the world's largest rubber factory, many of the questions I had been accumulating over the years, regarding the omnipresent farms blanketing southern Thailand, were answered.

A number of useful innovations were spawned following the discovery of rubber's potential. However, it wasn't until the process of vulcanization (the addition of chemicals to enhance various desirable properties) was discovered in 1840 by Charles Goodyear – as in Goodyear the tyre manufacturer – that its applications increased exponentially.

Once the booming automotive industry became dependent on rubber for tyres and other parts, production erupted. Endemic to the tropical Americas, the vast quantities of rubber trees growing wild in the northern Amazon were the first to be exploited.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, rubber seeds were smuggled out of the Amazon to Britain where high-yielding strains were developed and subsequently brought to Southeast Asia, in particular Malaysia, to be grown. Seeds were smuggled north once again into Thailand, which now stands as the world's largest producer of natural rubber.

In Phuket, and all over southern Thailand, unbroken lines of rubber trees with little catchment bowls dangling, stretch off in every direction. As a monoculture crop, rubber trees are attractive since they are fairly hardy and once established,



A plantation worker feeds fresh rubber sheets through a series of rollers to remove moisture. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

produce latex year after year.

Many tree-based crops take years before they begin producing and rubber is no exception with farmers having to hold out for seven years before tapping their trees.

However, as can be witnessed all over Phuket, young rubber trees are planted far enough apart and allow light through their canopies for other crops to grow amongst them – such as the famously sweet and delicious Phuket pineapples.

Pineapples can flower and

produce fruit in about 18 months providing rubber farmers income from their land in the long wait to tap their rubber trees. Farmers claim that pineapples and rubber trees have a symbiotic relationship, with one depleting the soil of certain nutrients, while the other replenishes. Thailand has been one of the top five producers of pineapples for years.

About 95 per cent of the 12.5 million rai of rubber plantations are small-holdings run by about one million families. It seems like a large

number of people until the fact is revealed that every tree is tapped, the latex collected, and is all initially processed by hand.

The tapping process must be carried out at night since sunlight and warm daytime temperatures cause the latex to coagulate before reaching the collection container. Workers embark at midnight and make a shallow diagonal cut halfway around the trunk of the tree just below the last cut.

"The way they cut it, they have to have a technique... if they cut too deep they will injure the tree and the next thing you know it will have some deformities that effect its lifespan," explains Marketing Assistant at Von Bundit, Michael Ong.

The latex removed from the tree is of low viscosity and quickly drips down the cut and off a small metal spigot into the collection cup. Workers then revisit every tree around daybreak to collect the liquid latex.

One rai contains 60 trees, which can produce 3 kilograms of latex per day on average.

Once the latex is collected, three liters is mixed with two liters of water and a small amount of formic acid to induce coagulation. Blocks of bright white latex with the look and consistency of fresh mozzarella cheese are then run through a series of presses to flatten the blocks and remove moisture.

The floppy sheets are then hung on lines to dry for three days and subsequently moved to lines indoors to dry slowly for an additional month.

These rubber sheets, which are then purchased by second-dealers – a type of middleman – make up the higher-grade rubber that processing facilities sell.

Once the sun rises, a small amount of latex continues to drip from the cuts made in the tree. After it coagulates in the collection cups, it is harvested and sold as a lower-grade material they call "cup lumps". This rubber undergoes less processing and is delegated to making things like shoe soles and rubber bands.

Once the second-dealers have sold the rubber sheets to the processing factories, they are evaluated for quality and workers cut out contaminants. They are then hung on racks in smoking rooms where they remain for three days to remove even more moisture from the rubber.

"Smoking is to get more DRC [dry rubber content] out of the rubber sheets. The rubber sheets that we are buying from the market consist of around 90 per cent DRC, and then after the smoking process this increases to around 97 to 99 per cent," explains Mr Ong.

Once a rubber tree's production has dropped off, it is cut down and destined to fuel the smoking process.

The production of natural latex over synthetic versions has its benefits. The labor intensive process keeps millions of people in work – especially those from less fortunate backgrounds with limited employment options.

The planting of rubber trees also serves to enhance soil fertility and help prevent erosion. In contrast to synthetic petroleum-based rubber, swathes of rubber plantations act as carbon sinks to absorb greenhouse gasses.

As is frequently the case, there is a flipside. Having a

monoculture of any variety has consequences for the environment. Pests that feed on this particular crop run rampant and, typically, farmers increase pesticides in response. Although the trees can make soils hospitable for certain species, they deplete other nutrients that have to be supplemented with fertilizers.

Monocrops also devastate the diverse ecosystem that many animals depend on for their habitat, a scenario seen with the endangered status of orangutans in Malaysia, Indonesia and Borneo – a result of intense oil palm production.

Although synthetic rubber and the potential for more lucrative crops for farmers poses a threat to natural rubber production, our current level of dependence on this resource ensures that the latex will keep on flowing.



Low viscosity latex quickly drips from the cut.

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# No compromises in Monte Carlo

By Maciek Klimowicz

THERE are hundreds of boats docked at marinas in Phuket, some big and some small, some flashy and some more subdued. But if you find yourself walking down one of the piers and come across a Monte Carlo yacht, you're guaranteed to stop and stare... And start dreaming.

There is something about these curves, the sophisticated lines.

They exude an essence of pure class and elegance, in some ways these yachts look classic, yet in other ways they have a contemporary feel, making them hard to define or to place in time. Timeless – timeless is the word I'm looking for.

"If you look at the shape of the hull from the front, you will see that it resembles the classic boats from the 50s and 60s. The design is different, classic and modern at the same time," explains Sergio

Loiacono, Country Manager of Simpson Marine Thailand, the company who brings Monte Carlo yachts to Phuket.

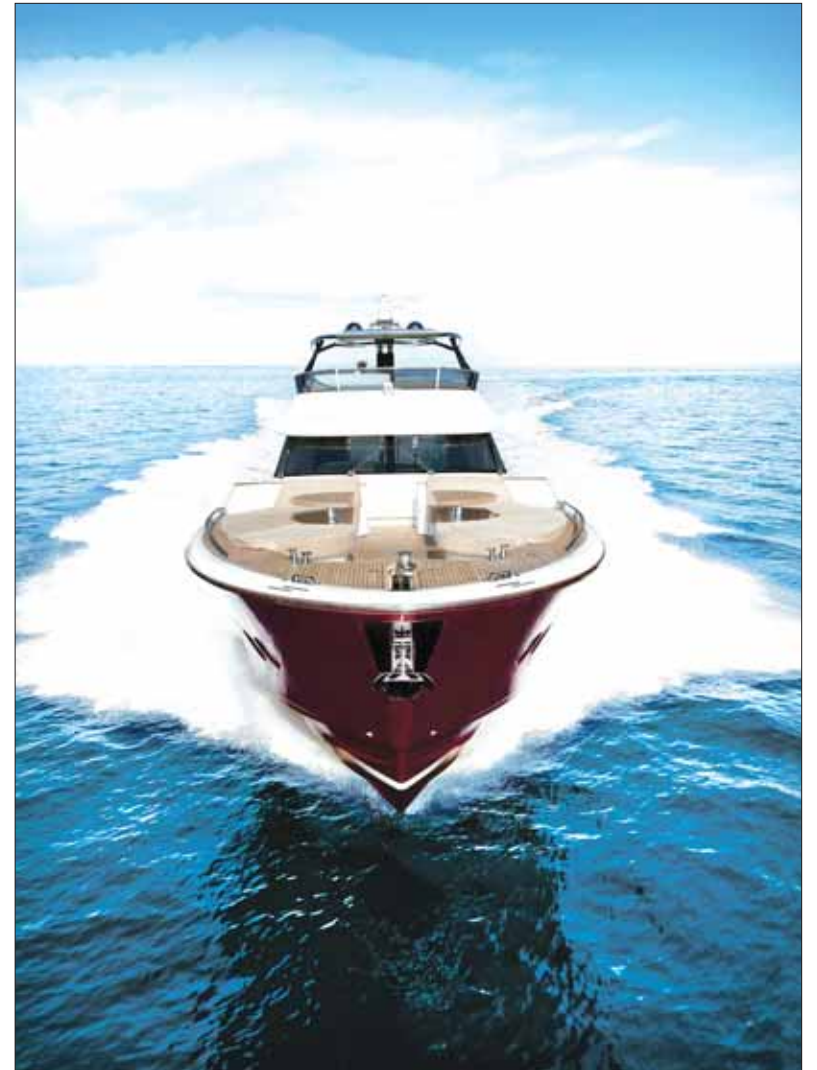
Indeed, it was the eye-catching design that the Simpson Marine team recognized when visiting the state-of-the-art facilities in Monfalcone, Italy, where Monte Carlo Yachts are built.

"During our visit to the shipyard in Italy we quickly realized that this is unique," says Sergio.

But Monte Carlo MCY 76 Flybridge, currently on sale in Phuket and the second largest in Beneteau's Monte Carlo range has more to offer than just looks. It delivers top-class comfort.

Its spacious interiors can accommodate up to eight guests and two crew members overnight, and as many as 20 people on day trips. Guests can enjoy elegantly decorated interiors featuring fabrics and materials from designers such as Hermes, Armani, Poltrona Frau and Pierre Frey. Spacious cabins, a fully equipped kitchen, entertainment system and other amenities are all here for the pleasure and comfort of those on board.

Comfort – check; functionality – check; impressive design – check. But what about the seaworthiness? This is where Beneteau, the French sail and motor boat manufacturer with history reaching back to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, comes in. The company's experience in designing boats that perform great on water combined with the classic Italian design that



Classic design combined with modern technology creates a timeless effect.

resulted in the unique character of the Monte Carlo Yachts' line. And when I ask about the boat's performance on water, Sergio could not conceal his excitement.

"In many yachts, design is improved at the expense of seaworthiness. In the case of Monte Carlo, we have a perfect union of North Atlantic seafaring culture that comes from the 130 years of Beneteau's history blended with Italian design," he says.

The MCY76's advanced keel structure uses Kevlar to strengthen and protect the yacht, while lightweight materials help reduce weight and fuel consumption and this

no-compromises approach results in the boat's great performance, even at a top speed of 30 knots.

Take French naval tradition, blend with Italian design, mix in a lot of luxury and class... and what you get is Monte Carlo.

*Simpson Marine is an exclusive dealer for Beneteau Motorboats and has represented Beneteau Yachts in Asia since 1986. The company's office is located in Phuket Boat Lagoon, 22/22A Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road, Muang, Phuket. For more information call 076-239786, email [phuket@simpsonmarine.com](mailto:phuket@simpsonmarine.com) or visit [simpsonmarine.com](http://simpsonmarine.com)*



Monte Carlo 76 is not just a looker, it's a performer. Photos: Supplied

## Maldives extends luxury yacht stays to 270 days

MARINE authorities in the Maldives have amended yacht-stay rules to allow stays of up to 180 days for all visiting yachts and up to 270 days for vessels registered with International Maritime Organization.

Previously, tourist vessels visiting the Maldives were granted only 90 days' stay.

"All of us at Asia-Pacific

Superyachts [APS] are happy to see the Maldives, one of the best and most fascinating travel destinations in the world, fast emerging as a world favorite for superyacht cruising," said Mohamed Hameed from APS Maldives when announcing the much welcome change of rules, which were brought into effect after two years of efforts by the APS team.

– *Phuket Gazette*



Superyachts are now more welcome in Maldives. Photo: Gazette file

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# Mysterious treasure

## Looking Back

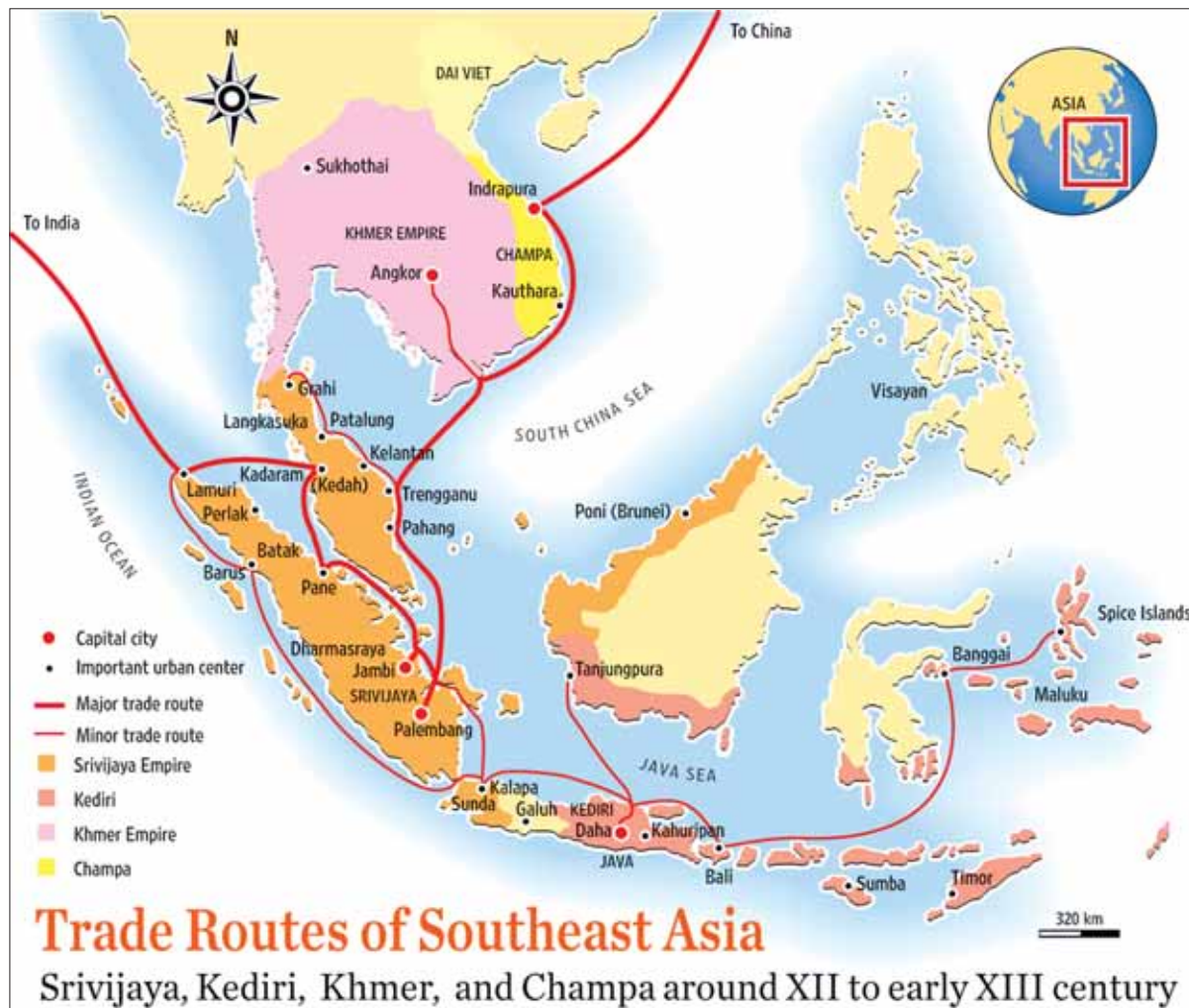
By Anand Singh

IN MAY of this year an unbelievable discovery was made in a palm plantation in Khao Chaison, a district within Phatthalung province. Wee Thapsaeng, the owner of a 7-rai plot of land was using his tractor to plow the land, in order to prepare it for growing palm trees. What emerged, however, was not just mud and earthworms, as one would expect. To his surprise, Wee also found several gold plates emerging from the disturbed ground.

A visit to the local goldsmith quickly confirmed that the objects were indeed solid gold. News of the discovery soon spread among the villagers sparking a frenzied rush to look for more gold. Hundreds of villagers started digging in Wee's plot of land and true to their expectations, more gold was discovered. By the time the Fine Arts Department had heard of the news and arrived to investigate the site, villagers had dug up hundreds of gold plates, bracelets, nuggets and animal pendants.

Initial investigation of the artifacts confirmed that the gold was indeed ancient. In fact, the hoard found in Khao Chaison turned out to be more than 800 years old, according to experts from the Fine Arts Department.

Villagers who lived nearby said that the site of the discovery used to be an old canal bed, which had long since dried up. They also said that an old Chinese vessel had been uncovered there several years ago. One of the villagers who managed to dig up a gold plate from the plot of land, said that her find was buried only 20 centimeters underground. When she uncovered the plate, it resembled a piece of paper that had been folded many times. The plate had Chinese characters inscribed into



Ancient trade routes suggest the journey of the discovered treasure. Graphic: Gunawan Kartapranata

it. According to her daughter, the characters translated as 'Powerful Being'.

So how did Chinese-inscribed treasure, or for that matter, any treasure end up in the middle of a field in Phatthalung province? Assuming the experts at the Fine Arts Department have correctly dated the treasure hoard, the gold must have originated from an era that preceded the Sukhothai Kingdom. In fact, around 800 years ago when the treasure was lost, the boat carrying it must have been sailing along an ancient canal that ran through, what was then, the Srivijaya Empire.

Srivijaya was a regional power

from around the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> century AD. The boundaries of the empire stretched from what is now modern-day Sumatra, Java, the Malay Peninsula and the south of Thailand, up to Surat Thani province. The empire prospered from maritime trade and fostered its commercial relationship with the ruling Tang Dynasty, and then later with the Song Dynasty of China. Srivijaya was also an important center for Mahayana Buddhism. In fact, the earliest mention of Srivijaya was made in the 7<sup>th</sup> century AD. A Chinese monk called Yijing, who travelled to the empire in the year 671 AD, wrote about Srivijaya in his travel

accounts.

Srivijaya was a maritime empire. During its heyday, the rulers of Srivijaya controlled the most important sea routes and allowed it to foster trade between China and the various kingdoms in India. Its location made it a maritime trading center and propelled it into one of the wealthiest and most populous kingdoms in the region during that period. Back then, the rulers of Srivijaya understood that their regional dominance was owed to the fact that they controlled the most important trade routes. The kings of Srivijaya ordered the building of canals throughout their empire,

in order to make it easier for merchant ships to sail within the territory. Aerial photographs, which were taken in 1984 show remnants of impressive canal networks, moats and ponds in Palembang, in southern Sumatra, which were built during the Srivijaya Empire.

The city of Ligor, modern day Nakhon Sri Thammarat, was an important trading center within the Srivijaya kingdom. The ancient canal network, which runs through Phatthalung may have connected Ligor with the sea and the various towns in the region.

Although many trading vessels would have voyaged along the canals during the Srivijaya period, maritime journeys during that time were fraught with danger. Several ships were sunk due to storms and other catastrophes. The hoard of gold discovered in Phatthalung may have been in transit through Srivijaya territory, but for some reason the vessel carrying it must have sunk in the canal along with its precious cargo. The invaluable treasure would not resurface again for another 800 years.

Anek Sihamart, chief of the Fine Arts Department is worried, however, that if the gold rush is not stopped, villagers could seriously damage the ancient site and the historical artifacts. The fact is, discoveries dating from the Srivijaya period have been very rare and this find, if confirmed to be from that period, could reveal some intriguing information about the empire's history that has never come to light before. The Fine Arts Department has now offered to buy the ancient gold back from villagers who may have taken those pieces home, at prices higher than the market value. They have also asked the military for help in fencing off the area so that proper excavation of the site can be done in due course.

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# Troublesome tummies



## Excuse Buster

By Craig Burton

A WHOPPING 45 per cent of us believe we are allergic to basic foodstuffs such as wheat and dairy products – causing anything from bloating to insomnia, according to an article called “The Allergy Fraud” which was published in the UK’s *Daily Mail*.

Another food item that many people believe wreaks havoc on their health is monosodium glutamate (MSG).

The *Gazette* recently ran a special report about MSG that laid out some of the arguments both for and against the substance. One of the arguments in the article proposed that sensitivity to MSG can cause reactions like headaches, diarrhea and bloating.

It seems that the issue of food sensitivity, food intolerance, has become a widespread health issue. So, how do we know exactly what is going on when our bodies have negative reactions to food? And what can we do to help ourselves?

### FOOD ALLERGY VERSUS FOOD INTOLERANCE

It is important to first understand the difference between food allergy and food sensitivity.

A food allergy is a genetic condition that affects about two per cent of the population. Reactions can range from mild to severe: from a rash to potentially fatal anaphylactic shock.

Genetically inherited allergies can be confirmed by a radioallergosorbent test (RAST). A RAST can detect specific antibodies of suspected or known allergens and confirm the existence of any food or other types of allergies.

Common foods that are associated with genetically-inherited

allergies include: cow’s milk, soy, tree nuts, eggs, strawberries, bananas, chocolate, wheat, peanuts, fish, shellfish, beans and oranges.

Those with a true food allergy, if ever exposed to the allergen – once or multiple times – will certainly know about it.

A food intolerance, on the other hand, involves any adverse reaction to foods. In this case, the immune system’s roll is uncertain, because the standard allergy tests come up negative.

So where does this leave the 45 per cent who experience uncomfortable side-effects like abdominal bloating, gas or diarrhea, after eating certain foods?

### POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FOOD INTOLERANCE

It is believed that one of the most common explanations for food intolerance is digestive disorders, such as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), and the issues that come with them.

According to general practitioner Dr Dan Rutherford, IBS is the most common condition seen by doctors, and some estimates suggest that as many as one in five of the adult population in the UK suffers from it at any one time.

There is a strong suggestion that an increased permeability of the intestinal wall, known as leaky gut syndrome (LGS) – one side effect of IBS – is behind many different food intolerances.

The basic premise of LGS is that large molecules, such as those from food, pass through the weak or leaky gut wall and enter into the bloodstream. This results in a calling to arms of the body’s defence mechanisms, like white blood cells which produce antibodies, to destroy the



Ice cream is tempting, but if dairy products make you feel sick, try to stay away from them. Photo: Dankreider

invaders.

These defence mechanisms can cause a wide range of uncomfortable reactions, such as bloating, nausea, migraines and more.

If you think you might have a food intolerance ask yourself these questions:

1. Do you suffer from IBS?
2. Do you suffer from eczema or a type of undiagnosed rash?
3. Do you feel lethargic soon after you finish eating?

4. Do you often feel better if you don’t eat?

5. Did you have problems such as colic, glue ear, ear infections, eczema, asthma or recurrent tonsillitis as a child?

6. Do you suffer from excess mucus in the throat, nose or sinuses?

7. Do you have dark circles under your eyes?

8. Do you suffer from fluid retention?

If you answered affirmatively to more than half of these questions, you should consider testing suspect foods by adopting an elimination diet. An elimination diet requires that you temporarily remove suspect foods for a two to four-week period, monitor how you feel, then re-introduce the

foods and evaluate your overall feeling of health afterward.

Try to recognize whether your symptom or symptoms – whether they be bloating, gas, diarrhea, constipation or something else – seem to be connected to the food you had eliminated and re-introduced.

*Craig Burton is a nutritional expert with more than 15 years of experience at the forefront of the health and well-being field. He offers a high-level of his expertise in functional training and nutrition; focusing on detoxification, food intolerance and nutrient deficiency. For more about Craig’s services, visit [thevitruvianmethod.com](http://thevitruvianmethod.com)*

**A whopping 45 per cent of us believe we are allergic to basic foodstuffs such as wheat and dairy products – causing anything from bloating to insomnia.**



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## Sport

# Muay Thai hits new heights

By Maciek Klimowicz

IN recognition of the benevolence of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej to grant the World Muaythai Council (WMC) Royal Thai Patronage, the WMC on Wednesday held a special ceremony at the Sports Authority of Thailand headquarters in Bangkok.

The WMC, which is the national governing body for Muay Thai, was inaugurated in 1995 under the directive of the Royal Thai Government to foster and promote all aspects of Muay Thai as a cultural art form, a competition sport, self-defense and fitness, and in short, a way of life.

Among the honorable guests invited to take part in the celebration were HE Gen Pichitr Kullavanijaya, the privy councilor to HM The King; Gen Wimon Wongwanich, the former president of the WMC; Gen Chatta Thanajaro, the current president of the WMC; guests from ministries, international embassies and consulates, organizations as well as national and international press.

The event included the delivery of the Royal Standard and a Royal Letter from HM The King by military cadets from the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy, reception of the Royal

Letter by Gen Chatta and his performance of the Loyalty Oath on behalf of the WMC as well as speeches delivered by the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, a representative of the Ministry of Culture and by the WMC Vice President Stephan Fox.

The cultural part of the program included performances of Muay Thai Wai Khru by juniors from Laan Khru Suea House, Muay Thai Dance and the *We are Muaythai* anthem.

The Royal Patronage marks an important milestone in the development of Muay Thai under the guidance of WMC. Just 19 years ago, when WMC was inaugurated, Muay Thai had no international recognition, the sport received coverage only on Thai television channels and only three national federations had been recognized by the National Olympic Committee.

Today, 78 national federations have been observed and Muay Thai is recognized by the Olympic Committee of Asia, SportAccord, The Association For International Sport for All (TAFISA) and the International World Games Association, and receives TV coverage from major broadcasters such as Eurosport, ESPN and FOX Sports. Muay Thai is also the only martial art



Buakaw Banchamek receiving the Prince Cup from HSH Prince Alber II of Monaco. Photo: Supplied

ever to be nominated for the International Emmy Awards.

From a local sport it has become a worldwide phenomenon featured in major multi-sport competitions such as Arafura Games, TAFISA Games, SEA Games, Asian Indoor and Asian Beach Games.

Muay Thai is part of the World Combat Games and was

recently included in the World Games, which are both under patronage of the International Olympic Committee.

Muay Thai has won the "Spirit of Sport Award" in 2014 bestowed by SportAccord (the umbrella organization for 104 world-recognized sports) for using sport as a means to reach out and develop local communities

through the "Sport is Your Gang" sport-awareness campaign.

The "Sport is Your Gang" campaign is carried out in cooperation with "Peace and Sport," under the high patronage of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco. Also, WMC recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the UN Women's UNiTE Campaign to End Violence Against Women.

## Bondi Bar Bashers claim the league title

By Rashmi Chandwaskar

CONTINUING their domination of the Outrigger T20 cricket championship, BBB won their sixth match in a row against VCT, and in the process the league by virtue of topping the points table, with two matches left to play.

Opting to bat after winning the toss, VCT sent in their openers, Kevin Quilty and Sam Ali, to hopefully salvage pride after their abject surrender in previous matches. However, BBB had other ideas, and their bowlers struck in only the second over when Ibrahim Mushtaq had Ali caught by stand-in captain

Paddy Morton at short-cover, with the scoreboard reading just 4 runs. The floodgates opened and wickets kept falling in a flurry, with Justin Swart, the wrecker-in-chief, picking up 4 wickets for a miserly 14 runs. Swart, who had recently been removed from the BBB bowling attack for infringing on the no-ball rule, more than redeemed himself by injecting consistently accurate line and length—troubling all the VCT players unfortunate to face the in-form South African.

The big-hitting Divan Mydeen initially signalled hope for VCT when he joined Martin Platts, who was looking steady at the crease, but did

not last long and fell for 10 off 16 balls, with only one towering hit out of the ground to his credit. Platts continued his stand and was rewarded with a 15 not out off 21 balls. Morton picked up the last two wickets in successive balls (meaning that he is on a hat-trick when next he bowls in the competition) ending the VCT innings in 11.2 overs for a score of 42.

BBB, changing their batting line up in order to provide much needed batting practice for their other batsmen, sent in Mushtaq and Swart to open the innings in a left-hand, right-hand combination. With very few runs to defend, VCT had no choice

but to attack and hope for a BBB batting collapse. VCT's Mydeen was first to face Mushtaq, BBB's harvester of half-centuries, but on a day when nothing seemed to be going VCT's way, his first ball was expertly driven to the boundary. By the end of the second over, BBB had figures of 0 for 12, and were looking comfortable. Swart continued his good form with the bat and hit four 4s in an unbeaten innings of 22 off 15 balls, while Mushtaq — mathematically unable to reach his sixth consecutive 50 — had to settle for 20 off 17 balls.

BBB, having won the Outrigger T20 league, now look forward to

completing their campaign with a full complement of eight wins from eight before competing in the upcoming finals scheduled for September.

The next fixture is on Sunday, August 24 with Bondi Bar Bashers playing ICC in the morning and Thalang playing Laguna in the afternoon. Start times are 10am and 2pm respectively.

Interested in getting involved in cricket in Phuket? Email Phuket Cricket Group Chairman at chairman@phuketcricketgroup.com, or visit PhuketCricketGroup.com and AcgPhuket.com for more information.

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7	Krabi FC	26	37
8	TTM Customs	26	37
9	BBCU	26	37
10	Ayutthaya FC	26	36
11	Pattaya Utd	26	36
12	Roi Et Utd	26	32
13	Phuket	26	31
14	Trat FC	26	30
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Photo: facebook.com/pages/fume-ugust-2014-2014

\*dates subject to change \*\*Last Update: 20/08/2014



# Suarez adds bite to Barca

By Tim Hanlon

BARCELONA have added Luis Suarez to their star-studded forward line but it could be their defensive reinforcements that make the difference as they look to win back the La Liga title.

The club's first trophyless season in six years has sparked an overhaul with new coach Luis Enrique bringing in fresh faces for many positions ahead of the La Liga campaign that kicks off on Saturday.

All eyes will be on Suarez, signed from Liverpool for a fee reported to be 81 million euros (65 million pounds), when he finally makes his competitive bow for Barca at the end of October, after he was handed a four-month ban for biting at the World Cup.

The prospect of him lining up with Neymar and Lionel Messi in attack is mouthwatering, yet the club's title hopes are likely to depend on them shoring up a rearguard that looked vulnerable at key times last season.

The backline has been neglected in recent years with close-season recruits Jeremy Mathieu and Thomas Vermaelen the first centre backs to be signed since Dmytro Chygrynskiy in 2009.

The club had previously attempted to

paper over the cracks by converting midfielders into center backs, with the idea being that they would be comfortable in possession and bring the ball out of defence.

The combative Argentine Javier Mascherano has done relatively well in this role, despite his lack of height, but Sergio Busquets and Alex Song have also been tried out in the position with little success.

Barca have now added strength and depth to their defence but there are still question marks over the signings of Mathieu and Vermaelen ahead of the Catalans' curtain-raiser against Elche on Sunday.

The club paid 20 million euros for the 30-year old Mathieu while Vermaelen arrives at the Nou Camp with a poor injury record, having fallen down the pecking order at former club Arsenal.

Goalkeepers Claudio Bravo and Marc-Andre ter Stegen, signed to replace Victor Valdes, would appear to be sound investments.

## Barca basics

Barca struggled to adapt last season to the new tactical ideas introduced by coach Gerardo Martino, who resigned after one campaign in charge.

They have gone back to basics with Luis Enrique whose teams play the club's typi-



Suarez holds up his jersey during his presentation at the Nou Camp stadium. Photo: Reuters

cal short passing football.

"We will play the attacking style that has caught the imagination of millions of people around the world but we also need to defend," Luis Enrique told a news conference in Barcelona.

"We have an incredibly talented squad. My work and that of my staff is to find a system that fits. We will look at all possibilities and consider the qualities of the players.

"Basically, the three forwards will play centrally but at times they will vary this and a lot will depend on the approach of the opponent. We will do different things.

"The team is prepared physically but as regards the football I would have liked two months more as we have a new coach,

seven or eight new signings and youth players coming in."

Luis Enrique coached the Barca B (youth) team for three seasons until 2011 and is keen to give the young players a chance.

Eighteen-year-old forward Munir El Haddadi has shone during pre-season and is pushing for a chance in attack.

"It will depend on his performances if he is in the first team. I think he has done well and it is clear he has a lot of quality," said Luis Enrique.

"It is the same with the other youth players. I am always saying it is great to have young players like we have that have plenty of drive and ambition."

— Reuters

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