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# Phuket Gazette



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**INSIDE TODAY**

**September 27 - October 3, 2014**

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■ **'WE HAVE ORDERED MORE STREET PATROLS'**

# Ambushed

■ **British expat attacked by teens on dark, empty stretch of road**

By **Chutharat Plerin**

POLICE are hunting for three teenagers who ambushed a British expat and his wife in a nighttime attack on a dark Thalang street last week.

Iain Richardson slowed his motorbike down for a speed bump on the road that connects Srisoonthorn Road with the Alan Cook Cricket Ground when the youths, laying in wait, jumped them.

"Three teenagers were waiting by the side of the road, acting as if they had a problem with their motorcycle," Mr Richardson recalled.

"When we slowed down for the speed bump, one of them rushed out and smacked me over the head with a large stick. We came off the bike. My wife tried to go for the attacker and was hit on the arm. By the time I got up to chase them, they had run off."

Mr Richardson suffered a perforated eardrum and his wife has bruising on her arm from the incident.

"[I have] no idea what their motive was... Luckily, we were wearing helmets," he said.

Thalang Police Superintendent Sirisak



**Police advise everyone to steer clear of poorly lit roads at night.** Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

Wasasiri considers the attack, which occurred at about 9pm on September 17, not only to be a threat to individuals' personal safety, but also a threat to Phuket's image as a safe tourist destination.

"I have ordered our investigation team to hunt down the three teenagers," he told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

"I have also ordered for more street pa-

trols, especially on dark roads. Although we do not have enough officers to do much more, we are doing our best."

Case investigator Kittiphum Thinthalang of the Thalang Police has turned to CCTV footage and called in the assistance of community police and village chiefs to help catch...

*Continued on Page 3*

## Protection for national park chief boosted

SIRINATH National Park Chief Kitiphat Tharapiban has vowed to remain at his post and continue his battle against influential people and corrupt officials who have robbed the island of many of its natural treasures.



**Chief Kitiphat**

Mr Kitiphat resigned on September 18 under death threats and mounting pressure from dark forces. However, after being promised additional military support and protection, he decided to stay on.

*Full Story Page 9*

## Budget given green light for B1bn prison

A BUDGET for the island's new, state-of-the-art prison facility has been approved in order to take the pressure off the overcrowded prison in Phuket Town.

Construction on the 1-billion-baht project is set to break ground by the end of the year.

*Full Story Page 3*

## Laguna resorts lend a hand to beach vendors

THREE Laguna Phuket resorts have offered to provide space along their beachfront property for some out-of-work beach masseuses.

*Full Story Page 7*

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## This Week



### Business

F1 simulator brings high speed racing rush to Phuket. **Page 29**



### Property

Foto Hotel's way to stand out in Phuket's busy market. **Page 31**



### Food

Phuket's Vegetarian Festival food finally explained! **Page 33**



### Environment

How can we create a sustainable island life in Phuket? **Page 34**



### Explore

Phi Phi – beyond the hedonistic parties it is known for. **Page 36**



### Sport

International athletes to join this year's Challenge Laguna Phuket. **Page 38**

Saturday



33 - 24

Sunday



33 - 24

Monday



34 - 24

Tuesday



34 - 24

Wednesday



34 - 24

Thursday



33 - 24

# Foul play ruled out in money lenders death

POLICE have ruled out foul play in the death of a former Phuket policeman-turned-money lender who was found dead in his bed on September 20.

"We found Sub Lt Anan Thongkham, 65, dead at his home on Soi King Kaew 5 in Rassada at about 10:30pm," said Maj Sakchai Chunyong of the Phuket City Police.

"There were no signs of a break-in or a struggle, but there were blood stains around his nose and mouth. His face was blue, suggesting that he had been dead for some time."

Sub Lt Anan's 53-year-old brother, Somyot Thongkham, originally believed that his older brother had been murdered and robbed.

"When I first went to see my brother after he died, I thought that he might have been poisoned and then robbed, because a gold bracelet worth about 100,000 baht was missing from his home," Mr Somyot told the *Gazette*.

"However, after talking to relatives, I found out that he had



Sub Lt Anan Thongkham, 65, was found dead in his room.

recently stopped seeing doctors to treat a high-blood pressure condition and had been self-medicating with over-the-counter pills."

Relatives who had been taking care of Sub Lt Anan told Mr Somyot that his brother had also been drinking, which had made his

condition worse.

"After speaking with my family, I no longer believe that someone poisoned my brother. I also found the gold bracelet, so I know now that he was not robbed," said Mr Somyot.

– *Thawit Bilabdullar*

## Two dead, two injured in high-speed crash

TWO ethnic Mon men died and another two were seriously injured after their motorcycle slammed into a tree last on September 18.

"According to witnesses the four men, all riding on the same motorbike, were travelling at high speed when they hit a tree on Thepkrasattri Road near Baan Tah Reua Shrine at about 11:40pm," said Maj Kittiphum Tinthalang of the Thalang Police.

"They were heading north

when the accident occurred. It looked like the driver lost control on the curve. None of them were wearing helmets; one of them was carrying a guitar."

After questioning the two survivors police learned that all four were ethnic Mons.

"Mr Baw, 22, died at the scene due to serious head injuries. Mr Lon, 23, Mr San, 23, and Mr Nang, 29, were rushed to Thalang Hospital, but Mr Lon died shortly after arriving," Maj Kittiphum said.



All four ethnic Mon men riding a single motorbike.

"We will question Mr San and Mr Nang further once they have recovered."

– *Thawit Bilabdullar*

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# Billion-baht prison budget approved, says Gov Maitri

By Chutharat Plerin

FUNDING of 1.1 billion baht has been approved to build the island's new prison, Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut revealed on September 19 in an exclusive interview with the *Gazette*.

"The budget has already been approved by the National Council for Peace and Order [NCPO] and transferred to the Department of Corrections. We will go ahead with the project as soon as possible," said Governor Maitri.

"The new facility is crucial, as the current one is overcrowded. Originally, it was built for only 800 prisoners, but that number is approaching 3,000 – more than three times the facility's [initial] capacity."

The prison, to be built on 108 rai of government land at the site of the Bang Jo Detention Center in Srisoonthorn, will be one of the most modern in the country, featuring the latest in prison technology and security.



The new prison will alleviate overcrowding at the existing facility. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Construction of the facility, designed to hold up to 3,000 inmates, will begin as soon as a construction company is chosen, Prison Chief Rapin Nichanon confirmed.

"The construction will be awarded through a bidding pro-

cess, which we will announce soon. I expect the project to get underway before the end of this year," Mr Rapin said.

More than 100 prison officers will be required for the new penitentiary, double the number of officers currently stationed at Phuket

Prison in Phuket Town.

After the new facility is complete, the old prison will be demolished and the area turned into public space.

Plans for the new facility were first announced in August 2012 by former Justice Minister Pracha Promnok.



Mr Suksan's body was recovered on Monday morning. Photo: Supplied

## Teen Patong bar worker ignores red flags, drowns

A TEENAGE bar employee drowned at Patong Beach early Monday morning after ignoring red "no swim" flags and swimming in the dangerous Phuket surf in his jeans.

Suksan Jaiyen, 19, and three friends were having drinks on the beach after closing the bar around 2am, explained Lt Thawatchai Srimai of the Patong Police.

"We assume that Mr Suksan was drunk at the time and unable to recover after he was struck by a big wave," he said.

Mr Suksan's friends immediately called police, who put together a search party. It wasn't until sunrise that his body was found floating at sea.

"There was no sign of foul play," Lt Thawatchai confirmed.

Mr Suksan's drowning prompted a fresh round of warnings by lifeguards, who regularly caution beachgoers about ignoring red flags, swimming drunk and swimming in jeans.

"The red flags mark the dangerous areas of the beach, and people must respect them," Wirot Saweangphol, chief lifeguard at Patong Beach, told the *Gazette*.

"We are not available 24 hours a day to warn people – but that's why we keep the flags out on the beach after our shifts."

Lifeguards are on duty from 8:30am to 6:30pm.

– *Natthaphol Wittayarungrote*

## Clamp down on crime in Thalang after attack on Brit

From page 1

...the attackers and boost safety in Thalang neighborhoods after dark.

"We have checked footage from a CCTV camera in front of the Somboonsab Village housing estate. It is the only CCTV near the scene of the attack," he explained.

"Though we cannot see the crime scene, we can see who passed by the camera. That should help us to identify the attackers, and we can question other people seen passing by in case they can identify any teenagers in the area at the time."

Col Sirisak has contacted the Srisoonthorn local government to report the lack of street

lighting and CCTV coverage in the area.

"They need to consider applying for a budget to improve safety at that location," he said.

"At the same time, we will be looking at what measures can be implemented to prevent attacks like this from happening in the future."

Col Sirisak is confident that Thalang street violence is not returning to its previous heights.

"This is the first case of this kind that I've seen since I was stationed here," he said. "I do not think lethal teen violence is returning to Thalang. There may be some small attacks, but not the same level of violence as before."

A spate of teen gang violence in 2011 saw three murders by youths in Thalang from January to May that year, including the shooting

murder of a 13-year-old in Baan Don. The boy's parents believed their son was gunned down in mistaken identity; that the killers were actually targeting the boy's twin brother.

Col Sirisak advised motorists against taking less-travelled roads at night.

He also called on local residents to report all crimes in their areas by calling the Thalang Police at 076-311123 or the police hotline 191.

Col Sirisak's warning was echoed by Mr Richardson.

"I think people need to be aware of the dangers of driving a motorcycle on small roads at night, and be on the lookout for suspicious groups of teenagers, especially in the Srisoonthorn area," Mr Richardson said.



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## PACC delays charging over Chalong Police extortion case

THE conclusion of an investigation of three Chalong Police officers for their alleged abuse of power has been set back again, confirmed the Public-sector Anti Corruption Commission (PACC).

"We still need more time to finish compiling our case," said Lt Col Wannop Somjintanakul, the PACC officer leading the investigation. He declined to provide a specific date.

Col Wannop told the *Gazette* on September 2 that the PACC's investigation would be completed "within the next two weeks".

However, Col Wannop said on September 19 that before they can press charges, there were "a few issues that must be cleared up."

This is the second time that the formal charges have been delayed.

The Chalong Police came under fire in March for rounding up 20 foreign dive instructors at Chalong Pier and, as has been reported widely, attempting to extort money from them.

— **Natthaphol Wittayarungrote**

# Patong roads to reverse

By Chutharat Plerin

PLANS to change the direction of Patong's one-way traffic system look set to go ahead by the end of this year, Patong Mayor Chalermluck Kebsup confirmed.

"A public hearing was held on Friday [September 19] to determine whether or not to change Patong's traffic flow. I believe this could happen by the end of this year," Mayor Chalermluck told the *Gazette*.

From the meeting it appeared that the majority of people in Patong wanted to reverse the one-way system, making traffic along the beachfront road southbound and traffic on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road northbound, the mayor said.

Also, most people at the meeting, held at Patong Municipality, approved for all streets linking the beach road and Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road to be open to two-way traffic.

"The main reason we are considering reversing the traffic flow is because many people have complained that the current one-way system is not convenient,"



Mayor Chalermluck confirmed the traffic-direction reversal after a September 19 meeting. Photo: Saran Mitratat

explained Mayor Chalermluck, without elaborating.

"However, we still have to proceed with two more public hearings so that we can be sure the people of Patong are ready for the changes. The next hearing will take place [at Patong Municipal-

ity] in about a week."

The vote to change the traffic-flow at the meeting on September 19 was nearly unanimous, said Patong Police Traffic Inspector Ekkarat Plaiduang.

"There were about 50 Patong residents at the hearing and about

90 per cent of them agreed with the proposed changes to the one-way system," he told the *Gazette*.

"Though we still have to hold two more public hearings, I am confident that the people of Patong will vote in favor of the proposed traffic-flow changes."



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## Facebook tip-off ends with demolition order for small beachside fence at Laguna



Mr Ma-ann ordered the fence to be pulled down. Photo: Cherng Talay OrBorTor

LAGUNA Phuket on Tuesday was ordered to pull down a fence at Bang Tao Beach until it could be established whether or not the operators of the resort complex owned the land.

Ma-ann Samran, president of the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor), issued the order after inspecting the site while accompanied by armed soldiers.

"Photos of the fence were posted on Facebook yesterday, so I went down to inspect it myself this morning," he told the *Gazette* on Tuesday.

Representatives from Laguna Phuket explained that the fence was built in order to clearly mark the boundary of the complex's land.

They also presented a Chanote land title deed, issued four years ago to Bang Tao Development Co Ltd as the title holder, to support their claim.

Regardless, Mr Ma-ann ordered the fence to be dismantled until the

issue was clearly resolved in order to avoid any conflict that may arise over the structure.

"Even though they said they had the legal rights to the land, I ordered Laguna to pull the fence down. People saw it and asked how could Laguna be allowed to put a fence on the beach," he explained.

Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada was informed of the dispute and the chief of the Thalang Land Office was asked to send a team to survey the plot and verify the resort's boundary. The team of officials were expected to survey the site on Wednesday.

"Local people are invited to witness the surveying, so they know what is happening," Mr Ma-ann said.

"I want people to understand why Laguna put a fence on the sand. If the [survey] team confirms that Laguna owns the land, then there's nothing we can do about it." — **Chutharat Plerin**



# Vegetarian Fest kicks off

By Natthaphol Wittayarungrote

AS THE sun set on Phuket Tuesday night, all Chinese shrines taking part in the annual Vegetarian Festival raised their *go-teng* poles so that the Jade Emperor, among the Nine Emperor Gods, could descend from the heavens, heralding the beginning of this year's event.

Devotees began pasting gold-leaf papers onto the poles on Monday night ahead of the festival's precursor Tuesday night event as a form of making merit and inviting good luck.

Meanwhile, cooks at food stalls around all participating shrines made their final preparations of vegetarian fare, which will be provided throughout the festival (see page 33).

The nine-day event attracts thousands of visitors to Phuket to witness the festivities, which in-

clude fire-walking, bladed-ladder climbing, hundreds of stalls fully stocked with vegan foods and processions at locations across the island.

On the last day of the festival, all participating shrines stage street processions to Saphan Hin between 11:45pm and midnight to bid the gods a "Grand Farewell" before they are sent heavenward.

The final processions are renowned for the large number of firecrackers set alight by devotees and revelers as the processions pass by.

For the first time in its history, the world-famous festival will occur twice in one year. This year, there will be two 9<sup>th</sup> lunar months in the Chinese calendar and twice the number of visits from the gods.

An official schedule for the second Vegetarian Festival, which will



Gold-plated *go-teng* poles were raised. Photo: Mauri Grant



Vegetarian Festival devotees began to paste gold-leaf papers onto the *go-teng* poles on Monday night.

run from October 24 to November 1, has yet to be released, but several shrines on the island will honor the festival with a second round of commemorations.

The shrines that will be holding two commemorations are as follows: Cherng Talay Shrine; Gim Tsu Ong Shrine in Cherng Talay; Hai Yan Geng Shrine in

Mai Khao; Kathu Shrine; Sam Sae Su Hud Shrine at Rang Hill in Phuket Town; and Sheng Leng Tong Shrine in Muang Mai, Thailand.

## Chang challenged over beer logos emblazoned on Veggie Festival flags



PPHO officials filed their complaint with the Phuket City Police.

THE Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) filed a complaint on September 17 against those responsible for emblazoning flags heralding the upcoming Vegetarian Festival with Chang Beer logos.

Krit Sakulpat, deputy chief of the PPHO, led a delegation to Phuket City Police Station to lodge a formal complaint against ThaiBev, the company that produces Chang Beer, and Jui Tui Shrine for featuring the beer's green logo on festival flags.

"We received a complaint that Jui Tui Shrine's flags are promoting an alcoholic beverage. This violates the Alcohol Act B.E. 2551 on advertising and promoting alcohol, which carries a penalty of up to one year imprisonment, up to a 500,000-baht fine, or both," noted Dr Krit.

He said that the flags had already been posted all over Phuket

Town, including at the Seng Ho intersection, near Phuket Post Office, at Suriyadet Circle, on Bangkok Road, near Phuket Provincial Prison and at Saphan Hin.

"Alcohol is not something that should be promoted during the Vegetarian Festival. This is an event during which people are urged to do good things, including refraining from drinking," Dr Krit said.

"It's this kind of action that can lead to people losing faith in what has become a great festival."

Dr Krit implored businesses not to use the world-renowned event to promote alcohol consumption.

"I urge all business operators not to promote alcohol during the festival. We don't want the event's clean reputation to be tainted," he added.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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An officer inspects the scene.

## Light my fire: Merit making candle sets AC shop ablaze

A BURNING candle set an air-conditioning sales and repair shop ablaze Tuesday morning in Rassada, causing about 300,000 baht in damage.

Neighbors alerted shop owner Panya Chunchom, 34, of the fire after they saw smoke coming from the building's third-floor window.

"We lit some candles as an act of worship and put them in front of a spirit house located on the third floor, next to the shop's storeroom," said Mr Panya.

"I think one of them fell onto an air conditioner below the spirit house and started the fire."

Two firetrucks took about 30 minutes to put out the fire at Panya Air, but not before it had consumed 15 air-conditioning units.

"Fortunately the fire did not spread to the house next door and nobody was injured. We have learned our lesson the hard way, and will not be lighting candles in the shop again," said Mr Panya, adding that he hoped people would learn from his mistake.

"Thai people love to light candles during worship. Please make sure you don't leave them unattended or in dangerous places – you could face a great loss."

– **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

## Police leads dry up in Russian murder, kidnapping case

POLICE have exhausted their leads in the hunt for two Russian men wanted in connection with the murder and kidnapping of a fellow Russian in Phuket earlier this year.

Ukrainian Oleksandr Boychuk, 44, and Russian Aleksandr Novichkov, 58, are wanted for the kidnapping of Alexey Slabinskiy, 39, and his girlfriend Iana Strizheus in March.

Miss Strizheus was recovered safely, but Mr Slabinskiy's decapitated body was later found beside a lake in Cherng Talay.

"There is still an arrest warrant out for these two suspects, but at present we have no new information about where they might be hiding," Provincial Police Deputy Commander Arun Kaewvatee told the *Gazette*.

Col Arun said the whereabouts of the fugitives remained a top priority, despite police now believing that the pair fled Thailand by boat.

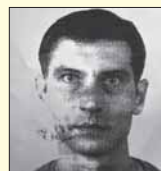
Regardless, Col Arun was adamant his officers were ready to continue their search.

"We will follow up any new leads and will

assist any foreign or international police forces with any information they need to catch these fugitives," he said.

Mr Boychuk, who has reportedly gone by Andrei Zabelin, as well as Andrew Zabelin, is **Mr Slabinskiy** also wanted by the Russian Police.

The Russian authorities and Interpol have been alerted that the men are wanted by the Thai police. – **Natthaphol Wittayarungrote**



## Four who recalled plane crash cash in big with lottery win

By **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

FOUR people – all staffers working at Phuket International Airport – won government lottery prizes on September 17 totaling more than 34 million baht.

One of the prize winners, Saowaluck Katekaw, won 4mn baht after choosing the lucky number 269 in memory of the One-Two-Go Flight OG269 disaster that killed 89 people seven years ago on September 16.

Ms Saowaluck, 32, from Srisaket, works for Orient Thai Airlines, the airline that operated the One-Two-Go budget-carrier service at the time of the disaster. The One-Two-Go operating company has since been dissolved.

There were no official memorial services at the airport to remember the victims of Flight OG269, as Airport Director Prathuang Sornkham noted that the disaster was "not a day to remember".

However, September 16 will now certainly be a day to remember for Airports of Thailand (AoT) staff, as that was the day the winning numbers were drawn and two AoT employees at Phuket Airport won major prizes.

"One of them won more than 30mn baht," Phuket Tourist Police Chief Urumporn Kondejsumrit told the *Gazette*.

Both AoT staffers declined to publicly reveal their identities.



**Orient Thai staffer Saowaluck Katekaw (left) and Cambodian construction worker Kong Oct both won.**

The fourth winner, Cambodian construction worker Kong Oct, has now resigned from his job at the airport, where he was working on the 5.7-billion-baht expansion project.

"He was very happy when he came to tell me that he had won 4mn baht on the lottery," said his supervisor, Somporn Yiamthaisong, of Sino-Thai Engineering & Con-

struction Public Company.

"He wanted to claim the money immediately. He also asked to resign so he could return home to Cambodia for good."

A worried Mr Somporn escorted Mr Kong to Tah Chat Chai Police Station so he could report the winning ticket in case it was stolen.

"I am happy for him, but I sug-

gested that he does not go out alone until this is all over," he said.

"I also called the Tourist Police to escort him to the police station, and I asked him to stay in the workers' camp until he gets the money and leaves for home."

Maj Urumporn noted that all four winning lottery tickets were bought at the same place: in front of a 7-Eleven store near the airport.

## Knife-wielding man robs 7-Eleven

POLICE are searching for a robber and his accomplice after a man threatened staff with a knife and robbed a 7-Eleven in Rassada at about 4:30am on September 20.

Police arrived at the scene, in front of the Rock Garden housing estate on Pracha-U-Thit Road, soon after the robbery.

"Wareerat Sae-Chiaw, 21, and Mali Pimon, 25, were working at the time," said Capt Nucharee Longkaew of the Phuket City Police.

"He threatened me with a knife and ordered me to hand over the cash, then he came behind the counter and took 2,000 stamps," Ms Wareerat said.

"It happened very quickly. He then ran outside to a motorcycle driven by another man and they sped off."

The robbers made off with



**The man made off with cash and 7-Eleven loyalty stamps. Photo: Supplied**

1,290 baht cash and 6,000 baht in loyalty stamps.

"They were both recorded on the store's CCTV cameras. We are searching for the suspects now," Capt Nucharee added.

The same 7-Eleven store was robbed at knifepoint in August last year, when a barefoot man armed with a long kitchen knife made off with just over 10,000 baht.

– **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

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# Laguna Phuket resorts help out beach vendors

By Chutharat Plerin

THREE major hotels at Laguna Phuket have agreed to allow vendors who lost their jobs in the Cherng Talay beach cleanup to work on sections of their beachfront properties.

"After the cleanup [in Cherng Talay] we got our beautiful beaches back, but we have been left with many jobless vendors who want to make a living," said Ma-ann Samran, president of the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization.

"I have spoken to executives of three Laguna resorts – Angsana, Banyan Tree and Dusit Thani.

"They have agreed to let some vendors come back and work on sections of property along Bang Tao Beach which are used by hotel guests."

For the time being, vendors will be limited to offering only traditional massage services, Mr Ma-ann noted.

"We hope this agreement can eventually include vendors selling



Cherng Talay beach vendors are given space to work as masseuses. Photo: Cherng Talay OrBorTor

snacks, beachwear and tours, among other things, but it depends on the hotels," Mr Ma-ann said.

The agreement brokered by Mr Ma-ann also comes with a num-

ber of stipulations.

"An area will be set up where masseuses can offer their services, but they must be polite and not pester guests," said Mr Ma-ann.

Over the past few months, jobless vendors caught up in Phuket's beach cleanup campaign have been imploring authorities to help them find jobs.

## Budget given green light to develop island water sources



Gen Dapong announces the budget for the projects.

A 15.9-MILLION-BAHT budget has been approved to manage and develop Phuket's water-resources in order to increase storage capacity and improve a canal that has become a health hazard.

"We have approved a 4mn-baht project to dredge about a kilometer of Bang Yai Canal in Phuket Town to improve the water flow and drainage," Natural Resources and Environment Minister Gen Dapong Ratanasuwan said on September 20.

The stench of Bang Yai Canal has been a serious concern in recent years, and has wreaked havoc in areas of Phuket Town, making some residents physical ill.

"About 7.6mn baht will be allocated to Baan Lipon in the Srisoonthorn area, where there are plans to increase the water capacity of an old tin mine," Mr Dapong said. "This will alleviate serious water shortages in the area during the dry season."

The final 4.3mn baht of the budget will be used to improve access to fresh water resources at Phuket Panyanukul School in Pa Khlok.

— Athip Karndee

## Police suspect vendor commit suicide over financial woes

A MAN who rented umbrellas and beach chairs at Patong is believed to have committed suicide due to depression brought on by the Phuket beach cleanup campaign that left him with no income.

Jirasak Sae-Koo, 45, was found hanging by a rope tied to a ceiling beam at the home of his friend Narate Rattanathatchaikul on Monday.

"He came to give me an envelope to make merit," Mr Narate told police. "He complained that he had no income during the past three months since the beach was cleared. Jirasak was a Patong beach vendor. He rented a lot of



Rescue workers carry the body.

umbrellas and beach chairs on the beach."

Mr Narate was at home, in the Phuket Villa Suang Luang housing estate south of Phuket Town, when Mr Jirasak died.

"I was in another part of the house. I walked into the kitchen and was shocked – he was hanging there," he said.

Since losing his source of income, Mr Jirasak also lost his girlfriend, Mr Narate said.

"She left him after a fortune teller told her that Jirasak was caught by black magic," he said. "That made the situation worse. In the past two months he did not really talk."

"He was not in a good mood, but I had no idea he would do such a thing."

Police believe the death was suicide, but will continue investigating. — Thawit Bilabdullar



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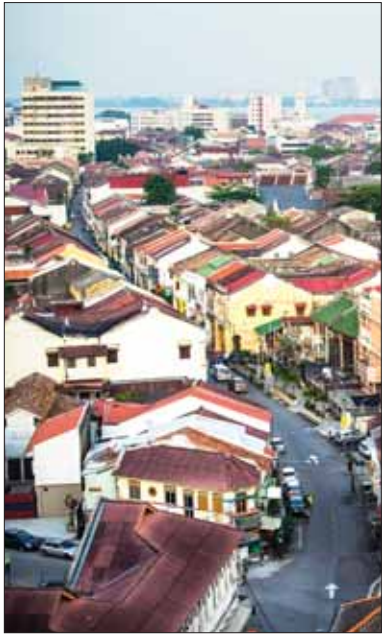
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ASIA'S BOUTIQUE AIRLINE





A rooftop glimpse of Phuket's new sister city. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

## Phuket, Penang tourism ties tied, now sister cities

PHUKET Town and George Town in Penang, Malaysia, became official twin cities after signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Phuket City Hall on September 18.

Inspired by the two cities' long-established historical relationship, the decision was seen as an important move in facilitating the exchange of expertise in areas of tourism, business and cultural heritage.

"Both cities have agreed to establish a joint committee comprising government, business and civil society representatives which will oversee the implementation of projects, programs and activities," said Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana.

"The committee will meet once a year in either Penang or Phuket and will cooperate in areas of city management and governance, trade, investment, social development, education and cultural heritage."

Phuket's bid to be registered as a World Heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) also stands to benefit from the formalizing of "sister-city" status, Phuket Passport Office Chief Siriporn Tantipanyathap noted last month.

"Malaysia's Malacca and George Town, both historic cities of the Strait of Malacca, were inscribed as World Heritage sites in 2008," she said.

Ms Srirat pointed out that, despite clear links with its Malaysian counterparts, Phuket will still maintain its own distinct cultural heritage.

— **Natthaphol Wittayarungrote**

## Australian tourist tumbles down to famous fossils

AN AUSTRALIAN tourist was injured after ignoring a warning sign and falling down a small cliff on September 19 at the Susan Hoi Shell Cemetery, also known as the "Fossil Beach", near Ao Nang in Krabi.

According to police, David Grant, 40, was visiting the famous natural attraction with a friend when he decided to climb down the cliff to the fossilized rock formations.

"He ignored the warning sign about the rocks and was climbing down the cliff when he slipped and fell about three meters," said Sen Sgt Maj Thongchai

of Krabi Town Police

Ao Nang rescue workers had to navigate their way around the 75-million-year-old rock formations, sited within the Hat Noppharat Thara - Mu Ko Phi Phi National Park, and along the beach to get to Mr Grant.

"He remained conscious and suffered only a few cuts a bruises – mostly to his face. Luckily, he didn't break any bones," said Sgt Thongchai.

"Please heed the warning signs at places like this, otherwise you could suffer serious injury."



The Aussie being removed from the fossil bed.

Mr Grant was taken to Krabi Hospital for treatment and was later discharged.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

## Chinese man joins Swedes in epic trip for post-tsunami orphanage

Isaac Stone Simonelli

A CHINESE man has joined the group of Swedes pedaling toward Phuket from Europe to raise money for a post-tsunami orphanage on the island.

Kunn Lee, who was originally supposed to be cycling southern China and Tibet, changed his plans after meeting Calle Wollgard and the team – he is now bound for the Barhem Muang Mai orphanage.

"We are very happy about this, mostly because Lee is really funny, and a nice guy. However, it's also a great advantage to have someone who is able to speak and translate for us in a country like China," Calle told the *Gazette*.

"I guess you can say that we were very lucky to find Lee. We really hope that he can go all the way to Phuket and the orphanage."

Mr Kunn joined Calle, Fredrik Jessen, Tomi Blumen and Christofer Johansson more than a week ago and is looking to share the next 6,000 kilometers of road with them.

With more than 10,200km behind them, the team is about 20 per cent through China. However, it took a big push to escape Uzbekistan.

"Our biggest difficulty since the last update was to get out of Uzbekistan. It was not because it was that hard to cycle – it was very flat – but because of all the diseases. We just wanted to get out as soon as possible, before we became ill again," said Calle.

"It was a bit hard mentally because we still had to do about 1,000km before we reached Kyrgyzstan."

However, once the team reached Osh, in Kyrgyzstan, their spirits soared.

"I think morale hasn't been higher for a long time during this trip; maybe it is the highest morale we've had," said Calle.



Lee (2nd from left) joins the four Swedes in the pedal across China toward Phuket. Photo: Supplied

"We had a great time in Osh. We met a lot of travellers from all over the world – some amazingly fun people! We also put the heat of the previous countries behind us. The temperature has started to drop to a comfortable level."

Fredrik, who had been suffering from serious stomach issues since Uzbekistan, has finally recovered.

"It's not that easy to count ribs anymore, which I think is a good sign," Calle said. "He also looks really strong on the road again."

With only China and Laos left between them and Thailand, the team is clearly excited.

"We still have about 80 per cent of China to do before we are home. But when we are finally done with China, it will feel kind of good and unreal to say that

Thailand is our next big destination," said Calle.

The biggest hiccup the team has faced since entering China was one of Calle's greatest fears – equipment failure.

"Really, my biggest concern is that the equipment will fail – especially the bikes," Calle told the *Gazette* in March.

The back rim of Calle's bike broke in Kyrgyzstan, and it was impossible to replace when they attempted to swap it out in Kashgar, China.

"It is impossible to find a 28-inch wheel in this part of China. So, in the end, I just had to buy a brand new bike," he said.

"I really like it so far, so it's not the end of the world."

The team is still on track to cross the bridge to Phuket in time

to spend Christmas together with the kids of Barhem Muang Mai for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tsunami, and raise millions of baht for the orphanage.

Those wishing to contribute should send Calle their name and how much they want to donate for each Swedish mile (10km) covered. All proceeds will go to Barnhem Muang Mai, which was founded in the wake of the 2004 Tsunami disaster by a Thai-Swedish couple.

Though Barnhem means "home for children" in Swedish, it serves as a home to many in need, often accepting single mothers with children, and grandmothers with grandchildren who are unable to provide for themselves.

Calle and his team can be contacted at [callewollgard@gmail.com](mailto:callewollgard@gmail.com).

## Smoke on the water: Boat operators warned of Phuket haze

BOAT operators were warned of limited visibility at sea earlier this week as hazy skies shrouded Phuket following heavy rains and subsequent warm weather.

"The haze is a result of recent heavy rainfall combined with high levels of humidity in the atmosphere," said San Jantharawong, chief of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation

(DDPM) Phuket office on September 18.

"In this situation, visibility will be limited to 5-8 kilometers. People who live near the coast will be unable to see across the water."

"We have already received reports from residents near Saphan Hin who have been unable to see Phi Phi Island or Koh Yao from the shore."

The haze does not pose serious dangers for land-dwellers, but such is not the case for those at sea, said Mr San.

"These conditions can be very dangerous for boat operators and yachties, as the haze is heaviest on the sea," he explained.

"I urge everyone to be especially cautious while on the water."

— **Natthaphol Wittayarungrote**



A haze hung over the island. Photo: Gazette file



# Big guns sway park chief to stay

## Increase in military personnel to provide around-the-clock protection for the officers

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

EMBOLDENED by more military personnel to provide around-the-clock protection, Kitiphat Tharapiban has decided to stay on as chief of Phuket's Sirinath National Park after having tendered his resignation on September 18.

Mr Kitiphat was convinced to stay during newly appointed Natural Resources and Environment Minister Gen Dapong Ratanasuwan's visit to Phuket on September 20.

Gen Dapong's visit – and the promise of more military security personnel – came just 48 hours after the park chief filed a police complaint against former high-ranking officials, including former Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop.

"I gave him my word that more military personnel will be assigned to protect him and his officers," Gen Dapong said. "They will also have better self-protection equipment and any other equipment they need."

"Mr Kitiphat is doing a good job. He has reclaimed several plots of land in Sirinath National Park. We will support his efforts by providing more funds so he can continue his work."

Mr Kitiphat welcomed the news.

"I feel much better after talking with Gen Dapong. He has pledged to give us his full support, which has given me the confidence to continue my work," he said.

Mr Kitiphat tendered his resignation last Thursday, after only three months as park chief, amid death threats and reports of intimidation by influential people.

In August, military bodyguards were called in after Mr Kitiphat's assistant was told over the phone that "five M16s are ready to get him [Mr Kitiphat] over beach restaurants".

"The death threats have stopped, or at least we have not had any lately, so I will keep moving forward to take back our national treasure," a re-invigorated Mr Kitiphat said on September 20.

Gen Dapong urged officers to stand united in the fight to reclaim public land.



After a 10-minute conversation with Gen Dapong Ratanasuwan (left), Kitiphat Tharapiban (right) agreed to stay on as chief of the national park.

"The National Council for Peace and Order [NCPO] will support us and provide everything we need," Gen Dapong said.

He also called on any officers from the Department of National Parks (DNP) and the Royal Forest Department (RFD) to report any threats received directly to him.

"Wrongdoers must be punished, in accordance with the order issued by the prime minister," Gen Dapong said.

However, Gen Dapong also called on the public to understand that not all con-

flicts of information between departments were evidence of illegal activities by corrupt officials, pointing out that the DNP and the Land Department had recorded many different details about the same plots of land.

"People ask if corrupt former officers allowed the forest to be encroached. This, I cannot argue," he said. "However, we cannot accuse all former officers of being corrupt. Lack of proper equipment to survey plots has been one of the many

long-standing problems."

Gen Dapong urged current "owners" and people considering buying land along the boundary of Sirinath National Park to verify with officials that the plots in question are not on protected land.

Located at the Sirinath National Park head office at Nai Yang, the land verification center is open from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.

The center was established on July 8 on the order of DNP Chief Samak Donnapee.

## Former Phuket governor named in billion-baht illegal land title probe

FORMER Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop, along with a former Phuket Land Office chief and several other officials, has been named in a police complaint filed over illegal land titles issued for 80 rai in Sirinath National Park.

Sirinath National Park chief Kitiphat Tharapiban filed the complaint, naming a network of 13 people, at Thalang Police Station on September 18.

The complaint centers on two *Chanote* titles issued in 2009, Mr Kitiphat explained to the *Gazette*.

"The complaint was filed against those who claim to own the land, the officials involved in issuing the titles and those who signed as witnesses to the documents," he said.

"Among them, four intentionally reported false information to officers and nine officials abused their positions of power."



A complaint was filed over land titles issued for 80 rai of parkland.

Mr Kitiphat defined the suspects named in the complaint as "officers from the Thalang Land Office who surveyed the land, the Thalang Land Office chief, officers from the Royal Forestry Department, the chief administrative officer (Palad) of the Thalang District Office, the Sirinath National Park chief, the Phuket Land office chief and the Phuket governor at that time."

"This is an ongoing campaign. We are working together with other departments that are assisting our investigation, such as the Land Department, the National Anti-Corruption Commission and the Public-sector Anti Corruption Commission," Mr Kitiphat said.

"There are many other land plots we have yet to investigate in order to reclaim public land."

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



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PM Prayuth. Photo: The Nation

## NRC selection could see delay for candidate 'fixing' claims

ELECTION Commission (EC) Secretary General Puchong Nutrawong suggested on Monday that the selection of National Reform Council (NRC) members might be delayed following allegations of candidate "fixing" at the provincial level.

Mr Puchong said that the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) may call another round of selection if there were any controversies surrounding the selection process.

"We may not have 250 NRC members in one round. It is up to the NCPO to decide whether there should be another round to ensure transparency," he said.

Former Deputy Senate Speaker Anan Ariyachaiphant filed a complaint with the EC, calling on it to investigate the selection process.

Mr Anan said that the fact that some members of the NRC selection committee in Surin were relatives of NRC applicants may not be fair to himself and other candidates.

Meanwhile, National Legislative Assembly (NLA) First Deputy Chairman Surachai Liengboonlertchai on Monday dismissed fixing allegations during selection.

Mr Surachai insisted that the selection of NRC nominees had been carried out in accordance with standard procedures. The committees take into account the candidates' merit, competency and knowledge, he said.

The NCPO would decide whether the names of the first round of selected candidates are announced. He said that disclosing the identity of first round selected candidates would help ensure transparency, but there was a risk that selected candidates may try to lobby to secure NRC seats in the final round.

# German beggar lended helping hand

THE tourist police and a German charity have teamed up to help a German man with excessively swollen legs, found begging near Khao San Road in Bangkok, after photos of him were distributed and shared on social media.

Chumphol Thiangtham, chairman of the Deutscher Hilfsverein Thailand eV, said on September 20 that Benjamin Holse had been put up at a guesthouse following coordination between his organization and officials from the German Embassy.

Mr Holse was to be taken to the embassy on Monday to be given a new passport after further verification of his identity, reported *The Nation*.

Mr Chumphol said the German organization's officials had earlier approached Mr Holse and offered help, but he had turned it down.

Tourist police, after learning about Mr Holse through social media, stepped in and contacted Mr Chumphol again for help, he added.

Mr Chumphol said Mr Holse had arrived in Thailand on September 2 by a Chinese Eastern Airlines flight on a one-way ticket. A tourist policeman, Lt Piyaphong Bukhunthos, said police first contacted Mr Holse and that the German had reported to them that his passport, wallet and other documents had been stolen.



Mr Holse poses for a picture. Photo: The Nation

# Police launch manhunt

## Search begins for man who left Koh Tao the day after Brit murders



AS OF Wednesday, in their pursuit of the killers of two British backpackers on September 14, police had launched a manhunt for the son of a former Koh Tao village headman after learning that the man had left the island the morning after the murder.

A police source said that the man had landed on the Surat Thani coast and disappeared. Officers are trying to track him down for an interrogation.

The police released two men on Tuesday night, who own Intouch Bar and AC Pub on the resort island, after interrogating them for three hours and finding no evidence linking them to the crime.

One of the two men released last night, who reporters did not identify, said the former headman was unable to contact his son and did not know if he had a hand in the killings, reported *The Nation*.

Another man, the younger brother of the former village headman, who is believed to be the man seen on a security camera near the crime scene, is still in custody.

Lt Gen Panya Mamen, who is overseeing the investigation, said on Tuesday that the headman's son is believed to be hiding in Bangkok.



Wednesday marked the 10th day since two Brit backpackers were murdered in Koh Tao. Photo: The Nation

Gen Panya refused to reveal the suspects' names, saying police were questioning one man and had expected to arrest another in Bangkok on Wednesday.

Wednesday marked the 10<sup>th</sup> day since Britons David Miller and Hannah Witheridge were brutally murdered on the island of Koh Tao. Both suffered serious head wounds, while police said Ms Witheridge was also sexually assaulted.

"We expect results within 48 hours as DNA samples have been

sent out for testing, and we are confident in this latest turn in the investigation," Gen Panya said on Wednesday.

All sides should have confidence in the police investigation and believe that no scapegoats will be arrested so that the case can be closed, he added.

"The world has been watching the case and police have been doing what they can to ensure that the evidence obtained is strong and tight enough to arrest the killers,"

Gen Panya said.

Gen Panya also promised that the investigation would not be influenced by reports that some influential persons on the island might try to obstruct police work.

Local people and tourism operators on the island on Tuesday attended an annual religious rite to make merit for their deceased loved ones. They also made merit for the slain Britons and prayed that the police would be able to arrest the killers.

# DNP officer to hear case over gorilla held in Bangkok highrise zoo

A CAMPAIGN to find a more suitable home for a female gorilla being held in a zoo in a Bangkok highrise has gained fresh momentum as the chief of a key agency has agreed to look into the case.

The gorilla, Bua Noi, lives in the Pata Zoo, which is located on the top two floors of the Pata department store, an aging building on a busy Bangkok street.

The zoo houses more than 200 species of animals, reptiles, turtles, birds, monkeys, leopards, tigers and bears; and one gorilla, Bua Noi.

An online campaign through change.org was first launched to help Bua Noi nearly one year ago by an animal lover named

Sinjira Apaitan, reported *The Nation*.

As the *Gazette* went to press on Wednesday, Ms Sinjira was preparing to sit down with the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) chief Nipon Chotibal for talks on how to improve Bua Noi's fate.

"This is going to be another historic chapter in Thailand's zoo industry," Ms Sinjira said via her website.

Ms Sinjira, a Thai woman who lives in New Zealand, has been trying to raise public awareness, saying gorillas like Bua Noi deserve better than being locked up in a cage on top of a Bangkok department store.

Ms Sinjira lamented that such a loving

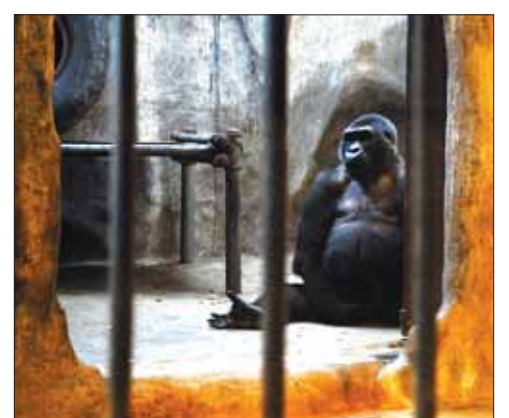
and intelligent creature had lived in such conditions for nearly three decades when it should have been allowed to enjoy a happier life elsewhere.

"I need to speak up not just for Bua Noi, but also for other rare wild animals facing a similar fate," she said.

Ms Sinjira planned to ask the DNP to revoke the license to operate the zoo at the Pata department store.

"The license expired last year anyway," she claimed.

As of early this week, Ms Sinjira's online campaign had attracted 34,824 supporters. She was to hand over the list of her supporters to Mr Nipon when they met.



Bua Noi is being held in the Pata Zoo on the top of Pata department store. Photo: The Nation



# Goodbye Phuket

## LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR

I WILL leave this island with no regrets about anything I have done as the governor of Phuket.

I have done my best, and am confident that I have brought many people together. I am proud to have been part of so many beneficial projects and events over the past two years.

Phuket is a small, but big city. The island only has several hundred thousand people living here, but it has a big economy and many problems to face.

Phuket welcomes many tourists every year, both Thai and foreign; but with more people come more problems.

This will be one of the greatest challenges the new governor faces.

I hope he will focus on the locals, and how he can improve their spirits and behavior from a young age. I hope that he works to raise Phuket children into successful adults, who can think for themselves and who know better than to get involved in corruption. I hope he trains them to be law-abiding citizens.

The local people must not be forgotten.

I have many dreams for Phuket's future that I believe would do wonders

for the good of the island, its locals, its residents and the many tourists who come to its shores.

I believe the promotion of Phuket agriculture will help to lessen the gap between the rich and the poor. Not many people take advantage of the island's agricultural potential. I think that if more people were encouraged to become farmers, they would realize they have the opportunity to live a happy and successful life on the land.



**Maitri Inthusut** has been nominated for a promotion from his current position as Governor of Phuket to Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Interior, effective October 1. He will be leaving the island by the end of this month, almost exactly two years after he landed at Phuket International Airport as the new governor, on October 8,

2012 to a hundreds-strong welcoming committee.

Here, he reflects on his time as governor, expresses what he hopes to see happen in the future and what his biggest concerns are for the new governor.

My second dream, and one of the most important, is to preserve Phuket's environment so that it will last forever. The promotion of eco-tourism goes hand-in-hand with this.

Another of my dreams for Phuket is that every community on the island would become self-sufficient. I also hope that improving and maintaining the cultural heritage of the island will be focused on, and the beautiful culture of Phuket is promoted to tourists.

Phuket has so much to offer the world, from our unique culture to our natural beauty and pristine beaches.

However, as I said before, Phuket has its problems, especially regarding its infrastructure.

One of the biggest issues, as we all know, is the restructuring of taxi services. This is one of the greatest challenges that must be tackled so the island can move forward.

I would like to see the new governor push many infrastructure projects forward for Phuket people, such as the railway system from Surat Thani to

Phuket, the light rail from the airport to Phuket Town, the Patong tunnel and the new underpass at Chalong Circle.

These projects are currently being evaluated and are undergoing feasibility studies. If the projects are pushed forward and completed, they will truly improve Phuket tourism and the island's economy.

I would love to see more public parks in Phuket Town. Once we open the new Provincial Hall, the current one will be turned into a museum and the land around it made into a public park. I would like this to be the new standard for all government buildings once they are no longer in use. A lot of buildings in Phuket are close to 100 years old, and some are even older. They need to be preserved, like the buildings in Phuket Old Town.

I do not know how much guidance and support I will be able to provide Phuket in the future. However, if I can, I will do my best to support the island.

Since I first arrived, I have gotten to know countless people, and have learned so much.

Everything I have learned and everyone I have met and known on the island will be kept close to me as a fond memory. And of course, I will miss Phuket.

# Life of Riley

## One canine's transformation from soi dog to adored, yet envied, office dog

ONE morning, about six months ago, a bedraggled-looking black dog appeared at the rear doorway of our office. He looked worse for wear and had clearly been fending for himself on the street for some time.

He managed to beg a few scraps of food, and before long, he was waiting each morning for the first people to arrive at the office in the hopes of scoring an easy breakfast.

After a week or two, when it was clear he wasn't just passing through, an animal-loving member of the staff decided to adopt him as the new office dog.

He was washed thoroughly and taken to the vet for a check-up and shots.

His change in appearance over the next few weeks and months was remarkable; bald patches on his coat grew back, he fattened up considerably and stopped withdrawing in fear from people attempting to pat him.

Now, with a regular diet of dry dog food and plenty of scraps from left-over breakfast and lunches, he appears to be living the life of Riley. Lounging in the shade all day, he sometimes curls up in front of the doorway to

## Island View

By Mark Knowles

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

receive the cool flow of air-conditioning seeping out from under the door.

The only time he seems to move faster than at a snail's pace is when he spots the first arrivals to the office holding promising bags of food.

His sedentary lifestyle is the cause of much envy for the staff, particularly on busy days.

"Wouldn't it be nice to be that dog?" we ask ourselves when we duck out the back for a coffee or a cigarette and see him spread out on the middle of the walkway, blissfully dozing in the mid-afternoon heat.

So, if you see a mournful looking dog hanging around your workplace, don't shoo it away. Take it in, feed it, wash it and watch its transformation.

Not only is it nice to save a dog from a miserable life on the street, but it will give you something to daydream about on those hectic days at work.



This office dog, known by many names in at least two different languages, lounges outside the back of the office, waiting for food, attention or a soft breeze of air conditioning. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

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

### What do local post offices do to combat mail theft?

Not only does our mail constantly arrive late – for example, I have just received a statement from Bangkok dated almost two weeks ago – but much of it is never delivered.

Within the past month, both my wife and I have had birthdays. Not a single birthday card – most of them posted from abroad – has been received.

Also, parcels also go missing. My daughters – one in England, one in Australia – sent parcels recently, but neither have arrived.

These are not isolated incidents.

What is the post office doing to combat this theft?

CT Resident,  
Cherng Talay

**Niphat Charoenkarn, Postmaster of the Thalang Post Office, replies:**

The delivery of mail in the Cherng Talay area is under the responsibility of the Thalang Post Office, but Cherng Talay has long had problems with mail being received by people in that area.

What we have learned is that many developments in Cherng

Talay – in line with their own security policies – do not allow our postmen inside the estates.

Instead, parcels and other mail is often left at the front gate with the security guard. In such cases, the guard signs for the mail.

I strongly suggest that you first check with the security guards and estate management office to see if any mail has yet to be delivered to your house.

However, if you do not live in a villa estate, please ask whoever has sent you parcels for the tracking number attached to each missing parcel. All mail sent by registered post (called EMS in Thailand) is issued a tracking number and this will let us find out where the parcel has been delivered – or at least confirm

exactly who had it last.

Another factor is that you may not have been home to receive your parcels.

Each time a postman cannot deliver a parcel because no one is home to sign for it, the parcel is returned to the post office and a card is left notifying the intended recipient that a parcel is awaiting collection at the post office. Any registered mail that remains undelivered is held at our post office for two weeks before we dispatch it as "return to sender".

The same applies for mail that our staff cannot read or understand the address written on it.

Please come and see us in person to let us know of any missing mail, and we will try our best to track it down for you.



Make sure you track your incoming mail. Photo: Chris Husted

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)



# Out of the box, into the fire

THE entire island should give its full support to the ongoing efforts by the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) to rid public beaches of encroachment in all its forms. The results, which so far have been nothing less than stunning, are sure to go a long way to restoring the island's attractiveness to tourists, both foreign and domestic.

Additionally, the imposition for the first semblance of real law enforcement is bound to drive scores of undesirables – again both Thai and foreign – away from the island and send a few where they deserve to be: in the cramped confines of Phuket Provincial Prison.

With a beachhead secured, if not yet fully consolidated, the NCPO is now moving inland to take on an even more wily and better-armed breed of encroacher: the well-heeled investors who have conspired with corrupt officials to encroach on park land, mostly by not performing due diligence before acquiring tracts.

This is no doubt going to be a far more Herculean task than simply having a squad of soldiers armed with assault rifles turn up at the high-tide mark and order a bevy of beach masseuses to hit the road. Corruption involving the issuance and upgrade of land title documents is the ultimate Pandora's Box, Thai style.

Not only is the problem nationwide in scale, but it dates back generations. Here in Phuket, many of the wealthiest families amassed fortunes during the tin-mining days, then parlayed these fortunes into mega-fortunes by failing to return the concession land to the state, as required by law.

Instead, they planted crops, typically coconuts, then laid formal claim that they were using the land for agricultural purposes: the first step in the well-oiled process through which they ultimately gained outright ownership – just in time for the tourism boom and skyrocketing land prices in coastal areas that were previously thought of as anything but “prime property”.

It is strangely appropriate that the Phuket Land Office itself sits on a parcel of land in the old government quarter of Phuket Town that is equidistant from, and just a stone's throw away from, both Phuket Prison and Phuket Provincial Court. Similarly, it will be very interesting to see how many officials end up having to turn in the keys to their Benzes and BMWs to don the trademark uniform of the Phuket Prison inmate.

Many have compared the NCPO's beach cleanup as similar to the one achieved by the tsunami. But even the tsunami surge reached only a few hundred meters inland anywhere on the island. For the NCPO's anti-encroachment efforts to penetrate much further inland may take more power than the NCPO possesses. Our national parks, however, are a great and obvious place to start.



## Will anything happen to the billboards?

The cleanup campaign is long overdue, but I am concerned that officials may be going too far.

Pristine beaches are all well and good but a few tasteful and appropriate bars and restaurants are necessary to ensure tourists are fed and watered while admiring the beaches.

Does the cleanup involve getting rid of these horrendous billboards which spoil and cheapen the look of Phuket?

Ian Stewart  
Scotland

### Sticking to your guns

Re: Gazette online, Reinforced by Thai military, Phuket park chief decides to stay, September 22

Well done, Mr Kitiphat – stick to your guns.

Don't let these thugs and so called “influential people” take away the successes you have achieved so far.

You are clearly doing the right thing if they feel so scared that they have to resort to threats.

It would be good to introduce a law that made threatening government officials a criminal offence, with serious penalties if found guilty.

Mister Ree  
Gazette forum

### Thank you, Laguna

Re: Gazette online, Three Laguna resorts step up to help jobless Phuket beach vendors, September 23

Well done Laguna for helping out. The unemployed should also try the large labor suppliers such as PCS, G4S, ISS, Chubb and NAP.

There is a huge labor shortage on the island, in case anyone has forgotten. There's plenty of work out there for those who want to work.

Scott Duncanson  
Facebook

## Letters to the Editor

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

### Hoping this will not be the first of many

Re: Gazette online, Patong beach vendor hangs self amid ‘no work’ depression, September 23

This is very sad. I personally liked the vendors on the beach.

I think the current government should have come up with a plan for these people before they took action.

I fear this person may not be the last.

Rod Gallagher  
Facebook

### Hoping for a bit of financial planning

Re: Gazette online, B15.9mn budget approved to tackle some of Phuket's water woes, September 23

It's good to read half the budget will be going to Baan Liphon.

I just hope there's enough money left to build the infrastructure required to get water to people's homes.

Agogohome Agogohome  
Facebook

### An inspirational group of fundraising cyclists

Re: Gazette online, Chinese man joins Swedes in epic journey for Phuket post-tsunami orphanage, September 21

What a terrific story, I take my hat off to these guys and people like them who will go to extraordinary lengths for charity and to help those in need. Well done.

Alfadiamond  
Gazette forum

### The public should start to pay close attention

Re: Gazette online, PACC delays charges over alleged dive extortion – again, September 19

Let's see who has the confidence to really be honest.

The new government talks of being against corruption.

Will they show the people that they are any different than the old ones? We will see.

The public should watch this space!

Chob  
Gazette forum

### Green-plate taxis are still taking up space

Re: Gazette online, Facebook tip-off leads to Laguna Phuket beach fence being torn down, September 23

I wonder if the Facebook tip-offs will work for the green-plate taxi drivers parking in public parking lots and still trying to pick up fares at the shopping centers?

Phil Phelan  
Facebook

### Targeting tourists is not a new trend

Re: Gazette online, Three men ambush British motorist in northern Phuket, September 18

The targeting of tourists and expats riding motorbikes is not new in Phuket.

It has been going on for years in the Rawai, Nai Harn, and Kata areas.

The police are unable to stop it. They seem only interested in fining riders with no helmets, licences, etc.

After dark, you are on your own in Phuket.

Tony  
Gazette forum

## Phuket Gazette

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## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### 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. To get more information call David on 081-892 9207 or email davidarell@yahoo.com.

This event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show.

### October 10, 11am-11pm. Curry Fridays at Navrang Mahal

Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant presents Curry Friday's. Here is your chance to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian Curry Buffet every Friday. Buffet highlights include: Tandoori chicken, mutton vindaloo, butter chicken, matat paneer, bombay aloo, garlic naan, basmati rice, vegetable samosa, aloo tikka and more. All you can eat for only 449 baht net! Venue: Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant, only at Karon Branch. Open Daily: 11am to 11pm. For reservations, please call 076-286464 or visit the website: navrangmahal.com

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

The October lunch will be at Divino, Cherg Talay. Early booking is recommended as seats are limited. All are welcome. Members 600 baht, guests 750 baht. Contact Maggy Wigman on 086-594 1758, email 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 086-594 1758, email info@piwcphuket.com or visit piwc-phuket.com

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 79 and 107), are proud to sponsor this annual charity event.

### 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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, send a message to BISP Athletics Director Jeff LaMantia at 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.

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).

### Dec 5, 2014, His Majesty the King's Birthday

His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 87<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Also marked as Father's Day in Thailand.

### Dec 10, 2014, Constitution Day

This day commemorates the signing of Thailand's permanent constitution by King Prajadhibok (Rama VII) in 1932, which marked the beginning of Thailand's transition from an Absolute Monarchy into a Constitutional Democracy.

### Dec 25. Christmas Day

Christmas is not a public holiday in Thailand.

### Dec 31 New Years Eve (Day)

New Years Eve is a public holiday in Thailand.

**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																								
<p> <b>Phuket Cable</b> Coverage: All of Phuket Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10.30am, 6pm, 9pm Saturday-Sunday: 10.30am, 9pm</p> <p> <b>Rawai Cable</b> Coverage: Rawai, Kata, Karon Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10am, 1pm, 7pm, 10pm</p> <p> <b>KDTV</b> Coverage: Phuket's West Coast from Patong to Cherg Talay Channel: 10 Daily: 8.30am, 2.30pm</p>	<p><b>MCOT World</b></p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <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> <p><b>Truevisions HD</b> Channel: 79  <b>Truevisions SD</b> Channel: 107  <b>PSI TRUE TV</b> Channel: 37  <b>GMMZ</b> Channel: 103</p>	Tuesday:	12.05pm & 7pm	Wednesday:	6pm	Thursday:	1pm & 8pm	Friday:	9am	Saturday:	1pm	Sunday:	6am	<p>Broadcast to China, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Turkey, UAE, and many other countries around Asia and beyond.</p> <p><b>Thaicom 5 Sat 3520H</b></p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <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>	Tuesday:	12.05pm & 7pm	Wednesday:	6pm	Thursday:	1pm & 8pm	Friday:	9am	Saturday:	1pm	Sunday:	6am
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# YOUR Phuket

## Turtle Fun Run



Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation and JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa recently staged Turtle Fun Run & Mini Marathon 2014. From Left: Virat Patee, director of Sport Authority of Thailand, Phuket; Dr Sommai Prijasilpa, Phuket Vice Governor (center); Wanapa Suksomboon, assistant director Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office.

## PG bids farewell to Phuket Governor

The *Phuket Gazette* team paid a farewell visit to the office of Governor Maitri Inthusut on August 19, following his nomination for promotion to Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Interior, effective October 1.



From left: Isaac Stone Simonelli; Chutharat Plerin; Jantana Jaikwang; Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut; Oranee Hildebrand; Simon Hand; Krisana Matzenberger; and Woranut Pechdee.

## Outrigger supports BISP football tournament

Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort presented the British International School Phuket (BISP), with a sponsorship cheque recently in support of the BISP Annual 7-A-Side International Football Tournament.



Neil Richards (left), Headmaster of BISP receives the cheque from Tony Pedroni, general manager of the Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort.

## The Crab House opens in Patong



Sangdao Sridech; Narapong Phoneam, marketing director – The Crab House; and Proma Phoneam at the recent grand opening of the restaurant.

## Master chefs visit Dusit Thani

Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket's Executive Chef Silvano Amolini joined four Italian chefs to host the 'Young Italian Master Chefs' program at Dusit Thani College Bangkok, in co-operation with the Italian Trade Commission of Thailand.



Executive Chef Silvano Amolini (center) showcases his Italian cuisine skills in celebration of Thailand International Culinary Cup's (TICC) 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, entitled '20 Chefs for 20 Years'.

## The Kee Resort staff party

The Kee Resort & Spa, Phuket, held its annual staff party on September 20<sup>th</sup> at Phuket Graceland Hotel. Activities at the event included several shows, a best costume competition, lucky draws and a presentation of individual staff awards.





The Phuket Gazette's weekly

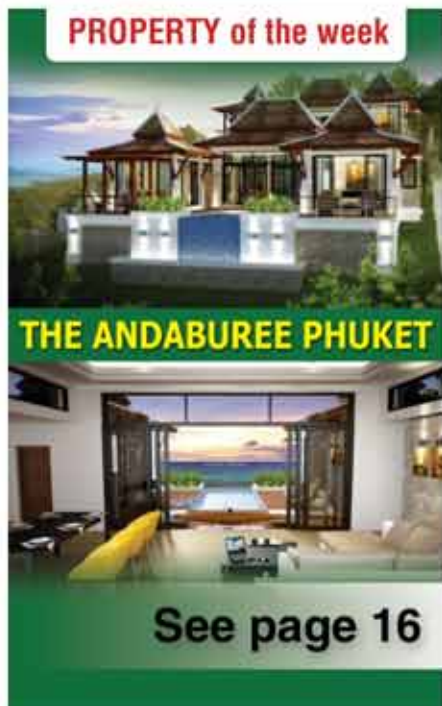
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PROPERTY of the week



**THE ANDABUREE PHUKET**

See page 16

JOB of the week



See page 20

INVESTMENT  
of the week



See page 23

BOAT of the week

**WILLIAMS 325  
TURBOJET FOR SALE**



See page 25

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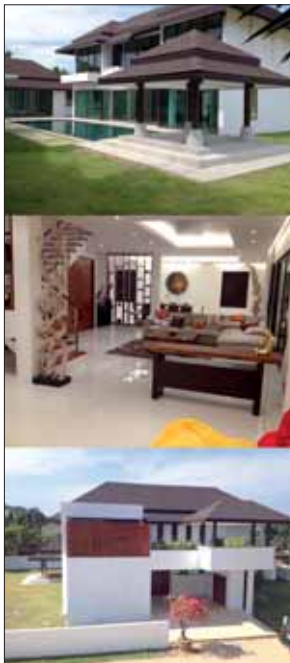


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## Properties For Sale

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### PHUKET NEW CONDO FOR SALE

2bed, 2bath. Sugar Palm Condo. Right at Suan Luang Park with direct access to superb park, lake and ocean views. 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

### ALLAMANDA (LAGUNA)



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

**SEAVIEW POOL VILLA**  
Seaview over Chalong Bay marina. 7 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, private pool. Chanote. Size: 800sqm. Price: 25 million baht. Tel: 084-868 1732. or 084-933 9829. Email: kigwd@hotmail.com

### LUXURY POOL VILLA



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

### HOUSE FOR SALE



In Soi Sansabai, Patong. Call Yooyen for details on 087-895 0362 (English & Thai). Email: panyaah249@gmail.com

### NICE STUDIO APT, B 1.5 MILLION

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

### POOL VILLA FOR SALE / RENT



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

### HOUSE FOR SALE



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

### 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

### FREEHOLD POOL VILLA



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

### LARGE SEAVIEW HOUSE AT LAYAN



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

### 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@phuketandaman real-estate.com

### LAND FOR SALE



73square wah with Chanote titles. 15 minutes to Panwa Beach (Ao Makham bay). Conveniently located, road frontage. Please contact 081-6912526. Email: s\_jumpon@yahoo.com

### BEACHFRONT VILLA RAWAI



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

### LAND - PATONG BEACH

Opposite White Box restaurant. Seaview & 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@pacificlighthousehotel.com

### 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).

### 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.

**Condo for Rent/Sale**  
Rawai Condominium 60sqm., 1 bed, 1 bathroom. Great kitchen, fully furnished, European style, first floor, swimming pool view, price for sale 3.9 million baht, price for rent 30,000 baht for long-term.  
For more information  
English: Denis 082-539 6433,  
Sue 087-897 4421, Thai: Aoi 081-667 1637.

### POOL VILLA FOR SALE

4 bedrooms, 3 bath, large pool, 2 living rooms, nice location, fully furnished, land 500sqm, Chanote, house 300Sq, ADSL, SAT TV, autogate, quick sale 9.5 MB. Tel: 093-713 2278, after 5pm.

### FOR SALE / RENT SEA VIEW

1-bedroom apartment at Eden Resort Karon. Only 15 apartments in complex. Fully furnished, gym and 20x5m swimming pool. Please call 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.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

### 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

### HOUSE FOR SALE

2 bedrooms, fully furnished, land 350sqm, Chanote. Only 3.3 MB. Tel: 093-713 2278, after 5pm.

### RESORT

For sale or rent in Patong, 1200sqm land, 20 rooms, pool, restaurant, fully furnished, equipment. Contact email: guidolando2@hotmail.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

### 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



## Properties For Rent



## 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). P/s contact 086-4769612. Email: annanof@hotmail.com

## 2 BED CONDO FOR RENT

Rawai Beach, close to restaurants, shops and beach. Full amenities, pool, WiFi, kitchen. from 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-895 7908 (English & Thai), 081-892 6710(English). Email: peterh@asianwind.biz

## 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

## STUDIO APARTMENT ZCAPE

Fully furnished. large TV. Wifi. Great location. Close to all amenities. Email: Pkthai1@gmail.com

## NEW HOUSE FOR RENT PATONG

One bedroom / bathroom, living room with full western kitchenette. All extras. Aircon, Internet, LCD, IBC. Modern furnished. 12,000 baht. Tel: 084-185 8536.

## POOL VILLA FOR RENT

1,2 bedrooms, fully furnished, Bang Tao, SAT TV. From 18,000 baht. Tel: 093-713 2278, after 5pm.

## RAWAI BEACH CONDO

Great location, new 2 bed, 2 bath condo with pool, kitchen and WiFi. Fully furnished with amenities. From 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-895 7908 (English & Thai), 081-892 6710 (English). Email: peterh@asianwind.biz

## PATONG 1-3 BEDROOM APTS

In south Patong. Pool, gym, maid, free parking, WiFi & cable TV. Rates from 20K/M. Tel: 093-308 1670(English & Thai). Email: solitude001@aol.com

## CHEAP KAMALA

2 bath 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, free cable, WiFi, 14,000BTH / Month, 6mo-1 year. Tel: 087-274 4568.

## PATONG 1 &amp; 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

## CHALONG HOUSE FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 3 air con 087-2667191.

## DLX SEAVIEW APT

2 bdrm in Kata, quiet location, Tel: 086-281 9311. Email: bao200@gmail.com

## APARTMENT AT KATHU FOR RENT

The Green Golf Residence offers 48-168sqm studios and 1 to 3-bedroom apartments located in the Phuket Country Club. Evergreen fairway views and natural lake views. fully furnished, WiFi. Tel: 076-319338, 085-068 9794(English & Thai). Email: m\_monpriya@hotmail.com www.thegreengolfresidence.com

## FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

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

## CHALONG POOL VILLA

The villa has 3 ensuite bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a big living room, western kitchen with big dining area, 3x10m private pool with sala and an outdoor dining area. Two car-park spaces. Secure compound. Size: 280sqm on 400sqm of land. Just a 5-minute drive to Villa Market and the new Tesco Lotus. 20-minute drive to Central Festival mall from Jaofa West Rd. Minimum one-year contract at 58,000 baht per month, including pool cleaning, cable TV, gardening and pest control. Contact me for more info and pictures. Tel: 084-753 8773 (English & Thai). Email: piya.natmccourt@hotmail.com

## BOUTIQUE ROOM FOR RENT

Fully furnished and colorful, Rang Hill Area. Tel: 089-668 3639. Email: zhunaumann@gmail.com www.BaanPhitakTaweep.com

## 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

## 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

## 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

## VILLA FOR RENT NAI YANG

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

## HOUSE FOR RENT / SALE THALANG



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

## ART@PATONG 1 BEDROOM



Fully furnished, full kitchen, aircon, 24/7 security, overlooks pool, quiet, 5-minute walk to Jungcelon, long term 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 094-706 7671. Email: mark.louisw@hotmail.com

## 2-BED APT PATONG

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

## 2-BED CONDO PHUKET

2 bed, 2 bath on 10th floor for rent at Suan Luan Park, offering both park and ocean views. 6 mins to biggest shopping mall, and just 20 mins to the beach. 35,000 baht per month, long term. For info and pics, call Noi on 087-269 8492.

## 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

## KATHU GOLF &amp; VALLEY VIEW VILLA

3 and 1 bed Kathu Loch Palm Golf Course and valley view villa. For rent, big pool, 4km to BIS. Quiet, on top of a private hill. Fully furnished. Maid, WiFi, security. Long-term 75,000 and 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-269 8492 (English & Thai).

## 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

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!







## Ocean Resort Group

is currently seeking for the following position:

### ► Bakery Chef

Contact Human Resources Department

Phone: +66 (0) 76-314263-69 ext 7732 or

email your CV to [hresunwing@oceanresortgroup.net](mailto:hresunwing@oceanresortgroup.net),

[www.sunwingphuket.com](http://www.sunwingphuket.com)



Welcome Phuket Co Ltd, is a new company providing Tour Desk Services in Phuket, is looking for:

### TOUR DESK SALES TEAM

**EDUCATION:** University Degree

**LANGUAGES:** Excellent command of English and sufficient written knowledge to deal with suppliers/vouchers/brochures

**ATTITUDE:** We are looking for active and fun loving people who are keen to connect with our guests & who love to sell/ learn

**AGE:** Roughly 23-30 years old, but if older & confident, and have interesting work experience, please apply

**PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN TOURISM/HOSPITALITY:** Appreciated but not required  
**IT:** Must be knowledgeable with internet, basic wordprocessing such as Microsoft Office

**ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES:** We are especially looking for one or 2 of following languages Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Russian, French and German

### WE OFFER

**REMUNERATION:** Commensurate with experience and consisting of a fixed and commissionable part

**LOCATION:** Various hotels in Phuket

**FABULOUS OPPORTUNITY:** To interact with an international clientele from all over the world. Improve your spoken languages, gain in confidence and experience, grow with us

**RESPONSIBILITY:** To act and take charge and prove to yourself that you are good at sales and reap the rewards, learn to manage the administrative part of the business in addition to the hands on part

**STARTING DATE:** November 1st, 2014 or before

Interested candidates are invited to send their applications by email to [info@welcomephuket.com](mailto:info@welcomephuket.com) before October 15th 2014

### COOKS URGENTLY NEEDED

Busy farang style restaurant needs 2 full time cooks. Some experience necessary but training given. Good salary and can start immediately. Tel: 086-509 7510 (English & Thai), 087-283 6074. Email: [simon@colonial-connection.com](mailto:simon@colonial-connection.com)

### HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED

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

## Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

### CLASSIFIEDS ADMINISTRATION 2 POSITIONS

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 Kookai at [Kookai@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:Kookai@PhuketGazette.Net)

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew  
A. Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-273555, ext 207 Fax: 076-615240

### FULL TIME HOUSEKEEPERS NEEDED

Villa in Nai Harn looking for live-in staff, possibly a married couple. Duties include: cleaning, laundry, cooking, and day-to-day maintenance. Experience, references and English required. Excellent salary and accommodation. Tel: 081-970 7633 (English & Thai). Email: [fortna.nachat1@gmail.com](mailto:fortna.nachat1@gmail.com)

### 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).



Development Management Group Co., Ltd. is a Project Management Company with a long and successful history in Phuket. We are expanding our team and looking for candidates with a track record of success. The positions will be located in Phuket and Thai Nationals are desired.

[www.dmg-thailand.com](http://www.dmg-thailand.com)

The positions require good command of spoken and written English

1. Safety Manager
2. Safety Officer
3. Landscape Assistant
4. M & E Engineer
5. Document control officer

Tel: 076-617763.

Email: [hr@dmg-thailand.com](mailto:hr@dmg-thailand.com)

### DOG & HOUSE SITTER WANTED

In the Laguna area: Looking for a mature animal lover who has their driver's licence (to take the dogs to the beach for daily walks), enjoys their days hanging out at home and could move into my villa while I'm away & take care of my dogs & villa. Starting mid-October for 1 week & again at Christmas for 10 days. Please contact kyle\_lagunda @icloud.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@princessyachts.com](mailto:aey@princessyachts.com) or call 076-238 060.

### RENTALS CONSULTANT 100K+

From the success of Live Phuket, we are launching Live Samui and need a talented, driven and smart person to join the young holiday rentals team. You must speak and write almost perfect English, ideally someone who has either lived or worked in Samui. Must be a Thai National. Basic + Commission = 100,000 baht or more a month. Email: [paul@livesamui.net](mailto:paul@livesamui.net)

### CONDOMINIUM MANAGER

A medium-sized condominium development in the Cape Panwa area is looking to appoint a CJP Manager to take over the day-to-day running of the estate. Applicants should ideally have related experience and possess a good knowledge of English. Tel: 089-695 0088 (English & Thai).

### 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)

### 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: [opcbiggy@yahoo.com](mailto:opcbiggy@yahoo.com)

## 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. Savoey 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

## 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!



## RUSSIAN SALES PERSON

Siam Real Estate require an experienced Russian speaking sales person to sell property. Must speak good English, be computer literate, and have an international driving license. Salary plus commissions, and Work Permit provided. No calls; send CV only. Tel: 076-288908. Email: info@siamrealestate.com

## SALES PERSON

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

## OFFICE ASSISTANT

Tropical Properties Real Estate is urgently looking for an Office Assistant. Must have good knowledge of spoken and written English. Basic accounting and good computer skills are essential. Must be able to organize and work independently and be in a position to start work almost immediately. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

## 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



Karma Royal Group Would like you to be part of our team. We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <b>1. Housekeeping Supervisor</b><br>(หัวหน้าแม่บ้าน) | <b>1 Position.</b> |
| <b>2. Housekeeping Staff</b><br>(แม่บ้าน)             | <b>5 Position.</b> |

Please send your resume to [rbv@royalperspective.com](mailto:rbv@royalperspective.com)  
or Call 081-691-2492 (Mr.Supoj)  
Royal Lighthouse Villa Boat Lagoon Resort  
20/14 Moo.2 Thepkasattri Kohkaew, Muang Phuket Thailand 83000

## The Pantry Bistro & Bakery

Would you like to be part of The Pantry Bistro & Bakery team? We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

- 1. Experienced Short Order Cook and Chef de Partie**
- 2. Barrista**
- 3. Hostess / Table Attendants English speaking with outgoing personality**

Please send your resume to [rbv@royalperspective.com](mailto:rbv@royalperspective.com)  
or Call 087-657-9989 (Khun Bird)  
Royal Lighthouse Villa Boat Lagoon Resort

## Ocean Resort Group

is currently seeking

- **Guest Relations Officer**
- **Native speaking Russia Kids Club host**

Requirements:

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

Please email your English resume to:

[hunsunwing@oceanresortgroup.net](mailto:hunsunwing@oceanresortgroup.net) or call +66 76 314 263 ext. 7732.

## British International School, Phuket

British International School, Phuket is looking for candidate to fill positions in the following areas:

### Art Assistant

- Thai nationality
- Ability to communicate in English
- Interest in the visual arts and the workings of an art department
- Able to work in team and independently
- Able to use equipment in the design technology area to assist in the cutting and preparation of materials

### Teacher Assistant

- Thai nationality
- Bachelor's Degree in related field
- Teaching qualifications and experience of child care / teaching preferable
- Good command of spoken and written English

### Primary Secretary Assistant

- Thai nationality
- Bachelor Degree in related field
- Excellent English, Computer literacy and good people skills
- Able to coordinate with other department in academic function

### Maintenance Staff

- Thai nationality
- Bachelor's Degree or High Vocational Education in related field of electronic, electrical, and systems.
- Honest hardworking electrical plumbing

### Building Staff

- Thai nationality
- Secondary Education or Vocational Education
- Ability of wood and plaster Age not over 40 years

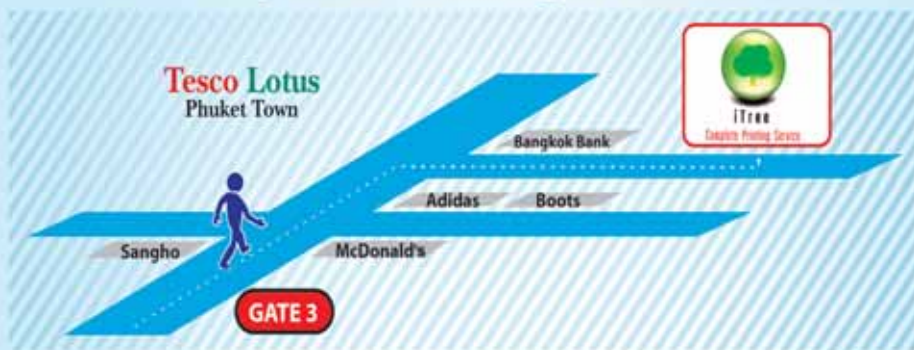
Please send a short letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and e-mail/fax and telephone contacts of referees to: British International School, Phuket



59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200  
Tel. 076 335555 # 2113 Fax. 076 335573  
E-mail : [chanidapornk@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:chanidapornk@bisphuket.ac.th), [sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th)

## Live in Town?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at  
**iTree Complete Printing Service**



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

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

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

## Live in Patong?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at  
**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!**

**Looking for a job?**  
**Looking for a better candidate?**  
**Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [www.PhuketGazette.Net](http://www.PhuketGazette.Net)!**



## Bulletins

## Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink  
that is your business

If you want  
to stop  
that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town,  
Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763  
084-307 7408

Email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

Google AA Phuket

## Bar &amp; Restaurant Equipment

## GUESTHOUSE CLOSING

Many items for sale. Call or send email to receive a list, photos and prices. Tel: 085-159 7400(English). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

## RESORT

67/18 Moo 4 Soi Sermsuk. 2 rai. Chanote. 8 bungalows, 22 rooms, restaurant, pool, well, company, reduced to 26mn. Tel: 076-381934, 086-940 1860. Fax: 076-381934. Email: bigasail@samart.co.th, www.bigasailing.com

## SUPER LOW COST FRANCHISE

Best business for your Thai partner. Rapidly expanding franchise operating in 40 countries. Proven system. Fast return. Email: david.m@faramond.com

## GUESTHOUSE + RESTAURANT SALE

Small guesthouse + restaurant for takeover. Contact for details. Tel: 082-270 6385 (English & Thai), 081-891 4019. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

## UNIQUE STRETCH LIMO BUSINESS

Only stretch limousine in Thailand. Turnkey business with website and many customers. Just start and make money! 2.8 million baht. For more information please call 089-932 5175(English&Thai). Email: wjkdowbengt@hotmail.com

## MINI MART FOR SALE

Patong Beach. Well established business. Regular customers daily. Two new hotels opening soon within 50 meters. Sell with all fixtures, fittings and stock. 1.5 million baht. Tel: 089-469 4105 or email hswaine@hotmail.com

## BAR &amp; RESTAURANT

Bar, commercial kitchen and restaurant. 2 storeys, 3 bathrooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 decks, includes furniture. In good location. For sale 580,000 baht. Rent only 20,000 baht per month. For more information please call 085-348 51 37 (Thai), 081-086 3812 (English). Email: matthew.wilson@xtra.co.nz

## ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

New 7-roomed modern hotel for rent. Fully staffed and operational in prime Karon location. 200 meters from beach, luxury rooms. Fully furnished, return customers. Call for further details 081-396 5059.

## 2 SHOPHOUSES FOR RENT

One minute walk to beach. Ideal for restaurant, bar, massage. 2<sup>nd</sup> fl furnished as 2-bedroom apartment w/2 baths and kitchen. Tel: 084-189 7696(English & Thai). Email: janum0012@hotmail.com

## PATONG MASSAGE SHOP NANAI

8-beds, 5 chairs, staff accommodation. Wide shop front, rear access. Quick sale needed. 350,000 baht or best offer. Email: roy\_baldman@yahoo.com

## BUSINESS FOR SALE

Business for sale: 4 bedroom guesthouse + space on the ground floor, good for coffee shop or restaurant. Guesthouse is number 1 ranking on Tripadvisor 2013, 2014. 10 minute walk to Kata Beach. Selling price 1.5 million baht, contract 3+3+3 years. Contact for more info or inspection. For more details pls contact 084-195 5032, 084-195 5032 (English & Thai) Email: am.thai@hotmail.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. Please send your resume to the email address below. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Email: info@phuket-condos-homes.com

## RESTAURANT FOR RENT

Kata Beach, nice area, 6 months deposit + 20,000 key money. Tel: 095-473 5769.

## RAWAI RESTAURANT

For sale area 3,800sqm. Big garden & parking. Good lease, low rent. Sale 1.5MB. Tel: 089-646 7176. Email: big\_redehili@yahoo.com

## RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Fully equipped, pizza oven, no key money, 3-year lease, Chalong. Tel: 084-845 4743. Email: attivitaphuket@yahoo.co.uk

## 5 LUXURY APTS PATONG



Twice the size, yet half the price. 100sqm each plus terrace. Fully furnished, pool, great location. Would consider villa swap to Nai Harn area. 11.9 million baht. Tel: 081-271 7092. Email: briccothailand@hotmail.com

## BUSINESS FOR SALE

Looking for a business? Since 2005, Business Brokers in Phuket have been finding the best opportunities and prices. Tel: 081-278 71 17(English). Email: uniccoli@gmail.com, www.phuket-islandproperty.com

## A GOLDEN LOCATION

Shop for quick sale. Three floors, 4 Fully furnished apartments, a multi-purpose space for coffee shop or other. Now occupied by a coffee shop. Negotiable price 16 million. Tel: 085-784 7218. Email: khutphuketproperty@gmail.com

## KARON GUESTHOUSE



2 mins walk to beach, located on the tourist road, 5 storeys, 7 furnished bedrooms. 13 million baht. Tel: 081-171 9705.

## Phuket Gazette

## CLASSIFIED AD ORDER FORM

STANDARD AD (Text only): 140 baht/line

OPTIONS (NEWSPAPER ONLY - NOT WEB):

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

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

## ONLINE OPTIONS:

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

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

## TELEVISION OPTION:

Your ad with photo displayed by PGTV on 3 cable networks, 70 times a week 350 baht ☐

Total cost of your classified ..... baht

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

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

For more information, Please call 076-273555.  
Email: Kookai@phuketgazette.net

PROMOTION PRICE  
Your Ad on PGTV

## SAMPLE ADS

## TOYOTA HILUX HERO

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

Standard: 840 baht (incl VAT)

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

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

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

Phone Mr Reece  
(02) 668-1268

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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



## Business Products & Services

**EVE** **Now**  
**VISA RUN TO PENANG**  
**Special PRICE 3,600.- ONLY**  
 ID: evevisarun  
 Call EVE 094 586 9494, 081 535 2637

**DINO DAYCARE CENTER**  
 Accepting children 3 months old - 4 years old. 7am-7pm.  
 • Experienced nannies.  
 • Nutritious meals.  
 • Reasonable rates.  
 • Skill development activities  
**CALL NOW:**  
 081-868 7676 (English).  
 080-525 3135 (Thai)

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

**WORLDWIDE AIR TICKETS**  
 Our service is for domestic and international flight tickets. Open daily from 8:30am to 9pm. Delivery service. Tel: 081-537 2655, 085-571 4489.

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

## Club Memberships Available

**WAREE SPA BOAT LAGOON**  
  
 1-year membership at 40% discount. Thai, herbal, steam. Tel: 091-823 6918 (English & Thai). Email: anongnard-1971.co.th

## Dive Gear

**CHEAP DIVE COMPRESSORS**  
 Bauer Mariner 250, year 2006. For sale 140,000 baht. L&W 245 year 2002 + another L&W 245 as spare parts. Total 70,000 baht. Both in working condition. Located in Chalong. For more information, please call 081-370 3376 (English), 081-970 7480 (Thai). Fax: 076-280 074. Email: janne@raya divers.com

## Personal Services Wanted

**HOUSE BAND & DJ WANTED**  
 House Band & DJ wanted for Beer Garden Restaurant in Khao Lak for high season. Contact Joe or Oot on 085-808 7363 (English & Thai). Email: kolaz58@gmail.com

## Pets

**ADOPT A DOG from Doggie Heaven**  
 Visit DOGGIE HEAVEN & meet our gorgeous rescued dogs. All our dogs are socialized in a home environment & ready for loving families.  
 Contact Sherin Ph 084-877 3566  
 www.doggieheaven.net  
 sherin.peace@gmail.com  


## Miscellaneous For Sale

**SOLD SECOND HAND**  
  
 • Musical instrument. Jazz guitar. Price: 35,000 baht.  
 • Orange amplifier. Price: 40,000 baht.  
 • Vintage French-style bookcase. Price: 170,000 baht.  
 • Showcase. Price: 180,000 baht.  
 Please contact 081-667 1637 (Thai), Khun JP 082-539 6433 (English)

## Audio / Video Equipment

**HI-FI AV RECEIVER**  
 Cambridge Audio 540R V.20, excellent cond: 7,900 baht. 9-inch Acer monitor: 18,506 baht. Tel: 080-041 4240.

## Personal Services

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

## Personal Services

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- 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  
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Nissan Teana For Sale THB 1,350,000. Finance available. 11 months old. 2.5L. Full options. Contact owner 087-893 8747.

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## 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

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This Privilege 43 is very well-maintained complete with a good inventory. She has recently had her engines overhauled, along with fresh antifoul. Her quality Privilege build coupled with her great presentation belies her age. Lying: Phuket, Thailand.

For further information, a test sail or advice, please contact **Andrew de Bruin** at Boat Lagoon Marina, Phuket:  
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M +66 (0) 8 1894 1530  
E info@multihullsolutions.asia  
[www.multihullsolutions.asia](http://www.multihullsolutions.asia)



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### Lagoon 380 (2002)

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A perfect entry-level catamaran. This well-maintained multihull, in the four cabin layout, must be the best available as it is completely loaded with every extra you can imagine. Lying: Puteri Harbour, Malaysia.

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Asking 575,000 Euros

This Lagoon 500 is in pristine condition. Four huge doubles, one being the enormous VIP owners suite and with crew quarters forward making her ideally suited to charter. Lying: Phuket, Thailand.

## THE SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

### Cryptic Crossword

## COFFEE break

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

Normal spelling: lower case.

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

Letters left out: underlined.

**Across:** 8. SLURRED: *rulers*-D 9. PARTITION: P-*rationit* 13. LAYAN: la-*any* 14. MAVEN: ma-V.E.-n 15. TERRACE: *create*(R) 16. TERRAIN: *trainer* 17. RATIO: *itora* 18. YEARN: Y-*earn* 20. EAGLE: *gleea* 22. NOTION: *intono* 23. BYGONE: *nogybe* 25. SEVILLE: S.E.-ville 27. SUNDAYS: S-un-D-*say* 30. LIKING: *enjoying* 31. BANNED: *andben* 32. SCENE: *seen* 35. TONES: *tones* 36. EXTRA: *retax* 37. MAWKISH: *askhim*(W) 38. FURTHER: *besides* 41. EATEN: *ateen* 42. SENSE: *meaning* 43. TERRORISM: *sirretort*(1) 44. TALENTS: *lastten* 38. INNATE: inn-at-E 40. ROES: *rose*

**Down:** 1. PLAYER: P-L-*year* 2. FRONTAGE: *for-N-gate* 3. PERMANENTLY: *manlyrepent* 4. CARNATION: *canration* 5. STATION: *notasit* 6. STARRYEYED: *yesterday*(R) 7. COMA: Co-Ma 10. CLOTHE: Cl-O-the 11. OVERATE: over-*tea* 12. SEANCE: *ascene* 19. ANODYNE: *doneany* 21. GHERKIN: *herking* 24. FUNDAMENTAL: fun-Da-mental 26. IONOSPHERE: *herpiesoon* 28. PANTHEISM: *thespanim* 29. INHASTE: *ahsetin* 30. LETOFF: *explode* 32. SAWASDEE: *wasas-dee* 33. ECHOES: E-*chose* 34. BEARERS: *saber*(E.R.)

# Looking for a boat?

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**Next 5 licenses ONLY! (World standard price: 700,000 baht)**



# Colorful Night with Movenpick

Movenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket recently held its annual staff party in Phuket Town with a 'Colorful Night' theme. The evening began with a warm welcome message from the hotel's General Manager Hansruedi Frutiger, who thanked all the staff for their hard work and dedication.



Movenpick management performed their show 'Alice in Colorful Land' for hotel staff.

# The Thailand Hotel Standards Committee visits Amari Phuket



Pierre-Andre Pelletier (fourth from the right) – Amari vice president and area general manager, South Thailand, recently welcomed Sampan Panpat (center) – honorary adviser of the Thai Hotels Association, as well as other committee members, during an audit of the hotel.

# The Lantern

A workshop on Intellectual Property and International Trade Litigation was held recently in Preparation for Thailand's entrance to the ASEAN Community. It was organized by the Department of Intellectual Property and International Trade Litigation, Office of the Attorney General.



From left (front row): Brian Pearce, Pongsakon Chantarasapt, Surajit Pattanasan. From left (back row): Monthree Yarangsee, Pornchanok Kanjanaratana, Saruda Khemcharoen, Duangporn Teachakumtorn, Taksaorn Somboonsub, Pol Col Pattana Chayawat and Suriya Jewsuebpong.

# Haap Thip beach cleanup

Haad Thip, the distributors of Coca-Cola in Thailand, recently joined school children and more than 300 employees of Songkhla Municipality, to clean up Chalatus Beach in Songkhla province. The event was in celebration of International Coastal Clean Up Day, a project sponsored by Coca-Cola.



Chalao Phupichaphan, quality control manager at Haad Thip, donates footballs to children at a school in Songkhla.



Haad Thip staff remove rubbish from Chalatus Beach on International Coastal Clean Up Day.



## Words from the wise

"Holding on to anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at someone else; you are the one who gets burned.." – *Buddha*

"Let us not look back in anger, nor forward in fear, but around in awareness." – *James Thurber*

## Medium



## Hard



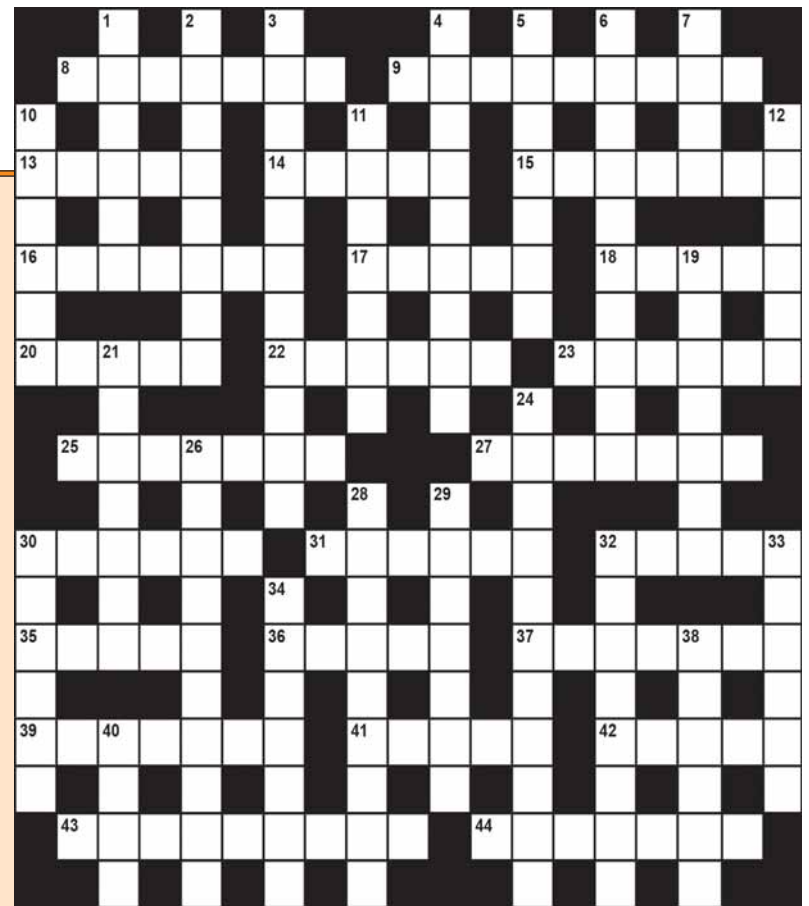
**SUDOKU:** Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE  
break

## Cryptic Crossword

## Across

8. Rulers changed date, made insinuations (7)  
 9. Dividing into parts, Papa, ration it out (9)  
 13. The French move any to a Phuket beach? (5)  
 14. Expert man about the day of end of the war in Europe (5)  
 15. Maybe create right inside row of houses (7)  
 16. Trainer destroyed tract of land (7)  
 17. Redistribute it, or a proportion (5)  
 18. Desire unknown merit (5)  
 20. Strange glee about a big bird (5)  
 22. Into no new idea (6)  
 23. No gybe navigating past (6)  
 25. A city in Spain like a South-eastern French town (7)  
 27. Sabbaths for our star date? Ay, saint! (7)  
 30. Enjoying affection (6)  
 31. And Ben could be prohibited (6)  
 32. Sounds like seen the location (5)  
 35. Goes with the sounds (5)  
 36. Re-tax possibly in addition (5)  
 37. Maudlin, maybe ask him about wife (7)  
 39. More distant besides (7)  
 41. Put away a teen perhaps (5)  
 42. Meaning wisdom (5)  
 43. Sir, retort about one who uses violence against the populace (9)  
 44. Special aptitudes of the last ten performing (7)



## Down

1. Past fifty, bad year for actor (6)  
 2. Extent along road possibly for new gate arrangement (8)  
 3. Manly, repent, possibly forever (11)  
 4. Can ration wild flower (9)  
 5. Not as it moved into position (7)  
 6. Maybe yesterday about right for the naively enthusiastic (6,4)  
 7. A business, mother in a stupor (4)  
 10. Class love the dress (6)  
 11. Finished tea, possibly was greedy (7)  
 12. A scene arranged for a meeting with a medium (6)  
 19. Painkiller done any differently (7)  
 21. Her king produced a small green vegetable (7)  
 24. Fun, father, of the mind is basic (11)  
 26. Her pie soon exploded in the upper atmosphere! (10)  
 28. The span I'm involving is worship of all gods (9)  
 29. Ah! Set in working quickly (2,5)  
 30. Explode to release (3,3)  
 32. Thai greeting was returned as 'good' in Thai (8)  
 33. Note, possibly chose close imitations (6)  
 34. Carriers of saber arranged to cover British Queen (7)  
 38. Inherent to tavern at East (6)  
 40. Masses of fish eggs sound pink (4)

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

Pluto zips forward from Tuesday, helping you make key decisions concerning some of your most important relationships and encouraging you to forgive and forget if necessary. In addition, if you've been considering refurbishing your home, you can get some important green lights from midweek. Later, a much coveted opportunity has a good chance of coming your way.

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

This looks to be a week where a big hope may come true, or at least you'll have the chance to make it so. Be alert for opportunities; indeed be proactive, as good things can come your way as a result. The new moon on Wednesday might be helpful for signing deals or co-operating on a plan. Later, valuable new insights could help to resolve a family matter.

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

A misunderstanding could delay a family project or decision, while getting everyone on the same page can hasten positive results.

Yet, where finances are concerned a new start aided by the new moon on September 24<sup>th</sup>, can increase your confidence for what the future holds. Meanwhile, it will pay to listen to any intuitive hunch that piques your curiosity.

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

Avoid muddled thinking if you can, as getting clear on what you need to accomplish ensures a positive start to the week. However, you'll be in your element with a New Moon in your sign helping you take steps towards an important goal. Will you be lucky this week? The Jupiter-Uranus link suggests it's more than possible Libra, so do believe.

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

Be sure something is worth buying as there's a good chance you could regret a purchase made in haste. Meanwhile, Pluto moves into forward motion which can aid and abet your best laid plans. On Thursday, the sparkling Jupiter Uranus connection comes to a head and will motivate you to forge ahead with a meaningful project or personal ambition.

YOUR  
horoscope

By Patrick Arundell

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

You may lose focus early on this week regarding a family matter. However, if you aren't sure how to tackle an ongoing issue, it might be best to ponder your options for now. Later in the week your social life can revive with a New Moon spotlighting opportunities to make other friends. Indeed, moving out of your comfort zone could result in a life enhancing offer.

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

As Pluto goes into direct motion in your zodiac sign, success could become easier, especially if it seems you've been held back lately. This upbeat phase is amplified by a new moon in your zone of goals and ambitions, making this one of the best times to shoot for the stars. There's also the potential for a small windfall or perhaps a lucky break.

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

The week ahead brings sparkling opportunities associated with social events and everyday meetings. The new moon midweek is excellent for getting involved in groups and clubs or for moving in lively circles. In addition, the Jupiter Uranus link can coincide with a meeting that might be a catalyst for future growth and expansion.

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

Listing your priorities can help you get more done while sidestepping any confusion. Meanwhile, with Pluto advancing from Tuesday, this can give your social life a positive boost. By the week's end a special alignment can help you make significant progress with work or financial matters, but you must be ready to grab what could turn out to be a golden opportunity.

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

Don't try to make difficult decisions early on this week Aries, as your mind will be much sharper as the days go by. Rela-

tionships with the important people in your life can blossom under the positive influence of the New Moon, while a stroke of good fortune could transform a key aspect of your life, and further freeing up your creative spirit in the process.

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

Pluto forges ahead from Tuesday, positively speeding up the pace of change regarding close relationships. Midweek then brings a chance to get started on a new diet or exercise routine, enabling you to feel reborn. Later, as Mercury glides into Scorpio, an in-depth conversation could spotlight opportunities you haven't previously considered.

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

A conflict of interest may muddle issues early on, yet this can give way to spectacular opportunities later on. A romantic New Moon midweek can also help a new relationship to blossom or rekindle the flame in a long-term relationship. Whilst a Jupiter Uranus connection reveals that a new friend could inspire you to consider some highly positive changes.



# Pedal to the metal

By Jeremie Schatz

GRID Racing Phuket (GR Phuket) will become the first dedicated F1 racing simulator of its kind in Thailand when it opens its doors to the public on October 3.

Combining his past experience with simulators, Australian national Paul and his partner "Visa" decided to capitalize on the rising popularity of the racing simulator industry and open their own "race space" in Patong.

"I ran a flight simulator in Australia and I sold part of that. I was then looking around for something to help out my Thai partner here in Phuket and to invest in, maybe another flight simulator here or in the US.

"We came up with the idea and looked at doing it in the Philippines first, but we decided, because of the time that I spent here, that Thailand was much more stable and much more tourist-friendly with much less government regulation," said Mr Bushell.

Although flight simulator businesses, like the one Mr Bushell built and sold in Perth, garner plenty of attention, group participation is limited. This realization helped turn his attention to the multi-player experience that Formula One racing simulators offer.

"Here, you've got a lot of tourists... looking for things to do."

Despite a variety of commercial simulators on the market, Mr Bushell decided to apply his background and expertise in mechanical and network systems, and marine electronics in the design and construction of the simulators himself with help from his partner.

"We've tried to keep everything



Grid Racing Phuket will feature eight Formula One simulators allowing group races. Photos: Jeremie Schatz

locally built in Thailand so that if we do expand, we can do it with local support," he said.

"The thing you get by setting it up yourself is that if it stuffs up,

you can fix it, because you know what goes wrong and what happened to it."

Visa with her team of 10 employees and Paul's support have

created a vibrant atmosphere with walls covered in F1 race cars, a bar that belongs at the track and multiple televisions showing recent Grand Prix's to



Despite a variety of commercial simulators on the market, Mr Bushell decided to apply his background and expertise in mechanical and network systems... and build the simulators himself.

get racers' motors running.

Up to eight participants can race head-to-head against each other and choose from all of last year's F1 cars and about 60 different tracks. It requires near superhuman skills to pilot an F1 car, and for those who lack the dexterity to command one (i.e. most of us), a range of assists are available to make the experience less daunting.

A vast array of settings can be adjusted to customize the cars and the simulator experience – many of which only the most knowledgeable fans will understand.

Mr Bushell explained that other options such as off-road rally racing, Nascar and street circuits will be added in the near future.

Although the business model has a strong emphasis on bringing in tourists, they haven't forgotten the locals.

"A lot of stuff is priced just for tourists and doesn't cater to the local market. If you want them [the locals] to use it in the club situation, you're going to have to price it accordingly so they can afford to do so and come in to have a bit of fun," he said.

GR Phuket will be offering club memberships that will give members steeply discounted rates during off-peak hours when simulators are not in use. Club members will get other preferential treatment such as discount drinks at the bar, coffee and hot food.

GR Racing has several mobile simulators for rent, which can be delivered to special events, and purchase options are also available.

For more information, visit: [grphuket.com](http://grphuket.com) or call 076 681011

## Skewed stats and bureaucracy blamed for waning tourism sector

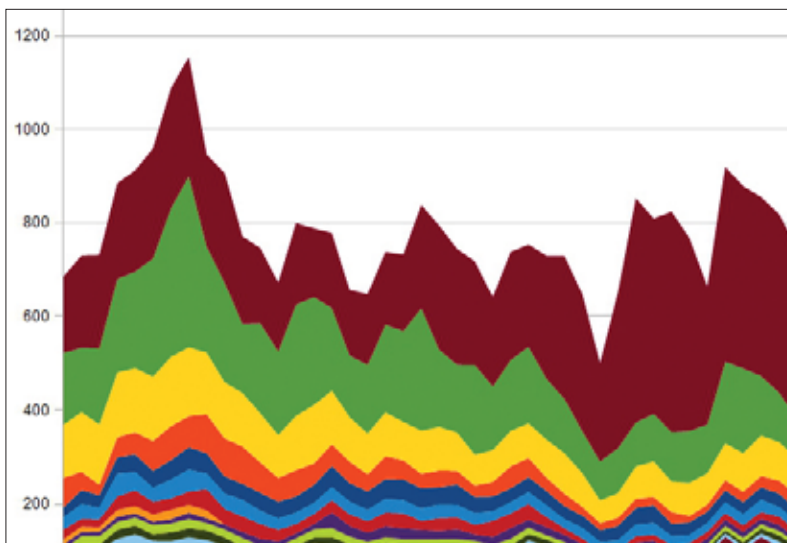
INACCURATE official data and centralized political power have been described by experts as the biggest problems facing Thailand's tourism industry

"These are the biggest problems for the Thai tourism industry and have been hurting the entire sector for decades. As a result, the industry is now losing its strength and facing the risk of collapse," one senior expert said.

These two issues were raised in response to the appointment of a new tourism minister, Kobkarn Wattanavrakul.

The group making these accusations say they have 30-50 years of experience in the industry, and include former Tourism Authority of Thailand staff, as well as major hotel players and representatives of key travel firms and private-sector associations.

According to Apichart Sankary, former president of the Association of Thai Travel



Erroneous data is thought to be hindering tourism. Graphic: SharkD

Agents (ATTA), certain authorities have forced organizations to provide unrealistic data, especially on international arrivals numbers, to the public to provide only optimistic outlooks.

He claimed that some information given out by officials was

inaccurate. One mistake is counting one-day cross-border trippers as tourists. Moreover, arrivals are not categorized clearly, such as whether they are for business, leisure, long stays and so on, but are counted as one category, "tourist".

– The Nation

## Phuket recognized for its trash management system

MINISTER of Natural Resources and Environment, General Dapong Rattanasuwan, has selected Phuket as a model province for garbage and toxic waste management.

General Dapong has complimented the province for its outstanding waste management system which seeks involvement from all administrations, saying that their efforts have significantly helped Phuket dispose of tons of trash daily. He said households have also been able to reduce the amount of trash generated, while

recycling them into usable items or selling them for income.

The Minister expressed his desire to improve the knowledge center for waste management in Phuket and to convert it into a national learning institute, in order to assist Thailand in dealing with the issue.

He also revealed that the Government would provide a budget of 530 million baht to Phuket in order for it to maintain its garbage incinerator and another 105 million baht for the improvement of its landfill.

– NNT

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# Preparing for retirement



## Finance

By Don Freeman

MANY expats don't know where to begin when planning for retirement. The key is getting a head start. While it's best to start planning as soon as possible, it's never too late to take control of your finances and your own destiny.

This is the first of a three part series outlining the three critical steps that must be taken in order to retire comfortably. The first step is to begin preparations for retirement. This is important because for the first time in their lives, retirees will no longer be building their nest egg, but rather they will be spending it.

In preparation, retirees must be honest with themselves and their financial adviser. It must be remembered that income levels won't be as substantial as before. Certain expenses will have to be cut back.

For many expats, these cuts will include not going to the beer bars every night, but maybe once or twice a week instead. There have been a number of examples of expats who retired to Thailand with a lump sum and didn't follow this advice – within three years, they were broke and forced to go home.

While expats don't want to curtail their lifestyle, the fact of the matter is most do not have

enough money saved up for retirement. That's why it's important to establish a budget. For instance, 59% of men and 70% of women will live to age 80! After that, 20% of men and 31% of women will live to age 90. That means retiring at 65, some will need their money to last another 25 years.

Furthermore, as age increases, so do health care costs. Only about 20% of retirees age 65 and older are covered by employer-sponsored health insurance. Even though medical costs are lower in Thailand, it's important to get coverage.

Another important thing to consider when retiring abroad is currency conversion. Many clients have most of their money in dollars, Euros or pounds. The money kept here in Thailand is spending money.

How many months of spending money should one keep in Thailand? The most important factor to look at is the baht conversion rate. When the baht approached 33 baht to one US dollar, that was an ideal time to transfer several months' worth of money to Thai bank accounts.

It's also helpful to minimize the number of transactions not only because of the conversion rate, but Bangkok Bank, for instance, charges approximately 600 baht for each wire transfer from the US. Over time, this can add up to thousands of lost baht. Being smart with small fees can save considerable money over time.



Currency conversion must be worked into the equation when considering retiring abroad. Photo: epSos.de

The last and most important thing to consider in preparing for retirement is where to keep saved money. All the things discussed in this article are what is called the "nickels and dimes". It's where retirement assets are kept that is critical to long-term success.

No one wants their hard-earned fortune taken by an unscrupulous broker or a firm that goes belly up. That's why it's safer to use brokerages such as TD Ameritrade (which has US\$500 billion in assets), Interactive Brokers, Saxo Capital Bank,

Investors Europe and other discount brokers.

Once an account is established, exchange-traded funds (ETFs) from Vanguard (which has over US\$2.4 trillion in assets) or US stocks can then be used to diversify growth investment portfolios. Investors don't have to worry about either one of those brokerage firms going out of business or running off with their money since it is held in segregated accounts separately from their business structure.

A future article will discuss

why having a broker with segregated client trading accounts is important.

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

## Experts weigh in on keeping Thailand competitive

A COUNTRY'S economic strategy must be formulated from the top down, says the director of a leading business institute. He added that investment in education is worthwhile even though results may take time and insisted that accountability is crucial for the reform of any educational system.

In an exclusive interview with *The Nation*, Professor Arturo Bris, director of the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) World Competitiveness Center, explained what he feels is the best approach to the creation and application of a reform strategy.

"The formulation of a clear strategy is probably the easiest part, and certainly implementation would be more difficult, but strategy must be formulated top down. It is not something that can be delegated and it is the responsibility of the political leader. It is not something that can be developed in isolation," he said.

"This is true not only for politicians, but all executives, and anybody in a leadership position. A strategy is something that you develop by listening to the main stakeholders. It involves a lot of listening, getting to know the problems, and at the same time trying to involve all of the parties that are going to suffer or benefit from those decisions," he added.

A clear strategy to increase competitiveness must exploit the country's uniqueness and Professor Bris said that Thailand's main



Investment in education is part of a smart long-term strategy. Photo: ajari

advantage is its geographical location – in the middle of the Southeast Asian region – which means the country can serve as a hub for businesses. He said Thailand also has a well-diversified export sector – a major driver of competitiveness.

He added that Thailand's other advantages included its ability to be the first in the region to offer services in a very competitive way. He cited the Kingdom's leading position in tourism, financial services, and support services to export industries as examples.

"The largest percentage of Thailand's GDP [gross domestic product] comes from the

service industries and that is the strength that has given the country a competitive advantage over neighboring economies," he said.

Anne-France Borgeaud Pierazzi, senior economist and head of IMD World Competitiveness Center, said that as Thailand has achieved a well-diversified line of export products, but it needed to shift from a regional to an international focus when developing network partners in its export industries.

She also said that the country needed to increase its investment on research and development (R&D) to raise its overall competitiveness, as its expenditure on R&D is low

by international comparisons. She said she is glad to see that the new government has such a vision and mindset.

The new government plans to increase the country's R&D expenditure to 1 per cent of GDP from the current level of around 0.25 per cent.

In terms of education, Professor Bris said the two main issues behind success in educational reform is accountability, which involves the creation of a system where the outcome of education becomes a key performance indicator in order to allow the country's educational system to improve.

"Education is one of the sectors where public management is crucial, as public management is usually not based on incentive," he said.

Financing is also important, as the more money the public sector spends on education, the faster it develops and, generally speaking, there is a strong correlation between how much money is spent on education and the outcome of the educational system.

Pierazzi said, "It is difficult for some countries to look at the long-term, but investment in education is very worthwhile and it is one of the main drivers of competitiveness besides innovation. Thailand should start to improve its educational system from the secondary level or as early as possible."

– *The Nation*



# A picture perfect stay

## PROPERTY Gazette

By Maciek Klimowicz

THE first time one man exchanged goods or services for the goods or services of another man, the free market came to life. Since that very day, people have been arguing about its benefits and faults, some saying it's greed-driven, unfair and leads to an ever growing gap between the rich and the poor, others prizing its efficiency, freedom of choice and innovation. For the sake of this story, let's focus on the positives and the way they are demonstrated here in Phuket.

Take the local hotel market for example. It is said that the first hotel on the island was the 1929 On On Guesthouse in Phuket Town. But it wasn't until the 1970s that tourism took reins of Phuket. Today, four decades later, there are hundreds of hotels here, and less and less space left for new ones. In such a competitive environment, with the high-end tourists taken care of by fancy resorts and no lack of cheap accommodation for backpackers travelling on a shoe string budget, the only way for a new hotel to survive is to offer service of the highest quality. But not just that, it has to stand out from the crowd.

Kata's Foto Hotel sets an example. Located somewhere in the middle of the spectrum, between the luxury resorts and the beach side bamboo huts, Foto Hotel offers something few other resorts can – it is cool. It seems that the whole hotel was designed with the young, always online, always connected and never separated from their Facebook, Twitter and Instagram youth in mind. The Facebook generation live their lives out in the open, sharing every single moment of the day with thousands of friends. Foto hotel management came up with the idea of exploiting this need for attention to the business' benefit.

"We started with a great view, a photo worthy view and we decided to make the hotel photo worthy. In other hotels you might have a particular spot with a great view and [that is] good for photography. Here at Foto hotel, wherever you go, you will take great pictures with great backgrounds. The hotel is very photogenic," explains Foto Hotel's Manager Monsinee Sungthong.

A short walk around the hotel's premises provides one with endless selfie-worthy locations, from the main lobby, kept in ever trendy black and white, to the rooftop swimming pool with an awe inspiring panorama of the Andaman coast. At such locations you don't just stop and stare, you take your smartphone, snap and share, share, share.

How this photogenic effect was achieved becomes apparent when taking into account that Foto Hotel belongs to the portfolio of the Attitude Club, one of Phuket's best known developers, a company with strong background in design. "Design is in our DNA," Wirachai Pranveerapaibool, the company's CEO once said in an interview for the *Phuket Gazette*.

These creative roots show not only in the way the Foto Hotel looks but also in the imaginative names of the hotel's amenities. The rooftop pool turns into the "silhouette pool" where characteristic photos of dark human shapes on the bright, sunlit background of Phuket landscapes can be taken. The "bokeh spa" recalls the photographic effect of blurring out the out-of-focus elements of a picture, the way a good spa treatment lets us blur out stress and fatigue and focus on revitalization. The list of imaginative ideas continues.

The hotel, naturally, offers all the necessary amenities. The 79 rooms of Foto Hotel come under two different names – "ozone hall" and "ocean hall", depending on the view from the window – but all offer the same high quality and inspiring design. Guests can enjoy local flavors at the rooftop restaurant, travel to the beach with a shuttle bus, pick and choose from the catalog of local trips and activities available at the front desk.

Yet, these are things barely worth mentioning, obvious and taken for granted. It's the packaging they are presented in, the imaginative branding, the practical reasons for design solutions introduced in the hotel, that offer an added value for the hotel guests – and will surely result in a great



The company responsible for Foto Hotel has strong roots in interior design. Photos: Maciek Klimowicz



Taking the perfect holiday snap won't be hard with this view, neither will be getting it 'liked' on Facebook.

numbers of likes for their "Phuket holiday" Facebook photo gallery.

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# Barefoot buyers in the Maldives

JUST how close you can get to paradise is one of those questions for the ages. When you let your

imagination run wild, add a dose of the Robinson Crusoe gene, and a wish to get off the grid, one destination that comes up on a regular basis is the Maldives.

My mind shifts gears at the mere mention of the magical name, with crystal clear lagoons, stunning overwater villas on quiet atolls and those individual island resorts that remain such objects of desire.

I've just landed at one of the pioneering barefoot luxury resorts and instead of the typical request for a credit card imprint, I've been asked to hand over my shoes instead. They are neatly tucked away in a bag by the smiling guest service staff and there I am, in long pant's and toes in the sand. Call me Crusoe.

Getting to paradise is often no mean feat – with many resorts located on other atolls, the only practical way of moving visitors is by taxi or, in this case, sea plane. The main provider of transport is Trans Maldivian Airways (TMA) who have 44 aircraft, fly over 38,000 flights a year, carrying some 500,000 passengers to more than 60 different resorts.



## Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

And you thought Phuket International Airport had a lot of flights.

A taxi in this instance is the trusty floatplane, the 19-passenger Twin Otter, which is a STOL-type airplane (short takeoff and landing). In a way, the entire concept of these exotic planes adds to the allure and sense of adventure, though the deafening noise and sporadic jolts in bad weather often make it a hit and miss proposal.

But back to Soneva, which was formerly a Six Senses property, and is now owner and operator Sonu Shivdasani's flagship resort. Today the Soneva brand has two properties – Soneva Fushi and in Thailand, Soneva Kiri in Koh Kood. After the sale of Six Senses, Sonu has embraced the one-brand strategy now and is focused on not only hotels but also residences.

The last one may have you scratching your head, and mutter, "who would buy a villa in the Maldives?" Actually, since 2011, when a longtime guest asked Sonu about purchasing one, the resort has sold a fair number of private residences in Soneva Fushi with multi-million dollar price tags. The numbers would have hotel branded residence develop-



Soneva has waterslides which go from your bedroom straight into the pool. Photo: Bill Barnett

ers in Bali and Phuket blushing with envy.

Taking a tour of one of the villas, the attraction to budding Crusoes is obvious. With rustic wood decking, and ample chill out spaces in every nook and cranny, Sonu and his team have spent a good deal of time and imagination honing out their product. The result being a product which fits straight into the vision of what a private getaway should be. One of my favorite attractions in some of the larger units are the waterslides which go from just outside your bedroom straight into an inviting pool. Wow is right.

At the end of the day, the real estate proposition is understandable. Here is an irreplaceable asset, one that has a limited number of properties and relies on a strong base of brand-loyal guests to carve

out a buying pool. As history has taught us from Aman to Banyan Tree and beyond, the concept of first leading with a remarkable hotel and later evolving into residences makes perfect sense.

Talking to Sonu, I can't help but feel energized about his broader step from hospitality into the private residence sector. My trip to the Maldives was all too short and yes, as I prepared to get onto the air taxi bound for the international airport, the mere act of putting my shoes back on was somehow bittersweet. Do shoes make the man? Certainly not, if you want a Robinson Crusoe lifestyle.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9Hotelworks. He can be contacted through: [c9hotelworks.com](http://c9hotelworks.com)

## Developers welcome proposed tax reforms

RESIDENTIAL property companies have welcomed the proposed land and construction tax bill, which if passed, will open up business opportunities to develop unused land currently owned by private landlords. Meanwhile, they suggest that the government should take the opportunity to reform all tax packages related to land and construction, such as transfer fees and mortgage fees.

"If the Finance Ministry wants a law governing land and construction tax, it has to revise other fees and taxes that landowners, property developers and home-buyers currently have to pay. That would ensure fairness for all parties," said Thai Condominium Association president Prasert Taedullayasatit, who is also managing director for condominiums at Pruksha Real Estate.

At present, when people buy a home, they have to pay a transfer fee of 2% of the asset's appraised value and a 1% mortgage fee, while property companies have to pay a 3.3% special business tax.

Meanwhile, when people sell a home they have owned for less than five years, they also have to pay the special business tax of 3.3% and must add the revenue from the sale to their personal income for tax purposes. If they have owned the home for more than five years, they can avoid the special business tax, but still must declare the sale revenue as personal income.

Prasert argues that if a land and construction tax were to be

added to these existing costs, it would be unfair to home-owners. His association is, therefore, urging that the transfer and mortgage fees be reduced if the new tax becomes a reality.

It also wants either a cut in the special business tax or adjustments to the requirement for home-sale revenue to be included as personal income for tax purposes. This would reduce costs for both home-buyers and home-owners. It would also help drive the property market, for both new and resale housing, in a sustainable way, he said.

Housing Business Association President Atip Bichanond, who is also director of property developer Supalai, said his group was proposing exemption from the land and construction tax for homes with an appraised asset value of no more than one million baht, or land covering an area of no more than 50 square wah (200 square meters), as this would be fair for low-income people.

"We don't know if the draft of this Act has such an exemption, but we will propose it again anyway," he said.

Kittipol Pramote na Ayudhya, director of the Thai Real Estate Association, said the proposed land and construction tax could result in greater fairness within society. However, the tax has to be fair for lower-income people and also have a clear system for considering who has to pay it and who does not.

– The Nation

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# The slaughter of the veggies

By Mauri Grant

PHUKET'S Vegetarian Festival is upon us again. The unmistakable sound of popping firecrackers meant to drive away evil spirits can be heard in the distance, competing with eery Chinese prayers that play on repeat at all hours of the day and night.

Inside the shrines, there is a quiet reverence as devotees of all ages and backgrounds make merit to the Nine Emperor Gods and welcome them from heaven to walk among men for nine days.

But don't let the sounds or the overwhelming smell of incense dissuade you from wandering closer to the action. Follow the yellow-red flags toward the ensuing chaos and you might just happen upon what some consider the haven of vegan cuisine.

Food certainly steals the show during the fest, and is often available island-wide until the wee hours of the morning. Vegetarians and vegans can rest easy knowing that as long as there is a yellow and red flag hanging, the foods inside are safe to eat.

However, for the island-dwellers who enjoy the more-than-occasional steak or *moo tod*, the idea of meatless meals for nine days can be hard to swallow.

What are they to make of the clearly fake sliced duck, the *larb* that looks like *larb* but is made with "meat" that certainly isn't pork, the

nuggets that kind of resemble fried chicken or the fish that you can swear is actually fish?

The Vegetarian Festival can be a daunting experience for the not-so-brave of heart – and taste buds – but there is nothing to be afraid of. The chefs, well-versed in the art of vegetarian cooking, set out to make the food look and taste like the real thing – and they deliver.

"Cooking vegetarian food is a kind of art. We have to replicate the

Niyom – was a fish filet. It could make even the most seasoned vegetarian veterans think twice before digging in. Made of tofu, the filet had seaweed-wrapped edges resembling fish skin. The fish is flaky and melts in your mouth, and has a taste so close to the real thing that you could fool a fish-eater out of context. The best part, though, is that you don't have to worry about any pesky bones getting caught in your teeth.

The creativity and experience of the chef plays a big role in the making of vegetarian food, as the materials they can use to cook are strictly limited. Several ingredients that

play a significant part in the daily Thai diet are forbidden during the fest: egg, onion, garlic, chives, fish sauce and oyster sauce.

Tofu is the mainstay of all vegetarian food. Even if it doesn't look like tofu, it probably is. Several different kinds of textured protein developed from soy beans are manipulated in the meatless cooking process. They have different textures and tastes, allowing for a wider range of flavors and creations.

Chaiyut Thangsukkasem, 62, owner of Nong Jay vegetarian restaurant near Khao Rang, is one creative chef who has taken meatless cooking to a new level.

"I believe that vegetarian food is much cleaner than normal food. Animals are often fed chemicals that can be harmful to

**Vegetarian food is much cleaner than normal food. Animals are often fed chemicals that can be harmful to their health and to the health of humans who eat them.**

look of the meat and try to get as close to the true flavor as possible," Niyom Wongweankom, 47, 10-year vegetarian and owner of Yo Vegetarian Restaurant in Samkong told the *Phuket Gazette*.

"No one will ever produce the exact same thing. The outcome depends on the personal ideas and style of whoever is cooking."

Mr Niyom's restaurant boasted more than 20 different vegetarian dishes for diners to try – including a dish that resembled *larb moo*. The main meat ingredient was substituted with mushroom, but the flavors still burst in your mouth. It has a classic *larb* taste, with fresh mint and a kick of heat from Thai chilies, that will leave you wanting for nothing.

Another dish offered – a festival favorite, according to Mr



No animals were harmed in the taking of this photo. Photos: Maciek Klimowicz

their health and to the health of humans who eat them," said Mr Chaiyut, who has been a vegetarian himself for 17 years.

Despite not having eaten meat for nearly two decades, Mr Chaiyut was able to present a piece of fake fried chicken that had both meat-eaters and vegetarians at the table yearning for more.

When asked what his secret was, Mr Chaiyut shrugged and replied "We just fried textured soy protein so that it looked like fried chicken. We have our own recipe we use to make it taste like real chicken as well."

Mr Chaiyut pulled out all the stops again with a plate of rice topped with four different fake

meats – duck, chicken and two kinds of pork – and a spicy *krueng gaeng moo* to beat the band.

To find these dishes, and hundreds more, take a trip to Ranong Road, the heart of the Vegetarian Festival and home to Jui Tui Shrine. You will encounter stall after stall of fresh, hot vegan food and snacks with long queues of revelers donned in all-white apparel.

Whether you play it safe with easy to recognize, deep-fried treats or take a walk on the wild side with some fake meat, the food at the Vegetarian Festival will not disappoint.

With additional reporting by Natthaphol Wittayarungrote



Vegetarian food offers a great variety despite a strictly limited supply of ingredients.

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# Maneuvering Phuket's waste

Why waste treatment is the biggest sustainability issue facing our island



Thinking Green

By Dr Peter W Harris

A VERY exciting new learning center for sustainable organic refuse management was unveiled near the incinerator in Saphan Hin on September 16 (see story below), but even more important was the announcement by the government and various agencies to drive the island to become a low-carbon city.

The challenge is to have Phuket internationally recognized as a waste-smart community. What does that really mean? Well, it means becoming a community where general waste is recycled and food and garden waste is composted or mulched. But is wet waste the biggest issue facing Phuket?

Phuket is over capacity in the management of its waste. Each day up to 800 tonnes of garbage is produced. The landfills are full and much of the garbage is burned in the island's incinerators, which adds to both air pollution and carbon emissions.

Litter is the most visible indicator of unsustainable development and a deteriorating environment. It plagues most areas of the island. It also affects land and marine ecosystem functions, as well as flora and fauna. It takes plastics a long time to degrade, and when they do break down into smaller pieces, they become more dangerous to the animals that ingest them.

It is the residents' responsibility to support community beach cleanup groups, the "magic eye" project and businesses, and local councils that are initiating actions to reduce waste and promote recycling. Efforts to set up easy-to-use recycling schemes and roadside collection as well as the separation and composting of organic waste need to receive strong support. Waste dumps that are close to population centers and beaches should be relocated.

The new center is a great start, as is the Kathu roadside garbage collection system. We need to work hard to ensure there are



Efforts to set up easy-to-use recycling schemes and roadside collection need to receive strong community support. Photo: Terence Ong

large amounts of resources recovered for reuse, and turn attention to lowering the amount of waste produced and the reliance on goods brought in from the mainland.

A number of resources can be recovered from the waste stream to be reprocessed and reused (i.e. tyres, glass and shredded rubber). Educating the community on the use of products that reduce non-recyclable waste is a good start. The ultimate goal is to divert 100 per cent of

the green and food waste produced within Phuket to be recycled for reuse.

To be effective, waste management needs to be accepted and practiced by everyone in the community. Schools and training institutions have a role to play. This training can be directed not only at students, who can inform their parents, but also in communities which already engage in recycling, so they can learn how to extend their operations. Small community groups

can be assisted with business training and improved knowledge on the nature of waste. In schools, waste assessments can be embedded in the curriculum, which will enable them to identify opportunities for waste reduction during daily operations.

In the end, the aim is to empower students with a sense of "eco-literacy" and encourage future generations to become environmentally, socially and economically responsible.

## Waste not want not

By Natthaphol Wittayarungrote

A SUSTAINABLE waste-management teaching center opened in Saphan Hin earlier this week in a bid to teach island residents how to recycle organic waste and reduce Phuket's carbon footprint.

"More than half of daily household trash is organic waste that can be effectively turned into compost and fertilizer," said Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana at the center's opening ceremony on Tuesday.

"We have learned about, and tested, the recycling and decomposition processes that specialists teach at the center – they are very effective."

Specialists will be on hand at

the center, which is open to the public and located near the incinerator, to teach residents, allowing them to duplicate the processes at home.

"We are also offering to rent out the materials needed, such as compost bins," announced Mayor Somjai.

Governor Maitri Inthusut signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Tuesday's ceremony, along with 18 other relevant agencies and environmental organizations that support the new waste-management plan, which is designed to drive the island toward becoming a low-carbon destination.

Mayor Somjai noted that the amount of trash accumulating on



The waste-management teaching center in Saphan Hin was officially opened by Governor Maitri. Photo PR Dept

the island has been increasing at a steady rate of 7 per cent per year.

"In a few years, we will be beyond the capacity of what our

incinerators are capable of destroying," she said.

"Right now, we are just below the limit. We receive an

average of 680 tonnes of trash per day. The capacity of our incinerator facilities is 700 tonnes per day."



# Thriving in the rain

Despite the copious amount of precipitation the isthmus of Thailand receive during the monsoon season, a host of plants manage to flourish in the moist conditions. Photo: Gabi Butcher

MANY of you will know that the narrowest bit of the Kingdom – within touching distance of both the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand – has the heaviest rainfall. This week I drove to Ranong and the windscreen wipers had no respite for the entire journey. Once there, the heavens stayed open for a further 36 hours. But nobody seemed to care. Umbrellas were de rigueur, but life went on as though 20 inches of precipitation in two days was par for the course.

The local vegetation seemed to be of a similar mindset. You might think that few plants could survive such a deluge, but in fact, many species were doing better than their relatives in Phuket. Once off the island, we passed lush roadside banks and canopies with layer upon layer of greenery: small trees and clumps of bamboo covered from head to toe in vines, lianas and creepers, the largest philodendrons I have ever seen, and emerald tracteries of native Boston ferns.

Mercifully, most of the route had not fallen prey to road-widening schemes, so huge



## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell



Crotons are familiar in Phuket gardens. Photo: Prathamesh

forest trees such as majestic, straight-trunked *dipterocarpus* were still standing sentinel where the road snaked through mountain passes, a jungled landscape of towering forest trees that no longer exists in Phuket.

And since there were few “developments” to disfigure the roadsides, there were shrubs and trees aplenty, presumably planted by local councils that cared for the natural environment. Two trees stood out: whole avenues of crape myrtles (*lagerstroemia*), fully 50-

feet tall and in full pink blossom, and equally impressive *acacias*, laden with creamy spikes of flowers.

In low-lying areas, the verges had been planted with a variety of shrubs. For several kilometers, there was an avenue of low-growing golden allamandas, blooming despite the weather, and in many places, borders of foliage plants such as crotons (*codiaeum*) and *acalyphas*. All these are familiar in Phuket's gardens, but what was surprising was both their sheer size and their intense coloration. *Acalyphas* (Jacob's coat) used

to grow in my garden, but they all slowly succumbed to a grey mold. Moreover, they never achieved the vibrant hues of these roadside specimens. Fully eight-feet tall, they were a beautiful intense, coppery color. And the crotons were similarly luxuriant, with masses of leaves all the way down their bushy stems. Maybe the rich local soil encouraged such opulence. By all accounts, the cascading streams of rain had done nothing to dampen their enthusiasm.

My friend's house was perched on a vast slab of rock, which sloped down to a river in full spate, but trees and shrubs were flourishing despite the lack of topsoil and the presence of a mountain stream which fed a pool right in the middle of the plot. Obviously what little top soil was originally there had been supplemented and then carpeted with turf. The grass was admittedly struggling, but the trees and shrubs, which had doubtless been planted in hollows and crevices in the rock, were in fine fettle.



Close to the house was galangal – like all members of the ginger tribe, this herbaceous perennial loves masses of water. /

Abundant rain allied with efficient drainage. Many were fruiting trees: a sator, several coconuts and bananas, a clump of bamboo regularly cut for eating, a passion fruit with yellow flowers, even a mangosteen. Decorative plants included more *acalyphas* and myrtles, white *ixoras* and a pond with flowering water *hyacinths*.

Close to the house was a *galangal*: like all members of the ginger tribe, this herbaceous perennial loves masses of water. The result? A huge eight-feet tall clump. Need some flavoring for your *tom yam*? Cut and come again.

So what general conclusion can one draw? Certainly, more plants than imaginable cannot only endure wet conditions, but can positively thrive in them. Good drainage helps of course, plus

the existence of aeons-old earth rich in humus unpolluted by the detritus of human “development”.

Too wet for most people? Maybe that's not a bad thing...






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# To party or not to party

Long Beach offers a break to the chaos of the young backpacker crowd at Ton Sai, but still isn't so far away that you can't get involved. Photo: Jennifer Arbuthnot

## Phi Phi has more to offer than the hedonistic party scene that made it famous

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

KOH Phi Phi Don – better known by the nickname Phi Phi – is loaded with surprises no matter why or how you end up there.

Despite being less than an hour's journey from Phuket by speedboat, or a two-and-a-half-hour ferry ride, Phi Phi is in Krabi province. It is composed of two main islands: Phi Phi Don and Phi Phi Ley.

And there is more to Phi Phi Don than the hedonistic mayhem that puts the island on every 20-plus-year-old backpacker's to-do list in Thailand.

Phi Phi Don can be broken down into three sections with three distinct vibes: Ton Sai Bay – party central and dive-bum paradise; the north – so serene that the moon is the only one partying after 8pm; and Long Beach – the middle ground.

If you take the ferry from Rassada Pier in Phuket and disembark at the pier in Ton Sai, it's easy enough to hire a longtail "taxi" to get some distance between you and the party scene. Longtails to Laem Tong, at the northern tip of the island, cost about 1,000 baht, though it's possible to get the ferry there for 200.

Those wanting access to what's happening in Ton Sai, but also wanting a clearer view of paradise, can get a longtail to Long Beach for 200 baht.

Or, you can hike it. A fairly well-marked trail runs east to Long Beach, offering some scenic views and plenty of places nestled into the "jungle" where you can stay, or at least stop for a bite and a drink.

Those feeling ambitious can hike all the way to Laem Tong – though it's not recommended if you're carrying luggage. Hike to the Phi Phi viewpoint and then to Lo Bakao. From there, just follow the coastal path.

Ton Sai is a strange place, one which begs the question, "Is this Thailand?"

Though a Thai national can be spotted from time to time, the number of foreigners in late teens to early 30s is overwhelming. The place feels like the setting for a classic Hollywood college movie. (For Ton Sai party scene information, see the to-do and not-to-do list below.)

If Ton Sai's nightlife doesn't fit into your ideal holiday, take advantage of its more charming and redeeming qualities, most notably the climbing and diving.

Ton Sai Tower, at the western end of Ton Sai Bay, offers a range of climbing grades – perfect for climbers who like to party and



Don't have your own gear, check out Ibex Climbing and Tours to either rent or have a guide show you the beauty of Ton Sai Tower or possible take you out deep water soloing. Photo: Ibex Climbing

partiers who like to climb.

The classic Krabi-style cliff face provides some pumpy over-hanging routes and plenty of interesting lines on slightly over-hanging to semi-vertical walls. Bring your own gear or hit up one of the climbing shops in town to get what you need to see a view that puts the Phi Phi viewpoint to shame.

If you would rather not see the beauty of the island by going up, take the plunge to see the wonders below the surface.

Ton Sai is jam-packed with dive centers offering a variety of different dives – many now touting a new shipwreck. Sitting at a maximum depth of 26 meters, the 47-meter Royal Thai Navy ship *Kled Kaeo* was sunk this year to give a boost to the tourism industry. Go check it out.

Luckily, you don't have to base yourself in Ton Sai to take advantage of the tropical coral reefs in the Phi Phi Marine Park.

Many of the high-end resorts

in the north work in conjunction with quality dive shops and some even have them on site.

Those travellers who want to straddle the serenity of the isolated north with riding the mechanical bull in Ton Sai can book dives at Long Beach, with either Blacktip Scuba or Long Beach Divers.

The bottom line is that no matter where you stay, how you get there or what you do, Phi Phi will leave you with loads of memories – or maybe a tattoo.

### Party To-Do List:

- 1) Ride the mechanical bull at Slinky Bar. The goal is to straddle the heartless beast for 240 seconds as it spins, dips and does its best to deprive you of what you probably don't need at that point in the night – a "free" bucket. The great temptation is to hug the horns and hang on for dear life. However, you will come sliding over its head. The key is in the hips. Ride the bull like you want to be ridden. Last weekend, a lady hopped on and got a free bucket after riding it for 240 seconds – no hands.
- 2) Reggae Bar Muay Thai. Another chance for a "free" bucket. Step into the ring with a friend or a stranger and fight for your right to party. And no, you aren't the first person to think you and a buddy can take it easy on each other. You certainly won't be the first one to realize that a friend can – and will – KO you while taking it "easy".
- 3) Body paint. Slinky Bar's black lights and throbbing base keep the beach-rave vibe going. Let the artists go crazy. So what if the dragon on your back looks like a carrot?
- 4) Dance. Don't make up excuses – just do it. Here is a place where nobody can look particularly bad at dancing as long as they're moving.
- 5) Get a tattoo (see party not-to-do list).

### Party Not-To-Do List:

- 1) Get a drunk tattoo. The tattoo parlors stay open later than the bars; there is a reason for this. You don't want to be the one bent over getting a tattoo of a monkey eating bananas on your backside in the blurry morning haze. You also don't want to get matching tattoos with that girl/guy whose name you forgot to ask for.
- 2) Lose your friends in the crowd. The night is wild and you're having fun, but your friends are your first and last line of protection. Party safe.
- 3) Climb the half-a-tree log that's sticking out of the sand in front of Slinky Bar. Would you do it sober? Okay, then wait until you're sober – it's a long way down.
- 4) Naked fire hoop jump, jump rope or limbo. There are some parts of your body where you really don't want to be losing layers of skin.
- 5) Get hit by a bicycle. Thankfully there aren't, for the most part, motor vehicles in Ton Sai. However, trying to avoid the locals on bicycles coming straight at you ringing their bells is difficult enough when you're sober.

### Skip-It List:

- 1) Maya Bay. Yes, we all know Leonardo DeCaprio was there. And yes, it's a beautiful beach. But unless you are willing to wake up at 5:30am and beat the crowd, it's just another sandy beach cluttered by speedboats and overrun by other tourists.
- 2) Speedboat day trips. If you're coming to Phi Phi, come for at least one night. If you don't want the party scene, opt for Long Beach or Laem Tong Beach.
- 3) Photo opportunities with the gibbons. These incredible creatures, usually swaddled in a diapers, are easily found in Phi Phi. It is illegal for the touts to have the gibbons, and the cycle only continues because people are willing to pay for the photos. Please, don't perpetuate the problem.
- 4) Monkey Beach. These primates are regularly fed by all the tour boats that make Monkey Beach a "must see". They can be aggressive – so best to just give it a skip.
- 5) The Phi Phi Hospital. There are far better places to spend your time when you're on the island – so be safe.



# The headline goes here

## On Your Mind

By Patrick Mattimore

HEADLINES matter. The signal a headline sends largely determines whether we'll read a story or not. The headline should contain the most salient point of the article, since it is information from the headline that readers are most likely to retain.

The Society of Professional Journalists Code Of Ethics suggests that newspaper headlines "should not oversimplify or highlight incidents out of context".

There are a couple of problems with this seemingly self-evident proposition.

First, newspaper headlines are generally written not by the reporters or columnists most familiar with the details of the story, but by editors.

Second, those editors are cognizant of a responsibility to attract readers and may therefore succumb to temptations to embellish or slightly misrepresent headlines. Sometimes those overstepped headlines are inadvertent; other times, likely not.

Headlines that promise more than a story can deliver are problematic. Most readers will read only the headlines of at least some stories. At the same time, the readers that go through an entire story may subsequently remember only a fact or several facts which stand out, often those contained in headlines.

Consider, for example, a headline accompanying a July 22 *Bangkok Post* editorial about new restrictions being lifted regarding the media in Thailand: "Easing of curbs on media right decision".

From the headline, one might assume that the writer approved of the new government's recent action of "softening restrictions" it had initially placed on the media. In fact, that does seem to be the writer's general point as he suggests the attempts to muzzle the media had reminded him of

previous governments' attempts at censorship. So far, so good.

But then the editorial slips by proclaiming the original press curbs as "legally-based, straightforward and unpretentious". Why then would the government's restrictions remind the writer of "crude means used by former dictators, both civilian and military, in dealing with the media"?

The headline/opinion paradox blossoms when the writer concludes that the "easing of media curbs is too little. The restrictions should be lifted". As a result, the conclusion of the editorial directly contradicts the headline.

The writer apparently came not to praise Caesar, but to at least throw a little dirt around. That's fine, but readers shouldn't have to guess at the writer's point.

Western news is not innocent of badly misplaying stories either. A recent headline from the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice highlights a poll released in June that the Foundation commissioned from Braun Research: "Poll: Parents Say Too Much Focus on Standardized Tests". The first sentence of the report seems to back up the headline by reporting in part that: "Parents of school-age children are unhappy with the amount of time spent on standardized tests..."

The clear implication from the headline and the first sentence is that most of the respondents to the Braun telephone survey felt that schools were devoting too much time to standardized tests. But that wasn't the case.

The problem with the headline becomes obvious from the poll's data, which found that a majority of American adults responding (57 per cent) thought that the amount of time spent on standardized testing was either "too low" or "about right". Just over a third of respondents felt that the amount of time spent on standardized testing in schools was "too high" with the remaining respondents unsure.

Even among the subset of



Headlines have to be more than eye-catching; they have to be true to the story. Photo: Ulrich Lange

respondents identifying themselves as parents of school children, a minority (44 per cent) felt that standardized testing was taking too much time.

The problem for all of us is that for news and opinions of general interest, we don't really

go behind the scenes or have specialized knowledge. Hence, we rely on reporters and editors to get it right.

Headlines cannot always paint a complete picture. Sometimes it will be nearly impossible to effectively represent a story's nu-

ances within a headline. Headlines, however, should be fully warranted by the stories they accompany.

*The writer is an author at [analyticjournalism.com](http://analyticjournalism.com) and a member of the Society of Professional Journalists. He lives in Phuket.*



Coming up with attractive headlines representing the essence of the story is one of an editor's toughest tasks. Photo: Miss Pupik

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# Challenge champs to return

By Mark Knowles

THIS year's Challenge Laguna Phuket (CLP) will see world champions compete for a slice of the race's 25,000 euro (1 million baht) prize purse.

Following the success of its inaugural event in 2013, the iconic multi-sports weeklong event "Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest" is set to take place again this November with the 21<sup>st</sup> Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT) on November 23 and to culminate by the 2<sup>nd</sup> CLP a week later on November 30.

The unique enduring appeal of LPT is attracting entries from leading international pro athletes, as well as age-group competitors worldwide.

The LPT is comprised of a 1.8km swim, 55km bike, and 12km run and the CLP features 1.9km swim, 90km bike, and 21km run.

To date, a combined 1,308

athletes have signed up for the two main races and an estimated 1,500 athletes are expected to join the race this year.

In the CLP race, 2013 Champion Rasmus Petreaus of Denmark has registered to return to defend his title.

He's set to face strong challenges from a field that will include LPT's triple champion Massimo Cigana (ITA), multiple records holder and 2013's 2<sup>nd</sup> World Champion Luke McKenzie (AUS), and Till Schramm (DEU) who raced the inaugural Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest last year.

LPT and CLP will also see high-caliber fields of elite women pros taking on their tropical challenges.

LPT's triple winner in the women's field, Radka Vodickova (CZE) has confirmed she will race the CLP on 30 November – setting up an intriguing contest with



The iconic multi-sports event 'Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest' is set to take place this November. Photo: Supplied

Tamsin Lewis (GBR) who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in female category last year in both the LPT and CLP, and world-renown Triathlon's

sweetheart and LPT's double female winner Belinda Granger (AUS) will also complete her 12<sup>th</sup> appearance at LPT the

week before. – *Phuket Gazette*

For information and race registration visit: [challengelagunaphuket.com](http://challengelagunaphuket.com)

# ICC claim T20 title after epic final

By David Thomas

THE final of the Sunseeker T20 took place on a gloriously sunny day at the Alan Cooke Ground between the Bondi Bar Bashers and the ICC. BBB's had only lost one game all season, however, that was against ICC and they were very keen to avenge the loss and claim the title at the same time. ICC had been a dangerous team all season with some explosive batting and tight accurate bowlers. The stage was set for an epic final with both teams confident of a win.

ICC won the toss and invited BBB's to have a bat. This would have suited Captain Seemant Raju whose team prefers to set the total.

Back from a break was prolific batsman I Mushtaq who opened with Seemant Raju. Both batsman looked to play positively from the start, however it was I Mushtaq (13) who went first chasing a wide delivery and getting a thick edge to the keeper. This brought Paddy Morton to the crease who continued the steady flow of runs until Seemant Raju (18) was clean bowled by A Virdikar looking to hit over the top of the infield.

Dave Thomas was next in, and together with Paddy Morton, steadied the BBB's innings and but on a valuable 54 run partnership. Both players looking to play positively to the drinks break against accurate ICC bowling.



A jubilant ICC celebrate their victory at the Alan Cooke Cricket Ground. Photo: Michael Way

After drinks, Dave Thomas (27) misjudged a single and was run out from a superb throw trying to regain his ground. Neil Quail (1) was the next batsman but was sent back to the dressing room soon afterwards being caught and bowled off R Naik. Paddy Morton (34) continued to push the runs but was brilliantly caught on the boundary by P Borkar after a good innings. Pir Sami (3) and Anthony Van Blerk (19 not out) contin-

ued to look for every available run until Pir Sami was caught off R Naik. J Swart (9) and Richard Desmond took the total to 143 after their 20 overs. BBB's were awarded 6 penalty runs at the interval for a slow over rate by ICC which took the total to 149.

With a good total to chase, ICC came out to bat with an aggressive attitude. S Ullah and J. Mohammad were the openers but BBB's got an early breakthrough

with I Mushtaq trapping S Ullah (1) LBW in the second over. This brought A Chand to the crease who, together with J Mohammad, started to plunder the BBB bowling attack.

To try to slow the run rate down, Paddy Morton's spin was introduced which worked a treat as he had A Chand (10) trapped LBW. Wickets became hard to come by as the new batsman A Virdikar punished any loose deliveries.

The breakthrough came when Pir Sami pulled off a great catch on the fine leg boundary to send the big hitting J.Mohammad on his way for a brilliant 44 runs.

Pir Sami was again in the action with another fine catch to dismiss A Virdikar (17). At this stage it was anyone's game. S.Kumar attacked for his 14 runs but a fantastic catch by Thai youngster Pao Suttiprapha again put BBB's back in front. D.Vaiganker (11) was dismissed by I Mushtaq as Seemant Raju took a very sharp catch fielding close in.

Tension was high with the last over approaching. However it was B Desai and A Saleam who were the two not out batsman at the end, securing a famous and hard fought victory for the ICC with 4 balls to spare.

So concludes the Sunseeker T20 competition. Phuket cricket now has a few weeks break before the start of the 35 over league.

# Youth soccer to kick off at Thanyapura

PHUKET Soccer Schools (PSS) is bringing the National Youth Tournament back to the island, with over 320 players competing in four age divisions.

This year's tournament, to be held on September 27 and 28 at Thanyapura, will see clubs flying in from various parts of Thailand, including Bangkok, Pattaya, Koh Samui as well as local Phuket teams.

To provide the best possible conditions for the young players, PSS

has teamed up with Thanyapura – granting the competing teams access to world-class soccer facilities. Thanyapura's huge artificial-turf field will be split into smaller, age appropriate football pitches. Age appropriate goals/footballs are used to keep the games entertaining and developmental for the kids.

Teams will compete in four age division: Under 8, U10, U12 and U14. Three top teams in each division will collect trophies. No players

will leave Phuket empty handed – all will receive tournament medals.

Spectators are welcome to attend the tournament. Thanyapura's 1,500-seat covered grandstand will be rocking with cheers and excitement next weekend. Hot food will be available under the grandstand throughout the weekend. Admission is free.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more youth soccer information visit: [phuketsoccerschools.com](http://phuketsoccerschools.com)



Over 320 players will be competing during the tournament. Photo: Supplied



# Thais eye sepak takraw gold

By Kaweewit Kaewjinda

HIS team mates call him the “left-footed killer”, an unlikely nickname for a veteran athlete who plays in the same cheap plimsolls that high school students are forced to wear in his native Thailand.

But with his prolific point-scoring record and deadly finishing, Pornchai Kaokaew carries Thailand’s hopes of delivering them yet another Asian Games gold medal in sepak takraw, an acrobatic hybrid of soccer and volleyball that has spectators gripped with its non-stop dynamism and flair.

Like most of Thailand’s team, Pornchai, 33, is a former soccer player and a soldier groomed by Thailand’s army to maintain the country’s tight stranglehold on a sport few outside of Asia have even heard of.

And a gold medal this month in Incheon, South Korea, brings the added bonus of one million baht (US\$31,123), a sum equivalent to nine years of earnings on the basic salary of most Thai soldiers.

“It’s been another motivating factor for us to improve ourselves,” Pornchai told Reuters at a training camp before departing for the Games.

The Thais have won 18 of the 27 Asian Games gold medals awarded in the sport since it made its debut three decades ago, with the men’s team beating Malaysia in the final of the last four team events.

The two countries and Myanmar are among those which claim to have invented sepak takraw, where players cram into a small court and use their head and feet to juggle a rattan ball before teeing it up for one player to blast over the net, akin to a spike in volleyball, or a smash in tennis.

The sport is characterised by electrify-



Pornchai Kaokaew (right) executes an overhead kick. Photo: Carlos Barria/Reuters

ing mid-air moves, including pinpoint volleys and bicycle kicks quicker than the blink of an eye, with teams made up of “killers”, “tekongs” and “feeders”.

## ORIGIN CONTESTED

Sepak takraw’s origins stretch as far back as the 15<sup>th</sup> century as evidenced by documents in museums of both Malaysia and Thailand. Murals can be seen today at Bangkok’s gilded Temple of the Emerald

Buddha, or Wat Phra Kaew, which is seen by thousands of tourists daily.

Thai head coach Kamol Tankimhong doesn’t care who invented the sport but says his country has played a big part in advancing it, making it a permanent fixture in the Asiad and a blue ribbon event at the biennial South East Asian Games.

“Malaysians say it originated from Malaysia, Myanmar says it originated from them, the truth is that we are one of the

countries that have passed the sport on throughout generations,” Kamol told Reuters.

“I’m very confident that we can retain our gold medals like in every other Asian Games in the past.”

The Thai men’s team begins their campaign on Tuesday against South Korea in Group A at the Bucheon Gymnasium. This year’s hosts are the only non-Southeast Asian country to win a sepak takraw gold, having claimed the men’s circle title in 2002.

Thailand is banking on Pornchai to deliver the goods. He has played the sport for 22 years, during which he has honed his kicking skills by spending hours working with a ball tied to the floor.

This week, he’ll be wearing his trusted “Nanyang” plimsolls, the 400 baht (US\$12) shoes he prefers to modern performance footwear.

“I’ve tried out many other types of shoes but Nanyangs are the best,” he added.

Thailand will be led by team captain Suriyan Paechan, playing in his fifth games since winning gold in the 1998 tournament. He soon turns 40 and this could be his swansong year.

“To carry on playing another four years would be difficult. I’d be 44 by then,” he said. “I’ve set a target to perform my duties as best as I can and to have my name go down in history by obtaining another gold medal.”

Before he bows out, Suriyan wants to see the sport gain traction outside of Asia and says the high level of skill and the drama it generates warrants a bigger international profile.

“I’d love it for foreigners to play Takraw,” he said. “Takraw has a lot of character. It’s exciting to see people jump and do flips in the air.” — Reuters

# Bears maul the Jets

THE Chicago Bears struck early and never trailed as they rode two Martellus Bennett touchdowns to a 27-19 win over the New York Jets on Monday.

The Jets trailed 14-0 early on and while the home side battled hard to come back, getting within five points in the fourth quarter, the Bears were able to hold them out.

The Jets had marched into the red zone in the final minute and at fourth and five from the nine-yard-line, quarterback Geno Smith connected with Jeremy Kerley at the back of the end zone, but the wide receiver failed to keep his feet in bounds.

Bears’ tight end Bennett’s two touchdown grabs were from quarterback Jay Cutler, who passed for 225 yards. Wide receiver Alshon Jeffery had 105 yards from eight receptions.

Jets quarterback Smith threw for 316 yards and a touchdown but was left to rue two interceptions.

The Bears had a fast start when Ryan Mundy intercepted Smith on just the second play in the game, running it back 45 yards for an early 7-0 lead.



The Bears beat the Jets 27-19. Photo: Robert Deutsch-USA TODAY Sports

Chicago then took advantage of a muffed punt return by Jalen Saunders that gave them superb field position for Cutler to connect with Bennett four plays later for a seven yard score and 14-0 lead inside the opening six minutes.

Two Nick Folk field goals for New York sandwiched a three-pointer from Robbie Gould before Smith connected with wide receiver Jeremy Kerley for 19 yards

and a Jets touchdown to narrow the gap to 17-13 by halftime.

Bennett’s second touchdown early in the third period opened up a 24-13 Bears lead before two Folk field goals pulled the Jets within five at 24-19.

Gould then extended the lead with a 45-yard field goal with three and half minutes remaining to ensure the Jets could not come back.

— Reuters

# Ferrari hopeful after Singapore Grand Prix

FERRARI drivers Kimi Raikkonen and Fernando Alonso were optimistic for the future after the much-changed Italian team showed signs of progress with both drivers in the points at the Singapore Grand Prix on Sunday.

Spaniard Alonso finished fourth under the floodlights at the Marina Bay street circuit while Finn Raikkonen was eighth after complaining about being stuck behind the slower Williams cars for much

of a race renowned for a lack of overtaking.

That came in the first Grand Prix since long-serving Ferrari president Luca di Montezemolo announced last week he was stepping down.

His exit will follow that of team principal Stefano Domenicali, who was replaced by Marco Mattiacci in April and 2007 world champion Raikkonen said the changes were having a positive impact. — Reuters

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