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# Phuket Gazette

## Legals threaten to go rogue

Jet-ski operators say they will join cowboys, if action isn't taken



INSIDE TODAY

January 17 - 23, 2015 | PhuketGazette.Net | In partnership with **The Nation**

20 Baht

# Rancid flow



Chlorine is added to the rancid pool of water that eventually overflows and spills across the beach into the bay. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

## Surin Beach runs foul with rubbish, rubble, wastewater

By **Voratuss Intasee**

TOURISTS, expats and locals will continue to face the horrific view of black, untreated wastewater seeping across Surin Beach into the bay until the end of 2015, the president of the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration

Organization (*OrBorTor*) said this week. "When the wastewater treatment plants are complete, there will never be black water again," he told the *Gazette*. "But until the project is complete, all I can do is apologize for the black water."

Construction of the treatment plants in Surin and Bang Tao, to the tune of 355 million baht, started on August 8, 2012.

"Although they were contracted to begin functioning by August 8 this year, the project has had some delays and will not be ready until near the end of this year," Mr Ma-ann said, without any explanation for the contractors' failure to perform.

"We have sewage trucks collecting waste-

water directly from buildings along the canal to reduce the volume of wastewater entering the stream.

"We also add chlorine to the black pond before the water crosses the beach, as a disinfectant and to reduce the stink. This is the best we can do at the moment," he admitted.

The putrid water is just one of several issues plaguing the popular beach, which also suffers from uncollected rubbish and piles of rubble from the "cleanup campaign" that was ordered by the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) last year.

"Although we have trash bins...

Continued on Page 6

## Traffickers tell cost of bribing Thai officials

TWO confessed human traffickers found in hiding after an attempted transfer of Rohingya to Malaysia was disrupted in Phang Nga told officers that they had bribed many officials along the way in previous runs.

The men said that they paid officers at checkpoints about 300,000 baht per truckload of people. They then sold each person for about 80,000 baht, with women fetching higher prices.

Full Story Page 7

## Gov Nisit targets safety, hygiene at work camps

GOVERNOR Nisit Jansomwong demanded that a special committee under the Phuket Land Office be established to regulate safety and health issues at worker camps, following a massive gang brawl between Myanmar and Cambodian nationals on January 1.

Full Story Page 6

## Dredging canal project adds needed depth

THE extension of the Koh Kaew canal, which leads to Royal Phuket Marina and Boat Lagoon, was completed on December 28, allowing easier passage for big boats and yachts to the area.

Full Story Page 6

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## This Week



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How one Kata resort has responded to the Russian crisis. **Page 11**



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Predictions for 2015 on the island's property market. **Page 29**



### Food

Take in Phuket flavors and views at Senzees restaurant. **Page 31**



### In Focus

Local Phuket artist puts expressionist works on display. **Page 33**



### Environment

One young Phuketian takes a stab at organic farming. **Page 35**



### Sport

European Tour player Shiv Kapur tees off at Laguna. **Page 39**

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# Eight of island's top officers transferred

By Khumpee Prasertphol

A SWEEPING transfer of eight of the island's 10 police superintendents comes with short notice as the high season charges into 2015.

The Public Affairs Division of the Royal Thai Police announced the orders on Tuesday.

The following superintendents will be transferred as follows:

### DEPARTING

- Patong Police Superintendent Chiraphat Pochanaphan will be stationed in Phang Nga province.
- Karon Police Superintendent Sirisak Wasasiri will be stationed in Phang Nga province.
- Chalong Police Superintendent Krittapas Dazinthasorn will be stationed in Phang Nga province.
- Phuket City Police Superintendent Sermphan Sirikong will be stationed in Chumphon province.
- Cherng Talay Police Superintendent Paworn Pornpromma will be stationed in Bangkok.
- Thalang Police Superintendent Nattapakin Kawnchaiyapark will be transferred to Chumphon province.
- Thung Thong Police Superintendent Thitirat Asakit will be stationed in Surat Thani province.



Chalong's Col Krittapas will be moved to Phang Nga. Photo: Saran Mitratat

- Wichit Police Superintendent Chaowalit Petch-sribia will move to Thung Thong Police in Phuket.

### ARRIVING

- Patong Police Station will be taken over by Col Chaiwat Auikam from Ranong province.
- Karon Police Station will be taken over by Col Sompong Boonrat from Phang Nga province.
- Chalong Police Station will be taken over by Col Noppadon Thiraprawat from Takuapa.
- Phuket City Police Station will be taken over by Col Kraitong Chantongbai from Phang Nga

province.

- Cherng Talay Police Station will be taken over by Col Serm Kwannimit from the Region 8 Police Headquarters.
- Thalang Police Station will be taken over by Col Chanuchan Cholsuwat from Koh Yao Yai in Phang Nga province.
- Thung Thong Police Station will be taken over by Col Chaowalit Petch-sribia.
- Wichit Police Station will be taken over by Lt Col Kittipong Klaikeaw, previously a deputy superintendent at Chalong Police Station.

Phuket's newest officers were to report to duty on January 15.

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## Siblings drown on Children's Day

A PAIR of siblings drowned after they were swept out to sea off Nopparat Thara Beach in Krabi on Children's Day.

Vimvipa Keawyai, 14, and her 12-year-old brother, Vongvut, were swimming with friends in the Son Canal, about 20 meters from their parents, when the accident occurred.

"My wife and I stayed on the beach while the children went off to play on their own," explained the children's father,



The parents mourn their children.

Visut Keawyai.

"About one hour later, one of their friends ran to us and said that both of our kids were drowning. We rushed over to the canal, but it was too late."

Rescue workers were called to

the scene at about 2:30pm and searched for about one hour before they found the body of Vimvipa.

At about 7pm, rescuers recovered Vongvut's body, which was caught under a boat in the canal.

"We believe a strong wave from passing boats dragged the children out to sea, and they were not able to make it back to shore," Lt Natthapat Putthan-garoe of the Krabi City Police told the *Gazette*.

— Kraitsada Mueanhawong




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## Massive sinkhole that killed 7-year-old Molly repaired

OFFICIALS have fixed the rural road that claimed the life of 7-year-old Molly Anne Bailey after the truck she was travelling in plunged into a massive sinkhole.

The repair of Rural Road 4008, off Thepkasattri Road, was fast-tracked following the tragic accident.

"We actually received the budget to fix the road the day before the accident. However, the next step was to find a contractor, which could have taken a month or so. Then, it could

have been at least three months before they finished," Srisoonthorn Mayor Worawut Songyot told the *Gazette*.

However, after Governor Nisit Jansomwong marked the project as urgent, it took only four days following the fatal accident for a contractor to be signed, and only about one month for the road to be fixed.

The project was completed on January 6 and announced as "ready to use" last Thursday. — *Khumpae Prasertphol*



The road is now fixed. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz



The residents talk to police.

## Three foreigners' homes robbed in one fell swoop

THREE foreign neighbors were robbed on the night of January 10 of cash and valuables amounting to more than 100,000 baht.

"The three bungalows are located next door to each other and were robbed sometime last night or early this morning," said Thalang Police Superintendent Sirisak Wasasiri the next day.

"The owners of the properties have been living here for years and rarely lock their doors at night."

The three residents awoke on January 11 to find a number of valuables and cash missing, and all admitted to leaving their doors unlocked.

Folie Emiliemme, 59, a Belgian national, said that she had lost about 30,000 baht in cash, along with her passport and credit cards. Also missing from her home were two bottles of liquor, she said.

Vandoorne Marc, 47, also from Belgium, told police that a laptop, an iPhone 5 and about 3,000 baht in cash had been stolen from his bungalow, along with credit cards.

Louise Martinez, 68, from France, said that 7,000 baht in cash had been taken from her home, along with a gold necklace, an ivory bracelet and cash cards.

"An accomplice probably waited on a motorbike while the thief climbed over the walls and entered the three properties," Col Sirisak explained.

"The burglar must have known that the residents didn't lock their doors at night, which suggests that he or she is acquainted with the residents. We will continue our investigation and try to catch the culprits." — *Thawit Bilabduar*

# Beach vendors return

## Three popular tourist beaches to see vendors back for trial run

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THREE of Phuket's most popular beaches, which have been given the green light for a three-month beach vendor trial period, were inspected by officials on January 7 to establish vendor-friendly zones.

The trial period was announced at a meeting in Provincial Hall last month by Governor Nisit Jansomwong, during which he laid down a stringent list of conditions under which vendors will be permitted to return to work.

The three beaches inspected yesterday were Kata, Karon and Nai Harn. No specific date was given for when the trial period will begin, but vendors are expected to return to the sands next month, Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak confirmed to the *Gazette* on January 8.

"We have decided to allow beach vendors back to these three beaches as a trial of our overall beach organization plan," he explained.

"If these trials prove successful, we will have other Phuket beaches start their trials as well. We will discuss the plan with local administrative offices and beach vendors beforehand."

The same rules will apply for the vendors as were announced by Governor Nisit last month,



Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak (in light blue) inspects one of the beaches.

said V/Gov Somkiet.

"We understand that vendors are facing problems after they lost their jobs due to the NCPO [National Council for Peace and Order] beach-cleanup campaign last year. This is why we are trying to find a compromise that will allow them

to work, but also keep the beaches clean," he explained.

Local village chief Aroonsri Klanma expressed her gratitude for the changes.

"We are very satisfied that the governor has finally allowed vendors back on the beach. The

vendors on Kata and Karon beaches are all locals and were greatly affected by the cleanup campaign," she said.

"They have been jobless for a while and their savings are running low. This will bring their spirits back."

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## Bicycle thief busted with gun lighter

POLICE tracked down and arrested a cyclist on Monday after he robbed his local Family Mart with a lighter gun to buy some beer a few hours earlier.

Key to finding the suspect, Narin Gamegaeman, 26, was that he made his getaway on his bicycle, said Maj Col Thitirat Arsakij of the Thung Thong Police.

Officers were called to the store, located on Wichit Songkram Road in Kathu, at about 9:30pm.

"The man came in to the shop, pulled out his gun, and said, 'Give me the money!'", cashier Daojai Panthuan told the police.

After sharing CCTV images of the robbery in action with local cycling clubs, police quickly learned that the suspect was Mr Narin.

"We went to his rented room, which is near the store, and arrested him," said Col Thitirat.

"We charged him for the robbery. During questioning by police, he told us that he needed the money to buy some beer and that he had only 100 baht left."

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

# Legal jet-ski operators threaten to go cowboy

By Voratuss Intasee

FED UP with illegal jet-ski operators serving tourists at Bang Tao Beach, the local legal jet-ski brigade on Monday threatened to abandon all legalities and join the jet-ski cowboys.

Unregistered and uninsured jet-skis and parasail boats returned to the beach in November, said Surachai Yomdee, head of the Bang Tao Jet-Ski Club.

"The illegal jet-skis and parasail boats do not have the required stickers indicating that they are legally registered with the authorities," he said.

Mr Surachai also alleged that the parasail boat involved in an incident last week that saw a staffer plunge more than 30 meters from the sky was illegal.

"Every time we report these illegal operators, the Phuket Office of the Marine Department just keeps stalling. We need higher



Mr Surachai points at a license sticker on a legal jet-ski. Photo: Woranut Pechdee

levels of government to help us," he told the *Gazette*.

"We don't know why these illegal operators do whatever they want, as they have done for a long time..."

"But if the Marine Office con-

tinues to ignore this, we will not renew our tourism-business licences, re-register our jet-skis, renew our insurance policies, or follow any of the rules."

The Bang Tao Jet-Ski Club comprises 40 operators, who are

all legally registered tourism operators and whose jet-skis are registered and insured, Mr Surachai explained.

"If there is no action on this, we will refuse to be legal," he said. "We can be just like the rest of them without having to pay the extra costs."

Phuriphat Theerakulpisut, chief of the Phuket Marine Office, told the *Gazette* on Tuesday morning that he was aware of the ultimatum laid down by the legal operators.

"I dispatched officers today to catch the illegal jet-ski operators at Bang Tao," he said.

However, regarding the allegedly illegal parasail boat involved in the 30m free fall by the staffer, he added, "I have no information about that."

Mr Phuriphat last week admitted to the *Gazette* that he was aware of the free fall incident, but refused to comment further.

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## Transport department makes move to privatize driving test

THE Department of Land Transport (DLT) has begun to roll out its campaign to privatize driving tests, with the goal of having private-company driving schools conduct all the practical and theory tests on the government's behalf by 2017.

People applying for their first driver's licence will soon be able to watch the mandatory training video at a driving school instead of at the Phuket Land Transportation Office (PLTO) in Phuket Town.

"This hasn't happened yet, but applicants soon will be able to watch the training video at a private driving school that has been accredited by the DLT," said Terayout Prasertphol, chief of the PLTO.

The move follows a direct order from the DLT in Bangkok, Mr Terayout told the *Gazette* last week.

The PLTO has already cut down the number of days on which it shows the video for people applying for their first driver's licence.

"Cutting down on the [number of video screenings] at our office is the first step in this change," Mr Terayout said.

"Throughout January, we are [showing the video] only on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. In February, the video will be shown on Monday through Wednesday."

All people applying for their first licence must watch a four-hour training video. Drivers applying to renew their licences must watch a one-hour "refresher" video.

With the PLTO overloaded with applicants, the office will allow



Mr Terayout explains that schools will be accredited by the DLT.

people to come in on a day that the video is not being shown and take queue cards (take a number) for the next screening, Mr Terayout added.

Mr Terayout stressed that people looking to renew their licences remained unaffected by the change.

"The one-hour video is still shown at the PLTO, Monday through Friday, as it has been for a long time," he said.

The goal of the "privatization" campaign is to have driving schools conduct both the practical and the theory tests so that students who have passed accredited driving courses can present their certificates – issued by private companies – to the PLTO in order to be issued their driver's licences, Mr Terayout explained.

"Driving school instructors will be accredited directly by the DLT and random inspections of the driving schools will be carried out by DLT officers," he said.

"The idea is to have more people taught by qualified driving instructors before they are issued their licences."

— **Khumpee Prasertphol**



# Tourism officials clamp down

## Four tourism agencies swept up in provincial crackdown on illegal operations

By Voratuss Intasee

OFFICERS have shut down four tour companies within the last three weeks, as the Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MOTS) Phuket office cracks down on illegal tour practices.

Sub Aqua Dive Center on January 5 was forced to stop providing snorkelling and diving excursions following the closure of Hou Hai Diver Co Ltd on December 31.

"The company S.A.D.C. Co Ltd originally had all its paperwork in good order, with the company having three registered directors: two Thais, Suthin Kiridej and Noi Kiridej, and one British national, Kerry Leach," explained Santi Pawai, MOTS Phuket office director.

However, when the company renewed its license, there was only one director: British national Marc Francis Pariti. It is illegal for more than half a company's directors to be foreigners.

The company was told that it could remain open, but could only do so as a retail center. Mr Pariti



Santi Pawai, director of the MOTS Phuket office, shut down Pink Angle Travel Co Ltd. Photo: MOTS

was banned from registering a company for tourism or guiding services for five years.

"Quite simply, I made a mistake," Mrs Leach told the *Gazette*.

"When I left Thailand in September 2013, I had to remove myself as managing director of

S.A.D.C. Co Ltd. This was done, but unknown to me, the lawyer actually removed all directors: myself and the Thai parties involved in the company. Marc Pariti was then made managing director, but it went unnoticed to us that there was no Thai director

on the company registration."

Mrs Leach explained that a new company was already being set up with no foreign directors.

After officers put a stop to non-retail ventures at Sub Aqua Diving Center, Mr Santi also revoked the license of Pink Angle Travel Co Ltd.

"The company received its first warning from me in November concerning the use of foreign employees as sales representatives and guides," Mr Santi said.

"However, they persisted, so we had to revoke their license. We cannot allow them to damage Thailand's tourism industry."

Thitaree Wathanathanyanonm, the director of the company, was banned from registering a company for tourism or guiding services for five years.

Mr Sanit confirmed that Pink Angle Travel had been shutdown.

The last of the four companies tangled up in the recent crackdown was BG Holiday Co Ltd.

Russian national Yuliya Tsybiktarova, 29, was caught by plainclothes Tourist Police officers as she escorted seven foreigners from a van and described the scenery at Karon View Point to them.

Ms Tsybiktarova was charged with being an illegal tour guide and her company faces penalties for operating a tourism business without proper licensing.

## Officers fear Chalong underpass mayhem



Samak Luedwonghad, Phuket Highways Office director. Photo: Gazette file

THE Phuket Highways Office and consultancy experts are scrambling to find alternative routes for motorists to avoid serious congestion once construction of the Chalong underpass begins next year.

Slated to cost up to 800 million baht, construction of the underpass is expected to have a damming effect on traffic at the critical southern roundabout, Chalong Circle, said Samak Luedwonghad, director of the Phuket Highways Office.

"We are aware of how bad traffic there already is. It will surely become worse when construction begins," he told the *Gazette*.

"The roads at the junction are narrow and serve a large volume of traffic – and it seems to only get worse. We have no choice but to come up with a plan to minimize the impact that the construction will have on motorists."

At a meeting in July 2013, the governor at the time, Maitri

Inthusut, rated Chalong Circle as the busiest junction in the south of the island.

The underpass will need to serve about 53,000 cars per day, accounting for about 60 per cent of all traffic in Muang District, he said.

Mr Samak confirmed to the *Gazette* that his office will not create any new roads to alleviate traffic while the construction is underway. The project is expected to take more than two years.

"We have yet to decide what are the best options for alternative routes," Mr Samak said. "Local people know the back roads and shortcuts, but we still have to look at these more closely to see if they are the best option, or even appropriate as alternative routes."

"We have no plans to build new roads, but we will look into improving the connections between Chao Fa East and Chao Fa West Road."

– Chutharat Plerin

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The women speak with police.

## Russian women spared ravages of jungle trek

TWO Russian women were spared the ordeal of becoming lost in the Phang Nga jungle after a police officer realized that they were heading for potential trouble on Monday night.

Named by police only as Ms Susan, 21, and Ms Vilka, 23, the women were spotted heading into the jungle at Khao Nang Hong, a 400-meter-high mountain ecotourist site.

"It was almost dark when one of our officers stopped them," said Thap Put Police Superintendent Kraithong Chanthongbai.

The women explained to the officer that they were on their way to a see a friend in Ranong, but they had no money to take a bus because their bags were stolen while swimming in Krabi.

"They thought they were walking in the right direction toward Phang Nga Town, but instead they were heading into the jungle, where they could have easily become lost – or worse," Col Kraithong told the *Gazette*.

"The officer brought them to the police station, where we gave them some food and booked in to a hotel for the night.

"After breakfast this morning, police took them to the bus station and put them on a bus to Ranong, where their friend will pick them up – all expenses paid by the police," he said.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

## B12mn canal dredging project comes to an end

THE extension of the Koh Kaew canal, which leads to Royal Phuket Marina and Boat Lagoon, was completed on December 28, allowing easier passage for big boats and yachts to the area.

"We no longer have to worry about big boats getting stuck in the canal. We can also better manage our boat departure and arrival schedules; it is now a much more reliable service for our guests," a staffer from Royal Phuket Marina, who declined to be named, told the *Gazette* on January 8.

At low tide, the canal is now about two meters deep.

"The number of boats berthed at our marina has already increased to 90 per cent this high season.

"We have made our guests aware of the canal improvements, and I am sure that the Koh Kaew tourism economy will improve as a result."

Some local fisherman, however, are not pleased about the effects the canal dredging project has had on the environment and their businesses.

"Other fishermen and I cannot work like we did before. The mud that remains in the

canal has hardened, which has made it difficult for us to find shellfish. We are also now unable to use our mud sleds [to find clams]," said local Sapam community fisherman Mr Kai, who declined to reveal his full name.

Mr Kai added that he used to manage a green mussel and blood cockle farm in the area.

"Despite the difficulties we now face, no one wants to file a complaint. We don't want any trouble. We just want to live in peace."

– *Voratus Intasee*

## Worker camp safety, hygiene will be regulated: Gov Nisit

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A SPECIAL committee will be set up to manage and oversee security and safety at Phuket's numerous construction worker camps following a spate of violent clashes, Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong announced on January 9.

The move follows a massive gang brawl on January 1 between construction workers from Cambodia and Myanmar at a camp for workers involved in the expansion of Phuket International Airport.

"We will set up a special committee under the Phuket Land Office to manage the camps housing construction workers as soon as possible. I don't want to see any more fights breaking out at these camps," said Gov Nisit.

"The committee will be responsible for registering all foreign workers, as well as managing the security and hygiene of worker camps to ensure that there is no spread or outbreak of disease."

According to records kept by



Governor Nisit Jansomwong will set up a committee to oversee worker camp safety and security.

the Phuket Provincial Governor's Office, Gov Nisit said that there were approximately 1,500 worker camps based in Phuket, however, there were many others that were not properly registered.

The Phuket Land Development

committee, which is responsible for the supervision of new land developments – including the overseeing of drainage and wastewater management systems – will also be given the responsibility of ensuring that newly-established

worker camps follow proper building guidelines for trash and wastewater disposal, Gov Nisit said.

"I plan to have the committee to oversee worker camps set up within a week," Gov Nisit said.

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## Official calls on beach-goers to keep the beaches tidy, beautiful

From page 1

...there, people don't use them," said Mr Ma-ann.

"There's a lot of garbage strewn all over the place, and every day we have workers clearing junk dumped on the sand."

Mr Ma-ann called for all beach-goers – tourists, residents and vendors – to keep the beach tidy.

"If everyone does their part, we can keep the beach beautiful forever," he said.

Regarding rubble left over on the beach from last year's cleanup campaign, Mr Ma-ann said that his officers were doing their best to recover whatever rubble they could.

"Any debris left lying around is usually visible only during low tide," he said. "We are doing our best to recover it, but often it has been moved further out into the



Mr Ma-ann says his officers are doing their best to recover rubble left over from last year's beach cleanup campaign. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

water by the strong tides, and it is half-covered with sand, making it harder to spot," he said.

"Officers are collecting the debris to use it as part of the foundation in building new seawall."

The seawall project was launched after strong storm surges year after year eroded much of the beachfront, and threatened to topple a lifeguard tower into the sea last year.



# Payoffs taken to bypass police

Human smugglers claim corrupt Thai officials accept hefty bribes to allow truckloads of trafficked people past police checkpoints

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

CORRUPT Thai officials allegedly accept bribes of about 300,000 baht per truckload of trafficked people in order to allow human smugglers past checkpoints, it has been revealed.

The revelation comes after police on Tuesday arrested two of three men who attempted to smuggle more than 50 Rohingya through Takuapa, Phang Nga, north of Phuket, to Malaysia on January 5.

Officers discovered Rittidej

Kongsong, 33, from the Thai border province of Ranong, and Wirat Kulkij, 45, from Phang Nga, hiding in a local villager's house.

"Mr Wirat has confessed to us that he had smuggled migrant workers through Thailand at least twice before," said Takuapa District Chief Mani Pianthong.

"Each time, there were more than two vehicles involved and [the traffickers] were

'For the operation to be this big, there must be many government officers in many different positions involved.'

— Mani Pianthong,  
Takuapa District Chief

forced to bribe government officers along the way."

Mr Wirat told officers that to cover the costs of the bribes and operations he was paid 80,000



Officers found the confessed human smugglers hiding out at a local villager's house.

baht per male human-trafficking victim.

"Women fetch higher prices," Mr Mani added.

Based on Mr Wirat's confession, Mr Mani is concerned about the potential size of the human-trafficking operation.

"For the operation to be this big, there must be many government officers in many different positions involved," he said.

Mr Wirat and Mr Rittidej, who also confessed, were taken to Takuapa Police Station and remain in police custody.

They have been charged with smuggling people into Thailand.

"We are now hunting down the last suspect involved in the case. We will continue questioning the men in order to find out who else is involved in the network," Mr Mani said.



A happy ending, as police catch their man. Photos: Royal Thai Police

## Masturbator milks Doraemon for cover

POLICE in Pattaya have tracked down and arrested a man who donned a Doraemon dress and masturbated in public while parked outside stores in the bustling seaside resort town.

Police were alerted to the man's antics after a video posted on Facebook went viral. The video shows the man in his Doraemon dress, safety helmet and surgical mask, rolling up on his motorcycle in a quiet side street, pulling out his magical wand and beginning his onanistic act.

Officers began their hunt for the "Dirty Doraemon", and on January 9 posted a happy ending on their Facebook page, dubbed Thailand Police Story.

"We received a tip-off from local residents that the man had exposed himself again – this time on Soi 6/1, off the Pattaya Beach Road," said Lt Col Phumisit Singtueng of the Pattaya City Police.

"We rushed to the scene, where



we easily identified the suspect by the dress he was wearing."

In making the arrest, officers also found white women's underwear under the motorcycle seat.

"I don't want to do this, but I can't stop," Jetpinit Nonsirat, 22, told police.

"It's like I have some mental problem. Every time I wear the Doraemon dress, I want to pull my thing out."


Mr Jetpinit was fined 500 baht for indecent exposure and his parents were called to the police station to claim him. They were also asked to find some way for him to receive treatment for his condition.

— Sanook.com


## DINING

DESTINATION FOR EVERY TASTE  
ON THE BOARDWALK OF  
ROYAL PHUKET MARINA


BRING  
THIS VOUCHER  
AND RECEIVE A  
10% OFF  
YOUR MEAL




THE SPEAKEASY




PASTA BASTA




MADAME SAIGON




SEA BREEZE




LES ANGES




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## AROUND THE nation

### Cops called in over claims of kidnapping, B2mn bribe

SEVEN police officers are to be summoned to explain allegations that they demanded 2 million baht from South Koreans operating an illegal online gambling den.

Investigators are also set to issue summons for all South Koreans involved in the case, reported *The Nation*.

"Two of the accused policemen are from inspector level. The rest are from non-commissioned ranks. They all work for the Metropolitan Police Division 5," Police spokesman Lt Gen Prawut Thawornsiri said on Monday.

"Their supervisor has already been instructed to summon them to testify. If they are found guilty, they will face harsh legal action."

The news broke after a complaint was lodged earlier this month with the Crime Suppression Division (CSD) of the Royal Thai Police alleging that three South Koreans were abducted for ransom.

A CSD team rushed to the South Koreans' condo, but did not find anyone. Later, the three were found safe at a shopping complex.

"They said they had already paid some money to their kidnapers," CSD acting commander Col Akraej Pimonsri said.

In addition to the people reported as kidnap victims, there were also two other South Koreans involved, he noted.

"Investigators will interrogate all of them," Col Akraej said. The South Korean Embassy in Bangkok has been in contact with police handling the case.

In a related development, a lawyer for a South Korean lodged a defamation complaint against the three alleged kidnap victims. "My client came forward to help them with bail proceedings, but he ended up being accused of wrongdoing," the lawyer said.

# Rohingya woman dead, 98 trafficking victims found

By Amy Sawitta Lefevre

ONE woman was found dead in the back of one of five vehicles being used to traffic 98 Rohingya through Phang Nga, north of Phuket [see page 7], that were intercepted by police in Nakhon Sri Thammarat on January 11.

Dozens of children – 42 boys and girls under the age of 14 – were among the suspected trafficking victims from Myanmar, police said on Monday, as more checkpoints were set up in the region to combat the trade.

Two Thai drivers suspected of trafficking the Rohingya, a mostly stateless Muslim minority from western Myanmar, were being interrogated, said Capt Somporn Thongcheen, a deputy inspector for Hua Sai district, where the group was found.

The officers who intercepted the five vehicles, including three pick-up trucks, at a checkpoint in Hua Sai district discovered dozens of "very thin and tired men, women and children".

"This is our first discovery of a group of Rohingya that suggests that smuggling in this region might have increased in recent years," said Capt Somporn.

The refugees were being held in a government shelter in Hua Sai. If police follow the usual routine, they will be sent back to Myanmar



Muhammed Ariful Islam, who was held captive on a ship before being left on a remote island, cries at a shelter in Phang Nga. Photo: Reuters

or could languish in a shelter for months before the government decides what to do with them.

Thailand is ranked one of the world's worst countries for trafficking. It was downgraded to the lowest "Tier 3" status last June on the US State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report

for not fully complying with minimum standards for its elimination.

Last week, Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha said his government would step up measures against human trafficking as the nation tries to improve its record.

A Reuters special report suggests trafficking routes in

Thailand are thriving, with some Rohingya held for ransom by trafficking gangs at jungle camps near the border with Malaysia until relatives pay – usually several thousand dollars – for their release.

Interrogation of the two Thai drivers suggested the trucks were heading for Songkhla, near the Thai-Malaysian border, Capt Somporn said.

Tens of thousands of Rohingya have fled Myanmar since 2012, when violent clashes with ethnic Rakhine Buddhists killed hundreds and made about 140,000 homeless.

About 12,000 Rohingya have left Rakhine since October 15, said Chris Lewa of the Arakan Project, which plots migration across the Bay of Bengal.

Another 4,000 boat people, both Rohingya and Bangladeshis, left neighboring Bangladesh during the same period, he said.

"Where are they?" said Ms Lewa. "We have become very concerned."

Authorities in Southern Thailand have increased road checkpoints to try to intercept smugglers, said Manit Pianthong, chief of Takuapa district in Phang Nga province.

"The scale of the smuggling problem in this region is big," said Mr Manit. "These road checkpoints are one way of intercepting smugglers."

– Reuters / The Nation

## Former MP arrested on B11mn fraud charge

FORMER Pheu Thai Party MP Chaowarin Latthasaksiri was arrested on Monday for allegedly trying to cheat a Cambodian firm out of 11 million baht.

Immigration Police arrested Mr Chaowarin at Suvarnabhumi Airport at noon, as he was about to board a flight. The 70-year-old former politician was taken to a Bangkok court to be served his first 12-day detention period pending police interviews with five more witnesses.

An arrest warrant issued by the Criminal Court alleged that Mr Chaowarin and his accomplices last May hacked an e-mail to deceive the Cambodian firm into wiring him 11mn baht. The hacked e-mail deceived the

company BPC into thinking the new account belonged to TPI Thailand. It was later found to belong to a charity organization of which Mr Chaowarin was a member. The Cambodian firm was planning to use the money to buy cement from TPI Thailand.

Mr Chaowarin maintained his innocence and said he did not know where the money came from. He assumed it was a charity donation – so it was spent accordingly, reported *The Nation*.

The Ratchadapisek Criminal Court later on Monday released Mr Chaowarin on a 1mn-baht bail guarantee and prohibited him from leaving the country unless he is permitted to by the court.



Former Pheu Thai Party MP Chaowarin Latthasaksiri was arrested on Monday on fraud charges. Photo: The Nation

# WWF launches Thai campaign to save elephants

ENTERTAINMENT and media celebrities have joined the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) "Chor Chaang Saving Elephants" campaign against the ivory trade by removing the Thai letter *chor chang* from their names.

*Chang* means elephant in Thai, and *chor chang* (also called *chor chaang*) is a common consonant in the Thai alphabet.

While Thailand has an ancient affinity with elephants, it is also the world's second-largest unregulated ivory market after China. The WWF estimates that more than 20,000 African elephants are slain every year for ivory and that Thailand is the destination for much of this ivory, reported *The Nation*.

"As long as there is demand for ivory,

all elephants are at risk," said Janpai Ongsiriwittaya, Wildlife Trade Campaign Manager for WWF Thailand.

The WWF is inviting all Thais to join the campaign by removing or hiding the *chor chang* letter from their names, places, signboards and elsewhere, then posting a photo of it on Facebook, Instagram and/or Twitter accounts, tagged with #ChorChaang #wwfthailand to show their support.

Nation TV, ThaiRath TV and their



A flyer for WWF's 'Chor Chaang Saving Elephants' campaign. Photo: The Nation

reporters have joined the campaign by removing the *chor chang* letter from the names of their news anchors, TV show titles and on social media.

Celebrities including Thapanee Eadsrichai, Noppatjak Attanon, Suthichai Yoon, Thapchai Yong; Abhisit Vejjajiva; Chalit Nakpawan; Kalamare Patcharasri, Manoch Puttal, Jiranan Pitpreecha,

Chalermchatri Yukol and Messi J Chanathip have joined the effort.

"Every thought and every effort matters

when it comes to putting an end to this illicit trade. I encourage people to join this campaign and speak out against killing elephants, [and to] pledge to never buy, sell or use products made from ivory," Ms Janpai said.

Thailand had until Thursday to present a progress report under the National Ivory Action Plan, which was submitted to CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) on September 30, 2014.

It then has until March 31 to implement the action plan, or risk sanctions that would potentially cost Thai industries over US\$297 million (9.77 billion baht) in lost revenue annually, the WWF said.



# Tackling drug use in Muslim youths

## FIRST PERSON

IT'S not only Muslims who use kratom leaves. In southern Thailand, they are used widely by adults and youngsters from all backgrounds. However, the Koran clearly states that using any kind of drug or stimulant that causes addiction is against Islamic Law.

In my role as president of Narcotics Protection & Suppression of the Central Islamic Committee of Thailand, I oversee such matters. My jurisdiction is not just Phuket, but the whole of Thailand.

A few weeks ago, I took part in a seminar entitled "Thailand Against Narcotics" held at the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) headquarters. Its purpose was mainly to look at ways to rehabilitate drug users.

Thailand's previous drug policy has been aimed mainly at suppressing the use of drugs through law enforcement. This approach has proven to have only a limited effect on the problem. Once convicted drug offenders are released from prison, the majority of them return to using drugs – it's a never-ending cycle.

At our most recent meeting, we looked at a number of different approaches, which focus more on rehabilitation, and came up with several alternative solutions.

One of these solutions is to set up a rehabilitation center where drug offenders can go to receive help. Because of the stigma surrounding drug addiction, the center has been named the "Self-Development Center", so that parents don't feel embarrassed about sending their children there.

Public health experts will be put in charge of the rehabilitation process, and the center will receive its budget from the ONCB, which amounts to 12,000 baht a year for



**Pol Sen Sgt Maj Komon Dumluck**, president of Narcotics Protection and Suppression of the Central Islamic Committee of Thailand, was born in Phuket on April 5, 1967. He graduated from Ramkhamhaeng University in Bangkok with a BA and MA from the Faculty of Political Science. He then went on to secure a PhD from Bangkok's Suan Sunandha

Rajabhat University in Policy & Planning.

Here, he talks about strategies for dealing with the drug problems of Thailand's Muslim youth.

each offender who takes part.

At present, the Islamic Committee of Thailand has contributed 13 million baht to help set up the project. Of that amount, I have already spent about 3mn baht to acquire the six rai of land in Krabi on which the center will be built. The other 10mn will be used to construct the center's facilities.

In addition, I have been in negotiations with Krabi Governor Songphol Sawasdhram, and he has agreed to allow us to use about 870 rai for a farm and animal hospital. The farm will provide new skills and on-the-job training to those people in the drug rehabilitation program, so that they are ready to rejoin their communities when they finally leave. My idea is to support and inspire them to make a positive change in the lives – one that will be drug-free.

Kratom leaves are classified as a category 5 drug, so the penalty for using them is not very serious. It has become a problem in our community among young people, because kratom is often mixed in large quantities with soft drinks or cough syrups.

Kratom drinks have also become

popular among Muslim youth as an alternative to alcohol, which is prohibited under Islamic Law. It is very difficult to stamp out kratom abuse. First, because it is easy to purchase ingredients like cough syrup and coke to make a kratom drink, and second because kratom has long been used in our culture for things like pain relief, relaxation, to reduce hunger and to increase energy when doing manual work in the fields.

I have given orders to all Imams in Phuket to take serious action against those who deal in any kind of drugs. If any Muslim family is found to be harboring family members, or anyone else who deals in drugs, the entire family will be prohibited from taking part in Islamic religious activities. This is a very serious penalty for Muslims.

While kratom use in our communities is not a serious offense, it can lead to the abuse of other drugs that can have serious repercussions on all members of a family.

Instead of damaging their health by taking dangerous drugs, our youth should be using their time to study and improve their lives.



Three cheers for the blue – and pink – local buses. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

## Battle of the buses

### Island View

By David Kirk

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

EVEN as my bus was drawing into the new Phuket bus terminal, predators were circling the bus full of unsuspecting, defenceless, bus-lagged tourists who were dying for a fresh shower or a chance to jump straight into the sea.

Little did they know that their journeys would cost them half as much – if not the full fare – as a ticket back to Bangkok.

Outside were four metered taxis. I approached them, asking as politely as I could, "meter taxi?"

"Where you go?" was the man's Gatling gun reply.

"Rawai," I replied.

"Oh, traffic very bad," he said.

Now, anyone who has spent at least five minutes on the island knows full well where this conversation is going. So I relied, "You don't look very happy."

"Not happy sitting in traffic," he exclaimed.

"Well you had better stay here," I advised.

As I walked away he shouted, "Okay, okay, I have meter taxi."

For me, the moment was lost. So, now I was up a creek without a paddle.

But, the gods were looking down on me, as this must have been one of the coldest days of the year. A local pink bus flashed by.

I'm on, but to where I don't know. Yes, that's right, they do have buses after all.

At least we had now entered into Phuket Town itself, so I had to figure out where the most advantageous point might be to disembark. I made my way to the Circle Market, where all the outlying buses have their terminus.

It was just a short walk up the final part of Bangkok Road to the circle. I turned left and there was a Rawai bus waiting for me.

Ten minutes later, we were on the road, my suitcase securely roped to the ladder at the rear.

Fifteen minutes later, I was at the end of my road, just a fifteen-minute walk to my home. This gave me ample time to reflect on the experience.

It was not so much that I had only spent a tenth of what I would have probably paid, but more to the point that I was able to deny these mercenaries even one baht of it.

Hopefully, the following administrative officers – Tourism and Sports Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, Governor Nisit Jansomwong, Wanprapha Suk-somboon, acting director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand – will kindly note the following:

Why is it that the No. 2 Pink Bus route does not enter and pick up passengers from the main regional bus terminus and transport them to the rest of the island?

They say you only make first impressions once, and I cannot think of a more counter-productive welcome than those currently being offered by tuk-tuk and taxi operators.

To paraphrase Winston Churchill: never have so few ruined it for so many on this island.

I do have a happy ending for you, after all.

It wasn't long before a kindly Thai husband and wife drew up alongside me in their *saleng* on my walk home. Yes, that's why I am living in Thailand, the generosity and true kindness of the Thai people.

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

### Soi Bangla evacuation routes

CAN somebody tell me where the tsunami evacuation points are for Patong's busiest street, Bangla Road? I have some concerns.

Mark Bee,  
Patong



Follow the signs. Photo: M.O. Stevens

2) Suwankeereewong temple (Wat Patong) at the bottom of Patong Hill.

3) Wat Suwankeereewong School on Phra Barami Road.

The municipality will be the center of operations for any Patong evacuation. If our offices are overloaded, we will move evacuees to Wat Patong and the school.

**Pravit Ratanachote, Protection & Operations unit of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) at Patong Municipality, replies:**

If you are in the Bangla area when the tsunami alarm sounds, follow the crowd.

We have signs on Soi Bangla leading to three evacuation points:

1) The Patong Municipality office on Ratpatanusorn Road.

### Where's the non-alcoholic beer in Phuket?

Where can I buy non-alcoholic beer? Is it possible to find it here in Phuket?

Jorgen,  
Sweden

**A staffer at the Villa Market store at Homepro Village in Chalong replies:**

We have Clausthaler Classic Non-Alcoholic Beer from Germany. It is currently available at 330 baht per 330ml can or 7,920 baht per pack of 24.

We also have Krombacher Non-Alcoholic Beer from Germany, at 109 baht per 330ml bottle or 1,308 baht per 12 pack. Please note that prices are subject to

change without prior notice.

For more information please call our Hompro Village branch at 076-381 294, our Laguna branch at 076- 304 630 or our customer service line at 089-991 1199.

**A customer service representative at Central Festival Phuket replies:**

We currently sell four brands of non-alcoholic beer at our Central Food Hall on the first floor of Central Festival Phuket:

We have Clausthaler Classic Non-Alcoholic Beer from Germany, 330ml can; Paulaner Hefe-Weißbier Non-Alcoholic beer from Germany, 500ml bottle;

Weihenstephaner Non-Alcoholic Original beer from Germany, 500ml bottle; and Oettinger alcohol-free beer from Germany, 500ml bottle.

Please call us at 076-24 9955 to make sure we have stock available and to confirm prices.

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)



# Road safety riddle

THE move by the Department of Land Transport (DLT) to privatize driver's licence testing (see page 4) is a practical idea, but one that is unlikely to have much impact on the dismal road-safety standards that keep Thai roads among the most dangerous on the planet.

For years, going through the process of obtaining a car or motorbike driver's licence at the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) has been a virtual rite of passage for eager Thai youths and older expats, who have found themselves going through the same time-consuming process side-by-side.

The sight of helmetless, underage youths riding motorbikes is so common here that it is safe to say that the vast majority of Thais have a great deal of "practical" road experience by the time they reach the legal ages for applying for their licences: 15 for motorbikes, 18 for cars.

As Thailand ranks second in the world for road traffic fatalities, it goes without saying that a large number of youths die in road accidents before they reach those tender ages.

Despite this, the main motivation for most local youths applying for their first motorbike licence has less to do with safety than it does with avoiding fines at police checkpoints.

During the "Seven Days of Danger" road-safety campaign over the Songkran holidays last year, more than half of those fined or arrested were caught driving without a licence.

Thus, getting a licence falls under the same incentive scheme that compels motorbike riders to pop on a helmet when approaching a spot where the boys in brown might be lurking.

Due to the lack of public transport options in Phuket, many foreign visitors choose to rent motorbikes as a cheap and convenient, albeit dangerous, way of getting around.

As most rental operators continue to illegally demand passports as surety – and could care less if the customer had a valid licence – hardly a month goes by without at least one foreign visitor being sent home in a body bag after a motorbike accident.

In cases involving unlicensed foreigners on rented bikes, police should immediately question the rental operators after they collect the fine.

The road-safety situation in Phuket could improve overnight if police started enforcing more of the comprehensive set of traffic laws that applicants need to learn in order to acquire a licence.

Sadly, there is a abysmal gap between practice and theory when it comes to operating a motor vehicle here.

If the plan does go through and the cute testing track at the PLTO falls into disuse, it will also spell the end of another phenomenon unique to Phuket: the site of newly-licensed teens riding out of the PLTO parking lot, ripping off their helmets and popping a wheelie as they race down the streets of Saphan Hin in jubilation.



## Changing driving standards step-by-step

Re: Gazette online, Phuket driver's licence tests start rolling toward privatization, January 9

The privatization of driver training does not equate to better drivers in Thailand, and I don't understand why the government keeps ignoring the elephant in the room.

According to statistics, Thailand has the second worst road mayhem statistics in the world – not anything to make a nation proud to be sure.

Three things must be accomplished to improve driving in Thailand:

1) Driver's training should be an accredited course taught in schools, to include not only rules of the road, but driving techniques and the general mechanics of a car/motorbike. It should be stressed that driving is a privilege, not a right. This should not be a one-day, four-hour video, but rather a full-semester course.

2) Strict enforcement of traffic laws along with heavy fines and a point system is the only way to control the public. Police checkpoints do little to weed out bad drivers. Police patrolling the streets and issuing citations is the only way to get through to people who feel entitled to drive any way they wish.

3) Establish the traffic courts we were promised 20 years ago.

If these three approaches are set into place, we will begin to see a slow but steady improvement of driving in Thailand.

Policeman  
Gazette forum

### Bring in the Navy

Re: Gazette online, Opinion: Time to tackle Phuket's ever-growing trash dumps, January 11

Ban them from operating and remove them from the beach until they conform, regardless of how long it takes.

The Navy should have an advertised, preset list of all

## Letters to the Editor

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

punishments for infringements so that violators can be fined upon breach.

Too many times there has been no punishment and no enforcement. Hit them in the pocket.

Tourists will die until the Navy is in direct, daily control.

I believe that submitting video/photo evidence to authorities will also help.

Skip  
Gazette forum

### Big boats begin to berth in Phuket

Re: Gazette online, Phuket B12mn marina canal extension completed, January 9

This is very good news for Phuket boating, at least at the higher end of it.

At the Royal Phuket Marina boat show on Friday, I saw many, much bigger boats – 80 feet and more – than could have entered that basin before.

Robert Albertson  
Gazette forum

### Surely there must be some compromise

Re: Gazette online, Vendors to be allowed back on three Phuket beaches, January 8

Thousands of people sat in those beds on all those beaches every day, myself being one of them. How many people complained about it?

If things are put in place the right way, then everyone will be happy.

If you don't want a bed, then sit on the sand. Some older people

would find it a struggle doing that, but surely it can be made to work for everyone.

I find the jet skis more annoying and threatening than the other vendors. Get rid of them as well!

Let's hope this is sorted in a way that is good for all the Thai people!

Pauline Woodhouse  
Facebook

### Just some officials talking rubbish

Re: Gazette online, Local president pleas for help, patience concerning filthy Phuket beach, January 10

Where are these bins? All I have ever seen is the occasional black garbage bag with a rock on it.

One of the pictures shows rubble way, way above high tide mark. This is what people are complaining about, the total neglect by Mr Ma-ann's local government and lack of candor with regard to reports on the "management" of that beach. It's just officials talking rubbish.

Martin  
Gazette forum

### Construction chaos

Re: Gazette online, Phuket officials scramble to avoid Chalong underpass traffic mayhem, January 12

"The roads [at Chalong roundabout]... serve a large volume of traffic and it seems to only get worse." Hardly a surprise.

The solution, of course, is cheap and efficient public transport, but sadly the solution here is a tunnel that excludes any possible extension of the light rail to Rawai.

Can we hope that the proposed Chalong light rail station will have adequate parking and access?

But first things first – the planned construction chaos.

Benvenuto  
Gazette forum

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# Strategies for survival

## How one resort is responding to the Russian tourist crunch

By Maciek Klimowicz

THERE was much talk last year of the protests in Bangkok and the ensuing coup striking at the heart of Phuket's tourism and hospitality industries, with many key tourism figures on the island fearing the worst.

Yet, it turns out, that while the island has survived the political turmoil in the country's capital relatively unscathed, it is events unfolding much farther away that are leaving their mark on the island's critical sectors in 2015.

Matthew C. Hindmarch, general manager of the Kata Sea Breeze Resort, noted that among the top concerns of tourism-dependent businesses in Phuket is how the island is reeling from a plunge in the number of Russian tourist arrivals.

The number of Russian arrivals has grown steadily over the past few years, and Chinese and Russian tourists are the two biggest tourist source markets for businesses on the island. But things are about to head south in 2015, unless businesses re-align themselves to cope with the crisis, he warns.

"A lot of hotels are being hit now and will continue to be so in the upcoming months, due to the situation in Russia," Mr Hindmarch explains.

"We are expecting huge drops in the first quarter of 2015. We have already seen a drop of about 5%, but we are expecting it to go down by even 30 to 40%.

"A lot of tour operators who deal directly with Russia are canceling up to 50% of their charter flights onto the island."



Diversification is crucial in surviving tourism crises, says Matthew Hindmarch, GM at Kata Sea Breeze Resort.

The first warning signs started showing a few days before New Year's Day, and Mr Hindmarch predicts that more are coming, as the Russian economy has yet to show signs of improving.

Mr Hindmarch was working in Bangkok when the military coup occurred, and where he witnessed how "the business went through the floor" in the capital.

But, from a Bangkok perspective, Phuket appeared to be performing well, mainly because many tour operators sold Phuket as a separate entity from Bangkok, which gave it a slightly stronger position, he explains.

"But what's affecting Phuket now is what is happening in

Europe and Russia," Mr Hindmarch says. "Our hotel caters mostly to tourists from Scandinavia and Russia, and the Russian market has obviously dropped."

Tour operators entirely dependent on the Russian market took the brunt in the plunge in the number of Russian tourists coming to the island.

"Some tour operators will be affected quite badly," observes Mr Hindmarch. "A lot of Russian tour operators are on their own and they lease their own hotels. I'm sure some small hotels will feel it more than us."

"I also expect a further slowdown of the Russian market, especially with the exchange rate

hurting it badly and less Russian money coming onto the island."

Diversification of source markets has helped the Kata Breeze Resort avoid the full effects of the fall in the number of Russian tourists coming to Phuket.

"Luckily for us, a resurgence in the Scandinavian market – more so than in previous years – has helped us keep things balanced," Mr Hindmarch.

Looking ahead and learning from current events, the resort's management is working on strategies to improve its resistance to market fluctuations. So far, they have come up with two solutions: further professionalization, and diversification.

"This is the first time that the Kata Sea Breeze Resort has launched a 'real' sales and marketing team," Mr Hindmarch explains. "We now have a team of four sales executives organized in a way that we've never done before, with two of them based in Bangkok and two based here."

The team in Bangkok is responsible for expanding the resort's guest base in Europe and elsewhere. "In Bangkok, there are tour operators looking after the UK, Ireland and South Africa. We also get access to Australia and New Zealand. These operators know what these markets require and we are flexible and adjust to their needs," Mr Hindmarch explains.

The team in Phuket is dedicated to targeting the Asian market.

"And the results are already showing," Mr Hindmarch says. "We are off to Hong Kong at the end of the month to meet travel agents there, and this is all a new market that we are expanding to."

A secondary goal of the expansion is to create a more friendly, international atmosphere within the resort itself.

"We want to have a broader range of nationalities staying at the hotel, which not only helps us maintain our balance, but also creates cultural exchange among guests," says Mr Hindmarch.

"Although you're on holiday in Phuket, you can meet people from around the globe. There are all sorts of nationalities at the hotel, and it's nice to see new friendships being forged."

"There is no point in having a hotel for just one nationality."

## Despite 2014 tourism industry fallout, TCT optimistic about 2015 numbers

ECONOMIC slowdown in many countries and tough competition are the key factors expected to continue holding back the tourism industry this year, according to the Tourism Council of Thailand (TCT).

"The TCT has voiced its concern over this situation to hundreds of operators. They are also warned to prepare alternative strategies to deal with unpredictable factors," Itirir Kinglake, TCT president, said on Monday.

Tourism in 2014 was hit hard by political tensions, especially the declaration of martial law, which caused the country to miss its target by millions of tourists.

However, the latest tourism confidence index from Chulalongkorn University shows that business has climbed back to a normal level thanks to the vibrant



More than 28 million tourists are expected to visit in 2015. Photo: Kallerna

travelling environment during the New Year period.

The study also predicts tourism rebounding strongly in 2015.

Despite its concerns, the TCT is optimistic for the entire year, projecting more than 28 million foreigners travelling to Thailand, assuming no more crises or nega-

tive incidents.

This would be a 14.8-per-cent increase from last year, which saw arrivals backslide 6.9 per cent to 24.71 million. Income from inbound tourists in 2015 is expected to reach 1.29 trillion baht.

To help re-start and re-build the industry, the TCT has asked the

government to grant three short-term measures to combat last year's backslide. The first is restoring safety and security, as this would rebuild tourists' confidence.

The second relief plan should be streamlining visa approvals in high-potential markets. The third is offering multiple-entry visas for countries that send repeat visitors.

The TCT has also outlined four plans to drive the industry forward in a sustainable manner.

They are developing a "digital economy" for tourism by improving access to data and information, especially for operators; promoting special-interest tourism such as halal food, beauty, healthcare and culture; improving human resources to cash in on the AEC; and developing tourism networks on intra-regional and international scales.

– The Nation

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# Five bad investments to avoid

Sometimes the most attractive-looking investments are the ones to pass up



WHILE there are good investments that can turn into bad investments along with bad investments that can eventually turn into good investments, there are some that are generally always bad for investors. With that in mind, the following investments are ones you should either avoid or limit your exposure to:

1) Your employer's stock: Legendary fund manager Peter Lynch was always an advocate of investing in what you know – and you are probably in the best position to know what is going on inside your own company, or the company you work for. Moreover, anyone who was an employee at, say, a company like Google when it first started out, was probably given a large number of shares and would no doubt now be in a good position to retire early.

On the other hand, many of Enron's employees had no idea what was actually going on within their employer's accounting department and had far too much of their 401k retirement plans invested in its shares – all of which they lost.

And since you are also at risk of being laid off by your employer for any number of reasons not related to company performance, there is no need to increase your risk any further by holding a big position in your employer's stock.

2) New IPOs: Warren Buffett was an early disciple of Benjamin Graham, who warned in his investing classic, *The Intelligent Investor*, about investing in initial



Making bags of money from your employer's stock is not always guaranteed. Photo: Laurence Simon

public offerings (IPOs) because they are intended to help a company raise money, as well as reward early investors or insiders by allowing them to cash out with a profit. As I have written here before, wait six to 18 months for an IPO to prove itself. Even if the stock price surges initially, it will eventually pull back, form a sound base and move higher if the earnings and sales are strong.

3) Penny stocks or very small cap stocks: There is nothing wrong with owning a few individual small cap stocks or an ETF,

or fund that invests in stocks with market caps of under US\$2 billion. After all, many large cap stocks started out as small cap stocks, while small caps have been among the best performing equity classes.

However, you should always avoid investing in any so-called penny stocks or microcaps which usually trade on the over-the-counter (OTC) market for a few cents a share. I never buy for my client or personal accounts stocks that are priced under US\$10. Penny stocks are often not up-to-

date with their SEC financial filings and are notorious for being volatile because they tend to be the subject of paid-for promotions or investor relation campaigns where a stock is given considerable attention before new shares are issued (thus diluting existing shareholders) to raise funding for certain big investors, or traders to make a profitable exit. In the worst case scenario, it might be an illegal pump and dump scheme where you are left holding virtually worthless stock.

4) Commodity or currency fu-

tures: Back in the 1990s, Hillary Clinton gave cattle futures trading considerable attention when it was revealed that she turned a \$1,000 investment into nearly \$100,000 before she stopped trading after just ten months, back in 1979. And while you don't need to be the First Lady of Arkansas to make a considerable amount of money in a short period of time trading commodity or currency futures, Hillary also managed to avoid margin calls even when she made wrong bets using leverage and owed her broker money.

Don't assume you will be as lucky, because it's the heavy use of leverage that usually causes traders to experience margin calls and to lose more than just their initial investments.

5) Annuities (especially in tax-differed IRAs). There are instances where investing in annuities can make sense, namely, if you think there is a very good chance of outliving your savings.

However, it never makes sense to put a tax-deferred annuity into a tax-deferred retirement account. Plus, annuities are usually a good way to reward your financial adviser with hefty commissions when there are much better investment choices out there.

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

## Escap predicts 3.9% growth in Thailand's economy

THAILAND'S economy, after a sharp slowdown to 0.8 per cent in 2014, is forecast to grow by 3.9 per cent due to increased short-term consumer and investor confidence following the end of the protracted political instability, said the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Escap).

Thailand is cited as one of the growth drivers in the region.

The report, titled "Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2014: Year-end Update", said growth in Asia-Pacific developing economies will pick up moderately in 2015. Yet, it also highlights that growth in the region remains below pre-crisis levels.

Prospects for growth would be better if supported by much-needed structural reforms, and could also be boosted by lower oil prices that are an opportunity to mobilize resources for inclusive and sustainable development, the report said.

Developing countries in Asia and the Pacific are forecast to grow at an average of 5.8 per cent this year, up from 5.6 per cent in 2014, driven by improved economic performances in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea,

Republic of Korea and Thailand.

In the report, it said structural reforms in India and Indonesia are projected to help increase their growth to 6.4 and 5.6 per cent, respectively, from 5.5 and 5.2 per cent, respectively, in 2014. Growth in China is forecast to hover around 7 per cent in 2015 consistent with the ongoing economic rebalancing.

The Escap analysis estimated that the region should need to invest US\$815 billion per year up to 2020 to close gaps in many sectors like transport, telecommunications, water and sanitation, the maintenance of roads and railways, energy-efficiency and technologies.

A decrease in regional inflation this year to 3.5 from 3.9 per cent in 2014, offers room in some regional economies for loosening monetary policies to support growth, indicates the report.

"Despite improved prospects, many developing economies in the region face structural constraints which have kept them from realizing their growth potential. Infrastructure shortages remain acute and growth has not translated into enough decent jobs," said United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Escap executive



Bangkok's Bhumibol Bridge, a marvel of economic prosperity, opened in 2006. Photo: Mike Behnken

secretary Dr Shamshad Akhtar.

The steep decline in oil prices in recent months may be the start of a longer-term trend and will have a significant, yet varying impact across the region. The report estimates that for energy-importing countries, a US\$10 per barrel fall in the oil price in 2015 would translate into an in-

crease in GDP growth of up to 0.5 percentage points.

While a recovering United States economy will support growth in Asia-Pacific exporting economies, slow growth in the eurozone and Japan will be a challenge, as will be China's moderating growth.

– *The Nation*



## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

**January 17, 6pm until late.**  
**Rossarin Maitland Smith Solo Art Exhibition.**

Rossarin Maitland Smith's acrylic on canvas and mixed media art exhibition features an array of expressionist artwork at Boat-house by Montara.

**January 18-26. Foundation for Shamanic Studies presents courses in Phuket**

The Foundation for Shamanic Studies presents its first courses in Phuket, Thailand, from January 18-26, 2015. Book now at [www.shamanism-asia.com/2014/11/thai](http://www.shamanism-asia.com/2014/11/thai), or call 081-891 5539 for more information.

**January 24-25, 3pm to 8pm.**  
**'Shop Chill Eat' at Lighthouse Market, Boat Lagoon**

A weekend of fun activities at Thailand's most lively marina.

There will be a number of live performances, lighthouse tours and even a kid's corner.

Additionally there will be an international food fair and food tasting.

A free shuttle bus will be available throughout the event and parking areas.

**February 14. Valentine's Day**

Saint Valentine's Day, also known as Valentine's Day or the Feast of Saint Valentine, will be celebrated throughout the island. Many resorts and restaurants are preparing special moments for courting and married couples. Best to plan ahead and book

your table long before February arrives.

**March 4. Makha Bucha Day**

Makha Bucha Day, which falls on the full moon of the third

lunar month, commemorates Buddha's ordaining of 1,250 monks who had arrived unannounced from afar only nine months after the Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment.

**April 6. Chakri Memorial Day**

Chakri Day commemorates the origins of the ruling Chakri dynasty, founded by King Rama I, who established Bangkok as the nation's capital. HM King

Bhumibol Adulyadej is the ninth monarch of the Chakri dynasty.

**May 1. Labor Day**

Public holiday for all commercial workers, but government offices will remain open.

**May 6. Coronation Day**

Coronation Day commemorates the accession to the throne of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on May 5, 1950.

**June 1. Visakha Bucha Day**

Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the sixth lunar month, which usually falls in either May or early June.

It is a day to commemorate three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha.

Miraculously, these events fell in the same month and on the same date in the Buddhist era.

**July 30. Arsarnha Bucha Day**

This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago.

Evening candlelight processions are staged in all Thai Buddhist temples.

**August 12. HM The Queen's Birthday**

HM The Queen's Birthday is also marked as Mother's Day in Thailand.

**October 23. Chulalongkorn Memorial Day**

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.



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\*MUST BE PURCHASED BY 26 JANUARY 2015, EVEN IF LODGED AT A LATER DATE





# YOUR Phuket

## Between Two Palms



STAYING CLOSE: Jerker Olander (left) and Julie Thammavong.



PALMS SEAFOOD BRINGS THE OCEAN TO YOU: L to R: Sittichai Jitnatham, hotel manager; Somjai Tungkoo, executive manager for Twinpalms Group; Richard Ohman, an owner of Twinpalms Group; Daniela Delmowdes; Martin Palleros, architect designer; and Olivier Gibaud, CEO of Twinpalms Group.



FOR THE LOVE OF DESIGN: L to R: Tiago Astori, Jorge de la Torre and Gianmarco Pozzoli.



LIVING THE DREAM: L to R: Michael Guzzon, Daniela Delmowdes; and Alex Riccio.

## Generosity of New Year spirit flows weeks deep



TEERING OFF FOR A BIG YEAR: L to R: Nantanee Chuaychu, assistant manager – events for Laguna Phuket; John Magee, Phuket Gazette; Prapa Hammin, director of sales – MICE and corporate events; and Oranee Hildebrand, managing director of the Phuket Gazette.



NEVER BLUE, ALWAYS INDIGO: L to R Ten Poh Aun, sales coordinator, Indigo Pearl; Isaac Simonelli, Phuket Gazette; and Chamaiporn Yadang, public relations, Indigo Pearl.



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

## PROPERTY of the week



Absolutely stunning  
sea view villa

See page 17

## JOB of the week

TRISARA

See page 20

## INVESTMENT of the week



**GUESTHOUSE  
FOR SALE**

See page 22

## BOAT of the week



See page 25

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## Properties For Sale

## KATA OCEAN VIEW



1 bedroom, fully furnished, 91sqm, sea view. Best price in complex: Only 60,000 baht/sqm; 5.5 million baht total. Tel: 095-037 9680, 089-617 2312, 076-288872, 076-341045.

## OCEAN FRONT VILLA



Brand new, fully furnished, 3-4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 10-meter infinity swimming pool, beautiful view. For quick sale only 19.5 mn. Tel: 081-343 0777.

## PANORAMA SEA VIEW LAND



For sale 5.5 rai, Ao Makham, Chanote title, 12 million baht / rai call 089-649 9939. Email: siri\_phuket@changrunner.com

## ONE SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE

3km from Laguna Phuket, 3 beds, 2 bath, 3.5 million baht. Contact Nan 081-367 8967.

## LAND HOUSE FOR SALE

400sqm, seaview, Karon: 3.9 million baht. Also, house and land (120sqm, 400sqm) : 7 million baht. Tel: 091-040 2471. Email: naruchai@gmx.de

## LAND FOR SALE



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

## THE DECK CONDO FOR SALE

2 units condo for sale at the center of Patong. The Deck Project Studio unit no.0103309 Floor 3 Building A 31 sq.m. Price 3.5 million baht. And 1 Bedroom Unit no.010310 area 41.5 sq.m. Price 4.5 Million THB. Full furnished ready to move in May 2015. Tel: 081-085 7550 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-344789. Email: ornholand@hotmail.com

## KARON BEACH CONDO

This 1-bedroom Karon apartment is for sale. Ground floor with direct pool access. Tel: 087-892 3876 (English). Email: info@phuketcondo.net

## FREEHOLD CONDO FOR SALE

Patong Tower building. One bedroom with 270-degree view of Patong Beach and town, 10<sup>th</sup> floor, 54.35sqm. 11 million baht ONO. Contact Songpan. Genuine buyers only. No brokers please. Tel: 081-737 8662.

## 2-BEDROOM BEACHFRONT CONDO RAWAI

2 bdr / 2bath, huge balcony with direct walk out to pool, beach, restaurant, in 5-star resort with access to gym, spa, ideal for family, separate storage, furniture incl, fast owner sale, leaving Asia, 13.9 million baht. neg. Tel: 096-532849 (English). Email: laura@tilaholdings.com

## SEA VIEW LAND FOR SALE



Ao Yon. 13.5 rai. Chanote title. 13.5 million baht/rai. Tel: 089-649 9939. Email: siri\_phuket@changrunner.com

## URGENT PATONG VILLA 4 BED



Fire sale price - sudden departure - direct from owner - now 19.9 million baht, estimated 29 million baht - Luxury 4-bedroom villa, mountainside, panoramic seaview of Patong bay, 4 bathrooms, private pool, tennis, fully furnished modern style, 270sqm. Tel: 081-832 8154 (English).



## Condo for Rent

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 8433,  
Thai: Aoi 081-667 1637.



## AMAZING VILLA

Modern villa, swimming pool in Rawai, 3 beds, 3 baths, seaview, fully furnished, 3 floors, close to beach & shops. Not for long price only 9 million baht, no brokers. Tel: 098-464 9220.

## 3-BED HOUSE - LARGE GARDEN

Chuan Cheun Lagoon, close to British International School and the Boat Lagoon Marina. Chanote land title, 146sqm. (584 sqm), private cul-de-sac location in secure, clean village. Cool, bright, open plan with large Western kitchen and good water supply. Large car park, patios. 6.85 million baht, negotiable. For sale by owner. Contact for more photos and info. Tel: 086-040 6866 (English), 081-979 6707 (Thai). Email: adrian.j.simpson@gmail.com

## BEAUTIFUL LAND PLOT FOR SALE



Very conveniently located in a secure estate with underground electricity, less than 10 mins from Phuket International Academy, airport, Tesco, Nai Yang beach, Ao Po Grand marina, in a peaceful foreign community, Chanote title, 1,100sqm, flat land with fences around, mountain view, ready to build, good investment. For quick sale direct from owner only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-343 0777.

## TOP NEW CONDO RAWAI



36sqm and up, off Saiyuan in Rawai, furnished, large pool, rooftop garden with seaview. Start at 3million baht and 1.5 million baht, near golf. Tel: 096-284 2463 (English & Thai), 084-898 8258 (English & Thai). Email: p.bum.rung515@gmail.com

## CHALONG HOUSE SALE BY OWNER

Chanote title. 412sqm. 2 bed, 2 bath, in- and outdoor kitchen, beautiful garden. 4.2 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 093-737 1242. Email: konradantonsson@gmail.com

## HOUSE FOR SALE

From Phuket 100km. Between A. Thap Put Phang Nga and A. Panom Surat Thani



Near Khao Sok National Park. Land 1 rai, furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 aircons, price: 2.2 million baht. Please call: 081-667 1637 (Thai), 082-539 6433 (English).



## Absolutely stunning sea view villa

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## KARON HOUSE SALE OF OWNER

2 bed, sitting room, kitchen, bathroom, toilet, furnished. 4 mn baht. Tel: 087-886 7029 (English & Thai). Email: svein.arild.johansen@gmail.com

## NICE HOUSE CHALONG

400sqm. Furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, European kitchen, 4 aircons, swimming pool, Sale 4.9 million baht. Tel: 081-787 4831.

## KAMALA



Large 4-bed house, 3 bath, guest Water Close, 5 aircons, ADSL, close to sea. Tel: 085-250 4197.

## 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@phuketanda.manrealestate.com



## Properties For Rent

**KATASEAVIEW CONDO FOR RENT**

Long-term rental, more than 6 months. Nov - Apr: 38,000 baht per month. May-Oct 28,000 baht/month. Tel: 087-282 3724. Email: keywest\_aloha@hotmail.com

**APARTMENT IN SURIN FOR RENT**

1 bedroom, furnished with balcony. Long or short term, 18,000 a month. Tel: 084-689 4658 (English), 081-537 2549 (English & Thai). Email: Malin@vertigophuket.com Website: suringate.com

**HOUSE NAI HARN**

3 bedrooms, furniture, kitchen, WiFi, TV, community pool 25,000 baht / month. Tel: 083-388 8036.

**RAWAI BEACH FRONT HOUSE**

3 bedrooms, close to Fisher man's Way. For long-term rent: 80,000 baht / month. Tel: 081-593 9559, 081-737 1678. Email: supotpac@phuketemail.com

**HOUSE FOR RENT**

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

**SURIN BEACH CONDO**

1-2 bedroom, pool, 300m to beach. Furnished. Call mobile 088-823 4128 (English). Email: rapa\_ljes@yahoo.com

**CHEAP RENT HOUSE**

Fully furnished 1-3 bedrooms, aircons, free WiFi, start from 6,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311. Website: panwagreen.weebly.com

**HOUSE NEAR BRITISH SCHOOL**

Big house with two floors, 3 bedroom, full furnish, fitness, swimming pool, security, near British International School. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-203 9270, 089-185 5318 (English & Thai). Email: aood16@hotmail.com

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

**4 BED, 4 BATH - CLOSE TO BIS**

Aircon pool villa in a secure estate in Kathu, easy access to BIS, Central Festival and Patong. Avail March 10. 65,000 baht / PCM. Tel: 083-967 5777 (English & Thai).

**CHALONG BECHFRONT**

2-story pool villa. Seaview, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 lounge rooms, internet, cable TV. 30,000 baht / month. Tel: 095-046 4039.

**BEACHFRONT LUXURY KATA APT**

5 star, pools, gym, quiet area. 30,000 baht long term. Available now. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com www.katasala.com

**ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS**

Serviced apartment, studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, rooftop, pool, free WiFi. Tel: 076-203208, 081-892 0038. www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com

**GOLF VIEW 7-BEDROOM 4 RENT**

Large house with private swimming pool, fully furnished, close to all international schools and shopping mall. Tel: 081-271 3228 (English & Thai). Email: info@procarpentering.com

**HOLIDAY RENTAL**

The White House @ Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina is available for holiday rental. Tel: 087-465 8883 (English & Thai). Email: pen@mindproperties.net Website: mindproperties.net

**FURNISHED HOUSE FOR RENT**

Furnished house in prime location, village near the Heroines Monument. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and kitchen. Tel: 086-607 7493.

**PATONG CONDO PRIVATE RENTAL**

2 bedrooms, furnished, 24,000 baht / month. Long-term tenant wanted. Pool, gym, parking, WiFi, cable TV. 800m to beach. Tel: 085-069 0938 (English). Email: neiln5nh6@gmail.com

**10 UNITS CONDO FOR RENT**

In Patong, seaview 7-storey condo with rooftop swimming pool, good lobby, elevator, parking, fully furnished with 1&2 bedrooms, living room, well-equipped kitchen, 4-star property, with cheap rent. Call 081-797 7199, 086-683 0786 Email: highstylecondominium@gmail.com

**KAMALA BEACH RENTAL**

Very nice house all apartment; furnished, quiet, clean, secure. Price 16,000-22,000 baht/month. Tel: 083-645 3546.

**KAMALA: 1,200 BAHT**

Hotel room. 2 pools. 7 mins to beach. Has Jacuzzi. Tel: 084-716 0502.

**DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDO**

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

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**

Serviced apartment: 66sqm, 2nd floor, 1 living room with pull-out sofa, 1 bedroom. Fully equipped European kitchen, WiFi internet access, cable LCD TV, DVD, stereo system. Maid cleaning, shuttle service to Nai Ham beach, fitness center, spa, poolside restaurant and bar, children's playground. Price: 3,200 baht per night. Contact: 081-550 7379.

**STUDIO ROOM FOR RENT**

Please contact 086-4769612 email: annano1@hotmail.com

Royal Place condo, Phuket City, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus, 37 Sqm, 2 fl. Studio room, fully furnished.

**LUXURY RENT KAMALA**

Luxury villas and apartment for rent, modern style, big garden, Jacuzzi, swimming pool, wifi, 600 mt. from the beach with 2 or 3 bedrooms. Special price start from 3,000 baht per day. Email: francescobonta@gmail.com For more info call Francesco 085-790 7816. www.villacheloni.com

**KATA BEACH SHOP + APARTMENT**

On raised pedestrian walkway to beach (one minute). Please contact Kata Beach Adam Tour, 076-333142, 087-895 7270 (English & Thai). Email: juntana koliver@msn.com

**RENT APARTMENT PATONG**

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

**HOUSE FOR RENT IN CHALONG**

At Moo Baan Patak villa 2, Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 big kitchen, 1 living room and car parking. Two-storey house with internet WiFi, for rent, long- and short-term - price flexible. Contact: 089-908 7830.

**FOR RENT**

Chalong Pier Road, ground floor unit, available for shop or office use. Excellent location on this popular and well-known road. For more information, please call 081-416 4177 or 076 381 341. Email: marketing@sea-bees.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!







**BANYAN TREE RESIDENCES**

**Banyan Tree Resorts & Spas (Thailand) Co., Ltd.**  
Is a Leading spa operator. To meet our rapid growth and expansion, we invite suitable and qualified candidates to join our team

**Assistant Director - Human Resources**

- Female, Age 30-40 years old
- Bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management or related field.
- Minimum 5 years, experience in HR and Admin functions.
- Proactive, good interpersonal skills, good team player and service-minded.
- Command of spoken and written English, computer literacy and presentation skills.
- Good problem solving skills, knowledge of labor laws.
- Good interpersonal and communication skills, able to work under pressure
- Independent, well-organized, self-disciplined and excellent multi-tasking skills.

Applicants should provide a full, detailed English resume, expected salary and a recent photo to:

**Human Resources Department**  
Tel: 076-372400 # 6918, 6944. | E-mail: [usanee.takashiba@banyantree.com](mailto:usanee.takashiba@banyantree.com)

### TELE SALES WORK FROM HOME

Earn up to 3,000 - 5,000 baht / day. International organization is looking for responsible and diligent persons for independent job. Thai and foreigners. Tel: 084-081 6067 (English). Email: [recruitment@holiplanet.com](mailto:recruitment@holiplanet.com)

### SECRETARY

Female, Thai nationality, good command of written and spoken English, good computer knowledge (Word and Excel programs), good attitude and positive person. Benefit: salary 12,000-15,000 baht per month + commission 10-20%, social fee, public holiday, vacation. Tel: 086-940 5187, 081-415 7774.

### NEW RESTAURANT IN LAGUNA

Now hiring: Chefs – all levels; Servers – all levels; Bar staff; Back of house staff; and a Personal Assistant. Basic English necessary, previous experience preferred. Must be under 35 years of age. For the right candidates, we offer an excellent salary, benefits, holidays and structured professional development. Please forward CVs and a current picture to Jamie @bam pot.co or call 092-130 3114.

### FULL-TIME NANNY AND MAID WANTED

Baby twins start March, trial Feb. Salary negotiable on experience Manik area - Mel 098-671 3740.

### DATABASE UPDATER

Looking for a Thai national with basic English skills and computer knowledge. Own computer required. Full time job. Email if interested. Email: [info@divethe-world.com](mailto:info@divethe-world.com)

### SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Career opportunity for a dedicated sales rep at a holiday ownership company, based in Phuket. Tremendous potential for huge earnings. Legal working status will be arranged. Please send your resume to: [rbv@royalperspective.com](mailto:rbv@royalperspective.com)

### ENGLISH TEACHERS

1 x Kindergarten - Part-time: 14hrs/week, in Cherng Talay, start Jan 5. 2 x Full-Time. School near Phuket Town. All positions: TEFL certs req'd. Pls contact: The Head Teacher, ECC Phuket. Tel: 076-307 0579, 091-647 5465 (English), 089-139 8453 (English & Thai). Email: [Giles@ecc.ac.th](mailto:Giles@ecc.ac.th)

### GERMAN-SPEAKING STAFF

Required. Tel: 093-579 6644 (Nuch). For more info please send your CV and recent photo to [rainforestjob@gmail.com](mailto:rainforestjob@gmail.com)

### CHINESE STAFF NEEDED

A Chinese person with reasonable English skills for marketing department of a yacht charter company. Tel: 087-384 2743.

### HOTEL STAFF WANTED

Front officer, cook, night receptionist, hotel manager needed. For new hotel with 200 rooms. Filipino and Thai staff only. Contact us by email only. Tel: 081-893 7720.

### WAITRESS / FOOD RUNNER

Female, friendly, Good service mind, experience is advantage. Benefits: salary, service charge, tips, social fee, 2 meals/day, uniform. Job available at Rossovivo Ristorante Italiano e Pizzeria 5/38 wiset road, Rawai. Tel: 076-384 686, 083-103 3801.

## TRISARA

### Villa Estate Manager

Trisara, Phuket's most exclusive resort, consists of an award-winning resort hotel and spa plus 27 magnificent residences, which are managed and rented by the resort for the private owners.

A unique opportunity exists within our team as Villa Estate Manager (Thai Nationality only). The successful candidate will possess the skills to successfully oversee the 140-strong team at the residences, the maintenance, our rental guests and owners visits, and the administration of the villas' expenses and accounts. A minimum of 5 years in a senior management role of a resort or International Hotel is required and although estate management experience is an advantage, it is not critical.

Reporting to the Trisara General Manager, the successful Villa Estate Manager will be paid an attractive expatriate salary and benefits package.

If you are an energetic, organized and result-driven team player who is looking for a challenge at the highest level of standards, send your resume and a recent photo to:

### Human Resources Department

60/1 Moo 6, Srisoonthorn road, Thalang, Phuket  
Email: [patteera.m@montarayhospitality.com](mailto:patteera.m@montarayhospitality.com)  
Tel. 076-310350 Fax. 076-310299

## Luxury Residential Villa Estate Project at Layan

The company is an affiliate of a multi-national real estate developer, Which owns 600 rai of land in Layan Area, Cherng Talay, Thalang. The first phase of project to develop a luxury residential villa estate is under construction.

### Property Management Coordinator (1 position)

In charge of operating and maintaining completed residential villa estate property.  
• Experience of working for luxury villa estate or hotel is preferred.

### MEP Engineer / Supervisor (operation) (1 position)

In charge of supervising operation and maintenance of MEP equipment and common area service systems for residential villa estate.  
• Experience of working for luxury villa estate or hotel is preferred.

### Landscape Engineer / Supervisor (on site) (1 position)

In charge of landscape development and maintenance program for 600 rai resort project  
• Experience and knowledge of landscape / horticulture / irrigation

### C&A Construction Supervisor (1 position)

In charge of supervising construction C&A works on site of residential villa estate development project

### Applicant must:

- ◆ Be Thai national
- ◆ Have 5 years or more experience at same or similar position to apply
- ◆ Speak and write English fairly / well

Please send your curriculum vitae by e-mail to: [hr@bangtaobeachltd.co.th](mailto:hr@bangtaobeachltd.co.th)  
(All applicants will be treated in strict confidence)

## Bang Tao Beach Ltd

### 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, 087-283 6074.

### ENTHUSIASTIC STAFF WANTED

Enthusiastic, fit, sociable, snorkelling trainer & safety person required for speedboat tours. Thai or foreign with the correct qualifications. Excellent English a must. Send photo with CV. Excellent pay for right person. Tel: 076-289044, 086-011 5340 (English & Thai).

### EUROPEAN CHEFS

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

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

Patong Beach

THAWEWONG RD.

BANGLA RD.

SAVOEY SEAFOOD

RAT-U-THIT 200 PEE RD.

JUNGCEYLON

SANSABYE RD.

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

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



# Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

## GRAPHIC ARTIST 1 POSITION

- Graphic-design skills and knowledge of Adobe Illustrator, PageMaker, Indesign, Photoshop required
- Freehand drawing and web-design skills a plus
- Responsible, hard-working, attention to detail
- Able to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines
- Good communication skills, team player
- Thai-English speaker

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Anna (General Manager), by email, fax or post to:

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Keaw, A. Muang Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-273555, ext 102 Fax: 076-615240 Email: anna@phuketgazette.net

### QUALIFIED BOAT CREW

Wanted for a 6-month journey in Southeast Asia on a 19m motor yacht. Email: boatcrewwanted@gmail.com

### EXPERIENCED CS STAFF WANTED

Native English-Speaking Customer Service Agent needed for E-commerce fashion retailer. Work permit. High salary. 5-day work week. Work on Macs. Tel: 076-282759.

### PHUKET HOME SERVICE

New maintenance company looking for staff: maid, plumber, baby-sitter, ++. Contact: info@home-phuket-service.com

### RESTAURANT NEEDS URGENTLY

Looking for female Assistant Manager with bubbly personality. Up to 20,000 baht per month. Bar Manager needed for up to 15k. Waitresses needed for up to 12k. All plus service charge and benefits. Call for details. Tel: 076-211775, 086-509 7510 (English), 087-884 8271 (English & Thai). Email: simon@colonial-connection.com

### RUSSIAN REAL ESTATE 150K+

We are a leading real estate company in Phuket that is expanding fast and looking for a talented individual to join our young, dynamic team. Must be a Russian-speaking agent who has a number of years experience in real estate, and preferably in Phuket. CVs to paul@livephuket.com, www.livephuket.com

### SHOP MANAGER

We have a position for a manager to run our busy massage shop to a high standard. You must be self-motivated, a good communicator with good Thai / English-language skills and good staff management skills. Good salary + bonus. Call for an interview. Tel: 084-247 2935 (English). Email: Peter.ritchie@hotmail.co.nz



### ANDAMAN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO., LTD.

Developer • Property Management • Architectural • Interior Design.  
Located at The Plaza Surin, Phuket is looking for qualified, energetic people to fill these positions:

## Civil engineer ( 1 POSITION )

### Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in Civil Engineering or any related field
- Age between 35 - 45 years
- At least 5 - 7 years' experience in construction of residential projects, real estate development or project management
- Knowledge of civil work, structure designs, site control and management, estimate cost
- Positive attitude, self-motivated, strong leadership, proactive interpersonal & communication skills, well organized & able to deal with contractors
- Excellent in both written & spoken English
- Computer literacy in software relevant to the position

Interested candidates please send full resume, expected salary & a recent photo by fax or email to Andaman Property Development Co., Ltd.:

The Plaza Surin 5/50 Moo 3, Cherng Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110  
Tel: 076-271241. Fax: 076-271242. Email: hr@paradisepuket.com

### EXECUTIVE CHEF WANTED

A popular hotel in central Patong requires an executive chef. Applicants must have a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position, and be able to undertake the full management of a busy kitchen. Languages required: Thai / English. Salary is negotiable, dependent on experience and ability. Tel: 089-208 8557. Email: nealeave ry@gmail.com

### SALES MANAGER NEEDED

Sales staff needed for real estate business. Contact by email only. Email: cc@bay shoreprojects.com

### PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Fluent in English and computer skills. International drinks industry. 15,000 baht per month. Mike 086-057 7714.

### COOK (F) NIGHT TIME

Cook for bbq, night time. Speaking Chinese would be an advantage. Urgently needed. Tel: 082-270 6385 (English). Email: tkoschig 2000@hotmail.com

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

Call center customer service. Basic 15,000 baht per month. Fluent English speakers needed. Five-day working week. Great prospects, beautiful office in seafront villa environment. Tel: 083-1737 292 (English). Email: dennisbond44@yahoo.com

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



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

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

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

## Live in Patong? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at 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!**



## Bulletins

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

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



## Business Products &amp; Services

## SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

Professional and efficient. E-commerce, websites, desktop software. Tel: 085-073 9994. Email: jan.faroo@gmail.com

## 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.

## Pool Tables

## STYLISH POOL TABLES

Style is a way to say who you are without having to speak. White 'Tokyo' model pool table. Tel: 085-797 0005, 085-797 0303. Fax: 076-264461. www.thailandpooltables.com/index.php/tokyo-white-billiard-table.html.

## Personals

## BACKGAMMON

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



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

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

CALL NOW:

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

DINODAYCARECENTER

## VISA SERVICES

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

## Cameras &amp; Equipment

## EOS 7D (I) + EF-S 18-135 NW

Rawai. Canon EOS 7D (2010), very good condition, + EF-S 18-135 (new). 24,000 baht. Tel: 080-717 9071. Email: otto.nothe@yahoo.de.

## Club Memberships Available

## GOLF !!!.....GOLF !!!

Lifetime family membership at Phuket Country Club, Kathu. 540,000 baht, including transfer fee. Tel: 086 282 0700 (Werner).

## GOLF MEMBERSHIP SALE

Life membership at Phuket Country Club Kathu. 550,000 baht, including transfer fee. Tel: 084-722 1520 (Ann, Kurt)

## PCC MEMBERSHIP

500,000 baht, incl transfe fee. Tel: 061-227 0743 (English).

## Education

## LEARN ENGLISH

20% off all courses this month only. Promotion code - Happy Birthday. Includes free student pack. Courses include: Conversation, Business, Law and Medical English. Tel: 076-350110, 092-894 9089. www.luckydragonlearning.com

## Pets

## MISSING DOG



We miss our dog Quincy. An Airedale terrier, male, black and brown coat. He got lost on December 31 in Patong. 3,000 baht reward. Tel: 087-091 2798 (English & Thai). E mail: rudi.grimm1@web.de

## CHIHUAHUA DOG FOR SALE

Male, 4 months old. Tel: 081-080 8831 (English & Thai). Email: jstuder@loxinfo.co.th

## GUARD DOG WANTED

Puppy or young dog. Tel: 087-383 4452 Email: banwattana@gmail.com

## Computer

## SAMSUNG COMPUTER

2 years old, complete with printer. 18-inch screen. Price: 12,000 baht ONO. Tel: 084-818 6045.

## Miscellaneous For Sale

## SOLD SECOND HAND



- Musical instrument. Jazz guitar. Price: 25,000 baht.
- Orange amplifier. Price: 35,000 baht.
- Vintage French-style bookcase. Price: 160,000 baht.
- Showcase. Price: 170,000 baht.

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

## 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).

## Audio / Video Equipment

## HI-FI AV RECEIVER

Cambridge Audio 540R V.20, excellent cond: 7,900 baht. 9-inch Acer monitor: 18,500 baht. Tel: 080-041 4240.

## Fitness Equipment

## ASHTANGA YOGA SHALA

Mysore style, lead and beginner's classes. Personal approach and professional adjustment. Tel: 080-698 0813 (English). Email: sofialin kova@gmail.com.

## Mobile Phones

## IPHONE 4S CALL NOW

Call 091-161 0868 for quality secondhand iPhone 4s (16GB).



**Phuket today**  
Phuket Gazette

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

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

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

Catch the show at these times

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

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

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

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

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

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

On line: www.phuketgazette.net / tv | www.youtube.com / PGTVPhuket



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**JEANNEAU 52.2 (2002)**

The owner has spent a fortune on her. New teak decks, B&G instruments, leisure furl in boom furling, upholstery and head linings, new stove, battery charger and inverter, a 42" flat screen TV and much, much more. A great boat and good value at US\$ 260,000 FIRM. Tel: 084-842 6146 alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

**HYPALON DINGY 3.3M**

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

**VESSEL "SANITY"**

1989 Princess Riviera 36. Direct sale by owner 2 million baht only. Roger: 089-871 2940. Email: Info@villea.com

**BOAT FOR SALE**  
5 en suite cabins, sleeps 10, newly renovated. Perfect for tour & leisure trips. Location: Phang Nga Bay  
Price: 1.8M THB negotiable  
Contact: panan.titapura@hotmail.com  
Tel: 093-024 1961.

**KAYAKS FOR SALE**

3x single Feelfree @ 10,000 baht each, and 1x double Feelfree @ 15,000 baht. Tel: 087-265 0118 (English). Email: ant\_p\_clark@yahoo.co.uk

**NEW YACHTSMAN TENDERS**

Aluminium hull RIBs and "Air Floor" inflatables Welded PVC and Hypalon options. Good quality at very competitive prices. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: boats@andamanboat sales.com

**CLASSIC S & S SWAN 57 KETCH**

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

**URGENT SALE**

Fiberglass 35ft ocean sailboat. Price: 200,000 baht. Call to see now at Khao Khad beach. Tel: 061-230 5902 (English). Email: 3dnav@3dnav.eu

**SELLING YOUR BOAT?**

With high season upon us now is the right time to get her listed, Boatshedphuket.com are always looking for new listings, big or small, power or sail, to meet the demand for competitively priced, quality boats. Contact Alan Giles at Boatshedphuket.com on 084-842 6146 or alangiles@boat shedphuket.com

**BOTNIA TARGA 32 (2013)**

As new and with nearly all the options. A quality Scandinavian-built, go anywhere, fast cruiser at a substantial savings on the new price. US\$340,000. Tel: 084 842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com Boatshedphuket.com

**BOAT INSURANCE**  
Lambert Brothers Insurance Brokers  
• Boat insurance quotations from different insurers  
• Competitive rates  
• Comprehensive coverage  
• All other types of insurance provided  
Contact Khun Paew, Ton, Tux or Jane at our office  
Phuket Boat Lagoon  
paew@lambertbrothers.co.th  
Tel: +66 76 273 385  
www.lambertbrothers.co.th

**A STEAL FOR A QUICK SALE**

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

**Boatshedphuket.com**  
INTERNATIONAL YACHT BROKERS  
SELLING YOUR BOAT?  
We can meet you on board, take up to 80 photos and full details. We will accompany all viewings and provide non-exclusive brokerage on a "no sale, no fee" basis.  
**Boat of the moment**  
**Lagoon 400 S2**  
2013 Owners version  
As New. 333,000 EUR  
www.boatshedphuket.com  
T: +66 76 239 745  
M: +66 84 8426146  
boats@boatshedphuket.com  
www.boatshedphuket.com  
Part of the Boatshed.com Yacht Brokerage Group with offices across the world.

**CAPELLI RIB FOR SALE**

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

**POWER CATAMARAN**

Austhai 6200. Cabcat. Full specs. Electric toilet, winch, etc. Galvanized trailer, boat cover. 2 Honda 90s with only 118 hours! Great boat. 900,000 baht. Tel: 081-894 0339 (English). Email: hilltribe@poppiessamui.com

**Quality Pre-Owned Multihulls FOR SALE****Fountaine Pajot Belize 43 (2005)**

Asking \$330,000 USD

This 4-cabin Belize 43 is in excellent condition and ready to sail away today. Prashanti features brand new Raymarine electronics along with water maker and generator making her ideal for blue-water cruising.  
Lying: Phuket, Thailand.

For further information, a test sail or advice, please contact our team at Boat Lagoon Marina, Phuket:

P +66 (0) 76 238 117  
M +66 (0) 8 1894 1530  
E info@multihullsolutions.asia  
www.multihullsolutions.asia



SAIL | POWER | NEW | PRE-OWNED

**Corsair 37 RS Carbon (2008)**

Asking \$229,000 USD

Zhuka is a very competitive yacht while also being easy to sail with family. This Corsair 37 RS Carbon sailing trimaran is the complete package with all the options, representing very good value.  
Lying: Pattaya, Thailand.

**Visiona 41 (1994)**

Asking 135,000 EURO

Ahu is built by Baltec in Germany and is a well-travelled and proven blue-water voyager. Here is an inexpensive way to jump aboard a catamaran and live the cruising dream.  
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. UPRIGHT: *hurtpig* 9. SPOTLIGHT: spot-light 13. ALIBI: *baili* 14. RURAL: R-Ural 15. RELAPSE: re-lapse 16. RIGGING: *giggrin* 17. GETAT: *target* 18. NGERN: N-Ger-N 20. LARCH: L-arch 22. ANTLER: *rental* 23. PISTOL: *plotis* 25. TYPICAL: *citypal* 27. CADMIUM: C-*amudim* 30. RELATE: Re-late 31. EDGIER: *greedi* 32. DATES: set-A.D.[rev] 35. LAYER: *relay* 36. TITHE: *itthe* 37. MASSIVE: mass-I've 39. ENTROPY: *torypen* 41. RISEN: *siren* 42. ANVIL: *banvile* 43. PERRENIAL: per-inlane 44. PANCAKE: pan-cake

**Down:**

1. SPRING: spring 2. DIMINISH: *hisdinim* 3. CHERNGTALAY: *alengthycar* 4. APPLETREE: *peeltaper* 5. ITERATE: it-E-rate 6. MILLENNIUM: *mumillnine* 7. CHAP: chap 10. BARREL: bar-R-el 11. FRIGATE: *ifgreat* 12. FENNEL: *feNNeI* 19. ENTRUST: E-N-trust 21. ROYALTY: R-laytoy 24. MATRIMONIAL: *noimamartial* 26. INTERLOPER: *leerpoint-R* 28. EDITORIAL: *ileaditor* 29. DIVERSE: D-1-verse 30. ROLLER: caroller 32. DISTANCE: *sidecant* 33. SPELLS: charms 34. STAYING: *anygist* 38. INVOKE: *vineok* 40. THEM: the-M

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ROLLING IN A ROYCE: L to R: John Magee, Phuket Gazette; Chatvithai Tantraporn, deputy MD of Master Group Corporation – Asia and Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Bangkok; Michael Ayling, MD of Royal Phuket Marina; and Kanittha Prasopsirikul of 'by Kanittha'.



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## Words from the wise

"Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

"A friend is someone who knows you and loves you just the same"

— Elbert Hubbard

## Medium

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

## Hard

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

**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. Hurt pig badly, honest (7)  
9. Notice gleam in public eye (9)  
13. Defendant's claim for bail I arranged (5)  
14. Rustic river, Russian river (5)  
15. Deterioration concerning failing (7)  
16. Setting up gig, grin, went wrong (7)  
17. Repeatedly criticize target possibly not right (3,2)  
18. New German, new money in Thailand (5)  
20. Large curved structure from tree (5)  
22. Horn for rental perhaps (6)  
23. Plot is to make small gun (6)  
25. Representative in new city, pal (7)  
27. Almost a mud I'm changing into metal (7)  
30. Tell about dead (6)  
31. Greed I find makes more tense (6)  
32. Makes old fashioned set nowadays to return (5)  
35. Re-lay replacement sheet (5)  
36. Return it, the contribution to the church (5)  
37. Great church service I have shortened (7)  
39. Tory pen produces heat which is not available (7)  
41. Siren disturbed, got up (5)  
42. Ban vile center of metal shaping tool (5)  
43. Lasting for each move in lane (9)  
44. Severely criticize gâteau and crêpe (7)

## Down.

1. Place where water comes up in season (6)  
2. Lessen his din, I'm upset (8)  
3. A lengthy car traveled to a Phuket village (6,5)  
4. Source of fruit to peel, taper off (5,4)  
5. Repeatedly state it, note rate (7)  
6. Possibly Mum ill nine thousand years! (10)  
7. Become inflamed, fellow! (4)  
10. In pub, right, the Spanish cask (6)  
11. Warship, if great, wrecked (7)  
12. November noon, feel about for a herb (6)  
19. Note new confidence in charge (7)

21. Right, lay toy out for member of Royal family (7)  
24. No, I'm martial involved in wedlock (11)  
26. Leer, point, maybe Romeo is an intruder (10)  
28. I lead it, or produce leading article (9)  
29. Daughter, one stanza is of a different sort (7)  
30. At sea, swell caught a missing caroller (6)  
32. Side can't show remoteness (8)  
33. Charms for periods (6)  
34. Any gist possibly remaining (7)  
38. Bring out new vine, O.K.? (6)  
40. The marks, those over there (4)

## CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



Creative and cultural pursuits are encouraged, as are new ideas and projects that allow you to express a side of yourself that others often don't get to see. Meanwhile, where money matters are concerned, you might be tempted to invest in gadgets for the home and family, especially those that can make life easier and more fun.

## AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



You'll feel good by the end of this productive and sociable week, although you might need to negotiate one or two hurdles. This could involve a conflict that's not that easy to resolve. However, your ability to bring out the best in others suggests you'll find a starting point from which to continue your discussions.

## PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



This week, participation brings success. Plus, a delightful tie-up encourages you to take note of intuitive hunches, even if some of them seem a

little left field. Acting on one of them could result in a new opportunity coming your way. Finally, if you're uncertain of what to do next, try relaxing and the answer may well magically appear.

## ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



There's a chance to strengthen ties with those with whom you share an interest, and it

might occur while you're traveling or pursuing educational goals. Similar objectives can certainly bring you and another closer together. However, a difference in belief could temporarily disconnect you from someone – but try to not let this worry you.

## TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



Success may be all about timing this week, especially if you need advice to forge ahead with a goal or plan. Synchronicity can play a part, meaning you could connect with someone who has the information you need. Plus, now the New Year is really under way, Mars encourages you to clarify your priorities and take purposeful action.

YOUR  
horoscope

By Patrick Arundell

## GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Your ideas seem particularly imaginative this week, yet you could have

trouble convincing someone of their efficacy or finesse. And it's possible you'll need to resolve this conflict before you can move ahead. It's also likely your ability to detach could help you to rectify this matter and find a suitable compromise.

## CANCER (June 22-July 23):



It may be hard not to take on your sweetheart's or friends worries and make them your own. Whatever the source of their anxieties, talk them over and try to find solutions, as this way you won't feel so helpless. Meanwhile, an inspired idea could lead to actions that might pleasantly increase your income.

## LEO (July 24-Aug 23):



Mars glides into Pisces and your zone of shared resources early this week, which might be a hint from the cosmos to take control, especially if you've lost track since the festive holidays. There's more too, as a Saturn link brings an opportunity to say yes to a proposition that needs work, but could be lucrative, nevertheless.

## VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23):



Frustrations could arise if family members aren't receptive to your views or latest plans. Perhaps the only way to get through might be to underscore the benefits of what you hope to achieve. Meanwhile, something you learn and adapt to your needs could put extra cash in your hand, and give you a reason to smile.

## LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



Venus makes some sparkling aspects to Uranus this week, meaning your charisma shifts into high gear, adding to your social and

romantic popularity. Expect invites and encounters out of the blue. One of them could even be a lot of fun. Meanwhile, bold thinking and a good strategy can soon see you flying high.

## SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



Give your originality a chance to be expressed by taking note of any brilliant

ideas that show up. This week's alignments encourage you to pay attention to your intuition too, which may be heightened by Mars' move into Pisces. In addition, this influence could be useful if romantic or creative concerns need attention.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Upbeat and lively influences suggest that the social buzz continues to build, with some great ideas showing up for fun or sizzling entertainment. However, despite getting along famously with most people, your family or someone close could be a source of frustration. You might find a lot of flexibility is required in order to agree on a plan.



# Property of tomorrow

Sansiri expert predicts what the future holds for Phuket's real estate market

**THE year 2014 saw a number of new property developments – most noticeably condominiums – emerge on the Phuket map, fundamentally changing the Phuket landscape.**

**To find out what tomorrow holds for the island's property market, the *Phuket Gazette's* Maciek Klimowicz talked to Uthai Uthaisangsuk, senior executive vice president of Business Development and Project Development Division at Sansiri, one of the country's largest property developers.**

**PG: What are the most dynamic branches of the property market on the island?**

**Uthai:** Condominiums have been the most dynamic in the last few years both in terms of new launches and construction, and in sales.

Condominiums will likely remain the prime market for Phuket in the near future, and those that will be successful will be in premium locations and designed with the end-users needs in mind.

**Regarding locations, are there any particular locations that are gaining popularity?**

Broadly speaking, Phuket can be split into beachfront property and city property.

Beachfront sites are very hard to find and real beachfront property is very rare. As such, they command prime prices and are popular with buyers that have the respective purchasing power.

Patong would also fall into the beachfront category. Even if it is not absolute

beachfront, property within walking distance to the beach area and highlights of Patong perform well, and I see this trend continuing.

I would say that the most popular property location right now on Phuket is still the central



**Mr Uthai believes the main issues that will affect Phuket's property market are the global economy and Thailand's political situation.**

area near the island's main road arteries and within easy access of key shopping, hospital and school facilities.

Although the absorption rate in this area is now decreasing due to the high level of supply, I believe the rate will again increase in the future when new developments by Central and The Mall groups are completed.

**What challenges await property**

**turn their attention to? Any particular age groups or nationalities?**

Phuket still has its core markets of Europe, Russia, Hong Kong, Singapore and Australia, with China a growing influence.

While these markets still perform and buyers in these markets are familiar with Phuket and Thailand, I think developers need to look beyond these core markets to new opportunities that may arise from the Asean Economic Community (AEC).

Asean countries will offer potential new markets for Phuket property developers and I believe we will see more buyers in 2015 from the 10 nations that form Asean.

**What New Year's resolution should property developers make?**

Developers need to focus more on quality and service.

There is more competition in the market than ever before and developers need to focus on delivering a quality product, as well as providing good service to buyers throughout the purchase process and after they have moved in.

They should also look for differentiation.

Developers should look more to new product segments that still have relatively low supply, such as townhouses.

## Smart bathrooms new hot commodity for developers

SMART bathroom construction is one of the latest innovations for the modern home, property experts say.

"We started to use smart bathrooms in our condominium projects early this year, ordered from our Japanese supplier, which designed them to suit our residential units," Pruksa Real Estate president and chief executive officer Thongma Vijitpongpan said.

Smart bathrooms are pre-manufactured and then built into the residential unit. This cuts the time required to build a bathroom by more than 30 per cent compared with conventional techniques, while at the same time benefiting from Japanese manufacturing standards, he said.

Many developers have chosen the Wako Bathroom Modular System to provide improved bathroom facilities in their residential units.

Wako BMS is a revolutionary Japanese bathroom design recently introduced to Thailand that helps reduce costs, improve quality and cut construction time.



**Streamlining the bathroom construction process in a cost-effective way is high on developers' priority lists.** Photo: Gürkan Sengün

Bathroom design and construction can present a number of issues for developers that often cause construction delays and additional expenses. So, a cost-effective solution that improves installation time is much in demand.

Yuthana Asaiphol, design and construction manager of Siam Aroon Group, said, "We have to take our almost 1,000 residents into consideration, as our bath-

room renovations have to cause minimal disruption. This makes Wako BMS a well-suited alternative to traditional renovation, as the upgrade takes place quickly and with little fuss."

Smart bathrooms can be an answer for all types of buildings at a time when labor costs are rising. Firms and contractors can cut costs while also speeding up construction.

– *The Nation*

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# The island's chalk and cheese

## Up-market luxury condos, apartments attracting discerning Phuket buyers



**Phuket Pads**

**Patrick Lusted**

PHUKET is, in many ways, becoming similar to Pattaya, with more and more cheap condos popping up in Patong, Kathu and other areas of the island.

One-bedroom units from 1-3 million baht are becoming the norm to cater to the once-a-year tourist, and Thai investors are becoming eager to make an investment in Phuket's booming property market.

### CHALK AND CHEESE, THERE ARE CONDOS AND APARTMENTS

Then, there are the more up-market and luxury condos and apartments which are attracting discerning buyers. These buyers do not want the hassle and costs of villa maintenance, and prefer to lock the door and have peace of mind when back in their home countries.

These buyers are looking for good design, luxury, high quality, convenience and proximity to amenities and the beach.

There is at least one exclusive development that has it all, and its apartments are much sought after and rarely come onto the market.

### BEAUTIFUL LUXURY TWO-BEDROOM, SEAVIEW KATA APARTMENT

Recently created in the south of the island, this development is a stylish boutique resort boasting an unusual retro-deco design with



This Kata Beach seaview apartment boasts a retro-deco design with hints of Mayan-style architecture.

hints of Mayan-style architecture. The muted yellow and green hues of the buildings blend in with the exotic colors of the lush forest that sweeps down to Kata Beach. Each secluded apartment has stunning sea views, and guests only have a

two-minute walk to the white, sandy beach below.

This apartment has two bedrooms, each with big-screen TVs; the master bedroom has an ensuite bathroom comprising a large Jacuzzi and circular shower room

with a double-basin vanity unit. The guest bedroom has its own private entry and a separate shower room. The showers have just been redone with beautiful mosaics.

The open-plan living area is airy

and modern. There is a fully-equipped designer kitchen with gloss red cabinets and black counter tops with a built-in ceramic hob, hood and refrigerator. The lounge opens onto a large outdoor terrace that features broad sea views.

High-quality sliding doors and mosquito screens from Sun Paradise have been newly installed. There are ceiling fans in every room and an additional three on the balconies for your comfort and enjoyment.

With the accent firmly set on tranquility, comfort and contemporary style, the development offers a choice of superior apartments and facilities, which include a restaurant, a wine and cigar shop, two swimming pools, a gymnasium, business center, meeting room, high-speed wireless internet access and a spa.

Original paintings and antiques are displayed in the spa, restaurant and lobby, complementing the style of decor.

There is easy access between the 12 buildings and facilities which make up the resort, and the property is set amongst beautifully landscaped gardens, filled with colorful tropical plantings.

This particular seaview apartment is offered for 18.95 million baht, completely furnished and absolutely oozing luxury and quality of the highest standard. It is owned through shares in a Hong Kong company, and can be easily transferred.

For more information, contact Patrick Lusted at Siam Real Estate, quote reference number: CSSV6442, by calling 076-288908 or visiting [www.siamrealestate.com](http://www.siamrealestate.com)

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## Property developers expected to face positive challenges in year ahead

THIS year will be a challenging one for property developers in the positive sense, with foreign players interested in expanding their investment in the Thai real-estate sector as they prepare for the Asean Economic Community (AEC) to come into effect.

"Foreign investors from China, Japan, Singapore, the Middle East, Hong Kong and Europe are interested in expanding their investment in the property sector in Thailand by seeking local partners for joint investment in both condominium and hospitality projects," said CB Richard Ellis Thailand's managing director, Aliwassa Pathnadabutr.

With Thailand at the geographic center of the region, foreign companies across many sectors want to set up head offices here in order to expand their business in Southeast Asia and, when they do, they normally look for suitable housing for staff from their home



Both foreign and domestic investors are expanding into the Thai property market ahead of the AEC. Photo: Alter

country, Ms Aliwassa said.

This will boost demand for both office space and residential property, helping both segments to expand, she added.

"We have foreign investors asking us for more information, and also assigning us to find them partners to develop property projects in Thailand," she said.

Not only are foreign investors expanding into the Thai property sector as part of plans to use the nation as a gateway to other Asean countries, but Thai conglomerates have also been diversifying investments into the real-estate sector after seeing the opportunity on offer when the AEC begins, said Ms Aliwassa. — *The Nation*



# Flavors with a view

By Maciek Klimowicz

PHUKET is a unique island, unlike any other in Thailand, and many consider it to be more of a separate entity with its own culture, history and cuisine.

All three can be discovered in the narrow lanes of Old Phuket Town. But, if your main focus is food and you like to dine while enjoying a sea view, Senzees at Eastin Yama Hotel in Kata has you covered.

One glance at Senzees' menu and you'll find all that a respectable Phuket restaurant simply has to offer: steak, fish and salads – not to mention a wide choice of classic Thai dishes.

However, the "Taste of Phuket" right at the front of the menu, demonstrates what dining at Senzees should be about.

I have previously tried every single dish from this part of Senzees' menu before – not at their restaurant, but at traditional, authentic Phuket restaurants developed through generations of

experience. The savory *Mee Hokkien*, yellow noodles with seafood; the light and refreshing *Por Pea Sod*, spring rolls wrapped in the same way they were 100 years ago; the fat-laden *Moo Hong*; the popular *Hor Mok* street snack...

Living in Phuket, I quickly developed a liking for such local dishes, and the ones that I found at Senzees proved to be no less appealing and authentic than those on offer in local eateries.

Everything I tried at Eastin Yama Hotel – from the Phuket Crab Curry to the stir-fried vegetables in *Phad Puk Leang* – tasted authentic and delicious.

Senzees, though, has a bit of an advantage – that's if you like

to dine in peace and quiet and with a stunning view.

The 60-seats, all-day dining restaurant offers impressive vistas of the shores of Kata, allowing you to soak in the sense of space and freedom that the seaside landscape possesses.

With truly local flavors in your

One glance at Senzees menu and you'll find all that a respectable Phuket restaurant simply has to offer: steak, fish and salads – not to mention a wide choice of classic Thai dishes.



Senzees at Eastin Yama Hotel in Kata offers some Phuket favorites, like Por Pea Sod. Photos: Maciek Klimowicz



Senzees' 'Taste of Phuket' menu selection will not disappoint.



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Phuket Gazette

Phuket today

BY KANITTHA

089-8945029, 081-8103328





Rose Maitland Smith is now painting in acrylic on canvas and doing mixed-media work. Paintings photographed by Bruce Stanley at the Boathouse

# Abstract expressionist

## Exciting new genre of art debuts at the Boathouse

By Bruce Stanley

WELL known local artist Rose Maitland Smith will be on hand to open her new art exhibition on January 17. About 20 of her unique, striking and colorful paintings have arrived at the Boathouse by Montara on Kata Beach and will remain on show there until mid-March.

Rose, who exudes in person the same energy and optimism that is so evident in her “abstract expressionist” works, says she became an artist by default, driven by a desire to share.

“When I’m painting, I try to set my mind completely free so the feelings I have about the world around me can be felt on the canvas. When I sail around Phang Nga Bay, for example, I feel that na-

ture is perfect and I want to share that feeling with people through my paintings,” she explains.

“I also want my work to make a home or office more beautiful. I

When I’m painting, I try to set my mind completely free so the feelings I have about the world around me can be felt on the canvas. When I sail around Phang Nga Bay... I feel that nature is perfect and I want to share that feeling with people through my paintings.

love interior design concepts and use colors and textures to create feelings.”

Now working in acrylic on canvas and mixed media, Rose initially found it difficult to call herself an artist. “Children would ask me if I was an artist and I would say,

‘no’. Then, through the years, [adults would ask the same] and I gradually began to respond with a ‘Yes, I am!’”

As part of a family devoted to creating and selling high-end furniture and art, Rose is curator of the “32 Thalang Gallery 34”, on Thalang Road in Phuket Town.

Next month, she will add an en-



Rose is the curator of ‘32 Thalang Gallery 34’ on Thalang Road in Phuket Town. Photo: Darin Limsuansub

tirely new medium with which to share her creative energy – television, with the launch of her “Rose’s Favorites” on the *Phuket Gazette’s* nationally broadcast

“Phuket Today” show. There, she will be telling us about her lifestyle choices in Phuket.

“Rose’s Favorites” will air nationally every day on True Visions

and nine times a day on Phuket’s local cable channels. It is also available on demand on the *Gazette Online*, the *Gazette’s* Youtube channel and Facebook.





# I drove all night

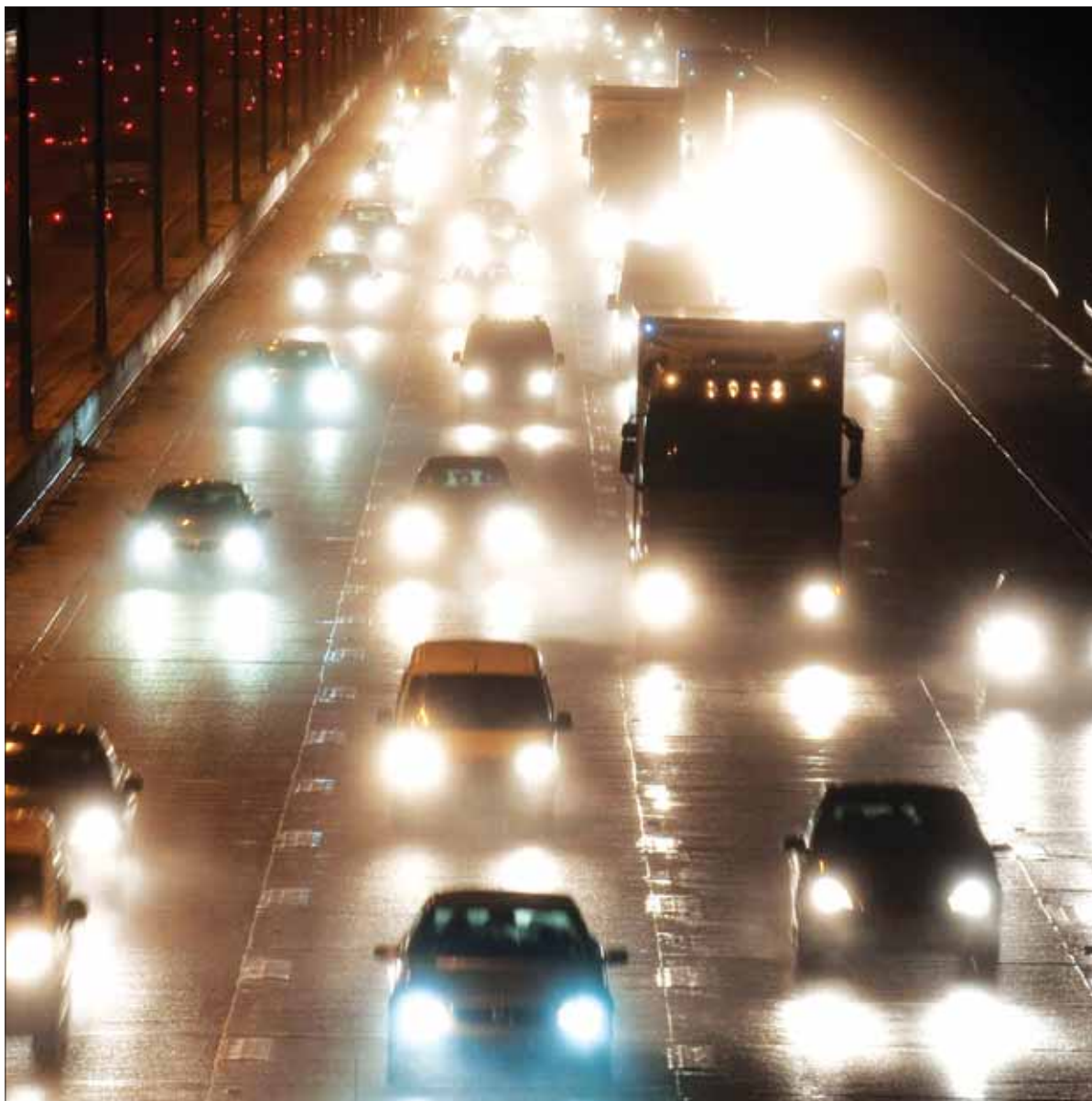
By Bill Barnett

HERE we go again, some 38,000 feet up in the heavens, headed for Seoul and beyond. My noise-canceling headphones are weathering sonic booms and the chainsaw buzz of Iggy Pop. The "Ig" has become a man for all ages. Instead of dying young in a pool of blood up there on stage, he's made it through to the other side – alive.

The journey of time and space through the rabbit hole isn't an easy one, although once you miraculously make it past 50, things become a little clearer. Still, the fog hasn't entirely dissipated, more probably, it's the same as a misty morning when the haze is starting to lift and the white lines in the middle of the road start to become recognizable.

I've done my share of all-nighters and driven through the pitch-black dark more times than I care to remember. But one thing was a constant and a given – the omnipresent soundtrack. In other words, music. It wasn't always rock and roll, or old jazz – or even the Top 40 that constantly haunted me – but the beat I can hear in my head... even after the music has stopped.

There remains a deep connection between music and the moment, whether it be past or present. All too often I hear a song, which has me closing my eyes and I'm suddenly transported on a magic carpet to another place and another time. Life and death are far too complex to contemplate, as are politics, religion, science and philosophy. It's all too



Getting lost in the headlights with Bill as the world gets a little more blurry. Photo: Highways Agency

much, and the insane urge to stick my head in a filing cabinet and just keep pushing into the dingy recesses of storage is tempting.

But the connection to that song,

album or melody remains a living testimony to magic in the world. Dial in and dial out to sadness, pain or sheer absolute joy.

I can remember my first time,

as a kid, riding in a convertible car across the landscape at an insane speed. Or the mad crazy love I had in my heart for a woman whom I couldn't get enough of:

*I Drove All Night*, but the music lasted long after she was gone.

My road trips continue to this day, and the teenage days of hitchhiking cross country with only a handful of money and a transistor radio to keep me company between rides seem like only yesterday. Yes, there was a downside, stuck in conservative West Texas, long hair blowing in the wind and two days of waiting to get out of the God-forsaken desert. Or riding on a freight train through the mountains in a lightning storm with massive raindrops falling from Heaven. Finally, as the morning came, the stars shone dimly above and it was another day and another song.

While I do have my guilty pleasures, ranging from Metal bands, to a few shameful pop acts, the one musical act that I could never accept is Kenny G. I know there are those amongst us who may use the Sax Man as a portal to their own personal happy place, but not me – only thoughts of pure hatred bubble to the surface when the annoying Kenny starts blowing. I even have a hard time being convivial towards men named Ken or Kenneth.

One thing is for certain; my connection with music is neither special nor unique. Yet still the moments that ebb and flow like the tide down at Bang Tao Beach could not be more vivid or passionate. The past is gone and all too fast, but the reality is it's always there – sitting next to us in that speeding convertible with the top down, the accelerator on the floor and the music way up loud. Can you hear it? I can.

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# Solution: re-brand Phuket

## On Your Mind

By Patrick Mattimore

MARLBORO has been the world's number one cigarette brand since 1972. It is larger than its next three competitors combined and, in the United States, it is the number one cigarette brand in every state and the number one cigarette brand for men and women across all adult age groups. In 2009, Marlboro's share was larger than the next 12 American cigarette brands combined.

But in 1953, Marlboro was languishing. Created as a woman's cigarette during the heyday of the American suffragette movement in the 1920s, the product was not overly appealing to women – breathing was damaged, teeth yellowed and an agonizing dry cough ensued.

Philip Morris, the brand owner, shifted gears. Leo Burnett, the company's new advertising agency, introduced the rugged Marlboro man cowboy image and sales took off.

Other companies have also done an amazing job in re-branding themselves.

Banana Republic managed to capture its market by rebranding their casual Gap-like product line to become high-end women's fashion. They used visuals to make this transformation.



Is it time for Phuket to get a move on and re-brand itself? Patrick thinks so. Photo: Gazette file

Boston Chicken renamed themselves Boston Market and expanded their offerings.

Phuket is suffering an image problem, partly of its own making, and partly as a result of events outside its control, such as the country's largely misunderstood martial law imposition

and the Koh Tao murders.

Tourism arrivals in Thailand are down about 20 per cent compared with last year.

The *Gazette* reported at the end of May – shortly after the coup – that the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) was reporting booking cancellation rates up about 10 per

cent in Phuket compared with the same period last year, and new reservations were down by 10-20 per cent.

The military government has cracked down on mafia groups operating in Phuket and has cleared the beaches of scam artists who prey on visitors

looking to rent personal watercraft.

That should have bolstered tourism but, despite those efforts, tourism has not picked up since the coup and a number of high-profile crimes since the military takeover haven't helped.

The Australian government has issued a travel advisory cautioning would-be tourists to "exercise a high degree of caution in Thailand due to the possibility of civil unrest and the threat of terrorism attack."

So, how can Phuket re-brand itself with words and images to send the city's stock soaring and attract new visitors?

The images are easy. People and geography. I still remember my first glimpses of the Andaman Sea a couple of years ago when I decided that not even the most spectacular postcards could do justice to the reality – a tagline to an advertising campaign that would be apt today.

Phuket has some of the most glorious beaches and waterfront in the world. Show it and promote it, especially to families who will also appreciate learning that Phuket is great value for money compared with nearly any other of the world's famous beach resort destinations.

As to the words for a re-branding campaign, what speaks to me is the Thai smile. How about a catchy new slogan: Thai style, Thai smile?

## Thai cinematic breakdown 2015

WITH Hollywood's awards season now in full swing, it seems only right that we award one of our own: the prize for biggest box-office takings. Not surprisingly, that goes to GTH's latest romantic comedy, *I Fine Thank You Love You*, which last Saturday became the studio's second highest grossing film of all time, topping 325 million baht and looking likely to take even more cash before it finishes its run.

*I Fine...* was released late last year and as we look further into 2015, can we expect similar profits – or losses? 3

*Antarai*, also known as *TV Game Net*, cashed in for only 7,900 baht from its seven days of screening.

Information released by the Thai film industry indicates that just like 2014, most of the movies to be released this year will be by independent filmmakers. Indies had a comparative success last year and earned recognition from both viewers and the cinema business, which bodes well for 2015, as they will almost certainly be

given more show time and thus more chances to make a few baht.

However, major studio Sahamongkol Films, which didn't enjoy a particularly good 2014, has a stockpile and will start its year with director MR Chalermchatri "Adam" Yukol's *Phee Ha Ayothaya* on February 18.

Makers of the movie say it's the first Thai zombie film, with Adam setting it during the Ayutthaya

Period, when villagers mysteriously die off and then the bodies come back to life and start snacking on the living. Monks and magic, usually dependable

against ghosts, have no sway over them.

Adam seems to have set a trend, and we can expect another Thai zombie film later this year. *Phee Ha Rattanakosin*, which has a more recent historical setting for the dreaded undead. This one began as a mock trailer for third year film students at King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Lat Krabang. It was posted on YouTube and drew a great



Grab a friend and settle in for some zombie films. Photo: Leo Hidalgo

response, so now it's been blown up into a full-length feature.

The real finale of the epic *The Legend of King Naresuan* is to be released on April 9, just in time for

the Songkran holidays – assuming, of course, it isn't postponed like the five previous episodes. This latest addition includes new footage, as well as kilometers of

film shot by director MC Chatrichalerm "Than Mui" Yukol over the past 10 years.

Another Sahamongkol release marks the return of *Ong-Bak* director Prachya Pinkaew, who has ditched fighting in favor of singing. His new film, *Luk Thung Actually*, chronicles the love stories of seven couples through Thai country folksongs.

Krissada Sukosol Clapp, Shahkrit Yamnarn, Chalathit "Ben" Tantiwut, television show host Withawat Soontornwinat and writer Su Boonliang are among the cast.

The ebullient Poj Anon apparently has plenty of new projects up his sleeve, including the release in March of the latest in the *Mor 6/5* franchise.

Set in Phuket, it focuses on a confrontation between the protagonists and ghosts from the 2004 tsunami and risks being controversial.

Fans of *Ong-Bak* action star Phanom "Tony Jaa" Yeerum will be able to witness his high kicks in the Hollywood franchise *Fast and Furious 7* and Ekachai Uekrongtham is also set to show off his Hollywood director skills with *Skin Trade*.

– *Parinyaporn Pajee / The Nation*



# Worrying island waste

## One young entrepreneur battles against Phuket's waste disposal problems with organic farming

By Jirawat Kuramakanok

GARBAGE disposal is a major issue for Phuket. Every day the island produces 800 tonnes of waste of which 60 per cent is wet waste.

This issue must be solved, but merely increasing the capacity to dispose of it is not the answer. If the community is to

have sustainable growth, then all that waste has to be managed.

Tiwat Phuengrang, a young Phuketian whose family has been living here for over 60 years is contributing to the solution. He has convinced his family in Pa Khlok – agriculturalists all – to pioneer a brand-new organic farm.

The family originally came to Phuket to work on the tin mines and with the mines' demise his father established a farm on which he raised shrimp, and cultivated bird nests along with local herbs and fruit.

Meanwhile, Tiwat, who had attended the Princess Mother School Phuket and subsequently developed a strong interest in bio-

technology, then studied at Thammasat University in the faculty of Science and Technology.

On returning home, he was not keen on taking a normal job but instead preferred to try something new, such as organic farming.

His father was initially reluctant, but decided to back his son at a time when the family shrimp farm business

was declining.

Tiwat started by making his own compost and constructing a greenhouse in which he planted his first 4,000 heads of lettuce.

He tested growth techniques and long-term market capacity fluctuations so that his organic farm could be a business model for others.

"I have to try so I can understand what's going to happen in the process of organic growth. I need to learn the most efficient ways to produce organic crops which are good for people's health," Tiwat explains.

"In general, the normal focus is on marketing and using chemicals and I don't like it."

**I have to try so I can understand what's going to happen in the process of organic growth. I need to learn the most efficient ways to produce organic crops which are good for people's health.**



Tiwat Phuengrang tends to his crops inside the greenhouse at his organic farm.

In the long term, his strategies will help to reduce the amount of waste sent to the incinerator.

Reduction is a secret for the future, and Tiwat is an excellent example of what can be done by an individual who believes in a sustainable future.

Tiwat and I are both young Thais who can see the need for change and the need to convince

our families to change with us so that we can look after them and our community in the future.

It's a very exciting time to try something like this and to help resolve issues that are so important to our environment. And it's our duty to keep Phuket a sustainable place to live.

Just try to imagine what it would be like if there were no in-

cinerator, or if it broke down. Phuket would turn into a huge rubbish heap.

We have to address this matter and I'm really happy seeing a new generation working so hard to solve the island's waste-disposal problems, and more importantly improving people's health and well-being through the consumption of organic food.

## What is organic farming?

ACCORDING to the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), organic agriculture is "a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity, and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects. Organic Agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved."

IFOAM has developed four principles upon which it states that organic agriculture grows and develops.

**Health:** Organic Agriculture should sustain and enhance the health of soil, plant, animal, human and planet as one and indivisible.

**Ecology:** Organic Agriculture should be based on living ecological systems and cycles, work



Organic agriculture focuses on sustainability. Photo: ecoyou

with them, emulate them and help sustain them.

**Fairness:** Organic Agriculture should build on relationships that ensure fairness with regard to the common environment and life opportunities.

**Care:** Organic Agriculture should be managed in a precautionary and responsible manner to protect the health and well-being of current and future generations and the environment.

## Thailand's orchid farms could face watery grave

MORE than 3,000 rai of orchid farms in Nakhon Pathom province are under threat of being ruined by salty water.

The latest salinity tests show 6 grams of salt per liter of water in the Nakhon Chaisi River.

This river is connected to the Chinda canal, where the orchid farms are located.

Although the amount of salt has reduced from 12 grams per liter, it is still much higher than the standard 2 grams.

"Farmers are getting worried," Royal Irrigation Department deputy director-general Suthep Noipairoj said on January 8. He reckoned that this area in Samphran district is one of the country's most important bases for orchid production.

According to Mr Suthep, salinity in the river has increased because of high tides. The Royal Irrigation Department has been



Samphran district in Nakhon Pathom is one of Thailand's most important bases for orchid production. Photo: Jack Merridew

trying to tackle this problem by diverting fresh water from nearby waterways to both the Nakhon Chaisi River and Chinda Canal.

"We have used this strategy since Tuesday [January 6] and we have seen improvements," Mr Suthep said.

In addition, the department has helped install big bags between the

Nakhon Chaisi River and the Chinda canal so as to prevent the river's salty water from increasing the salinity of the canal and the orchid farms it waters.

"We have installed pumps to ensure water circulation," he said.

Mr Suthep hoped that the salty water problem would be solved by mid-January. – *The Nation*



# Yes, we do have bananas



## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

I WAS talking recently with an English lady visiting Phuket about gardening, and the subject of bananas came up.

"Do you know", she enthused, "that banana skins put around the roots of rose bushes, promote better growth?"

"No," I replied in surprise.

But then I wouldn't have known that, since bananas were like gold dust in my childhood, and my father's 150 or so hybrid tea roses had to make do with dollops of cow dung carted in by wheelbarrow from the field next door.

In fact, the first banana I remember eating was when I was 10 years old.

The lady's tip is a good idea for Phuket's rose lovers though – if you are brave enough to try cultivating what is essentially a cool-climate shrub in a tropical climate. After all, banana skins are common enough here.

Wild bananas (or *kluay* in Thai) grow everywhere in Phuket, taking over hill-sides, secondary forest and even waste ground. And widely available hybrids make an excellent choice for the gardener with a new property and a bare plot, since they will not only thrive in full sunshine and relatively shallow soil, but will shoot up fast enough to provide shade for less robust plants. Commercial growers apply a nitrogen-rich N3: P1: K6 fertilizer.

Appearances, however, can be deceptive. Most wild varieties are full of seeds or are suitable mainly for cooking. Seedless or parthenocarpic commercial bananas owe their existence to hybridization.

Even so, flavors can vary enormously – from mild, almost tasteless varieties to sweet and even slightly acidic ones. Some have dense flesh, while others are soft and floury...

In fact there are more than 200 kinds, grown in no fewer than 107 countries – the world's most popular fruit.

All, however, ultimately trace their origins back to two wild species, *Musa acuminata* and *Musa balbisiana*.

Popular among Thais, short and stubby *balbisianas* owe their popularity to a sharp, astringent taste when young – a characteristic which makes them a useful accompaniment to *phad thai* noodles, certain kinds of *nam prik* and *nam nuang*.

Both the flower – which has an artichoke-like flavor – and the stem are also used in Thai cuisine, and the leaves perform a range of functions from packaging for sticky rice and other snacks, to roofing material.

Most tropical countries differentiate between green plantains which are more starchy and generally used for cooking, and dessert bananas which are sweeter and eaten raw.

Thailand, which probably has more kinds than any other country, does not make this distinction.

In fact the world's leading banana, the Cavendish, exported by such leading producers as Fyffes, is not generally available in the Kingdom.

Bananas are unusual plants. They look like trees with their straight trunks and palm-like leaves, but in fact they are herbaceous flowering perennials. What appears to be a woody trunk is in fact a stem of toughly packed sheaths. Cut a section through the



Once mature, banana plants produce a large, purplish flower which in turn bears fruit. Photo: Miya.m

soft, water-laden tissue and it will resemble the layers of an onion.

Once mature, the banana plant will produce a huge, sexy-looking purplish flower spike, which will in turn bear fruit – up to 100 or more.

Slowly the parent plant will then expire, but suckers or offshoots from the underground roots will develop into new plants. Provided there is enough depth of soil (a minimum of 60cm), the banana will continue to generate new growth.

Many health benefits accrue from eating bananas. They are currently fashionable among sportsmen, especially tennis play-

ers, as an instant energy provider, since they contain three natural and readily assimilated sugars – sucrose, fructose and glucose. Rich in vitamin B6, they also contain manganese, potassium and vitamin C.

People who suffer from cramps swear by them, and they are known to benefit the heart, nervous system and kidneys.

Above all they are affordable, convenient, ubiquitous and relatively low in calories.

One of the most popular songs ever written – *Yes, We Have No Bananas*, written in 1922, is now way out of date. Yes, we DO have bananas!

Instead, the ones favored here as a dessert fruit eaten raw, are finger bananas, which are usually bought when green and allowed to turn yellow.

Quite small, they possess a sweet, perfumed flavor and are delicious. They are best eaten when the yellow skin is beginning to develop brown spots.

At the other end of the scale are "king" or "rajah" bananas which may be as much as 18 inches long.

Catch Patrick online at [PhuketGazette.net](http://PhuketGazette.net) Sunday morning next week, when he devles into the differences of citruses.



Many health benefits accrue from eating bananas. Photo: David Monniaux

## Tip of the Week

### Plastic platens for pots

I HAVE just discovered a nursery in Chalong that sells plastic platens, or platters for potted plants – useful for stopping the containers from staining the concrete *sai lang* (sand wash) or tiles on which they sit. Nothing to shout about, except that these saucers come not only in terra cotta red with a fluted edge, but now in plain black – much less garish.

Plastic platters have several advantages over glazed ceramic ones. They are lighter, reliably waterproof and considerably cheaper. The largest size in plastic, 15 inches across, was 45 baht: an equivalent ceramic one would cost nearly 150 baht.

Saucers are essential for potted plants that need a fairly constant source of water such as *ruellias*,



Use a saucer for certain potted plants. Photo: Cjsaffron

*heliconias* or gingers. On the other hand, plants intolerant of damp conditions such as *euphorbias*, *adeniums* or cacti, need water-free saucers. Otherwise they may rot away.





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EVERYONE'S A WINNER: Athletes get to run and raise funds for charity.

## Charity run returns with royal honors

PHUKET International Hospital will hold its annual "Run for Health, Run for Charity Mini Marathon" on February 22, with the winners receiving trophies presented by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

"This is the third year that Phuket International Hospital has organized this event. It will be a great honor to have HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn taking part by presenting trophies to the male and female winners of both the fun run and the mini marathon," said Suchart Areemit, director of Phuket International Hospital.

The marathon is divided into two categories: 3.5km fun run and 12km mini marathon. Admission fees for the fun run and mini marathon are 200 and 250 baht, respectively.

"A percentage of the entry fees will be presented to HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn," said Dr Suchart.

"Last year, we were able to present Her Majesty with 200,000 baht. We hope to raise even more money at this year's event."

For more information visit [PhuketInternationalHospital.com](http://PhuketInternationalHospital.com).

— Woranut Pechdee

*This event is proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and PGTV's nationwide 'Phuket Today' show, which broadcasts daily on True Visions channels 85 and 59.*

# Euro PGA player Shiv rates Laguna

By Maciek Klimowicz

EUROPEAN Tour and Asian Tour player Shiv Kapur last Sunday rated the re-designed course at Laguna Phuket Golf Club as "an exceptional golf course" that maintained traditions of the game.

"You walk off with a smile on your face," he said at the inaugural tournament held to officially open the course.

Kapur began the 76-player Scramble tourney with an impressive tee-off, but it was the team of Ken Lye, Ju Kuang Tan, Mike Moir and Martin Carpenter who finished the course with a combined score of 24 under par to lift the crystal winners' trophies and claim the assorted prizes.

Playing 6,719 yards from the back tees, Kapur described Laguna Phuket as reminiscent of many famous championship courses.

"The mark of a great course is when you stand on the tee and have to think strategically," he said. "This is such a thinking man's course, a feature that has been lost in some modern designs. The main challenge in Majors is around the green, which is very apparent here."

"Shorter courses can be tougher than long courses. Hong Kong Golf Club and Delhi Golf Club are examples. This course is better than many of the new championship courses built in the past five to 10 years."

Billed as offering a "new look, new experience", the club's redevelopment under the direction of golf course architect, Paul Jansen, has come 22 years after the course first opened.



European Tour and Asian Tour player Shiv Kapur tees off on the re-designed course at Laguna Phuket Golf Club.

Ravi Chandran, managing director of Laguna Resorts & Hotels Plc, said the upgrading of the course over the past 18 months had brought it to an international standard consistent with the quality of hotels and facilities in the Laguna Phuket resort complex.

"Our recent investment shows how serious we are about golf and our hotel guests," Ravi said. "It is good for kids, non-professionals and serious golfers."

"After hosting the Thailand Open in 2009, we now hope to host more professional events. In the last quarter of this year, we will

hold the inaugural Laguna Phuket Amateur Golf Tournament."

Paul Jansen, who directed the course re-design, said that he had sought to create interest and memorability in the re-design, while being environmentally conscious throughout the entire reconstruction process.

"We used Zoysia on fairways, which is the lowest maintenance warm season grass available, reduced the amount of grass [through woodchip and mulch areas on the side of fairways], decreased the number of sprinklers from 1,400 to less than 800, recycled trees in building steps and

benches, and accentuated water features," he explained.

"Everything was done in-house by the Laguna Phuket maintenance staff. The course reflects its surroundings very well, and I believe it will stand the test of time."

Paul Wilson, director of Laguna Phuket Golf Club, said that the re-launch event was the first gourmet golf themed event held in Phuket.

"The golf tournament on Sunday enabled us to showcase the golf course, as well as the wonderful variety of food, beverage and spa experiences available at the resort," he told the 120 guests at the opening event.

## Phang Nga Bay Regatta calls for cruisers to take sail

THE iconic Phang Nga Bay Regatta returns for its 18<sup>th</sup> edition this year, with a move to March and calls for cruisers to take sail on the bay.

The annual regatta, informally dubbed "the party regatta" from its reputation in its founding years, has for more than a decade been held, or at least started, in February.

This year, however, the jaunt around the bay will comprise four days of racing from March 4-8, through the spectacular scenery of Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi.

"We are delighted that we have received such a fantastic response to the change of dates to the first week of March," said Race Director Simon James of sailing-event organizer Regattas Asia.

"Traditionally, the regatta was based around the Chinese New Year Holiday. However, with the influx of Asian tourists into

the area around this 10-day holiday, it has become increasingly difficult for competitors to secure accommodation and charter yachts during this busy period.

"In addition, the change of dates should mean that more charter yachts will be available [to join] as we see this division developing."

Several venues have re-confirmed for 2015, and James is working on a new mid-regatta stop-over to be announced soon.

This year's program will begin with registration and the opening party at The Chandara Resort & Spa at Ao Por, on Phuket's east coast.

The first-night party will be held at The



The annual regatta, now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year, offers racing and fun amid the spectacular scenery of Phang Nga Bay. Photo: Gazette file

Paradise Koh Yao, then the regatta moves across the bay for the second-night stop-over at a venue yet to be announced,

followed by a race to Tonsai Bay on Phi Phi Island for the third-night party stopover at the Arayaburi Resort.

The final day sees the traditional race back across the bay to Phuket for the prize-giving ceremony and final-night party at the O2 Beach Club in Chalong.

Online entries opened on January 14.

Skippers contemplating entering the regatta are urged to decide quickly.

"Due to the limited facilities at our party venues, maximum entries will be set at 50 yachts," James said.

Discounts are offered for entries registered before Valentine's Day, February 14. For details, visit [BayRegatta.com](http://BayRegatta.com).





Packers tight end Richard Rodgers celebrates after scoring a touchdown against the Cowboys in the fourth quarter. Photo: Jeff Hanisch-USA TODAY Sports

# Hobbled Rodgers inspires Packers to playoff victory

By Simon Evans

THERE were no Arctic-like temperatures or an epic final drive to clinch an NFL title, but there certainly was a similar spirit of overcoming adversity in a game that was hyped as Ice Bowl II.

Aaron Rodgers, hobbled by a painful calf injury that limited his mobility, threw two second-half touchdowns to help the Green Bay Packers beat the Dallas Cowboys 26-21 last Sunday to reach the January 18 NFC Championship game at Seattle.

And like the 1967 Ice Bowl between the same teams, this game was decided on the one-yard line. But whereas in the epic clash from the Vince Lombardi era it was a quarterback sneak from Bart Starr that won the game, this time it was an officiating call that determined the outcome.

A controversial game-changing reversal of an apparent catch by Cowboys receiver Dez Bryant, which likely would have set up a go-ahead touchdown for Dallas, robbed viewers of what could have been a remarkable finish.

If football is America's secular religion, then Lambeau Field is its Sistine Chapel, and the stadium



Rodgers' performance inspired his Green Bay Packers. Photo: Reuters

which dominates this small Wisconsin town of barely 100,000 residents, attracts fans who arrive expecting inspiration.

They weren't let down last Sunday as Rodgers, a rather unassuming hero, in pain, adjusted his game to his restricted movement and led his team to victory.

There are no signs that Rodgers' injury will heal before facing the defending Super Bowl champions and it will require something even more special if he is to take his team to the Super Bowl for the second time in five seasons.

Seattle's defense is clearly the best in the league as they demonstrated again in their 31-17 win over the Carolina Panthers last Saturday, and their quarterback Russell Wilson continues to mature into a true member of the elite in that pivotal position.

The AFC divisional round also lived up to expectations. The clash between the New England Patriots and Baltimore Ravens turned into a thrilling shootout as Tom Brady twice led the Patriots back from 14-point deficits.

A trick play that saw Brady

pass back to receiver Julian Edelman before the former college quarterback threw a 51-yard touchdown strike to Danny Amendola, was one of the highlights of the weekend.

Brady's stature was emphasized by him overtaking Joe Montana for the most playoff touchdown passes in NFL history, but on Saturday (January 18) he will duel with a young quarterback who looks set to be the next to join such elite company when the Patriots face off with the Indianapolis Colts.

Andrew Luck was chosen by the Colts to replace Peyton Manning in 2012 and on Sunday he made that decision look an inspired one as he guided the Colts to a 24-13 win over Manning's Denver Broncos.

The 38-year-old Manning has had a wonderful career, but the loss felt like the final curtain had fallen on it.

Having lost in the Super Bowl heavily last year to Seattle and then failing to get out of the divisional round this time, Manning, non-committal post-game, may decide his legacy doesn't need another season like this one.

— Reuters



Cristiano Ronaldo. Photo: Reuters

## Ronaldo pips Messi to win Ballon d'Or

CRISTIANO Ronaldo won the FIFA Ballon d'Or award for the second year running and the third overall on Monday and said he wanted to become "one of the greatest players of all time".

The Real Madrid forward polled more than double the number of votes as his bitter rival Lionel Messi, who only just edged Bayern Munich and Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer into third place.

Ronaldo was forgiven for a disappointing World Cup, with Portugal going out in the first round.

Instead, the voters – the coaches and captains of the 209 national teams plus one journalist for each country – were swayed by his prolific goal-scoring and trophy-laden year with Real Madrid, where he has flourished under Ancelotti.

"I never thought that I would bring this trophy back home on three occasions and I want to win it again. I want to become one of the greatest players of all time," Ronaldo told the audience after a ceremony which lasted nearly two hours.

Ronaldo, who has made a point of displaying his rippling muscles in his goal celebrations, then belted "Sim!" (Yes!) into the microphone, somewhat startling the ceremony presenter.

The award has almost turned into a personal duel between Ronaldo – who topped the voting in 2008, 2013 and 2014 – and Messi.

Messi won four years in a row from 2009 to 2012, with Ronaldo finishing second on three occasions. Only Andres Iniesta, runner-up in 2010, has managed to break the duopoly.

— Reuters

## Formula E boss not cheesed off by Vettel snub

WHILE Sebastian Vettel has turned his nose up at Formula E, describing the electric car racing series as "cheese", its chief executive hopes the four-time world Formula One champion would one day get behind the wheel of a battery-powered race car.

"We're big admirers of Vettel," said Alejandro Agag. "He just doesn't like Formula E. Maybe one day we can convince him to come to Formula E."

A pack of high-pitch humming electric vehicles zoomed along the streets of Buenos Aires last Saturday at speeds of up to 220kmh in the fourth race of Formula E's debut season.

Spanish businessman Agag hopes the series, which has the blessing of the FIA, motorsport's governing body, will help electric vehicles shrug off an image problem and fine-tune their technologies.



The electric Formula E cars reach up to 220kmh.

"People don't think of them as quick, as cool," Agag said. "We respect what Vettel thinks, but I also respect what Alain Prost thinks," he said.

Former Formula One great Prost heads up the championship's e.dams-Renault team.

— Reuters

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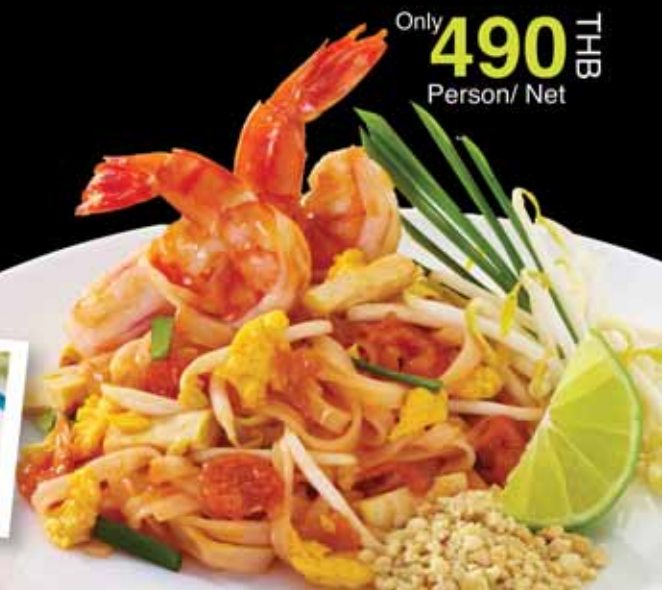


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