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# Phuket Gazette



## Last of the beach encroachers

**Governor vows to demolish buildings allegedly encroaching on Surin Beach**

**INSIDE TODAY**

February 21 - 27, 2015

PhuketGazette.Net

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# ‘TOURISTS IN TEARS OVER BEACH CHAIRS’ Beach bans

**Gov Nisit: no sun loungers, cigarettes or food on the sand**

By **Chutharat Plerin**

BEACHGOERS have been banned from eating and smoking on Phuket's beaches.

Governor Nisit Jansomwong announced the news on Tuesday at a press conference designed to clarify that beach chairs were also prohibited.

Beach umbrellas, even those brought by tourists, are now confined to the designated 10-per-cent areas reserved for beach vendors, Governor Nisit said.

Originally, the 10-per-cent plan allowed beachgoers with personal umbrellas to plant their parasols anywhere on the sand, and confined those renting them from vendors to the 10-per-cent area.

Now, umbrellas are not allowed outside these areas, though towels and beach mats are still allowed anywhere on the sands.

The news delivered on Tuesday wrapped up a wild week of beach-regulation enforcement that left one tourist in tears after police politely – but forcibly – removed her private beach chair from Patong Beach.

Meanwhile, more than 30 tourists stormed the Kamala Police Station to demand an explanation for why their beach chairs were moved off the beach by police officers.

Yet, Gov Nisit stood strong in his decision to ban sun loungers from Phuket beaches.

“Today, I would like to make it clear. We



**NO PICNIC:** An unhappy beachgoer holds up a sign given to him by police. Photo: Decha Sithidej

will continue to strictly enforce the rules prohibiting beach chairs on Phuket sands,” he told the press conference.

The governor's statement flew in the face of Patong Mayor Chalermkluck Kebsup's call on Monday for a compromise, following several incidents on Patong Beach during which tourists became outraged after police asked them to remove their sun loungers from the sands in compliance with the no-chair policy.

The issue went viral on the internet, with videos and pictures circulating on social media sites showing tourists upset when asked

to remove their sun loungers from the beach. Some videos showed tourists vowing never to return to Phuket if beach chairs remained banned.

Ms Chalermkluck told the *Gazette* that she was concerned about the effect these incidents would have on tourism.

“I understand where the tourists are coming from, especially the elderly. They are more comfortable on the beach if they have a lounger,” she said...

Continued on Page 7

## Online 90-day immigration check-in not in Phuket, yet

FOREIGNERS living in Thailand will be able to report to immigration for their 90-day check-in via the immigration website no sooner than April, an immigration officer confirmed.

The news follows an experimental launch of the online reporting system in Bangkok last month.

Full story on Page 6

## Teen gangsters stab man near police station

POLICE are hunting a group of teenagers who dragged a man out of his pick-up truck and stabbed him in the chest just meters from Patong Police Station.

The man managed to limp to Patong Hospital after the beating.

Police were unaware of the attack until they received a call from a hospital staffer.

Full story on Page 2

## Weekend fun at Lighthouse Market – join!

THE Boat Lagoon will be hosting its second Lighthouse Weekend Market following its sweeping success last month. The quality shopping, dining and entertainment runs from 4pm to 10pm all weekend.

Full story on Page 11

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## This Week



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PHA launch to tackle hospitality industry woes. **Page 11**



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Chill out at Jasmine B's with friends and good grub. **Page 31**



### Art

Local BISP student opens first solo art exhibition. **Page 32**



### Well-being

Reap the benefits of the truly magnificent mangosteen. **Page 33**



### Boating

A two-year voyage in creating the 55-foot Siesta. **Page 35**

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# Man stabbed meters away from Patong police station

By Thawit Bilabdullar

A MAN is in hospital after a gang of teenagers dragged him out of his pick-up truck and stabbed him in the chest within meters of the Patong Police Station last Sunday.

Yet, police did not learn of the attack until staffers at Patong Hospital called them at about 3:30am.

The staffers reported that Surasak Ruengpeng, 26, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, had staggered up to the emergency room and collapsed.

He had been stabbed once in the chest with a thin, sharp object.

Lt Col Teerasak Boonsang responded to the call, and soon after his team of officers found a pick-up truck parked askew in front of the police station with the driver's window smashed.

"Witnesses said that they saw Mr Surasak's truck screech to a halt in front of the police station, as he had tried to enter through the gate on Sainamyen Road," said Col Teerasak.

"But it was the wrong entrance; it was closed. The main entrance is around the corner."

The witnesses also reported seeing a group of teenagers – number unknown – ride up on more than four motorcycles.



Mr Surasak limped to Patong Hospital after the attack.

"They smashed the window and pulled Mr Surasak out of the car," Col Teerasak said. "They beat him to the ground, then continued to kick and punch him."

"After that, one of the teenagers pulled out a knife and stabbed him."

The teenagers then sped off, leaving Mr Surasak to limp toward Patong Hospital, about 50 meters away.

"We believe that Mr Surasak had an earlier altercation with the gang that attacked him," Col Teerasak told the *Gazette*.

"He tried to get to the police

station, but unfortunately could not get in through the side gate and became trapped."

Mr Surasak is now in the men's surgery ward at Vachira Hospital in Phuket Town, a hospital staffer confirmed on Wednesday.

Police are searching for the gang of attackers.

"We have very little to go on, and there is no CCTV covering the area where the attack occurred, but we will check other CCTV cameras in the area," Col Teerasak said.

"We will question Mr Surasak after his condition improves."

# German tourist drowns off Krabi

A GERMAN tourist drowned in Krabi while swimming with his son on February 12.

Martin Hofstetter, 57, and his family checked into a bungalow resort on Koh Siboya, south of Krabi Town, on February 11, explained Lt Col Kittichet Kittiratanasombat of the Klong Khanan Police.

"They took a sea trip to Koh Lola and went swimming there [on February 12]," Col Kittichet told the *Gazette*.

"They were unaware of the strong current there. Mr Hofstetter could not stop himself from being dragged out to sea."

Mr Hofstetter's son rushed to help his father, while his mother looked on from the shore, some 150 meters away, Col Kittichet



Rescue workers attend to Mr Hofstetter's body after the accident.

explained.

"His son was unable to pull his father back to shore, and he started calling out for help," he said.

"Several local villagers rushed to help. They managed to bring Mr Hofstetter back to shore, and

rushed him to Nuea Klong Hospital, but he was pronounced dead on arrival."

Arrangements are being made to return Mr Hofstetter's body to Germany for the funeral, Col Kittichet confirmed.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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## One killed, three injured in multi-vehicle road accident

POLICE are blaming a new set of traffic lights for a high-speed crash that killed one motorcyclist and injured three others on Thepkasattri Road on February 12.

Police arrived at the scene, at the old airport junction, to find a 10-wheeled truck and a van overturned on the shoulder of the road next to a motorcycle, as well as two other damaged vehicles in the street.

"CCTV footage in the area shows a 10-wheeled truck in the northbound lane approaching the intersection at high speed and slamming into a van waiting there at the red lights," Lt Col Thanom Thongpan of the Tah Chat Chai Police told the *Gazette*.

"The truck and van flipped onto their sides and slid together across the southbound lane, hitting two motorbikes and two cars, before coming to a stop on the side of the road."

Uthit Saeyang, 34, on a Honda motorcycle, was killed in the collision. Three other people suffered minor injuries.

"We believe Prasit Srisomut, 43, the truck driver, did not know that the traffic lights were there, as they were installed only three days ago. He did not see them as he came up to the junction," Col Thanom said.

"Regardless, he will be charged for reckless driving causing property damage and death."

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**



A Honda SUV and a metered taxi were both damaged during the accident.



The Russian men were arrested and charged with visa overstays.

## Misbehaving Russian men charged for overstaying

IMMIGRATION Police arrested two Russian men at Nai Harn Beach on February 11 after complaints that the men were "behaving badly", including stealing small items from local stores and failing to pay for meals.

Officers arrested Mikael Morkretkof, 45, and Denis Rievsef, 32, as they were walking on Nai Harn Beach, explained Capt Nattapong Klaithong of Phuket Immigration Police.

After visually identifying the two men, Capt Nattapong asked to see their passports.

Mr Morkretkof arrived in Thailand on August 9. "His visa expired on September 7," said Capt Nattapong.

Mr Rievsef arrived on December 8. "His visa expired on January 6," he added.

The two men confessed to overstaying their permits-to-stay and were taken to Chalong Police Station to be charged.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

# Lost in translation

By **Voratuss Intasee**

POLICE had to scramble last week to correct fliers that were handed out to tourists at Patong Beach on February 13 that mistakenly read in English "No Summer Dream On Beach, Start 12 Feb 2015".

"It was a translation error. The A4 flier was supposed to say something that would mean 'no beach loungers', as it did in Thai language below the English translation," Deputy Superintendent Akanit Danpitaksat of the Patong Police told the *Gazette* on February 14.

"Instead 'beach loungers' was translated as 'summer dream'."

Lt Col Akanit apologized for the misunderstanding and any inconvenience that might have been caused by the error.

"We are so sorry for the mis-



The fliers have now been fixed. Photo: Gazette reader

take and will re-write the warning as soon as possible," he said.

The fliers were intended to clarify to beachgoers that beach

loungers and chairs were banned, but mats and umbrellas were still permissible.

"We wanted to make sure that

everyone understood the new rules before we started strictly enforcing them," Col Akanit said. "We don't want to ruin tourists' holidays by taking away their beach loungers, if they don't realize that the chairs aren't allowed on the sands."

Without realizing the error, officers handed out fliers on Surin Beach later that said the same thing as those distributed to tourists on Patong Beach.

"Our officer handed the fliers out on Surin Beach to people who were bringing their beach loungers or chairs onto the sands," confirmed Cherg Talay Police Superintendent Serm Kwannimit.

"We are not pressing charges against foreign tourists at the moment, but any Thais found breaking the rules will be charged up to 2,000 baht."

## Bar staffer charged with assault for baseball bat attack on Phuket expat

AN EMPLOYEE at a bar in Rawai who brutally attacked a British expat with a baseball bat has been charged with assault, police have confirmed.

Sarawuth Kongphat, 37, a staffer at the Green Leaf Bar, beat customer Christopher Stark with the bat and fractured his skull, after Mr Stark discovered he did not have enough cash to pay for his drinks.

"Mr Sarawuth accused Mr Stark of punching him first, but we found no evidence of bodily harm to Mr Sarawuth that supported his allegation," Lt Chollada Chokdeesrijun of the Chalong Police told the *Gazette*.

Mr Sarawuth was escorted by police on February 10 to meet with Mr Stark, who is still recovering at Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Lt Chollada said that with no evidence to support his story, Mr Sarawuth admitted to the assault.

"He has agreed to pay all Mr Stark's medical expenses at Vachira Phuket Hospital, which amount to more than 150,000 baht."

Lt Chollada added that Mr



Mr Stark underwent brain surgery for a hematoma. Photo: Renford Davies

Stark's insurance claim to cover medical expenses had been delayed, forcing him to stay in hospital until the matter of who was to pay the bill could be resolved.

"It was necessary to bring Mr Sarawuth to meet with Mr Stark and discuss the bill, otherwise Mr Stark couldn't leave the hospital," she said.

However, the matter of compensation for Mr Stark, who has

been in hospital since January 23 after undergoing brain surgery for a hematoma, still needed to be discussed, said Lt Chollada.

"Compensation for the injury was not agreed upon at the meeting. That part will be up to them to negotiate," she said.

"We will finish the paperwork for the assault charges against Mr Sarawuth and present them to the prosecutor's office as soon as possible."

— **Voratuss Intasee**

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# Sweeping away cleanup crumbs

## Gov vows to remove last buildings allegedly encroaching on beaches

By Voratuss Intasee

GOVERNOR Nisit Jansomwong announced on February 12 that the final traces of the ubiquitous encroachment onto Phuket beaches that prompted the beach cleanup last year would be swept away as soon as possible.

The governor and other island officials, speaking at a press conference held at the Royal Thai Navy base in Cape Panwa, addressed the problem of several buildings still encroaching on two beaches at Cherng Talay.

Two restaurants – Beach Bar and Paul – are still standing on Lay Pang Beach, and vendors have started moving back onto the sand, Ma-ann Samran, president of the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*) explained to the press.

“We have filed complaints with the Cherng Talay Police about the two restaurants on the beach. It is in their hands now,” he said.

“We also fined every vendor who has tried to go back onto the



A backhoe removes illegal structures from Surin Beach last year. Photo: Gazette file

beach 2,000 baht.”

Two buildings also remain on Surin Beach – a one-storey structure filled with shops, and Zazada Beach Club.

“We will file a warning with the owners of Zazada Beach Club and the shops occupying the one-

storey building within a week that will give them 30 days to move out,” explained Mr Ma-ann.

“After the 30 days, Zazada Beach Club will be torn down,” he said, adding that he was unsure of the specific demolition date.

The one-storey building occupied

by shops was originally built by the government, however, many of the units have been modified and other structures unassociated with them have been built, he added.

“The reason this process is taking so long is because the building used to belong to the government,

which makes it more complicated for us to try to demolish it,” Mr Ma-ann explained.

Governor Nisit added that he and other relevant officials would put into writing the official new post-cleanup beach rules as soon as possible.

The governor announced on February 11 that the regulations being tested at Patong Beach – with registered vendors being allowed to occupy 10 per cent of the beach – would become the standard for all Phuket beaches.

“We will wait a little while longer to make sure that we have everything worked out so that we don’t have to go back and change things again. That always leads to confusion,” he said.

“I cannot say when exactly this will happen, but I promise to have it done as soon as I can.”

In closing, Governor Nisit expressed his approval of the results of the beach cleanup.

“The situation is slowly getting better. Almost every beach is neat and in order once again,” he said.

## French tourists survive dramatic tour van crash



Two of the tourists suffered broken bones in the accident.

THREE French tourists escaped serious injury when the passenger van they were in blew out a front tyre and tumbled onto the median guard rail en route to Phuket International Airport on Tuesday.

Yassin Bouhou, 31, suffered a broken left leg and compatriot Franky Legueulle, 33, broke his left arm in the accident, confirmed Lt Col Watcharin Jirattikarnwiwat of the Tah Chat Chai Police.

“Their friend Sertac Akkurt, 26, suffered only minor bruises,” he told the *Gazette*.

The van driver, Phiboon Uthairangsri, 42, said that he heard a loud bang before the van skewed out of control.

“I heard a bursting noise and then lost control of the van,” Mr Phiboon told the *Gazette*.

“The front right tyre had blown

out, which sent the van rolling onto the median. Fortunately, none of my passengers were seriously injured.”

Mr Phiboon, working for Persona Travel Company, had picked up the three tourists from Patong and was taking them to the airport when the accident happened.

“We were about 350 meters from the Thalang Technical College when the tyre blew, at about 1:15pm,” he said.

All three Frenchmen were taken to Thalang Hospital for treatment.

Police took Mr Phiboon into custody for further questioning.

“He has been charged with reckless driving for the time being while we establish if his actions or negligence played any role in the cause of the accident,” said Col Watcharin.

– *Thawit Bilabdullar*

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## Baby found abandoned



The baby was fed at the scene.

A BABY was found abandoned inside a shopping cart in the parking lot of a Phuket Tesco Lotus on February 13.

The 1-month-old boy, weighing about 2.5kg, was given to staff at the Samkong intersection Tesco Lotus by two women.

"They told us that they found him outside in a shopping cart, and then left without providing any further information," said Kamonthip Kanwong, a Tesco Lotus customer service manager.

The baby was taken to the Vachira Phuket Hospital maternity ward by Kusoldharm rescue workers.

Phuket City Police are now searching for the baby's mother, as well as the two women who found the baby.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

# Camp inspections underway

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

GOVERNOR Nisit Jansomwong led an inspection and health advice session at a workers' camp in Chalong on February 13, as a first step in improving conditions at the more than 200 camps in Phuket.

The inspection followed a meeting last month in which the governor announced his goal to improve health and safety standards at the island's worker camps.

Governor Nisit – along with military personnel; officers from the Phuket Public Health Office; and officers from the Labor Protection and Welfare Office – visited the Trimit Vitsavakam construction company camp at about 5:30pm.

During the inspection, health officers gave the workers advice about hygiene, contraception and general welfare. Those living in the camp also received vaccines for Tetanus and Diphtheria.

"This is the first time I have visited this camp, so it is hard for me to accurately gauge the quality of life here. However, if I consider all of the junk lying around, the messiness of the



Gov Nisit (orange shirt) walks through the worker camp.

rooms and camp, as well as the smell of trash, I would say that it meets only 80 per cent of my standards," said Gov Nisit.

"The foul smell, as well as the dirty water, which the migrants bathe with, are examples of things that need to be improved for the camp to get a better rating."

Gov Nisit confirmed that officers would be sent to inspect camps on a regular basis.

"If they find anything disconcerting, the manager of the camp will have to make the necessary adjustments to get the living areas up to standard," Gov Nisit said.

During the inspection, the

governor outlined his general ideas for improving the quality of life at all of the island's worker camps:

1. Improving the entrances and exits of the camp so that they are safe and usable in case of an emergency
2. Inspecting and preventing any criminal activities
3. Inspecting for drug use
4. Improving hygiene, including tackling sources of foul smells
5. Finding a proper way to dispose of any waste
6. Checking every migrant worker's work permit and identification card for validity, and making all camp managers aware of the laws regarding migrant workers

"Phuket has 226 migrant worker camps. There are 108 in Phuket Town, 16 in Kathu and 102 in Thalang. There are more than 10,000 workers in Phuket, who come from Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia," Gov Nisit explained.

"We are aware of how important it is to improve these workers' quality of life while they are living here, and we want to do it properly."

## Chalong locals petition gas station construction

CHALONG Mayor Samran Jindaphol led a group of 20 local residents to Phuket Provincial Hall on Monday to formally request that Governor Nisit Jansomwong halt the construction of a new LPG gas station.

Construction started on the station, on Chao Fa East Road, but was soon put on hold after residents filed a complaint with the Damrongtham Center (ombudsman's office), explained Sutharat Chusombat, a local community representative.

"Most of the locals who live there are against it for health and safety reasons," she said.

"Now, construction has started again. We are worried about the inevitable safety and pollution problems this gas station will cause."



Gov Nisit accepted the letter.

Governor Nisit accepted the complaint and said he would set up a special committee to consider the reasons put forth by residents for halting the construction.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

## Nightlife raids fail to find human trafficking victims

RAIDS on some 40 nightlife venues throughout Phuket Town over the past month have failed to uncover any evidence of human trafficking, police have reported.

"The only illegal activity we have found are women offering sexual services in public, mostly along Chao Fa Road," said Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Khunnadet Nanongkhai.

"We recently arrested three more prostitutes in that area."

The venues raided included karaoke bars, massage parlors and other bars, and were all in Phuket

Town, Rassada and Koh Kaew, Lt Col Khunnadet explained.

The number of women working at the venues ranged from about six to up to 40.

"However, we uncovered no evidence of human trafficking. They are all registered businesses, with no illegal migrants or minors," Col Khunnadet confirmed.

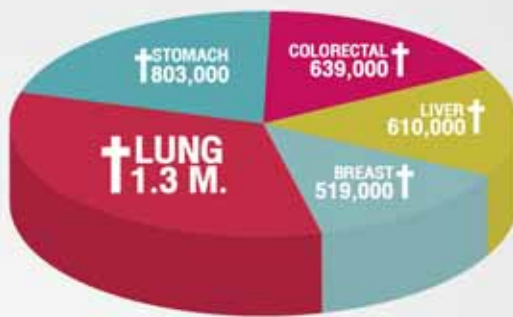
Undeterred, police raids will continue, he assured.

"We will continue our random daily checks, starting from about 10pm," Col Khunnadet said.

— *Kongleaphy Keam*

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## Police nab ladyboy ya ice dealer

A LADYBOY drug dealer in possession of 58.48 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) and 145,000 baht in cash was netted on February 14 in Phuket Town.

Police were informed by undercover officers that Thiwa Saengreung, 38, had been selling *ya ice* to teenagers in the area, said Lt Col Chaidej Kaiyarit, an inspector for the Crime Suppression Division 5 of the Central Investigation Bureau.

"We sent in an undercover officer to buy drugs from Ms Thiwa at her rental room on Mae Luan Road," Lt Col Chaidej said.

"We arrested her in possession of 58.48g of *ya ice*."

Ms Thiwa told police that she had bought the drugs from a man who police named as "Mr Fuse".

"We then had Ms Thiwa set up an appointment with Mr Fuse outside of a 7-11 convenience store in Baan Kuku," Col Chaidej said.

"Unfortunately, as soon as our team started moving toward the car, Mr Fuse fled the scene."

Police are now hunting for Mr Fuse. Ms Thiwa was sent to Phuket City Police Station and will be charged for possession of a Category 1 drug with intent to sell.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

# Online 90-day immigration check-in to launch in April

By Kongleaphy Keam

FOREIGNERS living and working in Thailand will be able to report to immigration for their 90-day check-in via the Thai immigration website no sooner than April, an immigration officer confirmed to the *Gazette* on February 13.

The news follows an experimental launch of the online reporting system in Bangkok last month.

"The online 90-day reporting service is being tested now. For the time being, foreigners are still required to go to an immigration office to check-in," Maj Gen Tamrong Sangwatanakul, commander of the Royal Thai Immigration Division 3, told the *Gazette*.

"The service already appears on the website, but it cannot be used yet. We have to wait for the official order, which we expect to receive in early April."

The service will be available in all provinces for the convenience of foreigners, Gen Tamrong added. However, there will be consequences for late check-ins.



Foreigners will no longer have to queue up at immigration in Phuket Town after online check-in launches.

"Failure to report within seven days after the 90-day period will result in the usual fine of 2,000 baht, and the offending foreigner will be banned from using the online check-in system," Gen

Tamrong explained.

"From that point on, the person will have to report to an immigration office."

Sgt Maj Ronnachai Khongthirak of the Phuket Immi-

gration office confirmed to the *Gazette* that foreigners on the island must continue to report in person until an official order to launch the online service has been handed down.

## CCTV mass upgrade reaches final hurdle

BUDGET allocation for the proposed 238 million baht upgrade of CCTV cameras in Phuket has reached its final hurdle and now awaits approval by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, Governor Nisit Jansomwong announced earlier this month.

Governor Nisit said he was "delighted" by the news.

"This is one of my top priorities – to enhance security," he said.

"Last week, I signed a letter to confirm that the budget was necessary to upgrade the CCTV system throughout Phuket, and the request is on its way for final approval."

"However, I have also ordered all local administrations to allocate the budget needed to maintain their own CCTV systems in their areas."

The push to approve the budget for the island-wide CCTV

project comes with support from the Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MOTS) Phuket office marketing campaign "Phuket Peaceful City".

"The purpose of the campaign is to promote Phuket as a role model for tourist destinations in the country – in terms of safety," said Santi Pawai, chief of the MOTS Phuket office.

The new CCTV system will support the police in working more effectively, Mr Santi added.

"Police were recently unable to identify the hit-and-run car that killed a ghost rider on the bypass road because one of the CCTV cameras where the accident happened wasn't working," he said.

"With an upgraded CCTV network, police would have been able to apprehend that driver."

— **Saroj Kueprasertkij**

## Couples get immigration fast lane during month of love in Thailand

COUPLES are being fast-tracked through airport immigration for the month of love, as part of the Tourism Authority of Thailand's (TAT) Romantic Thailand campaign.

The campaign, running from February 1 to 28, has already welcomed more than 400 couples to Phuket, said Anoma Wongyai, director of TAT Phuket.

"All couples entering the arrivals hall are invited to register with us, take photos and receive a souvenir from the TAT. When they present their souvenir to immigration officers, they are put through a fast-track lane," Ms Anoma said.

"We hope that this will help promote Phuket, and Thailand, as a wedding and honeymooning destination."

The TAT campaign comes on the heels of Fodor's Travel naming Phuket in its selection of "World's Best Honeymoon Destinations for 2015".

"The stunning natural beauty of Thailand's largest island has long been a draw for honeymooners. There are endless soft, white sandy beaches, electric blue waters and some of the best sunsets in the world over in Phuket," the Fodor's Travel review said. "The island also holds a vibrant nightlife and plenty of great restaurants – from the high-end to simple street stalls – that



Ms Anoma hopes that this will promote Phuket as a wedding destination.

showcase the enthralling, piquant cuisine of Thailand. Cultural pleasures – such as a visit to the many Buddhist temples and shrines – can break up days at the beach. Other requirements: a romantic boat ride over to the gorgeous Phi Phi islands, and of course, experiencing the art of Thai Massage. With around 60 five-star resorts to choose from,

couples are never at a loss for luxury here."

The review went on to say that Phuket is "perfect for couples who have a flair for the far-flung and exotic, yet who also enjoy a good day at the beach".

Fast-track immigration lanes for couples are also being organized in Bangkok, added Ms Anoma.

— **Woranut Pechdee**

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# Bicycles banned on Phi Phi

## Island locals claim bicycle use by migrant workers is cause of traffic, accidents

By Voratuss Intasee

BICYCLES were banned on Phi Phi Island's public walkways on February 15, following complaints from tourists about crowded streets and reckless cyclists.

"The bicycle problem started about three years ago. Since then, the number of bikes on the island has increased significantly," said Prasert Wongma, deputy chief executive officer of Ao Nang Administration Organization (OrBorTor).

"No vehicles are allowed on the walkways, it is against the law. In the past, only local Thais

were using bicycles to get around."

Mr Prasert blames the increase in bicycle traffic on migrant workers.

"Many Myanmar nationals are working on construction sites in Phi Phi. They use bicycles to get to work, but are always rushing and are very reckless," Mr Prasert said.

"Some use bikes with carts to transport items, leaving little to no space for tourists to walk. They have even hit some tourists and sworn at them."

The Ao Nang OrBorTor is planning to install signs to inform

'Anyone caught illegally riding a bike after [February 15] will be warned. After that, they will be fined'

— Prasert Wongma,  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer,  
Ao Nang OrBorTor



Phi Phi residents met to discuss bicycle use on the island before the ban was set. Photo: Ao Nang Municipality

island-dwellers about the ban.

"Anyone caught illegally riding a bike after [February 15] will be warned. After that, they will be fined," Mr Prasert added.

Mr Prasert confirmed that the amount of the fine had yet to be

determined.

There will be some exceptions to the ban.

"We will make an exception for students, as long as they are in uniform, and for a few local elders who cannot walk long

distances," Mr Prasert told the *Gazette*.

"In case of an emergency, golf carts from Phi Phi Island Hospital, as well as police motorbikes, will still be allowed on public walkways."

## Tourists furious about new set of beach rules

From Page 1

... "On one hand, if we let tourists use their loungers, we will receive complaints from the public regarding our lack of enforcement of the ban. On the other hand, when we do our duty, the tourists complain."

"This issue can seriously damage Phuket's tourism industry."

Although Ms Chalermluck confirmed that the chair ban is policy and police must carry out their duties in accordance with it, she said that she had spoken to Governor Nisit about the issue.

"I don't want to place the blame on anyone for this," Ms Chalermluck told the *Gazette*. "Everyone is doing what they are supposed to do."

"However, all relevant government offices need to meet and discuss whether or not they want to follow the rules, satisfy the tourists or find a solution somewhere in the middle."

Governor Nisit gave his answer at the press conference: no beach chairs allowed.

Patong Police Deputy Superintendent Akanit Danpitaksat told the *Gazette* that police had been facing resistance from tourists since they began enforcing the rule on February 12.

"Some people have been crying, some people have refused to move [their chairs] and some complain and say that they will never visit Phuket again. We have heard these things every day since we began telling people



Gov Nisit speaking at the press conference on Tuesday.

about the new rule," Lt Col Akanit said.

"We have been as polite and understanding as we possibly can, but we must follow our orders."

"Thai people who travel abroad must obey the laws of whichever country they are visiting; why can't foreigners follow Thailand's laws?"

Governor Nisit answered that question in part on Tuesday, noting, "This is about changing the behavior of both beach vendors and tourists who have gotten used to occupying the beaches with sun loungers over the last 30 years."

He confirmed that the 10-percent arrangement is on a three-month trial, after which it would be signed into law.

"It is time to move forward. We can't do this alone. We must all work together," Gov Nisit said.

Additional reporting by Kongleaphy Keam



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Villagers praying. Photo: The Nation

## NHRC criticizes use of military protection for oil drilling machines

ANATIONAL Human Rights Commission (NHRC) subcommittee planned to file complaints on Wednesday over the deployment of soldiers and security personnel for an oil firm in Khon Kaen province.

"We will write to both the Khon Kaen governor and the chief of the Second Army Area to let them know that the deployment of security forces is utterly inappropriate," Dr Niran Pitakwatchara said on Tuesday in his capacity as chairman of the NHRC subcommittee on community rights.

Police, soldiers and volunteers arrived in Ban Na Mun last Saturday to assist Apico trucks carrying a drilling rig passing protesting locals to access the site of a new oil well in nearby Kalasin province.

Residents of Ban Na Mun had been protesting for days because they feared exploration for oil and gas so close to their hometown would hurt the environment, natural resources – and their health.

Locals said they had no idea what the energy company was doing due to the lack of public consultation, Mr Niran said, adding that villagers were now worried that no one would take responsibility if there were adverse effects.

He pointed out that it was agreed on February 10 between his panel and local government agencies that an academic forum on the petroleum operation be held promptly, reported *The Nation*.

"But the firm has chosen to move its equipment into the site before the forum has been held," Mr Niran said, adding that the NHRC will go ahead with the forum.

## Bar security guard, manager confess to killing tourist on Koh Samui

A SECURITY guard and the manager of a bar on Koh Samui confessed on February 13 to conspiring to shoot dead a Turkish tourist, police said last Sunday.

Kabin Srisa-ard, 27, the guard, and Kanapong Nakwatchara, 56, the manager of the pub on Chaweng Beach, confessed after several hours of police interrogation that they conspired to shoot Polot Mehmet, 37, with a .38-caliber pistol that was found in Mr Mehmet's hand, reported *The Nation*.

Police said they confessed that one of the

guns used in the crime belonged to Mr Kabin and the other belonged to Mr Kanapong.

After shooting Mr Mehmet, they put Mr Kabin's gun in the victim's hand.

When they realized a security camera had captured the crime, they repositioned the camera but failed to note that the incident was captured by several other cameras.

Police said the men told them that the Turkish tourist often came to the bar, got drunk, intimidated staff and created a scene.

On February 13, they said, Mr Mehmet

got drunk and forced staff to keep the bar open. The staff pleaded with him to leave but he walked to the counter with a clearly visible pistol tucked inside his belt.

Mr Kanapong shot him in the abdomen with his own gun and then Mr Kabin shot him in the head with his gun. Mr Kabin and Mr Kanapong then tried to cover up the crime to confuse the police.

Police brought both men to the bar to re-enact the crime before detaining them at the Provincial Court last Sunday.

# Thailand faces shortage of educated, skilled laborers

By Patcharee Luenguthai

THE number of Thailand's vocational and technical students lags behind the market demand in the most-wanted fields, experts say.

Narong Kasatepibal, Association of Future Thai Professional's board chairman acknowledged that while the Office of the Vocational Education Commission (Ovec) is pushing for measures to enhance vocational education standards, the lack of skilled labor in the market remains problematic.

He said industries currently face a severe shortage of skilled workers across the board, notably welding engineering, mechanical power technology, machine tools technology and construction technology, reported *The Nation*.

Mr Narong noted that despite the rising demand for high-paid welders, enrollment in colleges for welders remained very low as students viewed the job as involving hard manual work.

Total demand for welders nationwide is more than 300,000 – working in various industries – including petrochemical, fuel exploration and production, and construction. However, the current supply of trained welders who graduate



Industries across the board face a shortage of skilled workers, notably in engineering. Photo: The Nation

from vocational schools is only 20,000 a year.

Some private companies were prepared to offer salaries of up to 30,000 baht a month for qualified welders, said Mr Narong.

Paitoon Soison, director of Nong Khai College of Boatbuilding Industry and Technology, added that his college had only eight students studying for a vocational certificate in welding engineering. Most, he said, were not interested in the

field, because of tough study requirements and safety issues.

"Colleges must be more aggressive in their attempts to change the perceptions of students and their parents – enabling them to better understand the needs of the labor markets and what they can achieve.

"However, most students aren't interested, because the welding engineering program requires students to be patient and practice in a workshop with safety clothes and tools – not in air-conditioned classrooms," Mr Paitoon added.

Students were also not interested in construction technology,

Mr Narong said. Over 100,000 skilled construction workers were needed, but colleges could only produce 10,000 students a year.

Chanvech Boonpradern, Ovec's deputy secretary-general, said huge infrastructure development and the growing property market had resulted in a critical shortage of skilled construction workers – especially foremen. This had even led to the Home Builders Association collaborating with colleges to produce workers for the housing market.

The ratio of vocational students to basic education students is currently 35:65.



## Woman in Bangkok first arrest for refusing alcohol breath test

A WOMAN on February 12 became the first motorist in Thailand to be punished for refusing a breathalyzer test, said police, who added that they were forced to tow away her car with her still inside.

The Bangkok South Municipal Court found Chutima Kanthang, 28, guilty of drunk driving, but handed down a suspended three-month sentence with one year of probation, reported *The Nation*.

She was also ordered to pay a 8,500-baht fine and to perform community service.

Her driver's licence was suspended for six months.

Ms Chutima told the court that she had some drinks with friends before she arrived the police checkpoint.

According to police, Ms Chutima parked her car on Naradhiwas Rajanagarindra Road near the police checkpoint at 2:30am last Thursday, but refused to get out of her car or take the test.



Ms Chutima was arrested. Photo: The Nation

She lowered her window to talk to police and gave them her motorcycle driver's licence.

She smelled of alcohol, officers said.

After many hours, police towed Ms Chutima's car to a police station with her still inside.

## Pirates plant harmless bomb on Thai oil ship

A BOMB planted on a Thai oil ship, which had been robbed by pirates in the Strait of Malacca, had a circuit panel and battery, but no gunpowder, Royal Thai Navy's Third Area Command chief Vice Admiral Sayan Prasongsamrej said on Monday.

On Friday, pirates attacked the *Lapin*, which was carrying oil from Singapore to a power plant in Krabi province, before leaving the bomb on board and making off with 2,000 tonnes of bunker oil and 5,000 liters of diesel. The ship eventually ran out of power and anchored near Koh Tarutao off Satun province, giving the captain

a chance to seek help last Sunday, reported *The Nation*.

An ordnance disposal team disarmed the bomb on Monday afternoon and after discovering that it had no gunpowder, suspected it may have been planted with the intent of threatening the crew, Adm Sayan said. He said Satun police would interview the 15 crew members.

This was the first pirate attack on the Andaman side after five to six attacks in the Southern China Sea, he said, adding that Thai waters would be patrolled more frequently to prevent it happening again.



# Working together to win the war on drugs

## FIRST PERSON

I PAY close attention to all crimes that occur in Phuket, as it is my duty as an officer in the investigation department. They are all my responsibility. However, I consider drug crimes my top priority because they are committed so often on the island.

As Phuket is a popular tourist destination, drug issues are hard to tackle. Not only are Thai people involved, but foreigners as well. I think the number of tourists that come here, and their apparent willingness to partake in drugs, increases the amount of drugs smuggled onto the island. Foreigners also pay a higher price for them than locals, which is an incentive for dealers to smuggle in and sell more drugs.

Therefore, we keep a close watch on tourist-attraction locales such as Bangla Road, Patong Beach, Karon Beach and Promthep Cape.

There are two main ways that drugs make it onto the island, by land and by sea. We do not find much through the airport. Even though we strictly control these pathways onto the island, we can't catch everyone. Criminals will always find a way to commit their crimes.

Drugs are a national problem, not just here in Phuket. Even though I try my best to rid the island of drugs, they are still an issue, as they exist in other provinces as well. What we need to do is find out who is bringing them



**Lt Col Somkid Boonrat**, from Songkhla province, is chief of the investigation department at the Phuket Provincial Police Station. After graduating from the Royal Thai Police Cadet Academy, he continued on to earn a bachelor's degree in law from Ramkhamhaeng University and a master's degree in business

administration from Prince of Songkhla University. Lt Col Somkid has been head of the investigation department since January this year.

Here, he talks about his top priority as a police officer – tackling drugs, their smugglers and their users – and what needs to be done to win the battle.

onto the island, and how, and eliminate them. All provinces must work together on this in order for us to be successful.

We already know who Phuket's biggest dealers are. However, we cannot reveal their names or locations – this is confidential information. We are in the process of gathering evidence against those in the various drug networks and

waiting for an appropriate time to make an arrest. The public will always be notified after this happens.

Prominent drug dealers are not just in Phuket. As mentioned in a recent story about a 17-year-old drug runner who was arrested here, he was not only working for a Phuket dealer, but also for dealers in Phang Nga and Krabi. Hence the need for co-operation between

provincial authorities.

Although it is the responsibility of police to track down and arrest people involved in drugs, we are not the only ones who should be fighting against them.

All government and private institutions and citizens should work together to end drug use in Thailand.

Families, friends, schools and communities should help each other. Parents must pay more attention to and discipline their children, and keep an eye on them. Teenagers are especially vulnerable to drug use. If there are problems at home, many young children will turn to drugs.

Police often go out into the communities to educate families about drug use, the negative effects it can have and how to prevent it. We can make arrests all day long, but the problem should be stopped at its roots. This is why we need everyone to work together, especially families and close friends.



Time to end the age-old, and sometimes fatal, visa runs once and for all.

## Visa run selfie

THE new online system apparently in the works for foreigners to complete their 90-day reporting to immigration through a web portal may herald a new era for expats tired of the age-old visa run.

Who knows, if immigration wants to stage yet another security crackdown, they could easily ramp this up to a “selfie run” – whereby all that would be needed is an app through which expats could post selfies, and facial recognition software and the GPS in the phone would do the rest.

But where would the much-sought-after cash “top-up payments” to officials come from?

Despite repeated reports detailing the exact same scenario – something I believe the news industry calls “corroborating reports” – nothing has been done to resolve the “alleged” 200-baht per person “entry fee” for visa runners to re-enter Thailand at the Sadao checkpoint on the Malaysian border.

Perhaps an online payment system lurks somewhere down the road, but who would want to rankle the all-powerful immigration officers at the border, who on a whim could refuse a foreigner re-entry to Thailand – where, for many, their wives, children and homes await.

As any wildlife expert will tell you: cut off one source of food supply, and a wild animal will just turn to another form of sustenance.

Long-term expats have long labored that many were willing to pay the same cost as a visa run to instead report to the immigration

## Island View

By Damian Evans

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

office in Phuket Town.

Such a system would cost visa-run expats only cash – which could easily be factored into the equation of whether or not Phuket, and Thailand, remains a viable place to stay – instead of paying for the privilege with their lives.

Officials have previously blown off complaints about the need to conduct visa runs. Much of the unspoken factors come into play here. Among the plainest has been that such complaints only come from foreigners, and even then only from the foreigners who are not rich enough to buy their own immigration status through a company or similar setup.

The attitude from officials seems to have been, “If any foreigners here are still affected by visa runs, just leave and you will not have the problem anymore.”

But some call Thailand home and have been long welcomed by the Thais they know and have befriended. Such expats even loudly championed the crackdown on “walk-in visas” targeting foreigners working illegally.

Regardless of what officials like to think – or publicly ignore – visa runs remain dangerous, and at times lethal.

This is not whining. This is not a complaint. This is fact.

End it now, please.

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

### When will the new fire station open in Ao Makham?

Over the last six months, a new fire and ambulance station has been under construction not far from the entrance to the Deep Sea Port at Ao Makham.

This building has now been completed, but is not yet in use.

Is it possible to find out what exactly is planned for this building and when it will be in operation? Thank you.

Roger,  
Ao Makham

**Thanongsak Klaicharoen, head of the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Division at Wichit Municipality, replies:**

The new fire station, with a

budget of almost 2.5 million baht, has been under construction since July 2014. It will be open and ready to start operating in May.

The outside of the building may look complete, but there is more work to be done on the inside. We need to buy tools and a new fire truck and also hire employees.

The station will serve people in Wichit. Firefighters and rescue workers will be on standby there 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The station will be available to provide assistance to people in emergencies, such as fires, rescues, floods and serious storm damage.

Staff will also be able to help people with less threatening issues, such as helping to remove dangerous animals from people's properties, watering public plants and even help clear blocked water supply pipes to private homes.

### Too much noise after 2am in Patong

I live in Patong and almost all the new hotels on Prachanukhro Road have rooftop pools. The party noise at night is unbearable and goes on until sunrise.

I have called the Patong Police, but they told me that the owners don't care about small fines, so it was better for me to contact the office that issues the hotels' licences.

I also called the Tourist Police, but nobody answered the number I was given. Then I called 191, and the operator gave me another number for the Patong Police, which did not work.

What is the right way to go and who is to be contacted to get rid of this miserable situation?

Could the Damrongtham Center (ombudsman's office) help?

Also, the motorbike racing along the new road from Simon Cabaret to Jungceylon [Phang Muang Sai Kor Road] is very dangerous. I have watched it for hours at a time. It all originates from the hotels the same area.

Wolfgang Jobst,  
Patong

**Phunsak Naksena, chief administrative officer at Patong Municipality, replies:**

Thank you for letting us know about this problem. We will investigate your complaint. It is illegal for entertainment businesses to trade after 2am.

Patong Municipality has the right to grant or revoke the local business licences. We can also issue a warning or talk to the people

responsible for this problem. I think we can solve this problem for you.

However, the motorbike racing is for the police to act on. I suggest that you file a complaint through the Damrongtham Center's local office at Kathu District Office. They will send officers to investigate why the police are not acting on this.

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)



# Beach bum blues

PATONG Mayor Chalermkluck Kebsup is correct in calling for a compromising approach to the ban on beach chairs on the island (see page 1). An equitable and transparent solution must be worked out before this latest embarrassment causes irreparable damage to the island's tourism industry, permanently driving away many of the island's most loyal guests.

Images of elderly tourists being forced by police to remove beach chairs from the sand is the worst possible publicity for the island. This is especially true now, as it comes just months after images were seen around the world of the military personnel patrolling the sands with automatic assault rifles during the applauded cleanup campaign.

It is sad that our leaders so consistently fail to demonstrate sufficient foresight to prevent or mitigate impending problems.

In this space we have warned in advance about several disasters-in-waiting, including the inevitable collapse of the Patong Hill road due to downslope construction work, the SuperCheap inferno and the rapid break-up of the Coral Reef Squadron artificial reef after exposure to monsoon-season currents.

The *Gazette* is not blowing its horn or claiming special powers of prognostication: we are simply pointing out things that should be obvious to all. The ongoing beach chair fiasco is no different.

An editorial published at the start of this high-season read:

For better or worse, Phuket evolved as a beach tourism destination with beach loungers and parasols as an integral part of the infrastructure. That corrupt local politicians used them to illegally amass personal fortunes over the years does not negate that reality.

That editorial went on to call for temporary measures to allow for sun loungers and parasols to be made available to tourists during the current high season, with a long-term, sustainable and transparent approach to be drawn up during the upcoming low season.

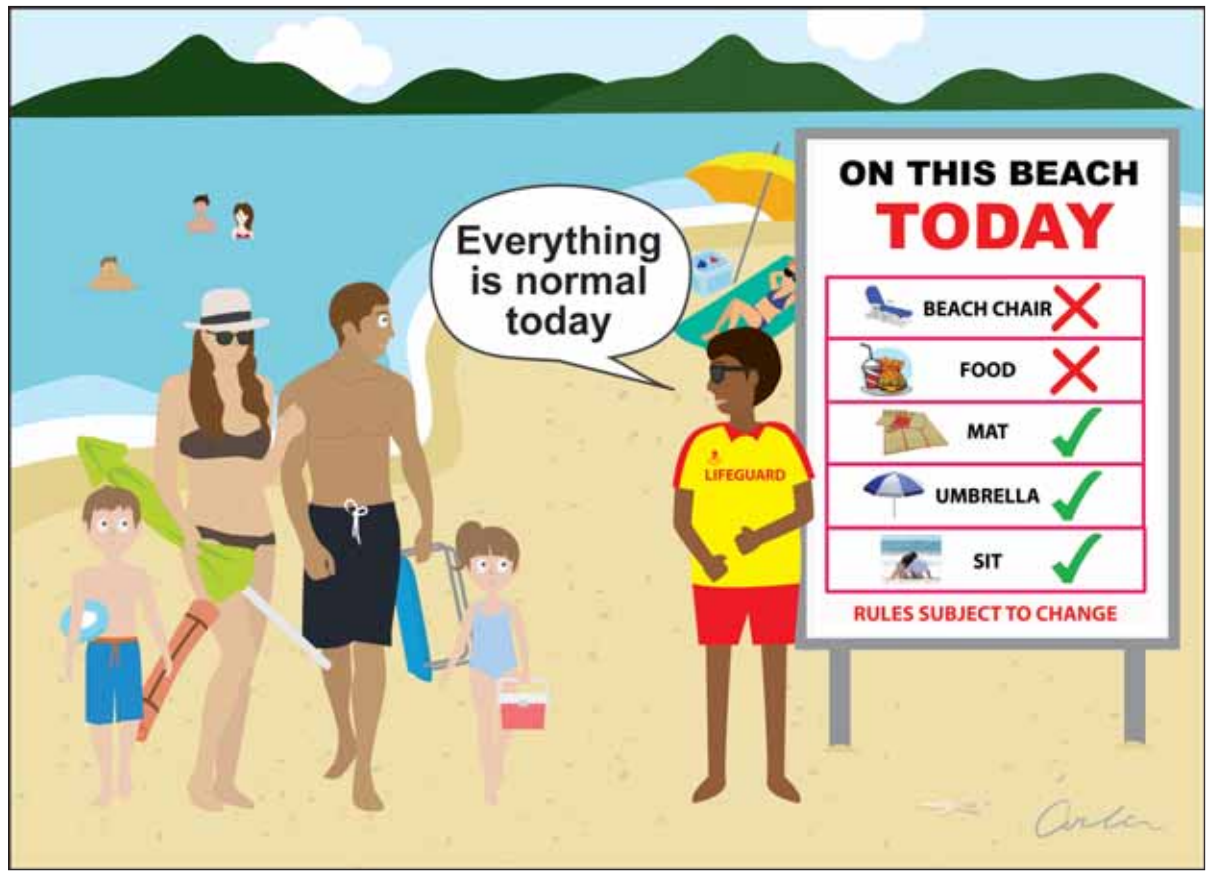
Instead, we have witnessed a series of highly-confusing directives and flip-flops, with enforcement of the controversial "no beach chair" rule varying greatly in different areas. In a final bid to end all the confusion, a complete ban on all beach chairs across the island was eventually imposed.

Not only is this ban harmful to the tourism industry, but it will no doubt prove to be unenforceable by police in the long term.

Looking further into the future, it is easier to imagine a scenario in which police replace local administrative bodies in reaping the profits from rented beach chairs, parasols and jet-skis than it is to imagine comprehensive enforcement of the ban.

Rather than ban beach chairs completely, a system could easily be devised in which tourists could simply "register" beach chairs into a central database and receive a sticker or some other form of certification that it is owed by them, not rented.

This of course seems like a cumbersome and overly bureaucratic approach to something as simple as enjoying a day at the beach, but for diehard beach bums it might be worth a try.



## There are good samaritans in Phuket

As a visitor to these shores, I had the misfortune of dropping my wallet in a taxi last week.

My husband and I had been shopping in Phuket Town when we decided to catch a taxi from the rank outside Robinson's. We agreed on a price, and although the driver had limited knowledge of the area where we wanted to go to, Koh Kaew, he followed our directions to our estate. On arrival at the gate I reached for my wallet and drew out the agreed sum.

I thought I had placed my wallet into my bag – but not so, I had dropped it on the floor as I got out of the car.

My friends thought it a lost cause, but before cancelling my cards I decided to retrace my steps and try and find the driver.

After some time, and at the point of admitting defeat, I spoke to another driver, who couldn't do enough to help. Even with my non-existent Thai and his limited English, we managed to establish the make and color of the car, exactly where we were picked up and the approximate time. He spoke to another driver who got on his phone. After a couple of calls he said that he knew our driver; and although he was not working in the area that day he would take my husband and myself to find the him.

As we are novices in getting around in Phuket Town we agreed to him taking us to a distant part of town for 300 baht. Although a bit wary, we were delighted to be met by the driver who was holding my wallet, intact.

He declined a thank-you tip but I gave him something to put on the lottery with the understanding that we share if he was lucky.

My friends were amazed that we found our driver and that we got everything back, including 4,500 baht.

It would have been so easy to keep the money and ditch the wallet. The usual news about taxi drivers here is so negative that I

### Letters to the Editor

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

felt that this wonderful experience should not go unnoticed.

With grateful thanks to all who helped us that day.

Esther Davidson  
Koh Kaew

### We need police patrols

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket CCTV mass upgrade reaches final hurdle, February 15*

Only in Phuket does police work require nothing more than sitting around the station watching CCTV after crimes have been committed and people have died.

Forget about this project and get the lazy cops off their bums and out into the streets for some actual patrolling and law enforcement before the crimes occur.

We don't need to hear more of "CCTV footage has determined that the cement truck was speeding when its driver plowed into the intersection killing five people".

What a joke  
Gazette forum

### Return to normalcy

Re: *Gazette online, Lost in translation: Phuket police hand out fliers proclaiming 'No Summer Dream On Beach', February 14*

Excellent news – at last the confusion will be over.

The beaches will be clear and Phuket will return to the tropical island paradise that made Thailand popular in the first place.

The beaches will be available to all, as was the case before there were 10,000 sunbeds which covered every inch of the sand, with only 10 per cent of them in use.

Soon the tourists will come back and we'll have just 10 per cent of them complaining instead of the 50 per cent we have now.

Simon  
Gazette forum

### Enforce the law or the accidents will continue

Re: *Gazette online, Russian tourists injured in Phuket head-on van crash, February 16*

Welcome to accident number 8,647,623 caused by yet another reckless and irresponsible driver.

Again, the reason that these incidents flourish here is the plethora of poor, untrained drivers and the total disregard for laws and personal safety.

And let's not forget growing up in a place where there is zero traffic enforcement by the police.

As long as there is no change in law enforcement, the wrecks will continue.

Same same, but same same  
Gazette forum

### The truth comes out

Re: *Gazette online, Opinion: 'Thainess' falls short of ecologically sustainable tourism, February 17*

Finally, an article that shines light on the lack of environmental resource management that pervades Phuket and has left us with the filthy black ponds of waste on our beaches, filthy canals fouling entire bays, trash all over the place with no bins, and unbridled and illegal development of the finest natural places, hiding beautiful views behind ugly walls and forever preventing Thais and tourists from seeing the beauty that was Phuket.

I don't see anything changing, do you?

Angus McGee  
Gazette forum

## Phuket Gazette

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# One voice for tourism

## Phuket Hotel Association to be a key platform for hotel industry

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THE erroneous 'No Summer Dream' fliers, warning tourists and locals not to bring sun loungers to the beach, is the latest blow for authorities attempting to restore a semblance of order to the island's tourism industry. One that has left hotel and resort owners, as well as their general managers, scrambling for a response and explanation to give to the world.

However, even when corporate responses are well coordinated, the impact becomes negligible when faced with the bombardment of messages from local and international media. The insignificance of the explanations is compounded when hotel and resort leaders fail to have a single message and a single voice: enter the Phuket Hotel Association (PHA).

On February 16, about 40 GMs, or their representatives, from many of the island's most prominent branded and non-branded resorts and hotels met as the groundwork for the PHA, a registered nonprofit organization, was laid out.

"This is the beginning of a forum that gives hoteliers and their owners a platform to discuss issues that are commonly shared, including education, marketing and 'Brand Phuket', as well as the industry's response to crises or negative press and so on," said PHA Executive Director Anthony Lark.

The core objective of PHA, based on the successful Bali Hotel Association, is to be the leading private sector initiative in marketing tourism in Phuket and to promote the island as the leading destination resort in Asia and one



Fliers asking tourists not to use sun loungers mistakenly called the beach chairs 'Summer Dreams'.

of the finest in the world, it was explained during the meeting.

"It is time for Phuket to communicate to the world that, although we share the same core values with the rest of Thailand – good value, warmth, generosity of Thai culture – Phuket is a large entity in its own right and has a voice that deserves to be heard," explained Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks Bill Barnett.

"The PHA aims to be a significant force within Asia so it can effectively deliver the 'Brand Phuket' message to an international audience, and work as a forum between tourism and government on issues relating to the island's most important industry."

The PHA will launch on March 1 with an expected 25-30 hotels'

business heads having already joined, said Mr Barnett.

"We have critical mass, we expect to come out with 25-30 hotels by March. The initiative this year really is to address the critical components, which right now is how do you voice to customers what's happening on the beaches," he said.

"We are in market free fall right now. Bali dropped by 14% occupancy year-on-year. Markets are struggling to figure out how to replace those clients, so it's a business issue as well."

Unlike many other island tourist destinations in Thailand, arrivals at Phuket International Airport showed a quick recovery from the market contraction with the declaration of martial law last year.

Though arrivals show a 2% in-

ternational and 5% domestic growth year-on-year, market-wide occupancy in 2014 fell by 6%, according to a C9 Hotelworks report.

The decrease in demand led to average room rates slightly dropping from US\$147 in 2013 to US\$146 in 2014, as the baht depreciated six per cent against the US dollar.

To combat the decline in occupancy, as well as the 4,727 new rooms expected to enter the Phuket market by 2018, the PHA will be working with branding specialist Quo CEO David Keen.

"The damage we get from the media with the blogs talking about Phuket is [that the island is] ridiculous, stupid, nothing works, everything else – it's just nonsense," said Mr Barnett.

"We are trying to re-install pride

back into it and positive messaging – not fluff. To pass on information about the beaches in a realistic way, so that people know what's going on. Right now hotel managers have to go online and blog about an issue, otherwise there is no way for them to voice their concerns. We are trying to give them a venue for that."

The lack of a platform has consistently been a problem, Mr Lark said. "For instance, there wasn't a unified body to discuss issues, so hotel GMs were just emailing each other independently, asking, 'What are you doing?'"

"[Now] we can form a common position in response to any crisis... The PHA is therefore a unified body, representative of the views of our Thai owners, GMs and the larger chains, all of whom have a stake in seeing Phuket's brand communicated in a positive way," Mr Lark said.

"We want to work closely the Tourism Authority of Thailand in promoting the positive news and incredible experiences of our island. What we are saying is that at the level of private enterprise, a lot of the Thai owners of hotels on this island would like to see a more unified approach to issues, and we are better off speaking with one voice."

Membership fees for the PHA will range from 25,000 baht to 40,000 baht and be used for operational costs, and eventually to create a scholarship to send local students to top-flight hotelier schools outside of Thailand.

The PHA is also embracing the efforts of the Trisara Academy, which aims to improve the skill sets of Thais working in the hospitality industry.

## Lights on for another Lighthouse Market

THEY'RE going to do it again this weekend – on the docks, in the water and in the air. The Lighthouse Market is back with a raft of new delights and great entertainment at Phuket's hippest family fun spot, the Phuket Boat Lagoon.

Back by popular demand, the Market returns tomorrow and again on Sunday, offering two more vibrant evenings along Phuket's liveliest boardwalk.

It promises to be even bigger and better than the launch event last month, with a variety of exciting new stalls along the bustling dockside walking street, including a Champagne bar, a seafood bar, sweet treats and more organic delights.

Trip Radio FM 89.75 will be on board and the Gazette Air Force will be back with even more aircraft for an attack at 5:50pm sharp.



The boardwalk will be buzzing with foot traffic this weekend.

"We had such good feedback from stall holders and visitors after the first Lighthouse Market that we are now committed to holding these events over the last weekend of every month through May, when we may, or may not, take a break for the rainy season," says organizer Kanittha Prasopsirikul of By Kanittha Co Ltd.

– Phuket Gazette



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# Three pillars of happiness

## How reaching these pillars can result in worry-free golden years

### Finance

By David Mayes

MUCH of my time is spent with clients figuring out exactly what they want for the future – key to their financial planning goals.

Typically it ends with setting aside a certain amount of money each month over a period of time – investing it with a particular objective in mind, or getting clients savings that are sitting in the bank working harder than they currently are.

If you have ever read Stephen Covey's wildly successful book *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, you may be familiar with his concept of beginning with the end in mind. I have always tried to follow this approach to financial planning, and in my opinion the end goal we all have in common is to retire happily and spend our golden years worry free.

It makes sense to think about what exactly is required to reach this worry-free state of happiness. I have learned that it basically boils down to three things. It

doesn't mean that having these three things will ensure you happiness, but without them it just isn't possible. In short, they are time, money and health. In financial terms, they are often referred to as "time freedom", "financial freedom" and "health freedom".

To have real financial freedom, you need to first determine what your ideal lifestyle would be. This is different for everyone, and of course, it needs to be a lifestyle

that can be maintained within your means.

If, for example, you are living a lifestyle that is not allowing your net worth to grow, or at least be maintained, then worry is going to creep in. Having a shrinking retirement pot is the worst thing facing retirees, and I can only imagine the horror that must come with knowing that you will probably outlive your finances.

This is where "time freedom" really needs to be defined. If your time is really free, then you won't be spending all day worrying about your finances. While those of us who don't have to punch a time clock may have partial time freedom, hours spent worrying about business problems is not really time freedom in its true sense.

Nor are hours spent worrying about stock market gyrations. Health is an obvious one, because all the money and time in the world means nothing, if you are in hospital or too out of shape to pursue active hobbies that can bring you happiness. You don't need a financial adviser to tell you to eat right and go get some exercise, but you still ought to do it, or you'll be the richest miserable person in the infirmary.

The other two pillars are best dealt with by building passive income streams from the various kinds of income investments. Unfortunately we are still in a low interest rate environment where most safe income investments pay next to nothing.

High-yielding dividend stocks, even blue chips, place your capital at risk in the next inevitable



Photo: 401kcalculator.org

**You don't need a financial adviser to tell you to eat right and go get some exercise, but you still ought to do it, or you'll be the richest miserable person in the infirmary.**



If you play your cards right, you can live out your golden years without worries. Photo: Hector Alejandro

crash. High-yielding bonds (high only in the relative sense of the word) place your capital at interest rate risk when rates eventually do rise. Rental properties, both residential and commercial, are illiquid. Money market funds give negative inflation adjusted returns.

So how can you retire and achieve this kind of worry-free happiness in the current environment? It's not easy, but as with every investment environment, this too shall pass. Preserve your

capital as best you can by diversifying and balancing out the above risks as much as possible.

Build multiple income streams from a mix of the above investments and avoid doing anything to put a big chunk where there is significant downside risk – that is, the stock market after seven up years in a row, or long-term bonds at the end of a 30-year bull market in bonds. Both of these markets will eventually crash and provide excellent low-risk opportunities. At

the moment, patience is still the most important thing required to reach the elusive freedoms that are difficult to obtain in this world.

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

## PM woos private sector to build high-speed trains

PRIME Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha has invited the private sector to build short-distance, high-speed trains to attractive sites near Bangkok in order to facilitate tourism.

The government will provide support in terms of acquiring land for construction along with tax and non-tax incentives, similar to the Japanese public and private partnership model. Germany is believed to have shown an interest in investing, said PM Prayut.

The cost, conditions, funding and construction plans, along with possible incentives could be proposed by the private sector and the government would be willing to talk to anyone about the matter, he added.

The possible rail routes being considered for this high-speed train project are Bangkok-

Pattaya and Bangkok-Hua Hin.

"The Board of Investment [BoI] has discussed about possible investment in high-speed trains to support the tourism industry," PM Prayut said.

"The investment will be in the nature of a public and private partnership as there are many well-funded companies that can afford such an investment and the government can provide land for this venture.

"A similar project in Japan for a 700-kilometer high-speed railway cost around 400 billion baht."

He said the government would provide land already owned by the State Railway of Thailand for such an investment. However, the construction of a high-speed line, which would require a relatively straight route, might require the government to expropriate land and provide compensation to people who might be affected.

– *The Nation*



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## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### February 17 - 23, starting at 6pm daily. Wat Chalong Fair

The biggest temple fair on the island will have daily concerts, games, rides, shopping and local food booths.

### February 21 - 22, 4pm to 10pm. Lighthouse Market

Another weekend of entertainment is in store at Phuket's hippest family fun spot, the Boat Lagoon Lighthouse Weekend Market.

Back by popular demand, the Boat Lagoon Lighthouse Market returns this weekend offering more entertaining evenings along Phuket's most vibrant boardwalk.

This month's Lighthouse Market promises to be bigger and better with a variety of exciting new stalls along the bustling dockside walking street, including a Champagne bar, a seafood bar, sweet treats and more organic delights.

### February 19-25. Phuket Real Estate Show 2015.

The biggest home and condo show on Phuket, brought to you by the Phuket Real Estate Association, will be held in the Grand Hall of Central Festival Phuket.

### February 21, 6:30pm to 10:30pm. Lombard Champagne Exclusive Dinner.

Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket together with Wine & Taste Co Ltd invite you to join the "Lombard Champagne Exclusive Dinner", with four Lombard Grand Cru Champagnes paired well with a

five-course set dinner.

Price THB 2,800++ per person.

The reception commences at 6:30pm, with dinner at 7:30pm, at the award winning Italian Restaurant La Trattoria.

Bookings recommended.

### February 27, 7:30pm to 10:00pm. FIVERA – Ayara Hilltops at Surin Beach

Ayara Hilltops at Surin Beach is thrilled to feature FIVERA – Thailand's hottest pop opera group in an evening of entertainment with

a cocktail reception and buffet dinner at Spice Poolside Restaurant.

Close on the heels of the group's recent performances in Shanghai and Singapore to wide acclaim, FIVERA returns to Phuket for one performance only.

### 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 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 5. 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.

The day commemorates three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of Buddha.

### July 30. Asahna Bucha Day

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

Evening candlelight processions will be staged in all Thai Buddhist temples throughout the island.

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## YOUR Phuket

### Banking on tradition, style



KBank opens branch built in the Sino-Portuguese architectural style, known as 'Ang Mo Lao,' which is a Western-style mansion similar to mining chiefs' residences in historic Phuket. L to R: Nisit Jansomwong, Phuket governor; Predee Daochai, KBank president; and Pakorn Partanapat, KBank senior executive vice president, presided over the inauguration of the remodeled branch.

## PIWC: Twenty-five years and still looking good



MORE THAN 1,000 SCHOLARS: Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Bliss Beach Club. L to R: Jureewan Smulders-Wongprom, president; Carole Dux, former president; Wipa Tanmanatragul; Sue Arnulphy; and Linda Cumming.

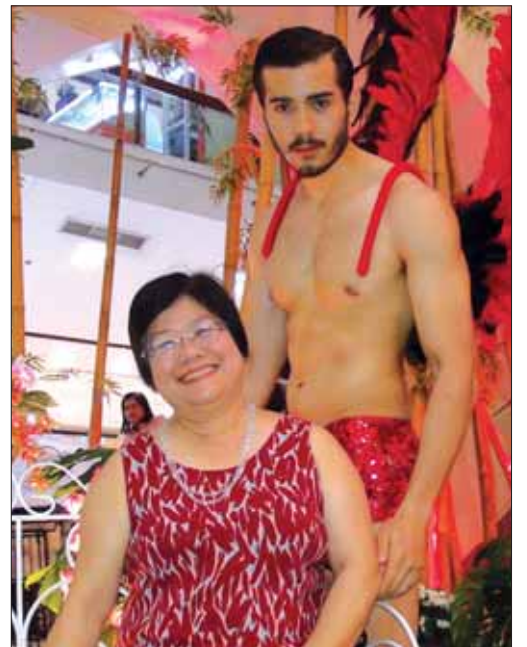
## Love and Jazz Central to Festival



L to R: Monrudee Gettuphan, acting general manager of Phuket International Airport, and Wong Huijian, Chinese honorary consulate in Phuket, join the event at Central Festival.



Central Festival GM Wilaiporn Pitimanaaree (left) presents a bouquet to one of the singers.



DAY FOR LOVE: Former Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilp settles into the love seat for a photo at the Central Festival event.

## E-Magazine dives into digital era with classic medium: painting



VOTE: L to R: Aree Kongpol (artist), Varawuit Saetun and Songyot Chan-aon.

Anyone wanting to vote for their favorite acrylic painting in this Ministry of Tourism and Sports Phuket office backed event can do so at Phuket E-Magazine's Facebook page.



VOTE: L to R: Uthit Limsakul and Samrit Petkong (artist).



VOTE: Pilaiporn Srivicha, Sukit Surakan (artist) and Surachart Sritongngam.



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## PROPERTY of the week

### BEAUTIFUL LAND WITH HOUSE 7



See page 16

## JOB of the week

### REAL ESTATE MARKETING

See page 21

## INVESTMENT of the week



### GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE

See page 22

## BOAT & MARINE of the week

**BOAT  
INSURANCE** 



See page 25

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## Properties For Sale

**SUPER MODERN**

This super modern Phuket house just came for sale in Rawai. The house is insulated in European style. For more info contact soi.saliga@gmail.com. Price 13 million baht. Tel: 080-530 6880 (English). Email: soi.saliga@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

**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.

**TOWNHOUSE SALE / RENT**

Townhouse for sale (2.8mn baht) or rent (12,000 baht/mo) in Supalai City Hill estate, Phuket Town. 3bedrooms, 2 Bath. Quiet, convenient location. Furnished, full kitchen, decor, garden, car park, 2 aircons Good for family. Avail. from 5/2015. Tel: 089-874 0061, 086-291 4115. Email: stephenfein@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.

**ANDAMAN BEACH SUITE**

Spectacular sea view condo located on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor in Patong. This 127sqm apartment, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 balconies and a spacious living/dining room, has everything you need for comfortable living. Close to shops, the beach (2 minute walk), access to swimming pool and other facilities. Tel: 081-691 1580 (English & Thai). Email: Estherandi@gmail.com

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**OCEAN FRONT VILLA**

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**OCEAN VIEWS, KATA**

New 1-bed condo, 44sqm. Great views, in-house management & rental program available, investment. Ready move in. 3.98 million baht ONO. Email: larscondo@yahoo.com

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For more information

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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

**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, www.phuketcondo.net

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**LAGUNA PARK**

Brand new CORNER Town House - fully furnished. 62,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-527594, 092-860 1413 (English). Email: jziment@gmail.com

**BEACHFRONT LUXURY KATA APT**

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

**COZY CONDO FOR SALE/RENT**

45 Sqm. Freehold, 2 balconies (great view), 1 bedroom, 1 living room, 2 air conditioners and fully furnished. Sale: 2,500,000 baht. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-040 9077 (English). Email: Rasha.tec@gmail.com www.waa.ai/royalplace96302

**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](http://www.villacheloni.com)

**7 BEDROOMS WITH GOLF VIEW**

Large house with golf view and private swimming pool. Close to all International Schools and Shopping Malls. Pls call or e-mail for more info. Tel: 081-271 3228 (English & Thai). Email: info@procarpentering.com

**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

**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

**FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE**

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

**PATONG GRAND CONDOTEL**

2-bedroom condo, 85Sq. Fully furnished. 3 aircons. 10th floor. Kitchenette. 300,000 THB per year from Feb 2015 or 30,000 THB per month. Tel: 081-893 6402.

**SEAVIEW, FULLY FURNISHED**

In town 1-BR condo: 16,000 monthly, 3-BR loft, private pool, maid: 95,000 monthly. Tel: 081-895 3628.

**HOUSE FOR RENT**

Near Laguna 2 bedrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 098-732 7902.

**CHALONG BECHFRONT**

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

**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

**PATONG 1-BED CONDO**

Fully furnished, minimum 2 months, available now. 800m to beach, swimming pool, gym, parking, WiFi, cable TV. Tel: 085-069 0938. Email: nei5nh6@gmail.com

**KATA BEACH APARTMENTS**

Nice 1 bedroom, kitchen, WiFi, spa, fully furnished, 500 baht per night. Tel: 086-5958 512, 081-9704 638. Email: naluma2000@yahoo.com, Kataari@yahoo.com

**RENT APARTMENT PATONG**

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

**BEACHFRONT 40-METER LAND**

Approx 2 rai, Chalong Bay. Contact 081-826 9390.

**4 MODERN POOL VILLAS**

(2 & 3 beds). Fully furnished. Free WiFi, satellite TV, pool & garden. Located between Cape Yamu & Ao Po Marina. Tel: 081-8935 270. Email: mrdupouy@gmail.com www.tropical-house.net

**STUDIO ROOM FOR RENT**

Please contact 086-4769612 email: annanoi1@hotmail.com

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

**TONSAI HOUSE FOR RENT**

European standard. Fully-furnished. 3 bedrooms, private pool, 3 bathrooms, living room, dining room, European kitchen, two-car parking. Garden. WiFi and True vision. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com www.rentphuketpoolhouse.com

**SURIN BEACH CONDO**

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

**CONDO FOR RENT**

Condo for rent long or short-term, Karon, sea view, Soi Patak 12, safe and 10 mins to the beach. PLS contact K Dallas. Tel: 085-392 6666, 086-471 5226. Email: dc haibut@gmail.com

**STUDIO APT FOR RENT CHALONG**

Fully furnished studio apt. on top floor (7th) Bell condominium build. Near Chalong Circle, fantastic view over Chalong bay. Minimum 6 months. For info call 081-677 8638 or +46 073 784 5718 or email emedward@hotmail.com

**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.

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!



**Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.**



**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.

**FOOD / BEVERAGE MANAGER**

Position available now. Salary range: 40 to 45,000 baht per month plus monthly SC. Work schedule: 8 hrs per day, 6 days a week. Minimum 2-year degree in Food Service or Restaurant Management. Thai Nationals only. Must speak English. Minimum 2 years in managing a high-volume restaurant. Experience in developing, planning and implementing innovative & exciting menu items. Thai & Western experience in controlling F/B costs. Knowledgeable in F/B sales. Email: gm@ccshideaway.com

**CHINESE STAFF NEEDED**

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

**GERMAN-SPEAKING STAFF**

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

**MARKETING FOR REAL ESTATE**

Phuket's leading real estate agency is now looking for new marketing staff to join our successful team at Jungceylon, the Banana Walk shopping center and our Kata Beach office. A high salary and commissions will be given for the right person. Thai nationals only. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Please send your CV to admin@propertyinphuket.com or call us for an interview. www.propertyinphuket.com

**FULL-TIME NANNY AND MAID WANTED**

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

**ENGLISH TEACHERS**

1 x Kindergarten - Part-time: 14hrs/week, in Chermg 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

**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

**FULL TIME MAID, COOK WANTED**

Full-time maid, cook wanted (2 staffs Thai nationals for private villa in Nai Harn, Rawai. Tel: 081-970 7633. Email: roberto.omini@gmail.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.

**PROPERTY LISTING MANAGER**

Leading Phuket Real Estate Company looking for an English speaker to join our friendly team, full time. The job involves creating property listings, research and data entry. Working hours: Monday to Friday, 9 am to 6pm. Tel: 090-703 5023 (English). Email: paul@livephuket.com

**OFFICE ASSISTANT**

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

**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

**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.

**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.

**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

# Phuket Gazette

**Chief Sub-Editor Wanted:** Looking for an experienced editor with a deep respect for the English language, who wants to stay hand on while developing, maintaining high-quality copy.

**CHIEF SUB-EDITOR**

- ☐ Native English speaker
- ☐ 3-5 years of full-time editing experience, preferably within the news industry
- ☐ Interested in relocating to Phuket
- ☐ Commercial Social Media and SEO experience a plus

[Isaac@PhuketGazette.net](mailto:Isaac@PhuketGazette.net)

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

Tel: 076-273555 Ext 301 Mobile: 080-526 5362

# Phuket Gazette

**Administrative Assistant Wanted:** Looking for an organized and enthusiastic individual to join Phuket's main English-language media team.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

- ☐ Thai national, aged 22 years and up
- ☐ Organized and detail oriented
- ☐ Reasonable command of spoken English
- ☐ Knowledge of basic office software

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to

[Isaac@PhuketGazette.net](mailto:Isaac@PhuketGazette.net)

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

Tel: 076-273555 Ext 301 Mobile: 080-526 5362

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

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

**PATONG**

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

**PHUKET CITY**

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

**CHERNG TALAY**

- ▶ **Chaba Supermarket** (at the Laguna gateway) Tel: 076-325586

**RAWAI**

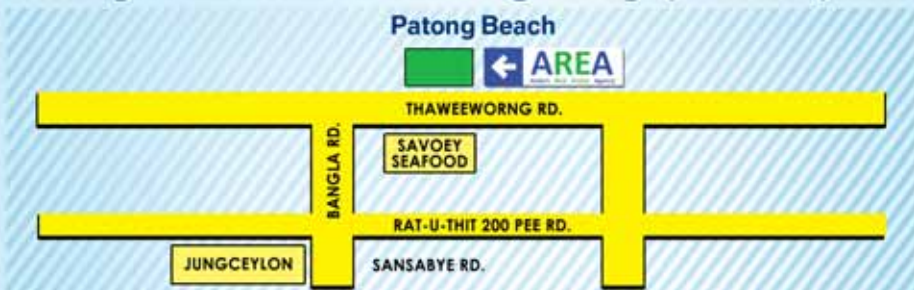
- ▶ **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-388144

**KARON**

- ▶ **EuroStyle Tailors** (Luang Por Chuan Rd) Tel: 076-396911

**Live in Patong?**

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at **Andy's Real Estate Agency (AREA)**



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

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

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



**TEACHER WANTED**

Native English speaker, female, age 25+, for 4 children 6-8 years old. Mon-Fri, 9:00-14:00, starting salary 40,000 Baht. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha\_Phuket@yahoo.com

**PROJECT MANAGER**

Local experience. Save cost, time. Quality assured. Low fees. Tel: 089-6475 001.

**LOOKING FOR MAID**

Household in Layan Beach is looking for a maid. Should be dog friendly and speak English. Tel: 084-007 7553 (English). Email: liz22gap@yahoo.de

**THAI SALES PERSON**

Looking for experienced sales person. Tel: 098-692 1132 (English & Thai). Email: jolite031600@gmail.com

**ANIMAL CAREGIVER WANTED LIVE IN**

Starting 1<sup>st</sup> March. Full time. Position involves handling sick animals, dog walking, grooming & medicating, cooking meals & running errands. Occasional after-hours & nights expected. Animal experience essential. Please send resume to: jellinecastro@yahoo.com

**REAL ESTATE MARKETING**

Phuket's fastest growing real estate agency is now looking for new marketing staff to join our successful team at our new Patong Beach Road office. A high salary and commissions will be given to the right person. Thai nationals only. Please send your CV to jj@sunpropertyphuket.com, or call us for an interview. 086-267 0177, 086-271 6175. Email: terry@tarohotel.com

**CHINESE PROPERTY AGENT**

Phuket's leading Real Estate agency is now looking for a Chinese Real Estate Agent to join our successful team. You need to be able to write and speak Chinese fluently. Main job description is to introduce Phuket properties to our Chinese investors and buyers. High earnings are expected for the right candidate. Tel: 076-341045, 081-4590 152. Please send your CV to info@propertyinphuket.com www.propertyinphuket.com

**SEEKING HOTEL STAFF URGENT**

1 Guest Relation Officer, 1 Engineer Thai nationality, must speak Mandarin Chinese. Salary negotiable. Must be reliable and responsible. Tel: 076-341436. Email to: manuela@bayshoreprojects.com

# 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

# Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

**CLASSIFIEDS ADMINISTRATION 2 POSITIONS**

Qualified candidates will be:

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

and should have:

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

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

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew  
A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-273555, ext 207 Fax: 076-615240

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT**

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

**PHUKET HOME SERVICE**

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

**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

**SALES MANAGER NEEDED**

Sales staff needed for real estate business. Contact by email only. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.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).

**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

## Employment Wanted

**EXECUTIVE CHEF WANTED**

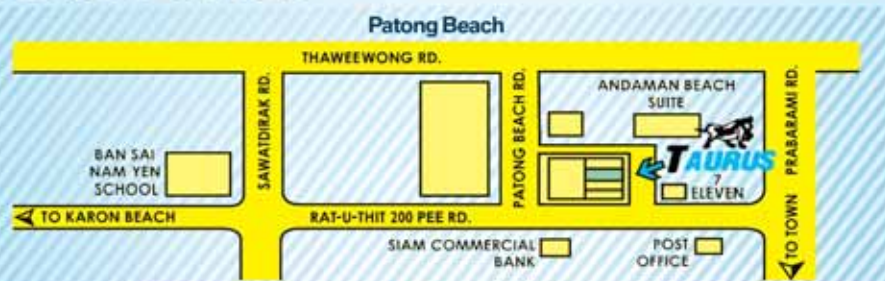
A popular hotel in central Patong requires an executive chef. Applicants must have a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position, and be able to undertake the full management of a busy kitchen. Languages required: Thai/English. Salary is negotiable, dependent on experience and ability. Tel: 089-208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

**HEAD CHEF**

Hi, I'm 32 years old, with more than 10 years' experience as a chef. I am looking for employment. I am very hard working, experienced, reliable, easy-going, motivated and enthusiastic. Tel: 094-803 7306 (English). Email: m.dominici@email.cz

## Live in Patong?

### Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel



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

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

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

## Live in Karon?

### Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Euro style tailors



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

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

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

## Looking for a **JOB?**

## Looking for a better candidate?

## Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!](http://WWW.PhuketGazette.Net)



## Business Opportunities

**WANTED:  
GUESTHOUSE  
FOR RENT**

Villa-bungalow style only, 20-40 rooms, max 20 mins drive from Patong, min 50% sea view rooms. Wanted for long-term rent. Tel: 084-690 1139. Email: ppvisseur@hogest.com

**RESTAURANT  
FOR SALE**

Fully equipped kitchen, fully furnished, TVs, dart board, pool table. Up to 80 seats. Two units, Lease: 5+3 years. Rent paid until Sept 2015. No key money. Good location. Email: drazen.johansson@g mail.com

**FASHION SHOP**

Closing. Everything for sale. Call and see. Karon. Tel: 085-690 7826.

**INVESTOR / PARTNER  
WANTED**

Commercial business requires added funding. B15m-B25m (min/max) with shares based on funding. State-of-the-art company will bring exceptional ROI. Active/silent partner. Will respond only to serious inquiries. Complete information provided to qualified investors. Tel: 088-4913 857(English), 082-2 581 153(Thai). Email: mdrannan@freshgardenfarms.com

**TOP PATONG  
RESTAURANT  
FOR SALE**

Located 30 meters off Patong Beach Road. Seats 60 pax indoors and outdoors. 2 kitchens, large walk-in chiller & totally equipped for a modern restaurant operation. Dedicated building with 3 en-suite guest rooms on top floor. Fully renovated 12 months ago, and 3 years left on the renewable lease. 2 car parks and ample motorbike parking. Sold as ongoing business, with Thai company and two foreign work permits. Reasonably priced; for details please contact 081-970 7007.

**RESTAURANT FOR  
SALE**

For health reasons. In Patong, Soi Nanai 8. For sale is kitchen equipment, furniture, bar fridges, etc. which are all new. Price is negotiable. No key money. Monthly rent THB 20,000. Tel: 081-891 9818. Email: berne l.schilet@gmx.net

**TECH STARTUP  
INVESTMENT**

3 million baht investment needed for Home Security Tech. The team has already secured a purchasing intent letter worth 2 million and have technology ready to manufacture. We only need a seed fund to start it up. We are ready to do full due diligence. Email: pipet@ipfun.dasia.com, For further details, www.getcerberus.com

**SWIMMING POOL  
COMPANY 1.2M**

14 years operating in Phuket complete with 10 years remaining on registered 15-year lease. Modern 18m, main road frontage, air conditioned building in sought-after location. Tel: 081-893 4135 (English) 081-968 2017 (Thai). Contact info@mobilepooldoctor.com

## Bulletins

**Alcoholics  
Anonymous**

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763  
084-307 7408

Email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

Google AA Phuket

**SPA & HERB SHOP  
FOR SALE**

Fully equipped with aircon and display shelves, etc. Tel: 089-645 8976.

**RAWAI RESTAURANT  
URGENT SALE**

Area 3,800sqm. Reduced from 1.5mn to 980,000 baht. yearly rent 200,000 baht, includes 2 houses. Tel: 089-646 7176.

**Patong****15-room Guesthouse and  
Sports Bar for sale**

Fully Furnished, Equipped & Licensed

Long Lease 12 Years

B1.9M or nearest offer

Contact pauljames@xpathhotel.com

**RESTAURANT &  
BAR FOR RENT**

A long-established, fully equipped restaurant with bar for rent in an excellent location on Nanai Road, Patong. The 105sqm premises include a fully equipped kitchen, restaurant and bar with ample seating for 50 customers and excellent parking facilities. For all inquiries, Tel: 081-892 8526 Email: info@phuket-besthomes.com

**GUESTHOUSE  
AT KHAO LAK**

For commercial. Located in prime area of Khao Lak Center, 14 guest rooms with fully comfortable, 3 storeys. Contact Khun Prasert. Tel: 081-894 1030. www.khaolaktravellerlodge.com

**RESTAURANT FOR  
RENT-PATONG**

250sqm, fully equipped and furnished with license, on Sai Nam Yen Road, close to Sai Nam Yen Plaza. Tel: 086-268 3963.

**Phuket Gazette**

## CLASSIFIED AD ORDER FORM

STANDARD AD (Text only): 140 baht/line

OPTIONS (NEWSPAPER ONLY - NOT WEB):

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

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

ONLINE OPTIONS:

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

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

TELEVISION OPTION:

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

Total cost of your classified ..... baht

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

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

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

**PROMOTION PRICE**  
Your Ad on **PGTV**

## SAMPLE ADS

**TOYOTA HILUX HERO**

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

Standard: 840 baht (incl VAT)

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

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

I will move to Phuket soon.  
Three yrs teaching in Bangkok.  
Phone Mr Reece  
(02) 668-1268

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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







## Saloon Cars

**MAZDA 2  
ELEGANCE 10/2012**

388,000 baht, 17,000 kms, immaculate condition, LPG, leather interior, full body kit, recent service. Tel: 085-261 0500, Tel: 086-691 4369. Email: bitwork@web.de

**AUDI A4 1.8  
159,000 BAHT**

Very good condition, all maintenance done. Tel: 080-060 1990. Email: tdsamui@gmail.com

**MERCEDES BENZ  
250 CDI**

Silver, 2012, sale 2,100,000 THB. If interested, please contact 085-994 0364 (English).

**CAMRY 2.4  
AUTOMATIC**

Air con. GPS. Pearl white. Red leather, special interior. Special wheels. 73,500km. Toyota service. 650,000 baht. 2007. Tel: 084-433 0884.

**2002 VOLKSWAGEN**

LPG, leather, aircon, automatic. 160,000 baht. Will trade for Big Bike or 4x4. Tel: 087-983 4815.

**HONDA CITY FOR SALE**

Automatic. 2007. Regularly serviced. 1 Owner. 93,000km. 1st class Insurance. 280,000 baht. Tel: 089-874 2942. Email: chantal.fernandes@gmail.com

**CHEVROLET  
CAPTIVA**

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

**HONDA BRIO**

Only 2 years. 9,000 km. Original owner 310,000 THB. Tel: 084-441 0605.

**HONDA CRV FOR  
SALE**

2.0 (IV) model 2010, brown, 56,000 km. 650,000 baht. Tel: 089-288 3455.

**BMW 5 SERIES**

2 years old. 28,000km, free maintenance at BMW Phuket for another 3 years (all warranties intact), insurance paid until November 2015. 2.7 million baht o.n.o. Email: ursaebi@gmx.net

**TOYOTA VIOS  
1.5L, 2005**

Auto windows, new air conditioning and clutch, one foreigner lady. 225,000 baht. Tel: 089-970 5795.

**HYUNDAI ELANTRA**

Superb cond. Manual, aircon, power windows. Price: 145,000. Tel: 080-041 4240.

**HONDA JAZZ 2004**

130k but still looks and drives like new. 200,000 ono. Tel: 081-958 6512 (English).

**CLASSIC CARS  
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Call 091-1610868 now if you want to sell your classic Mercedes or other classic cars: Jaguar, Austin, Healey, 1950-1969, etc. Thai spoken.

**FOR SALE**

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**HONDA CITY  
FOR SALE**

Automatic 2006. Aircon. CD player. Price for sale 235,000 baht. Tel: 081-607 8567.

**BENZ COUPE  
CLC 200**

3 years old. Bronze. 2.5 million baht. Only 52,900km. Tel: 081-892 4311.

**WHITE BMW 525 D**

2,000km, 2011, sale 2,500,000 THB. If interested, please contact 085-994 0364 (English).

**CAPTIVA LSX  
DIESEL**

Chevrolet Captiva 2.0 LSX Diesel for sale, 73,500km, 05/2012, 163hp, black, 1st owner. 730,000 baht o.n.o. Email: jhorr2000@yahoo.de

**TOYOTA AVANZA**

2011 model 1.5E. One expat owner from new. Serviced by Toyota. Color: champagne. 84,000km. 375,000 Baht. Offers considered. Tel: 087-976 0066.

**BENZ 220 E 2-DOOR**

Year 1995 Benzine LPG, leather BBS wheel, excellent condition 660,000 baht. Tel: 087-890 8554 (English&Thai).

**NISSAN TEANA**

2000cc. Year 2006. 101,000 km. Good condition. Price 600,000 Baht. Tel: 081-667 1637.

**2003 BMW X5  
BLACK**

Electric, LPG, leather. Tel: 084-054 8122.

**VW CONVERTIBLE**

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

**PROTON SAVVY  
1.2 AT**

Only 57,000km, 2010, All options, leather, mag wheels, new tyres, new service. Tel: 084-842 5920.

## Motorbikes

**HONDA CB500F**

Year 2012, 12,000 km. Sell at 165,000 baht Tel: 081-5507379.

**BMW R1200GS**

Ex cond. 2007. New cost 1.2m bt, 595,000 bt. Also BMW F650GS like new cond. 2007. New cost 700,000 bt, 295,000 bt, incl. new BMW panniers. Tel: 081-787 1752 or email mjoneilluk@yahoo.co.uk

**AFRICA TWIN 750**

Year 2005. 70,000km. Excellent condition. For sale: 220,000 baht. Tel: 081-078 9334 (English & French).

**2008 D-TRACKER  
250**

250 cc, fuel injected, 6 speed, supermoto. 4 0,000 km, runs great. GIVI box and rack and surfboard rack. 75,000 baht. K. Jeremie. Tel: 080-887 1168.

**KAWASAKI Z800  
FOR SALE**

WTS Kawasaki Z800 2014, ODO 3795, Acra povik muffler. Tel: 089-401 8506 (English).

**SUPERMOTARD**

KeeWay 200cc excellent condition, used very little. Only 3,000km on the meter. Very low price for a very good motorcycle. 49,000 baht. Tel: 089-289 0214 (Thai).

**HONDA SHADOW**

450cc, excellent condition, green book, 139,000 baht or best offer. Tel: 084-584 6795. Email: hanspaessler@me.com

**KAWASAKI  
VERSYS 650**

2013. Perfect. ABS. No crashes. Reg / Ins July 2015. Price: 235,000 ONO. Tel: 086-944 1640.

**A KAWASAKI  
NINJA 650**

One owner, 2011, only 13,000 kms, A bargain at 179,000 baht. Tel: 089-475 0636.

**VESPA GTS  
300IE EC**

One owner. Sell 239,000 baht. Patong. Tel: 087-893 1753.

**YAMAHA YZ 250F**

2007, excellent condition. Price: 85,000 baht. Tel: 084-840 4317.

## Rentals

**CAR FOR RENT**

Short or long-term rent with first-class insurance. Delivery service. Please call 086-690 0626 or email bcurrent@hotmail.com

**NEW CARS FOR RENT**

Jazz, Vios, City, SUVs, MPVs, Vans. Call 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com Line ID: 246phuketline www.phuket-carrent.net

## Pick-ups

**TOYOTA  
FORTUNER 2006**

Black, one owner, 116,000 km. Fully serviced, best condition. Price: 590,000 baht. For more information please call 083-388 8036.

**2011 TOYOTA  
VIGO 4WD**

Excellent condition. Dual cab, leather upholstery, manual gearbox, 3-liter diesel engine. Email: edshiels@gmail.com

**2010 TOYOTA  
HILUX 3.0 D-4D**

Excellent condition with 34,500km. All leather, automatic, 4-wheel-drive. Tel: 084-584 6795 (English).

**ISUZU D-MAX  
PRESTIGE Z**

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

**NISSAN NAVARA  
2011 KING CAB**

5-speed manual, 4x4, leather seats, only 7,500kms. 525,000 baht. Tel: 084-058 2410 (English). Email: jaques.carl@yahoo.com

## Other

**TRAILER FOR SALE**

Ex-American, with blue book. 90,000 baht. Tel: 087-265 0118. Email: ant\_p\_clark@yahoo.co.uk

## LUXURY CAR

## Porsche 911(996) Cabriolet



Year 2000 with hardtop, metallic silver, AAS serviced, 36,000km, very nice.

Price: 4.59 million baht.

Contact Khun Lerd  
Tel: 087-263 6706

(Proton Showroom)





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 Jim Poulsen Mobile: 081 891 3237 Email: jim@leemarine.com  
 Mark Heath Mobile: 081 787 9408 Email: mark@leemarine.com

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### 33F W/A 2007 GULF CRAFT

For sale by owner. Suzuki 225 HP outboards, only 300 engine hours, air-con, custom dinghy with outboard, Raymarine GPS, many other extras - asking 3.85 million baht. Tel: 089-873 3713 (English). Email: erwin.a.hardy@gmail.com

### VESSEL "SANITY"

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

### 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

### 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

### DEAN 440 CATAMARAN (2002)

Four double cabins Twin Vetus 42 Hp Diesels. Reduced to US\$160,000 Contact Alan Giles at Boatshedphuket.com on 084-842 6146 or alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

### BOTNIA TARGA 32 (2013)

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### NAUTICAT 42 PILOT HOUSE (1999)

A top quality well-built yacht. Excellent condition and lightly used. Well-priced at US\$ 280,000 Contact Alan Giles at Boatshedphuket.com on 084-842 6146 or alangiles@boat shedphuket.com

### NAJAD 360 SLOOP (1989)

Quality Scandinavian-built yacht. New Nanni 38 Hp Diesel. Well-equipped and realistically priced. Asking only 98,000 Euro. Contact Alan Giles at Boatshedphuket.com on 084-842 6146 or alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

### POWER CATAMARAN

Austal 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@pop piessamui.com

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Yachtsman Hypalon Tenders HYS, 280, 79,000 Bt , inc VAT (4 pcs ) HYS, 310 , 85,000 Bt inc VAT (4 pcs ) HYS 350 96,000 Bt inc VAT (1 pc ), Light weight aluminium hull RIB's. Good quality at very competitive prices. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

### BAYLINER175 BOAT (USA)



Including GPS-Sona Sailed 3 times (total 20 hours) 650,000 baht. Tel: 083-636 0125, 091-758 8829.

### BENETEAU EVASION 34



1981 50 HP Perkins Motor Sailer, many extras, best state. 1,290,000 baht. Nihat Gunduz. Tel: 086-274 6272. Email: nihat\_gunduz@hotmail.com

### 21' SPEEDBOAT



2014 boat 140hp 4-stroke Suzuki , GPS/depth finder, livewell, 700,000 ono. Tel: 087-418 2474 (English). Email: tim@twci.com

### 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: boat@andamanboatsales.com

### FOR SALE PHUKET



Gaff Rigged Schooner, Launched 1981. LOA 28-42ft. Beam: 10 ft. Draft: 4 ft. Displacement 3 ton nes. Engine: Yammar 15 HP. Builder: Robin Harris. Designer: William Garden. Good condition. Price 1.15 million baht. Email: jcdupont.thai@gmail.com

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### KETTERING JE29 TRIMARAN (2007)

Carbon fiber, deck-stepped, rotating mast. Genoa & Genaker both on furlers. Yamaha 8 Hp Hi Thrust Outboard. Reduced to only US\$49,950 OBO. Contact Alan Giles at Boatshedphuket.com on 084-842 6146 or alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

### DEFEVER TRAWLER 44 (1981)

Generally in very good shape but needs new engines. A bargain for someone who wants to spend a little time and money Only US\$80,000. Contact Alan Giles at Boatshedphuket.com on 084-842 6146 or alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

### DEAN 440 CATAMARAN (2002)

Four double cabins. Twin Vetus 42 Hp Diesels Reduced to US\$160,000. Contact Alan Giles at Boatshedphuket.com on 084-842 6146 or alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

### SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

#### Cryptic crossword



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

Normal spelling: lower case.

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

Letters left out: underlined.

Across:

8. FACTION: F-action 9. CELESTIAL: *callseeit* 13. ENTER: record 15. CONTACT: con-tact 16. TERRAIN: t-E.R.-rain 17. APRON: apron 18. OFTEN: of-ten 20. CURSE: C-sure 22. ROTATE: *toteat* 23. MIRAGE: *rageim* 25. HIRSUTE: her suit 27. TURNOFF: disgust 30. REBORE: re.-bore 31. STABLE: *labset* 32. DOCKS: makes deductions 35. TAWAN: *wanta* 36. OVERT: over-T 37. LOVABLE: lov-A.B.-L-e 38. RETCHED: *wretched* 41. MODEM: mode-M 42. LURED: L-U-red 43. FOLLOWING: next 44. STOPPER: *poster(P)*

Down:

1. PASTOR: *sopart* 2. STARGAZE: star-gaze 3. CONCENTRATE: *concertneat* 4. PENETRATE: *entertape* 5. FENCING: enclosure 6. STENTORIAN: (T)*noiserant* 7. KATA: *backatasoi* 10. SEPTIC: *pest-I/C* 11. PENALTY: *playten* 12. STANCE: *ascent* 19. TRAFFIC: *ifcraft* 21. RAINBOW: *owbrain* 24. OUTERLIMITS: *limitroutes* 26. STRONGHOLD: marked-keep 28. STREAMING: *master-gin* 29. EBBTIDE: *bestidbe* 30. RETIRE: *terrier* 32. DEVELOPS: *volesped* 33. SPEEDY: *speed-Y* 34. LOWDOWN: unfair 38. BARBER: re-bra-B[up] 40. TROT: T-rot

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## Private Aircraft and Flight Services in Phuket

## Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS

**Built: 1976**

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



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

**Specs:**

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

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

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

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

**HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?**

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**AIRPLAY ALTIS MICROLIGHT**

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

**1999 ROBIN 2160i**

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

**TECNAM P-92**

- Price: 1.5 million baht  
- Registration: U-B08  
- Year of Manufacture: 2002  
- Equipment: Full standard equipment  
- Engine: Rotax 912-80HP 350hrs. Tel: 081-840 8418.

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**Book now: 0935 92 7558**



# Sansiri teaches Phuket media to say, konnichiwa



Joining the fun: L to R: Suriya Wannabuit, executive vice president for Sansiri PLC, and Apichat Apiwantanakorn bundle up for the cold in Japan.



L to R: Jormnapa Utuchkul and Sarapee Srithammarat enjoy the snow during the Sansiri 'thank you' trip to Japan.



L to R: Thai media members Sophon Kiamkarn, Boonrat Apiwantanakorn and Kittti Wongsarattanawut are ready.



L to R: Sarapee Srithammarat, Thititi Thanomsak and Boonrat Apiwantanakorn give a thumbs up.



L to R: Jormnapa Utuchkul and Chutharat Plerin grab sleds and hit the snow during the media 'thank you' trip.



THANK YOU MEDIA: L to R: Public Relations Section staffer, from Sansiri PLC; Apichat Apiwantanakorn; Salinee Prab; Sarapee Srithammarat; Thititi Thanomsak; Tanyaluk Sakoot; Janjira Sittabut; Wimolmas Phakawatsophon and Sophon Kiamkarn.

## Location

Located on one of the most precious bays on Phuket, Kata Beach.

## Views

A mélange of sea, coconut trees, jungle and Beach.

## Apartment

Ranging in size from 75 sqm. to 380 sqm.

A choice of one bedroom, two bedrooms and three bedrooms.

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A proven track record of 10% appreciation return per annum.

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## The Aspasia Phuket

The botanical garden with a seaview



## Contacts

1/3 Laem Sai Road, Kata Beach, Karon Sub-District, Muang, Phuket 83100

Tel: +66 76 333 033

Fax: +66 76 333 035

info@aspasiaphuket.com www.aspasiaphuket.com



## Words from the wise

"To succeed in life you need two things: ignorance and confidence."

— Mark Twain

"Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value."

— Albert Einstein

## Medium

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

## Hard

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

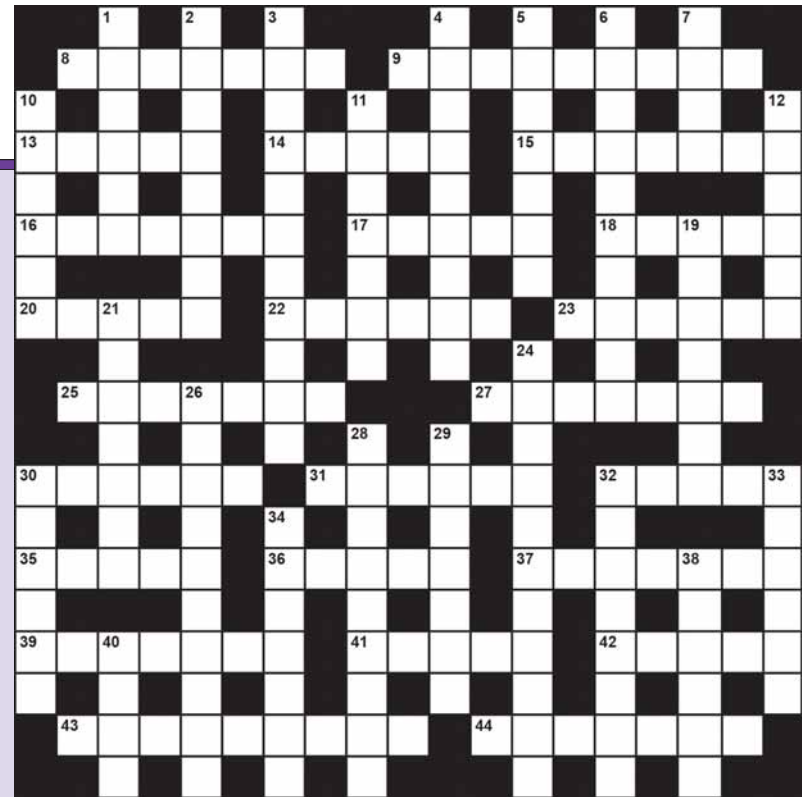
SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE  
break

## Cryptic Crossword

## Across

8. Clique in fine deed (7)  
9. Call, see it could be heavenly (9)  
13. Go in for record (5)  
14. Mediterranean island a cert. out East (5)  
15. Get in touch, against diplomacy (7)  
16. Train carrying British Queen to the territory (7)  
17. Protective cover for aircraft loading area (5)  
18. Many times out of ten (5)  
20. Almost sure perhaps of a malediction (5)  
22. To tear round, go round (6)  
23. Rage I'm converting to illusion (6)  
25. Her suit we hear is covered in hair (7)  
27. Shut in disgust (4,3)  
30. Concerning a tedious thing, to refurbish cylinders (6)  
31. Firmly established lab. set to change (6)  
32. Makes deductions for prisoner's enclosures in court (5)  
35. Want a different sun in Thailand (5)  
36. Not hidden over time (5)  
37. Love sailor left inside worthy of affection (7)  
39. Wretched, took away wife as tried to be sick (7)  
41. Fashion minute data transmitter (5)  
42. Liberal University, communist tempted (5)  
43. Next body of supporters (9)



44. Maybe poster covering parking is a plug (7)

## Down

1. So part arranged for minister (6)  
2. Daydream, look at things in the night sky (8)  
3. Focus on concert, neat playing! (11)  
4. Enter tape carefully to pass through (9)  
5. Swordplay in enclosure (7)  
6. Tenor in a rant, noise can be powerfully loud (10)  
7. Back at a soi in the center of a Phuket village (4)  
10. Possibly pest in charge is putrid (6)  
11. Play ten out of position for a shot at goal (7)  
12. Position ascent differently (6)

19. Carry out business if craft rebuilt (7)

21. Ow! Brain disturbed by colors in the sky (7)  
24. Limit routes carefully to the farthest boundaries (5,6)  
26. Marked keep in fortress (10)  
28. Running strongly, master maybe spills gin (9)  
29. Bet I'd be upset in the sea going out (7)  
30. Disturbed terrier, not right to retreat (6)  
32. Vole sped out, advances (8)  
33. Rapid drug unknown (6)  
34. Unfair information (7)  
38. About ladies' underwear, black, turning up in men's hair stylist! (6)  
40. Time! Go off and jog (4)

## PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



Pay attention to an intuitive feeling that's been around for some time, as it may be trying to tell you something. Likewise, your dreams could have equally important guidance for you this week. Most pleasingly of all, the sun's presence suggests you'll be ready to rock. Even so, try to keep spending within reason over the weekend.

## ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



The new moon in Aquarius, the second in the last month, brings a renewed opportunity to expand your social network. You're moving through an interesting phase in which you'll benefit from time out to reflect on life and gather inspiration. Even so, the urge to relax may be interrupted by a desire to leap into action on an impulse.

## TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



Long-term plans come into focus, encouraging you to review them and pick the one that fascinates you the most. In addition, your

dreams can inspire creative ideas, providing answers to problems or spotlighting fresh perspectives. Later in the week, a sassy Venus link suggests a fun encounter could greatly enhance your weekend.

## GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



It's time to explore your potential and expand your horizons, whether in the name of fun, romance or work.

Yet, thoughts of harnessing your imagination to fulfill a dream might also tempt you. This week begins an action-packed phase during which networking and gathering knowledge could change your life for the better.

## CANCER (June 22-July 23):



This week's second Aquarius moon of the year might reinforce a decision to get your finances in order and reduce associated anxiety. Meanwhile, a very forthright Aries focus can be the catalyst that spurs you into action, particularly if you've lost heart about something of late. The courage to forge ahead and overcome obstacles may now be yours.

YOUR  
horoscope  
By Patrick Arundell

## LEO (July 24-Aug 23):



A fresh start regarding a key relationship is possible, as is the potential to liaise with someone you admire. If you thought you'd missed a golden opportunity, then stay alert, as it might yet show up again. Indeed it's up, up and away as a lively blend of energies could see you keen to explore new territory – and conquer it too, Leo.

## VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23):



If you desire change, then pick one goal that you feel motivated to work on and make a start. It's not too late to turn a particular area of your life around. At the same time, as the sun glides into Pisces, it can bring fresh insights and opportunities regarding key relationships. Indeed, one romance in particular looks set to sizzle.

## LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



The new moon encourages a fresh start regarding creativity and romance. In fact, this can be a good time to get into the dating loop, if you've been out of it for some while. In addition, relationships sparkle as Mars and Venus edge into Aries, and whether it's business or pleasure, there'll be plenty to keep you occupied.

## SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



A fresh perspective on a key situation could give you a chance to resolve a difficulty or make a decision. In addition, the cosmos suggests that you have a little fun as a way to kick back and recharge. However, whatever your plans, a proactive mood can drive you forward this week, encouraging you to get a move on.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



A chance to explore new ideas could lead to an opportunity you've coveted for some time. Keep going even if you encounter resistance, as you'll have the

determination to succeed. Meanwhile, you'll be ready for action where romance is concerned, as a Venus-Mars connection could add extra sparkle to a developing relationship.

## CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



A lively focus encourages investment in your home, or a family project. In addition, you may be motivated to sort out finances and get a handle on outstanding bills. Furthermore, clearing out clutter and redecorating might absorb your attention, particularly if you want to create more space and beautify your surroundings.

## AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



The rare second new moon of the year in your sign shows up mid-week, giving you another chance to start afresh. Whatever you're hoping to achieve, taking the first steps now can spur you on to greater things. This week could also see you making new friends and social connections that can be very worthwhile, leading to exciting and dynamic opportunities.



# Building on strong foundations

By Maciek Klimowicz

ALL good projects begin with strong foundations. To make theirs even stronger, the developer of Diamond Condominium in Cherng Talay inaugurated an environmentally friendly piling system called "Hydraulic Static Pile Driver" at the initial stage of the project's construction.

Following the official land blessing ceremony in mid January, the first of 768 piles was laid using the "Hydraulic Static Pile Driver" technology, marking the first time such a piling system has been used in Southern Thailand.

"We used the hydraulic piling system as part of our ongoing commitment to minimize the impact on the environment and adjacent upmarket residences," explains Jo D'hondt, managing director at Silk Projects Co, Ltd, the company behind the development.

"Piles are driven in with virtually no vibration, which means there is less chance of damaging the steel and concrete pile heads," he adds, explaining that such piles can be more accurately inserted compared to traditional hammer-driven ones, which can damage the quality of foundations.

And as the Hydraulic Static system generates virtually no noise, neighbors should be glad as well.

However, this commitment to quality doesn't end with the foundations. Every-



An artist's impression of the project, scheduled for completion in November 2016.

thing in the project, from the amenities available for the residents to the architectural style, will reflect the up-market feel of the project's location in a high-growth area between Laguna and Surin Beach.

Located on a land plot of more than 5 rai (9,472.4sqm) the finished project will comprise four buildings with approximately 350 apartments, available in three different

configurations: one bedroom in eight different styles of 33.10sqm to 78.40sqm; two bedroom in seven versions between 50.20sqm to 100.40sqm, as well as an unspecified number of three-bedroom apartments.

"We have some flexibility with our floor and room plans allowing us to combine two- and one-bedroom apartments to pro-

vide a bespoke three bedroom option," explains D'hondt.

All units come with built-in appliances in the kitchens and bathrooms, air conditioners and key-card entry, while all other items are provided as part of the comprehensive turnkey furniture and accessory package.

"We have avoided traditional interior themes incorporating timber finishes, as these tend to darken the interiors and make them seem smaller," adds D'hondt.

Those residing at the Diamond Condominium will have access to three swimming pools, as well as kids and jacuzzi pools; family BBQ areas; reception area; clubhouse with a 24-hour breakfast bar; a dining area; fitness room; mini market; and laundry service.

And with a rental program designed for owners who require a flexible usage option and a developer-backed guarantee of 7 per cent for three years, with 30 days complementary owner usage, Diamond Condominium offers something for the more business-minded buyers as well.

Even though the handover of the 900-million-baht project is scheduled for November 2016, 120 units have already been sold. Prices range from 2.8 to 9.20 million baht.

The piling is expected to take three months to complete.

For more information call 095-079 6565 or visit [diamondcondominium.com](http://diamondcondominium.com)

## Accor goes 5-star in Khao Lak with Pullman resort



The resort in Phang Nga is about an hour north of Phuket Airport.

ACCOR, the leading hotel operator in the Asia Pacific and Thailand, announced on January 26 that the Pullman Khao Lak Katiliya Resort and Villas, would be joining the hotel network in Khao Lak.

This contemporary upscale resort, which combines nature, modern design and authentic Thai culture, is being marketed as an ideal leisure retreat for all travellers.

Only about an hour north of Phuket International Airport, Khao Lak is renowned for its white beaches, serene unspoiled natural resources and world-class diving sites in nearby national parks.

Much of the pristine coastline remains undeveloped.

"This great resort is located alongside a stunning, 600-meter stretch of private beach and has all the essential elements that match the Pullman's DNA, including top leisure facilities and

services, and a complete range of events and meeting solutions for guests looking to mix business and leisure," said Patrick Basset, chief operating officer of Accor Thailand, Vietnam, South Korea, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and the Philippines.

"With Pullman Khao Lak Katiliya Resort and Villas joining our network, we now have 13 hotels in the Andaman coast area situated in Phuket, Krabi and Phang Nga. The growing number of hotels gives our guests and Accor's loyalty members a wider selection of accommodation to stay in and dining venues to choose from."

The resort consists of 223 rooms and suites and 97 villas, many of which are accompanied by private swimming pools and located along the beach.

— Phuket Gazette

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# Island expat community living



**Across the Land**

**By Amy Koh**

IF YOU are living in a foreign country where there is already a well-organized expatriate community, there can be many benefits. Having catered to an expatriate society for many years, Phuket is one such destination that is popular among foreigners – and for many reasons – including, of course, the tropical climate, beautiful beaches and the warm and friendly local people.

It's partly due to this established community that many expatriates settle down in Phuket and call it home. Demand for housing is therefore now on the rise. It is also not uncommon to see "seasonal" expats and retirees who choose to come to Phuket for a couple of months each year.

With an established expatriate community it is less challenging and daunting for those newcomers settling into a foreign culture for the first time. We find that families with school-going children tend to settle in faster and have less of a learning curve.

This is due to the supportive network of parents who help out with finding and advising on the best supermarkets, beaches, shops, handymen, maids and so on. Such networks are invaluable in saving newcomers time, money, frustration and confusion.

As "new kids on the block", it is advisable to have scouted out the property that you will be call-

ing home at least six to 12 months prior to arriving in Phuket. There's no denying that the task of finding the right home in a foreign country can be tedious and time consuming. At this stage, the internet can be invaluable for establishing new contacts and doing your "homework" on the best properties to rent or buy.

Alternatively, contact a real-estate agent to assist and recommend some local properties. This will take some of the stress out of hunting for a home, and while it might be an added cost, a good agent will have a much better knowledge of the market and could save you time in finding the right combination of factors to suit your family's needs.

Popular property choices are usually 3-4 bedroom pool villas in a gated community, with monthly rentals ranging from 70,000 to 250,000 baht on a one-year rental agreement. Because Phuket's tourism industry is seasonal, securing a one year contract will also save you money, as owners are usually ready to drop the monthly rate the longer you stay.

A one-year contract will also give you the time you need to adjust to the new culture, scout out the island, and then perhaps move to another property better suited for your family, once the rental period is over. In fact families sometimes relocate from one area to another just so that their kids can be closer to their playmates in the same street.

Most long term rentals in Phuket are fully furnished, which



An established expat community makes it easier for those wanting to move abroad. Photo: Gazette file

is convenient and would save on the initial costs of moving to a new country. All that is usually required when moving in are your suitcases.

Timing is also important: secure a property before the tour-

ist high season starts as rental prices will go up sharply at that time and availability will go down.

Phuket's well-organized expatriate community has its advantages over other similar tropical destinations – especially

if you're not the adventurous type bent on blazing a new trail.

Amy Koh is the sales manager of Engel & Voelkers Phuket. To contact Amy or for more information, visit [www.engelvoelkers.com/en/phuket](http://www.engelvoelkers.com/en/phuket)

## MK Real Estate Development pumps B5.9bn into six projects

MK REAL Estate Development plans to launch six new residential projects worth 5.9 billion baht this year to cash in on the recovery of demand for homes.

The firm's targets are pre-sales of 4bn baht and revenue of 3bn baht this year, Chuan Tangmatitham, president and managing director of the firm, told a news conference last week.

Mr Chuan confirmed that the company was negotiating with potential strategic partners for joint development of residential projects, focusing on those with expertise in marketing and construction.

"We are negotiating with both foreign and local investors who are interested in joining us in business, but no deal has been made at this time," Mr Chuan said.

Mr Chuan said that the company's investment budget would come from its internal cash flow and bank loans.

At present, the company's existing projects have homes for sale worth 5.5bn baht. When combined with this year's new



MK Real Estate is focusing its projects in Bangkok. Photo: Swaminathan

launches, MK will have projects valued at a total of 11.4bn baht, which will generate income through 2017.

Four of this year's six new projects will feature detached houses and townhouses worth a total of 3.16bn baht, and the other two will be condominium projects worth 2.74bn baht. All

of them will be in metropolitan Bangkok.

"We have continued to concentrate on developing residential projects in Bangkok and its suburbs rather than expanding upcountry as the supply in the provinces now is exceeding the demand," Mr Chuan said.

– The Nation

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# But, who is Jasmine B?

By Barry Daniel

JASMINE B is a charming new restaurant opposite Home Pro Shopping Center on Chao Fa Road West. It also happens to be the name of owner and manager Khun Nidnoi's pet Bengal cat, which is fitting, as this is one lovely hangout for cool humans and cats alike.

Jasmine B is air-conditioned, elegantly decorated and boasts a state-of-the-art glass-fronted kitchen. At the rear there's a tranquil garden with abundant greenery, a cascading waterfall, an outdoor bar and seating for pre-meal drinks, or for enjoying a full meal outdoors.

The owners of Jasmine B are Englishman Phil Baldwin and his charming Thai wife Nidnoi, both of whom are on hand to greet and guide you through the extensive menu and drinks selection.

"We decided to open a new restaurant in Chalong because we found we had to travel long distances to find the sort of eatery which we personally enjoyed," says Phil.

"Our aim is to operate the sort of restaurant that we would make our regular haunt, serving fine food with the best produce and ingredients that becomes re-

nowned for great cuisine and sociability in southern Phuket."

Our own evening experiencing Jasmine B's unique beauty started with chilled champagne cocktails sipped beside the outdoor garden bar. We then segued indoors to sample an array of complimentary tasters that were thoughtfully provided while we pondered the extensive menu.

My Thai partner opted for a tasty selection of Thai starters featuring deep-fried crab meat, chicken sate in traditional peanut sauce and soft-shelled crab, all of which she demolished with élan and declared to be, "delicious".

I chose the Sea Quest tossed green salad with seared tuna, marinated prawns, smoked salmon, bell peppers and other healthy veggies, which proved to be fresh and tasty, while al-

lowing me an inner glow of self righteousness about how healthily I was eating.

Our mains of grilled New Zealand rack of lamb, marinated and herbed, and served with zucchini, tomatoes, risotto and a rosemary and shallot sauce; plus steamed red snapper fillet with spicy garlic lime sauce, continued our evening's theme of balancing extreme tastiness with



Jasmine B in Chalong is one lovely hangout for cool humans and cats alike.

healthy eating.

Throughout this gastro-fest we complemented the intense food flavors with excellent glasses of a New Zealand white wine that my partner declared, in poetic mode, to be "tart, grassy and sassy."

Admittedly, our self-righteous healthfulness was somewhat compromised by our journey into the decadent pleasures of banana and apple fritters with honey, vanilla sauce and ice cream for dessert, but, by that time, we were so overcome with the se-

ductive allure of Jasmine B that we were past caring.

Jasmine B, 3 Moo. 8, T. Chalong, A.Muang, Phuket, 83130. Phone: 076-384237. Fax: 076-384238. gm@jasmineb-restaurant.com. www.jasmineb-restaurant.com



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# Great, if taken seriously

## Books

By James Eckardt

DAVID Mitchell's third novel, *Cloud Atlas*, was an audacious break from traditional narrative form: six wildly different characters in divergent, stylistic voices and places ranging from the South Pacific in the 1850s and Los Angeles in the 1930s to the far-distant future in Korea and Hawaii. Surprisingly, Mitchell followed this with a traditional autobiographical novel of his English youth and a historical novel set in 1799 in Nagasaki, Japan.

Now he is back in form with *The Bone Clocks* (Random House, New York, 2014, 623pp). Five distinct first-person narratives range from 1984 to 2043 and take place in England, Switzerland, Iraq, Australia, China, Colombia, Canada and Ireland.

The story kicks off with 15-year-old Holly Sykes waking up in her bedroom above the pub owned by her parents in Gravesend, on the banks of the Thames. After a fight with her mother, she runs away from home.

Now things turn weird. An old woman, Ester Little, is fishing off a pier and gives a thirsty Holly green tea from a thermos. She knows Holly's name and asks for "asylum" in the future.

Holly is psychic. She used to hear "radio voices" in her head, was visited daily by a beautiful and mysterious apparition called Miss

Constantin and suffered from delusory "daymares" until cured by a Chinese doctor, Marinus – who turns out to be a character from Mitchell's last novel about Nagasaki in 1799.

At the scene of a triple murder, Ester Little takes asylum in her soul before she erases all memory of the event.

In the second section, the narrative voice changes completely. Glib, clever, cynical, larcenous Hugo Lamb is in his last year at Cambridge. Born of modest means, he makes a living hustling his wealthy classmates at poker and pool.

While listening to a choir rehearse at his college chapel, he meets the most beautiful woman he's ever seen, none other than Immaculee Constantin. She seems to be interviewing him for a mission, before mysteriously disappearing. At Christmas break, he's staying with his aristocratic friends at a chalet

in Switzerland when he falls in love for the first time in his life with an English barmaid, 21-year-old Holly Sykes. After a blissful time snowed in by a blizzard, he forsakes her to be initiated into a time-travelling cult known as the Anchorites, based in a mountain chapel in the Alps.

Elizabeth Little and Dr Marinus are also time travellers, but from a rival cult known as the Horologists. They are automatically reincarnated 49 days after death, commonly in a different race and sex. In contrast, the eternal life of

The novel only redeems itself in the last section, narrated by 74-year-old Holly, living a hand-to-mouth existence in a cabin on the coast of a dystopian Ireland. The world is falling apart in 2043, starved of fuel, air travel, and even government.



The novel redeems itself when Holly is living a hand-to-mouth existence in Ireland. Photo: Michal Osmenda

the Anchorites is based on three month installments of drinking the soul, the "Black Wine", of kidnapped victims, often children. The two cults have been at war for 150 years.

Telepathy, precognition, transmigration of souls – now we are in Stephen King territory. This conceit continues over two more entertaining sections, one about Ed Brubeck, Holly's old classmate, now an Iraq war correspondent and father of her daughter, Aoife;

the other about Crispin Hershey, a washed-up novelist, who keeps bumping into Holly at various literary functions around the world. She is famous now for her psychic memoir *Radio Voices*.

But now we come to the gaping crater in the novel. Dr Marinus, reincarnated as an Afro-Canadian female psychiatrist, brings Holly along to the climatic battle of the war of the cults in Switzerland. Good and evil clash in comic book super hero combat. This is just

embarrassingly bad.

The novel only redeems itself in the last section, narrated by 74-year-old Holly, living a hand-to-mouth existence in a cabin on the coast of a dystopian Ireland. The world is falling apart in 2043, starved of fuel, air travel and even government. However, even this section is ruined at the end by a seaborne *deus ex machina* from Iceland.

The *Bone Clocks* is often a great story, if you can take it seriously.

## BISP student paints his path to recovery

STRIKINGLY colorful works of art currently lining the hallways of the British International School Phuket (BISP) map the road to recovery for one very happy student who nearly lost his life in a motorbike accident in March 2013.

Sevastan Lukashov was left in a month-long coma after a horrific accident on the bypass road, and had to undergo extensive cranial surgery – including having a metal plate inserted into his skull – before he could start the long journey back to health.

With the help of his art therapist, Claire Lester, the 18-year-old's creative recovery process over the last year has culminated in a collection of pieces depicting his memories of Russia, life in Phuket and his feelings about his family, recovery and more.

Sevastan's first solo art exhibition – called "I love my life: The art of Sevastan Lukashov" – opened at BISP this month.

"Phuket helped me to see life after my accident. If this would have happened in Russia, it would have been hard for me to recover," says Sevastan, as he stands proudly in front of one of his pieces.

When asked about his new-found talent and love for art, Sevastan says, "It makes me [happy], to remember what life is worth. Before my accident, I didn't like my life, but now I am so happy."

Art, in one form or another, played a pivotal role in Sevastan's battle back to life, even if he might not have been aware of it.

"[When I was in the coma], my parents would turn on my favorite music... They talked with me to help me remember who I was and where I was," Sevastan explains.

His mother, Irina, recalls, "Every day we would do everything we could to bring Sevastan back."

"We spoke every minute with him. We didn't know if he was listening, but I thought it would help him."



Sevastan (in white) stands with his parents (left) and Ms Lester (right).

Music was also an element of inspiration and focus during Sevastan's weekly hour-long sessions with Ms Lester.

"[In the beginning], his drawings were very small and labored and he found it very difficult... He worked for an hour every week and he chose the music. Mostly, it was Mozart," Ms Lester remembers.

"He not only needed to rehabilitate himself, but his movement, his gross motor skills. It was moving, moving to the music, as well as getting what happened to him out on the canvas."

Ms Lester says that she has seen immense improvement in the way Sevastan moves and works.

"He used to hold his hands and support his arms while he was working because he had trouble with his mobility. He used to

support himself," she says.

"Within the year, he went from using bigger paint brushes to smaller paint brushes. He could move quicker."

Sevastan's road to recovery has been successful, and beautiful, but it's not over yet, says Ms Lester.

"His brain is going to continue to heal over a number of years. That's where the art is going to help. The creativity within that is going to make connections in his brain further and it's going to continue to heal," she says.

It's evident the powerful effect art has had on Sevastan's life and health, not to mention the potential it has for his future – which Sevastan hopes will involve business and art.

"The first time I came to draw [with Ms Lester], I was drawing people – my parents, my family. I said to Ms Claire, 'Can I draw something from my mind?'" he says.

"She said 'It's beautiful, it's amazing. I want to say thank you, thank you so much to Ms Claire. Thank you very much.'"

– Mauri Grant



# Eat your mangosteens



**Excuse Buster**

By Craig Burton

MANGOSTEEN is often considered the powerhouse of tropical fruits, and for good reason.

According to an article in the March 2008 issue of the International Journal of Molecular Sciences, "The mangosteen rind, leaves and bark have been used as folk medicine for thousands of years. The thick mangosteen rind has been and is used for treating catarrh, cystitis, diarrhea, dysentery, eczema, fever, intestinal ailments, pruritis and other skin ailments. The mangosteen leaves are also used by some natives in teas and for diarrhea, dysentery, fever and thrush. It is also known that concentrates of mangosteen bark can be used for genito-urinary afflictions and stomatitis."

## ANTIOXIDANT POWER

Research has revealed that mangosteens contain a class of naturally occurring polyphenol compounds, known as xanthenes. There are more than 200 known xanthenes



Mangosteens, packed with xanthenes, are the powerhouse of tropical fruits. Photo: Vircabutar

in nature and, amazingly, 20 of them are found in mangosteens, concentrated mainly in the rind. Xanthenes and their derivatives have been shown to have several benefits, including anti-inflammatory properties.

Xanthenes are an effective remedy against cardiovascular diseases, and also have properties which heal cells damaged by free

radicals. This can slow down the aging process, ward off degenerative diseases and prevent physical and mental deterioration.

Mangosteen is also a good source of Vitamin C. As most of us know, Vitamin C helps the body resist infectious agents and scavenge harmful free radicals that cause oxidative stress, or "cellular rust" which leads to

a host of medical conditions.

## NUTRITIONAL STAR

Mangosteen contains a great number of minerals, such as copper, manganese and magnesium potassium, and folate. Magnesium helps regulate blood pressure and heart rate. Potassium is an important component

of cell and body fluids and helps control heart rate and blood pressure; thus, it offers protection against stroke and coronary heart diseases. Folate plays an important role in fetal development and evolution of new cells in the body. This particular vitamin is vital during pregnancy.

Even for those who do not suffer from any health conditions, eating mangosteens and drinking mangosteen juice are great ways to continue a healthy lifestyle by providing delicious, low-calorie nutrition that is also high in fiber, vitamins and minerals.

Mangosteen season is generally listed from May to October, which is the ideal time to enjoy them freshly picked, but for those wishing to benefit from this Thai superstar fruit, mangosteen is available all year-round in other forms, such as a powder.

*Craig Burton is a nutritional expert with more than 15 years of experience at the forefront of the health and well-being field. He offers a high-level of his expertise in functional training and nutrition. For more information about Craig and his services, visit [thevitruvianmethod.com](http://thevitruvianmethod.com)*

# Strong is the new skinny: why women should lift like men

THE myth that claims women who lift weights will become bulky has wreaked havoc for decades, and the fear it provokes still continues today. I'm here to tell you: It's just a myth. Strength training is probably one of the best body-shaping exercises women can do.

Here's my guess as to how this myth came about, and why it has lasted for so long. First, lifting heavy weights is hard work. I'd bet if I told you to throw a few two-pound hand weights around you'd be happy as a Larry with your slightly elevated heart rate and the odd drop of sweat. But that won't get you anywhere. The truth is, the reality of hard work and dedication isn't pretty and doesn't sell, which means no one will be making money anytime soon.

Many women believe they start to get

bulkier and bigger with weight training. This misconception is a result of the muscles starting to shape up and become more dense. So, next time a weight-lifting woman goes to squeeze into her jeans, there's less give due to a new-found firmness in the trained muscles.

Jeans that were once hard to get into are now impossible. This is not because your legs are on the way to becoming thunder thighs, it's because they are becoming what you want them to be: tight, firm and toned.

I'll say it again: Women who lift weights



Lift it. Photo: Cpl Courtney C. White

as a way to get healthy will not get bulky. Women do not have the hormone – testosterone – necessary for bulking up.

The only way for a woman to get bulky is by taking synthetic testosterone and purposefully training for years.

I am clearly an advocate for women who want to lift weights. The only warning I will offer is that

women should not go straight into hitting the heavier weights. This increases the possibility of an injury.

Women should begin with an exercise plan and good technique. Building a foundation

of strength is important. I always say: the deeper the foundation, the bigger the house. This also applies to your health.

Now that I've debunked the myth and hopefully dispelled fears about lifting weights, don't be afraid to pick up those dumbbells. Mix some weight training with a couple sessions of high-intensity interval training (HIIT) and you're on the fast track to a killer body. And by killer body I don't mean a body like Arnold Schwarzenegger with long hair, I mean one like Emily Skye's.

– Krix Luther

*Krix Luther is a fully qualified personal trainer with nearly a decade of experience specializing in strength and conditioning. For more information about Krix and his services, visit [thevitruvianmethod.com](http://thevitruvianmethod.com)*

## Weight-training tips

IF YOU are completely new to exercise and want to start hitting the weights, check out my e-Book *The Body Blast*. It's a beginners program for weight training, and can be found on [www.krixluther.com](http://www.krixluther.com). If you have already been dabbling in weight training, stay tuned for my next e-Book training program – designed just for ladies.

Here are a few weight-training tips for those who want to make it a habit:

- ◆ Keep form at all times
- ◆ Come out of your comfort zone and pick up some heavier weights
- ◆ Track your progress
- ◆ Stick with your program



Have fun. Photo: Jorge Mejia Peralta

- ◆ until it is complete
- ◆ Don't be intimidated
- ◆ Don't hesitate to ask for help
- ◆ Lift weights at least three times per week
- ◆ Have fun with it
- ◆ Start now



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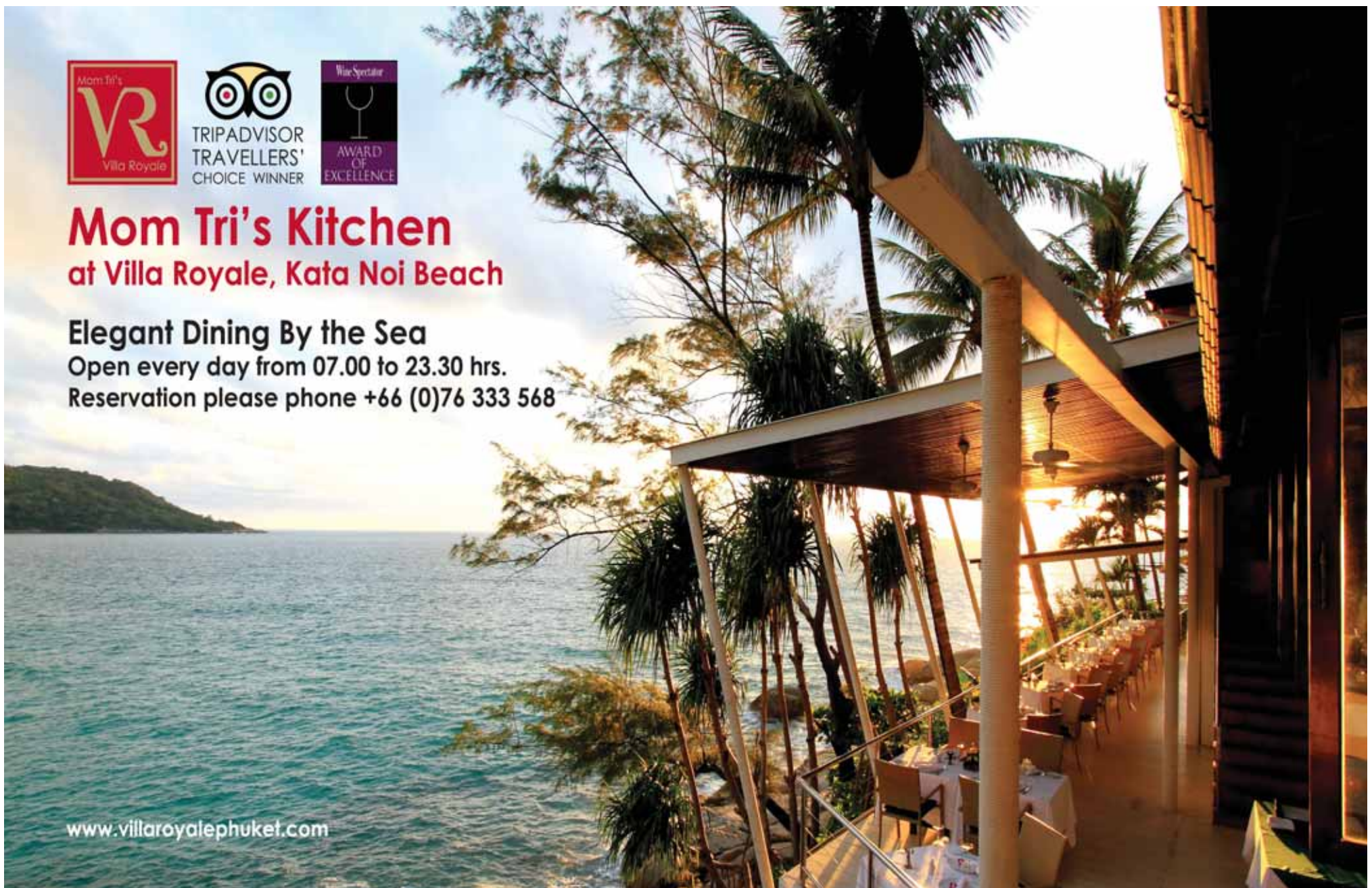
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# A Siesta in the making

By Chris Husted

WHEN Phuket yachtie Bob Mott settled on the design for his new 55-foot alloy Catamaran *Siesta*, little did he know that the project would be more than two years in the making.

Now, with the launch slated to be held in Phuket in September, Bob relates how his experience offers a great deal of good advice for yachties looking to build their own boat, or just pull in to Phuket for repairs.

"Completing a new catamaran of my own design has been quite a challenge," says Bob. "The shell was welded up in Cebu, Philippines, from a pre-cut kit sent from Australia.

"Once finished to 'motor away' stage, *Siesta* was delivered to Phuket on her bottom over 2,000 nautical miles without incident in nine days."

Critical to *Siesta's* successful completion in Phuket, including interior and electrical fit-out, was assembling a good team on the island, Bob notes.

"It was a challenge, but it is important to have your own team and try not to rely on contractors who can let you down," he says.

"It is best to control as much as you can in-house. This I have learnt through hard experience over the years by being involved in boat-building projects."

After the long haul to Phuket, *Siesta* lay in wait at the Premier Boatyard Phuket, near Yacht Haven, at the north end of the island. She lay there for months before serious work began on transforming the shell into a resplendent catamaran.

Asked why so long before any



The 55-foot catamaran 'Siesta' will be easily spotted on the water by her two-tone painted hulls. Photo: Bob Mott

work began, Bob simply replies: "I was very busy with other projects."

Finally, *Siesta* was motored down to Chalong Boatyard & Storage (CBS), also called "Chalong Coconuts", on Soi Kuktanode beside Chalong Bay, where she has undergone her true metamorphosis.

Familiarity and trust in Chalong Coconuts owner Manop Seerathikan were key factors in the decision to complete *Siesta* there, but most important was location.

"The botyard is near where I live. I could pop down there within 10 minutes," notes Bob. "Also, boatyard workers are readily available in the area and I have had many years of dealing with the yard with my other catamarans."

Now *Siesta* stands proud on the hard with five double cabins and one double stack twin, as well as two single berths for crew. There are two separate toilet-shower units for the crew, while guests have four toilet-showers to share, two of them up upstairs.

Despite the impressive facilities on board, *Siesta* will not want for power: she will boast eight 135-watt solar panels on the cockpit awning, four 175W panels over the dinghy davit area and a 175W panel over the upper helm station.

"She will also have a 150-amp DC [direct current] generator, two high-output wind generators, smart regulators on the two main 54HP Yanmar diesel drive engines, with 120-amp alternators fitted to

keep the power up 800 amp hours on the AGM batteries and run the on-board system," says Bob

"Lighting is mostly LED or low-draw fluorescent, fridges are all 12V DC and low-draw with high-efficiency insulation, a seawater to fresh water maker capable of producing 200 liters of drinking water per hour. Electric sheet and halyard winches have been added for ease of sail control."

In progress, as this article went to print, was the interior fit-out, as the exterior paint had already been applied.

Although *Siesta* as an alloy boat does not require painting other than underwater coating and deck coatings for non-slip, Bob has punted for an easily recognizable

color scheme with which to coat the hulls.

"She will be a very unusual charter catamaran in as much as she has been painted dark red on the port side and dark green on the starboard side," he explains.

"The reason for that is purely cosmetic, as well as for marketing purposes, as a charter catamaran for my company Faraway Yachting Charters Co Ltd. It's good for branding and she will be noticed.

Common sense came into play in the paint selections, with Chugoku etch primers and epoxy base coats, but more expensive Dupont polyurethane paint for top coats.

"If you want to make your boat look good, spend the extra money on the top coats. It is worthwhile in the long run," Bob advises.

Regarding the vital antifoul, the choice was to avoid the top-rated products. "We used the same Chugoku antifoul used on Thai fishing boats, which costs about 2,300 baht for a five-liter can," Bob chuckles. "Why spend more on something that needs to be done 12 months later?"

But if there is one rule in sourcing local services for work on your boat, Bob maintains that "due diligence" is vital.

"Do as much homework about the boatbuilder as you would for a builder about to build your house," Bob happily points out.

"And if you can't be there all the time, make sure you have a representative who has your best interests at heart," he says.

"This can save you a lot of time and money – and if the work goes wrong... it can save you much, much more."

## Langkawi begins major overhaul

THE Royal Langkawi Yacht Club (RLYC) in Malaysia has begun a major redevelopment of its marina and its club, now 18 years old.

The work will cause some disruption to existing berth holders, and longer stays will not be possible until the upgrades are finished at the end of October, the RLYC said in a statement this week.

The project includes the expansion of mega-yacht berths. New power systems, sanitation pumps, safety equipment and extra berths will also be added to the marina.

The redevelopment of the club includes the restructuring and design of a new three-story block of shop lots, lifestyle floor and boutique retail outlets.

The main clubhouse will also undergo major refurbishment, with a grand lobby and reception area on Level 1. A completely new concept will take over Level 2,



An artist's impression of the revamped RLYC club and marina.

and will feature eight boutique rooms for guest accommodations.

"RLYC has a long history and while we intend to maintain the traditions that have been established, we believe that redeveloping will enable us to provide our loyal clientele, and future clients, with what they deserve, which are world-class marina facilities and boutique hospitality services, said Executive Director and General Manager, Wicky Sundram.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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# DCA causes turbulence



ONGOING regulatory changes made by the Thai Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) headquarters in Bangkok have left recreational flying enthusiasts throughout the Kingdom scrambling to remain in compliance, Up In The Air has learned.

Pat James of AeroPro Management, based at Phuket AirPark in Pa Khlok, said that the administrative adjustments followed a change at the top of the DCA.

The new rules are intended to create a more streamlined and user-friendly system for private aircraft owners.

Nearly all facets of aviation regulation have been revamped, including ownership and registration of aircraft as well as pilot licensing procedures.

"Unfortunately, the policy changes have put everything at a standstill until everybody adapts and changes over. Needless to say, when people get used to doing things a certain way – whether it be right or wrong – it is hard to change. Consequently, there are starting to be some delays in the DCA processing as people come in with the wrong paperwork, or submit it in the wrong order," Pat said.

While some of the new administrative procedures should ultimately help the general aviation community [recreational flyers] in



Many recreational flying enthusiasts are scrambling to comply with ever-changing DCA regulations.

the long run, others make it more restrictive, he explained.

Pat said that he has been flying to Bangkok to meet with DCA staff on a weekly basis since early January, when he first learned that five-year permit applications were not being processed in the usual way by the agency.

One of the most notable changes is that under the new rules all recreational pilots must now be listed as the legal owner of any aircraft they fly.

Before the changes, licenced pilots – including those presenting licences issued by other nations – could be issued five-year permits

by the DCA. They could then borrow and use a friend's aircraft, typically just paying for fuel and other expenses, or work out some other kind of arrangement. But that is no longer possible under the new rules: all would-be pilots must be listed as owners, either fully or in part, of any aircraft they intend to fly.

"This has a large impact on general aviation, because as we all know not everybody can afford to buy an aircraft," Pat said.

He said the five-year permitting system in place in Thailand is much more restrictive than procedures used in most other countries. The system is intended

to ensure that all pilots are extremely-well vetted before they are allowed to take to the skies above the Kingdom, he added.

"But it also cuts very deep into the general aviation community and holds it back under a heavy thumb. They [the DCA] tends to view general aviation more from a security perspective, not as a sport," Pat said.

## GAME OF DRONES

The ongoing changes at the DCA will also affect the recreational use of small drone aircraft, which have become increasingly popular in recent years due to

improvements in technology and increased affordability.

Swedish drone aircraft enthusiast and part-time Phuket resident Aron Hansson recently used drone aircraft technology to produce an impressive three-minute video entitled *Phuket – From The Sky* through the popular video-sharing website, Vimeo.

The video, made using a relatively low-cost drone fitted with a GoPro Hero3 and other cameras, comprised segments covering 24 locations across the island, starting with traffic at the Central Festival Phuket junction and ending at Karon Beach. The video has attracted some 40,000 plays since its release on February 6.

Mr Hansson said that he felt lucky to have finished and released the video just days before strict new regulations on drone aircraft came into effect.

He has formed a company in Sweden, AH Film, which allows him to partly finance his drone aircraft hobby, he said.

Unfortunately the sky will no longer be the limit for drone aircraft enthusiasts like Mr Hansson in Thailand, thanks to new regulation that went into effect a few weeks ago.

"To fly a drone aircraft now in now requires that you have licences and permits issued to you. I am told that the people who are responsible will be the Royal Aeronautic Sports Association of Thailand, better known as RASAT, the same people who oversee paramotoring in Thailand," Pat said.

The rules apparently apply to all remotely-controlled aircraft, including the types that one might receive as Christmas presents, he said.

## An event not to be missed

THE Phuket Aviation Club, in association with the Asia Sky Club, will host its first Air Show & Fly'n event from 8am until sunset on February 28 at the Phuket AirPark in Pa Khlok [see special insert, this edition].

The event, the first one of its size at the AirPark since the US Independence Day activities on July 4, 2013, will feature a wide variety of aviation activities and competitions.

There will be a paramotor competition as well as competitions for fixed-wing aircraft that will fly in from the north of Thailand, including some from the Siam Aviation Association. RASAT and other aviation groups are also involved.

Attendees for the free-of-charge day can also look forward to western-style barbeque and a wide array of other food and beverages on sale.

"We are looking forward to hosting more activities here. It has been kind of a long time, to let people know we are alive and well here. It's going to be a lot of fun. We will have water bombing and flour bombing contests, precision landing contests, and ground-based activities tutoring people who want to know more about flying," said Pat James of AeroPro Management, who also heads the Phuket Aviation Club.



The Air Show & Fly'n event promises to be another fun day at Phuket AirPark.

Hot air balloons, which have been a highlight at some previous events held at the AirPark, will not be on display this year.

Persistent high winds, and the fact that Phuket is an island, have caused hot air balloon operators to abandon plans to use Phuket as a base for this activity for safety reasons. Other Andaman Coast provinces with dramatic landscapes, such as Phang Nga, would probably be more suitable, Mr James said.



All would-be pilots must be listed as owners, either full or in part, of any aircraft they intend to fly.



## Phuket plea for better facilities

SAROJ Angkanapilas, president of the Sport Association of Thailand Phuket office, recently made a special appeal to



**Tourism Minister Kobkarn.** Photo: Chutharat Plerin

and Sports Minister Kobkarn Wattana to help develop the island's sports facilities.

Mr Saroj explained that his concern deepened when he attended the Thailand National Games in Nakhon Ratchasima in December.

"We saw that Nakhon Ratchasima has much better stadiums than we have in Phuket," he said.

"When I saw that, it reminded me how low the standard is in Phuket. If we can improve our sports facilities, a lot of foreign and Thai athletes will want to come to Phuket, and this will help boost the island's image in the realm of sport."

Minister Kobkarn was a little surprised by Mr Saroj's appraisal of Phuket's sports facilities.

"I visit Phuket often, and I thought that the island's sports facilities were of a high standard," she said.

"I believe that sport is another way to develop people, and I am very glad to help Phuket in this way. I promise to raise this issue with the Department of Physical Education to see if there is anything we can do."

"However, please keep in mind that we have to work to a limited budget, so we will have to consider which sports to promote and develop, and which one is best related to Phuket's tourism industry so we can focus on the right areas."

— **Voratuss Intasee**

# Last man standing

## Muaythai champ heads to Bangkok for MMA showdown

By Woranut Pechdee

FORMER Lumpinee and Rajadamnern muaythai champion Jomhod Kiatadisak will make his transition to pro MMA complete this Saturday, when he takes on top Cambodian fighter Vorn Viva at Full Metal Dojo 4 in Bangkok.

Keeping the fight even, Vorn Viva will also be competing in his first MMA fight, to be held at Live House, located near Bangkok's famed Chatuchak Market.

At one time one of the biggest names on the muaythai scene in Europe, 44-year-old Jomhod has been in training for weeks at Tiger Muay Thai in Phuket for this one particular fight.

"MMA is challenging as it has some basic muaythai mixed with martial arts from other countries," he told the *Gazette*.

"However, I wanted to try a new style of fighting, so I joined the MMA. It is different from classic muaythai, because in muaythai you stand and fight. In MMA, you keep fighting even when you're down."

Switching fighting styles has had other benefits, Jomhod added.

"MMA gives me a new range of fighting techniques and keeps me fit in training. Moreover, I have made new friends to help me make the transition," he said.

Manager Jason Buchanan explained that Jomhod's training regimen has been wound down over the past week in preparation for the fight.

"Everything is okay right now. We just have to tighten his game up a little bit for him to get ready for his MMA debut on Saturday night," he said.

Buchanan explained that Jomhod had long shown throughout his muaythai career his



**FEEL THE BURN:** Jomhod gets a rub down from his support team at Tiger Muay Thai. Photo: Tiger Muay Thai

propensity to expand his skill set to include MMA.

"We have added new skills by including more training on the ground, which he was not used to when he was still in muaythai, and I think he is making the transition very well," he said.

Some of Jomhod's skills from muaythai were adapted, such as in-close grappling.

"Muaythai involves some in-close wrestling, with a lot of body locks and throws, and he has in-

corporated those skills in his MMA technique," Buchanan said.

"I think he's going to do quite well. It's Full Metal Dojo. I think it's going to be quite an event and I'm looking forward to seeing him display his skills."

Jomhod's trainer, George Hickman, rated the difference between the two styles as huge.

"We have a world number-one muaythai fighter, and we are trying to turn him to MMA. It is so different from what he has done

before," he said.

"Muaythai is a 'standing' sport, you hit the ground and stop. But in MMA, you hit the ground and start."

"Jomhod has had to learn to lots of new things, such as wrestling. We rate Jomhod as the number-one striker in the world, and I think he probably still is."

"Getting him into MMA is very interesting, and I think he will do it very, very well. It is going to be very exciting to see."

# Phuket FC win season opener in Trat

PHUKET FC opened their 2015 campaign in the Yamaha League 1 with a win over Trat FC last weekend, with the "Ronins" defeating the "White Elephants" 0-1.

Wasan Samansin, sporting jersey Number 11, scored the only goal of the match, beating the Trat goalkeeper in the 18<sup>th</sup> minute.

Trat FC replied well, and in the 58<sup>th</sup> minute Salahudin Arware came close to scoring, but Phuket FC goalkeeper Piyawat Intarapim managed to keep a clean sheet.

"We traveled so far, more than 1,000 kilometers, to come here, and that is what makes taking the three points from this match so deserving," said Phuket FC's Songyod "Coach Daeng" Klinseesuk.

"Every player tried their hardest for the win, just like they do at home. It was a well-fought victory."

Goalscorer Wasan expressed this thanks for praise

he received for his efforts.

"It feels amazing. This was my first goal – and I am shocked. I must say thank you to my friends and my coach for their support and training," he said.

Wasan, a defensive midfielder, has signed a contract extension that will keep him at the club until 2017, Phuket FC reported on its website this week.

Phuket FC has already tied up deals for several key players, including midfielder Alef Poh-Ji, defender Samsem Nima and center-back Yusuke Sato.

Wasan, who played spells at Nonthaburi FC, Air Force Central FC, SCG Muangthong United and Assumption Thonburi, called on Phuket FC fans to give their support at Surakul Stadium in Phuket this Sunday, when the Ronins will take on BCU. Kickoff is at 7pm.

"See you at the game," said Wasan.

— **Voratuss Intasee**



**Coach Daeng.** Photo: Phuket FC



**Phuket FC players stand ready before their season opening match against Trat FC last weekend. Phuket won 0-1.** Photo: Phuket FC



# Love to be appointed US Ryder Cup captain

FORMER US PGA Champion Davis Love III will be appointed United States Ryder Cup captain next week for the 2016 matches at Hazeltine, the Golf Channel reported on Monday.

The 50-year-old will be officially named on February 24 at the headquarters of the PGA of America in Palm Beach, Florida, the outlet said.

It would be the second time Love has led the team after he oversaw the 14.5/13.5 defeat to Europe in 2012 when Jose Maria Olazabal's side stormed back from 10-6 down on the final day at Medinah.

That loss is one of eight that the Americans have suffered in the last 10 editions of the biennial team event, which prompted the PGA of America to appoint an 11-person Ryder Cup task force, which Love sits on.

Tom Lehman, who captained the US to a heavy 18.5/9.5 defeat in 2006, and Steve Stricker, a winner of 12 PGA Tour events, also sit on the task force and are likely to hold roles in Love's 2016 team, the Golf Channel said.

Love, who won his sole major in 1997, played in six consecutive Ryder Cups from

1993. He tasted victory twice, on his first appearance and in 1999.

Europe won last year's matches 16.5/11.5 with five-times major winner Phil Mickelson scathing of the approach used by American captain Tom Watson after another defeat.

At the time of going to press, Northern Irishman Darren Clarke, who won the British Open in 2011, was expected to be appointed Europe's new Ryder Cup captain.

A five-man selection panel was due to announce Paul McGinley's successor on Wednesday. — Reuters



Davis Love in action. Photo: Reuters

# Rooney takes a bow

By Ed Osmond

MANCHESTER United survived a scare to beat League One Preston North End 3-1 in the FA Cup fifth round on Monday and set up a mouth-watering quarter-final against Arsenal.

Scott Laird's deflected 47th-minute strike gave third-tier Preston the scent of a huge upset but United regrouped and goals by Ander Herrera, Marouane Fellaini and Wayne Rooney sent the Premier League side through.

"We showed an unbelievable team spirit," United manager Louis Van Gaal told the BBC.

"We changed the shape and that was the solution. We scored fantastic goals, a little bit lucky also I think. I liked the second goal a lot, we have trained for that a lot.

"Marouane Fellaini has a body, he also scores goals. I played him in the position that he wants for the first time, but I do not always have a position for him. The spirit was better."

Rooney, however, came under volatile criticism for taking a dive to win the penalty. The England striker went down in the box after a challenge from Preston goalkeeper Thorsten Stuckmann appeared to make little or no contact.

Preston North End manager Simon Grayson came to the England striker's defence.

"I am not saying it wasn't a



Wayne Rooney (right) celebrates with his Manchester United teammates after scoring a goal. Photo: Reuters

penalty. I'm saying there was no contact," said Grayson. "It wasn't a dive. He's gone to get out of the way and taken evasive action."

Rooney converted from the penalty spot for United's third goal in the fifth-round tie – his first strike in nine games – and to stay on course for his first FA Cup winners' medal.

Grayson led Leeds United to a famous victory over Manchester United in an FA Cup third-round tie at Old Trafford in 2010 and his

organized team worked tirelessly to give themselves a chance to emulate that feat. They restricted United with disciplined defending and the visitors failed to trouble keeper Thorsten Stuckmann in the first half.

Laird's strike, which burst through the grasp of United goalkeeper David de Gea, sent the home fans into a frenzy and Van Gaal's last realistic chance of winning silverware in his first season at United looked in jeopardy.

But the introduction of the livewire Ashley Young in place of ineffective striker Radamel Falcao revived the visitors and good work by the winger down the right set up the chance for Herrera to squeeze in a 65th-minute equalizer off the post.

Antonio Valencia's right-wing cross was powerfully met by Fellaini at the far post and the towering Belgian lashed home the rebound seven minutes later.

— Reuters

# Irish size up Six Nations prize after France win

IRELAND hung on to beat France 18-11 in a tense Six Nations encounter at the Aviva Stadium last Saturday to seal their ninth win in a row and make it two victories from two to start the defence of their championship.



Peter O'Mahony steams forward. Photo: Reuters

Returning flyhalf Johnny Sexton outkicked opposite number Camille Lopez to give Ireland a six-point halftime advantage that they stretched in the second period before a Romain Taofifenua try meant the hosts had to survive a late onslaught.

The victory put Ireland level with England at the top of the table each with four points. France and Wales each have two points.

"Irish teams don't beat France all that regularly so to do it back to back... is fantastic," captain Paul O'Connell told national broadcaster RTE.

"We never really took control for long periods. We took control for short periods and you probably need to back it up to dominate and I don't think we really did that."

— Reuters

# Late start for debt-ridden Force India

FORCE India's 2015 Formula One car will not make its track debut until the third and final pre-season test in Barcelona some two weeks before the first race in Australia, the team said on Friday.

"The plan is to introduce it at the final test," said a spokesman.

The season starts in Melbourne on March 15, with the final test ending on March 1.

Force India will take part in this coming week's second test in Barcelona with their 2014 car, which is on its way to the circuit.

The team, with Mexican Sergio Perez and Germany's Nico Hulkenberg as drivers, skipped the

opening test of the year in Jerez, southern Spain, amid speculation about their finances although they rejected that.



Force India. Photo: Reuters

Force India's two major co-owners are Indian drinks tycoon Vijay Mallya and jailed Sahara Group chairman Subrata Roy.

Both have hit trouble in India, with a consortium of largely state-run Indian banks seeking repayment of more than US\$1 billion (about 32.5 billion baht) of loans from Mallya's failed Kingfisher Airlines, which has not flown since 2012. Roy has been held in a New Delhi jail since last March, and needs to post bail of US\$1.6bn (about 52bn baht) to get out. — Reuters

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