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ANDAMAN Edition PHUKET'S LEADING NEWSPAPER... SINCE 1993 Now NATIONWIDE

# Phuket Gazette

## Tackling island's dark side



Office of the Auditor General focuses on ousting corruption

INSIDE TODAY

June 20 - 26, 2015 PhuketGazette.Net In partnership with The Nation

20 Baht

## 'THE OFFICER MADE ME GROVEL, THEN KICKED ME' Battle brutality



A friend and co-worker of the alleged victim led more than 100 people in a protest on Soi Bangla the night after the incident.

### Bangla bouncer alleges policeman brutally beat him

By **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

THE alleged victim of a vicious attack by police in Patong filed a formal complaint against the officer and others in his party on June 12.

Kamolchai Singhakerd, a bouncer at Hollywood nightclub on the party town's famed

Soi Bangla, told police that Patong Deputy Superintendent Sorapong Chukaew and a group of his friends attacked him at about 2am on June 10.

"It is not the first time he attacked people, and I don't want him to hurt anyone else," Mr Kamolchai said. "I hope that he will be removed from the police force. If our town is full of bad cops, who can we go to when we need help?"

Lt Col Sorapong was moved from his post at Patong Police Station to Phuket Provincial Police following a protest during which more than 100 participants took to the street on June 10. The rally formed outside Hollywood Discotheque at about 8:30pm, drawing much

attention from tourists and passersby, with protesters demanding justice from police and Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong.

Some protesters wielded signs with messages including: 'Why physical abuse?'; 'Government officers bully residents'; 'We are too scared to go back to work'; 'Where is justice?'; and 'We are just honest workers, not drug dealers'.

Mr Kamolchai claims that he did nothing to instigate the confrontation, and that Lt Col Sorapong abruptly attacked him.

"I did not fight back, my friends took me to another pub, but the police chased..."

Full Story Page 6

### Expert study to determine fate of sun loungers

A TWIST of fate may be in the cards for Phuket's abandoned sun loungers, with island officials aiming to decide by the end of July whether or not to allow them all back on the sands.

A beach management research team at Prince of Songkhla University (PSU) Phuket campus is evaluating the results of a three-month trial period for the beaches' 10-per-cent vendor zones, which was launched by the governor in December.

Full Story Page 3

### Jet-ski rentals cause waves at Naka Island

THE Naka Island, A Luxury Collection Resort and Spa, based on the small island off the east coast of Phuket, is battling against local jet-ski operators, claiming that they are nuisance to guests and pose a serious threat to swimmers.

Full Story Page 2

### Officials target tour guide for animal abuse

OFFICIALS have threatened to close down a tour company after it was discovered that they were allowing tourists to abuse sea life.

The news follows a guide being caught on camera catching a clown fish so that tourists could hold it.

Full Story Page 4

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## This Week



### Business

Shopping on the east coast continues to improve. **Page 11**



### Property

Why re-sales dominate the luxury real-estate segment. **Page 25**



### Property

Royal Phuket Marina announces investment plans. **Page 26**



### Travel

Discover adventure on a trip to beautiful Hong Kong. **Page 27**



### Explore

Baz Daniel tells us why safe cycling is the best cycling. **Page 29**



### In Focus

How a man's love for fixies gave birth to our criterium. **Page 30**

Saturday



34 - 23

Sunday



34 - 24

Monday



34 - 24

Tuesday



34 - 24

Wednesday



34 - 25

Thursday



34 - 25

# Jet-ski rental operators making waves at resort

By Thanaphon Phromthong

THE Naka Island, A Luxury Collection Resort and Spa, based on the small island off the east coast of Phuket, is battling against local jet-ski operators.

"The jet-skis are dangerous. They are always coming too close to customers swimming at the beach," said The Naka Island representative Sureeporn Roongreung. "They have yet to hurt anyone swimming or diving, and we want to make sure safety precautions are taken so it never happens."

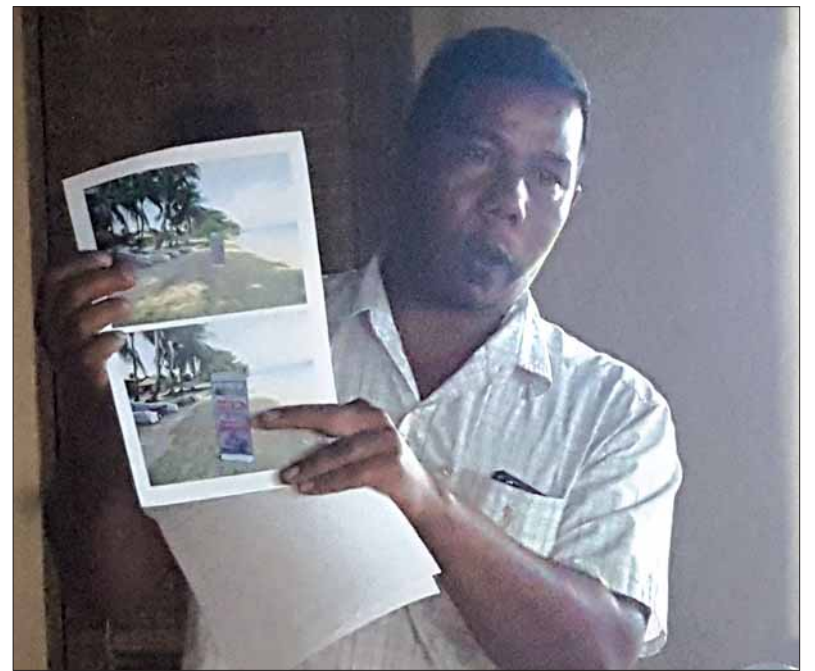
Ms Sureeporn also alleged that the jet-ski operators wandered into the resort to look for customers.

"They annoy our customers and try to persuade them to ride a jet-ski," he said.

After The Naka Island staff failed to negotiate with the operators, a complaint was filed to the Damrongtham Center (ombudsman's office) at Phuket Provincial Hall.

Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak; Bophit Chomchoei, registrar for the Phuket Marine Department; and other government officials followed up on the complaint on June 12.

"I have never walked into the resort. I'm only looking for cus-



Mr Praphan denies entering the resort to access potential customers.

tomers on the beach, because I know it is a resort area," Praphan Waharak, a representative of the jet-ski operators, told the investigative team.

Vice Governor Somkiet stepped in to point out that as long as the jet-ski operators were not entering the resort, they were free to use the public beach to source clients.

"We would like everyone to calm down and think about how

we can work together and conduct business without interfering with others," V/Gov Somkiet said.

Mr Bophit promised the resort that the Marine Office would start working on a zoning plan for jet-skis and swimmers.

"There is no law preventing the jet-skis from going as fast as the rider wants. However, I am eager to see the zoning set in place soon in order to protect tourists," said Mr Bophit.

## Boy crushed by cement truck

An 11-YEAR-OLD boy was killed after he fell off the back of his mother's motorbike and under the wheel of a cement truck on June 11.

Rescue workers arrived at the scene at the traffic light in front of Makro in Kathu to find Thanaphat Songserm severely injured underneath the truck.

"Patchanee Songserm, 42, had just picked up her son from Witchitsongkram School and was heading home when they stopped at the traffic light, next to the cement truck," said Maj Narong Muangduang of the Wichit Police.

"When the light turned green, both vehicles took off. Somehow, Ms Patchanee lost control of the

motorbike, causing her son to fall off and under the truck. He was dragged a short distance by the truck before it came to a stop."

Nong Thanaphat was rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital, but was pronounced dead on arrival by doctors. His mother suffered only minor injuries.

Police have yet to press charges against the truck driver or Ms Patchanee.

"We must question both the mother and the truck driver about the incident," said Maj Narong.

"If it turns out that either of them was driving recklessly, we are prepared to press charges for reckless driving causing death."

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**

## Construction worker killed in landslide

A LANDSLIDE at a construction site in Phuket killed one worker and injured five others on June 13.

Myanmar national Set Lai, 20, was crushed by the dirt and rebar. The other five workers were rushed to Patong Hospital, four have since been discharged, confirmed Lt Col Weerapong Rakhito of the Patong Police.

The fifth worker remained in hospital care, but not seriously injured.

"We are investigating the incident at the Patong Bay Hill construction site and attempting to determine the cause of the landslide," said Col Weerapong.

Patong Mayor Chalermluck Keksup visited the site this afternoon and confirmed that the project has all proper documentation.



The worker was killed at the construction site. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Anupong Muttaraid, spokesman for the project, expressed his sorrow over the incident.

"It was an accident due to the recent heavy rain. Nonetheless, we are deeply saddened by the loss of life," Mr Anupong said.

Mr Anupong vowed that the company would cover medical costs and compensate the work-

ers, as well as talk to the construction company about how to prevent such accidents from happening in the future.

"Mr Set's mother also works for us. We will take care of the funeral arrangements and of course take care of her the best we can," Mr Anupong added.

— **Phuket Gazette**



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# Sun lounge fate to be decided by PSU study

By Chutharat Plerin

A TWIST of fate may be in the cards for Phuket's abandoned sun loungers, with island officials aiming to decide by the end of July whether or not to allow them all back on the sands.

Governor Nisit Jansomwong revealed to the *Gazette* earlier this month that a beach management research team at Prince of Songkhla University (PSU) Phuket campus is evaluating the results of the three-month trial period for the beaches' 10-per-cent vendor zones, which was launched by the governor in December.

Governor Nisit has stood firm on his strict beach management plan since the new rules were implemented, but has told the *Gazette* that he understands that not everyone is happy.

"I am aware that some foreigners need sun loungers for convenience. However, some do not want them. We must consider all opinions on the matter," he said.

"I personally like Phuket as it is now. We have come so far. Towels and mats are allowed on the beach, and even umbrellas are allowed within the beach zones. Is this not enough?"

"Regardless, we will do what experts think is best for Phuket. We want all Phuket locals and tourists to be happy, not just



Governor Nisit Jansomwong said sun loungers could possibly return to Phuket beaches. Photo: Leslie Porterfield

some."

In December, Gov Nisit delivered the news of the three-month trial run for the 10-per-cent beach vendor zone, which laid down a stringent list of conditions under which beach vendors were permitted to return to work.

Though the trial originally started in Patong, it was expanded to cover all of the island's beaches in February. Inside the zones, umbrellas are permitted.

Gov Nisit assigned a research

team of professors from PSU to monitor the beach-trial period, evaluate results and reactions and come up with the best solution to the problem.

"Before the trial for all beaches ended in May, the researchers asked for an extension. They are still evaluating the information they have gathered during this time," said Gov Nisit.

"If the experts suggest that we bring sun loungers back to the beach, we may do that. However,

they would have to be chairs that could be removed from the beach every day."

Gov Nisit expects to make a final decision by the end of July, but insists that the current rules hold in the meantime.

"At this point, sun loungers are still not allowed on the beach," he confirmed.

"We should be able to announce whether or not sun loungers will return to the beaches by the end of next month."

## Island goes on MERS alert

PHUKET Health officials have ramped up efforts this week in order to identify people who might be carrying the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus (Mers-CoV) to the island from South Korea or the Middle East, where the virus is spreading.

"We received an order from the Ministry of Public Health in Bangkok to be on alert for the virus," Phuket Provincial Health Organization (PPHO) Chief Kajohnsak Kaewjarus said on June 13. "We started checking passengers on June 9."

Six airline carriers flying into Phuket currently have flights departing from South Korea and the Middle East.

"Every traveller arriving from these destinations is being checked by the Disease Control Center at Phuket International Airport," confirmed Dr Kajohnsak.

Airline crew members have also been asked to keep an eye out for any passengers showing signs of influenza and to notify officials upon arrival at the airport.

"Between Tuesday and Friday, we checked 3,900 passengers and found no MERS suspects," Dr Kajohnsak said.

"We have strong countermeasures in place, which we introduced in 2013, when MERS first became a concern for the island."

A total of 122 cases of MERS have already been identified in South Korea.

The outbreak killed nine people, reported *The Nation*.

— Chutharat Plerin

## Turkish couple rescued from jungle

A TURKISH couple was rescued after spending nearly nine hours on their own in the jungle in Khao Phra Thaew National Park on June 13.

Bulent and Pinar Burak, both 34, were on their way to the Wildlife Sanctuary when they got lost in the park. They then called Palm Beach Hotel in Patong, where they were staying, to ask for help.

"Police went to the scene at about 7:10pm after being notified by hotel staff. We found a white Honda Click in the parking lot which had been there since the couple entered the park at about 1:05pm that day," said Lt Watcharawit Kraiyuth of the Phuket Tourist Police.

"We split into two search groups. One searched between the Wildlife Sanctuary and Ton Sai Waterfall, and the other searched near Bang Pae Waterfall."

Lt Watcharawit said the search lasted more than four hours.

"It was very hard to locate the couple. Their mobile phone battery had died, so we were not able to call them," he said.

Finally, at about 10:50pm, the rescue team located the very weary and thirsty couple.

"Police gave Mr and Mrs Burak



The couple show their gratitude to the rescue workers and search team.

some water and led them out of the park. We finally arrived at the parking lot near Bang Pae Waterfall at about 12:20am," said Khao Phra Thaew National Park Chief Pongchart Chuehom.

"Officials tried to take the couple to hospital, but Mr and Mrs

Burak insisted that they felt fine and just wanted to be taken back to their hotel."

The very grateful couple were taken back to Patong by minivan and their rented bike was returned to its owner by police.

— Thawit Bilabdullar



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## ID card stash found in Kata



Officers inspect the cards.

THE Navy has requested that the Karon Police investigate whether or not a bag of legal ID cards, driver's licences and ATM cards found in Kata on June 13 had any links to criminal networks.

The bag of cards was discovered by a local resident, who then informed the Navy of the find, confirmed Lt JG Taksin Puklim of the Royal Thai Navy.

"In addition to the cards, there was one bank book and a foreign ID card," Lt JG Taksin noted.

Police urged anyone who has lost his or her ID card to contact the Karon Police to verify whether or not any of the cards discovered belonged to them.

"It is possible that the information is being used to falsify legal documents, so it is necessary for anyone who might be affected to contact us," Lt Col Ason Jiraksa of the Karon Police said.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

# Guide in hot water over fish grab

By Thanaphon Phromthong

OFFICIALS have threatened to close down a tour company after it was discovered that they were allowing tourists to abuse sea life.

The news follows a tour guide caught catching a clown fish so that tourists could hold it at Koh Khai Nai.

The clown fish, which has become incredibly popular with some tourist markets following the Pixar animation *Finding Nemo*, was in a plastic bread bag being passed around by the tourists when an inspection team from the Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MOTS) Phuket Office arrived at the scene.

"We were following up on a photo posted on Facebook on June 9 of a Chinese tourist holding a fish in a net and posing with it," explained Santi Pawai, director of the MOTS Phuket office.

The life jacket being worn by the tourists in the photo were from Nonthasak Marine. However, neither officials at MOTS Phuket office nor Nonthasak Marine employees were able to identify the guide.

"They had rented out the boat to a different company, which



MOTS officers speak with Mr Akung (brown shirt) at Koh Khai Nai.

we've not been able to track down," Mr Santi said.

However, while inspecting the area, the team discovered Phuket tour guide Akung Saewang with a group of tourists who were holding a clown fish trapped in a bread bag.

Mr Santi ordered Mr Akung's

employer, tour company Joel Thai, and Mr Akung to attend a meeting on Tuesday about the problem.

"We have given Joel Thai, the tour company, a warning letter," said Mr Santi after the meeting.

"If we find Mr Akung doing this again, his permit will be revoked.

We will also order Joel Thai to close immediately.

"The company representative and Mr Akung both promised that they would inform other tour guides about this problem and prevent them from doing it in the future."

Joel Thai was also required to attend an animal abuse lesson at the MOTS office set for Friday.

The MOTS will also be demanding that Joel Thai help combat behavior that is damaging to the environment by not only changing the practices of their guides, but also by placing campaign posters on all their boats informing tourists of ethical and legal ways to interact with the environment, Mr Santi told the *Gazette*.

Mr Santi wants this incident to serve as an example to other companies about animal abuse and the importance of teaching tourists to respect the environment.

"Tour companies must have measures in place to ensure that tourists behave properly and interact with the environment properly while in Thailand," he said. "They must be told what they can and cannot do."

## Plans for island light rail trundle forward

ISLAND-DWELLERS were offered a chance to express their opinions about the light-rail project in a public hearing at Queen Sirikit Park in Phuket Town on Thursday.

The news follows a meeting with Sirigate Apirat of the Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning on Monday about the light rail.

It was decided at the meeting that there would be an extra stop added in Mai Khao – bringing the total to 21.

"The details are being drawn up. We have to finalize the plan and make sure that locals are satisfied with it before we proceed," said Mr Sirigate.

"We will work with local authorities and hold open meetings for locals so they can speak their minds about the project.

"We will inspect the six stops slated for Phuket Town on Thursday, then we will hold a small public meeting at about mid-day at the 72nd Anniversary Queen Sirikit Park."

Experts at the meeting on Monday expressed their concerns about changes that would have to be made in Phuket Town for the light rail.

"These stops are in the heart of town, where there are so many people living. Traffic is already a huge issue there," said Mr Sirigate.

"We are also considering the effect this project will have on the beauty of the island, so we will not allow cables to be installed in Phuket Town or at the Heroines'



Light rail plans are in process. Photo: Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning

Monument. Those sections of the light rail will be battery powered."

Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Teerawat Leamsuwan noted that massive processions of entranced *ma song* and Vegetarian Festival revellers use the main streets in town every year, a point Mr Sirigate said would be discussed further with the light-rail project team.

A previous meeting for the project was held earlier this month, during which changes to the train's route and adjustments to traffic directions in Phuket Town were announced.

An additional change to traffic flow was announced on Monday, which will see Phuket Road between Rassada Road and Kra Road turned into a one-way street, from south to north.

Traffic will be able to head south on Dilok-Uthit Road.

— **Chutharat Plerin**

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# Beach resort puts safety on top with lifeguard training

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

LIFEGUARD training took place on Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort's secluded beach to train guards from 11 different properties in Phuket.

The day was split into four sections with practical training at the beginning and end, and theory and first-aid training sandwiched in the middle, explained Surf Life Saving Australia Trainer and Assessor David Field, who has been conducting surf life-saving training workshops in Phuket for more than a decade.

"Most rescues are within 50 meters of the shore, so it's safer for the lifeguards and safer for the victim if they bring the victim to the shore on a tube [rescue buoy]," Mr Field says as he watches a group of newly-trained hotel lifeguards practice their skills. "For Thai people, I really recommend this. If something goes wrong, they've got the tube attached to them – they're safe. While if you lose the [rescue] board, they're gone."

During drills, the trainee lifeguards stop swimming about a meter away from the 'victim'. They pull the rescue tube from behind them and pass it to the victim, before safely clipping it around them and starting to bring them back to shore.

"In the hotel industry, the biggest issue lifeguards face is



Lifeguards learned essential life-saving skills at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort. Photo: Gazette file

communication. There are a lot of people from non-swimming cultures that are coming to Phuket. The lifeguards have to be vigilant, but they also have to be good communicators – that's either verbal communication or non-verbal communication," Mr Fields says.

"They have to get all these people from vastly different cultures to understand that swimming between these flags means a lifeguard is watching you and that you are safe."

Though most lifeguards working in the hotel industry have some English-language skills, some tourists comprising Phuket's large-

est source markets, such as the Russians and Chinese, often don't speak English, making non-verbal communication essential.

"It's better to use your whistle than a defib [automated external defibrillator, or AED]. The lifeguards are their to make sure guests have a good time and to prevent them from getting into trouble," Mr Field explains.

The lifeguards training at the Le Meridien are being taught the 'Chain of Survival', which is founded on immediate recognition of cardiac arrest and activation of the emergency response system; early cardiopulmonary resuscita-

tion (CPR) with an emphasis on chest compressions; rapid defibrillation (use of AED); effective advanced life support; and integrated post-cardiac arrest care.

Though training is essential, so is properly equipping lifeguards to ensure that they are able to take care of guests and themselves, Mr Fields notes.

"Really though, we're building resources for the community. These lifeguards are from all over Thailand. When they go home, they will be sharing the knowledge they've gained through this training and will be making Thailand a safer place," Mr Fields says.

## Island to see superyacht chartering licences soon

REGISTRATION for foreign-flagged superyacht chartering licences is expected to begin next month, Marine Department Director-General Chula Sukmanop recently revealed to the *Gazette*.

"Officials have been discussing how to standardize criteria for the licences. We are pushing hard on what needs to be done, in terms of laws, to allow foreign-flagged superyacht charters in Thailand," said Mr Chula.

A public hearing on the issue was set to be held on Friday, after being postponed to ensure that Mr Chula would be able to attend, the *Gazette* was told by Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut on Monday.

"We will hold a public hearing at Phuket Provincial Hall. After the public hearing we will submit the standardized criteria to the Ministry of Transport for approval. Then, the registration should be available for qualified vessels at the beginning of July," Mr Chula explained.

"The ministry is fully supporting this matter in order to move Thailand closer toward its goal of becoming the regional maritime hub."

It was noted in last month's public meeting in Phuket that the government is looking to give superyachts 30 meters or longer permission to charter in Thai territorial waters for a year at time.

– Chutharat Plerin



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# Phuket Governor gives special shout-out to English-language media

PHUKET Governor Nisit Jansomwong praised the island's foreign media on June 12 during a public forum to raise awareness of the negative effects corruption has on society.

"I am glad that we have the media, especially the English-language media. They have a reporting style that is different from Thai media," said Governor Nisit at the Royal Phuket City Hotel.

"They provide more extensive, deeply researched reports with accurate informa-

tion. They tell us exactly what is happening on the island."

The governor noted that the *Gazette* poll on beach policy had helped him develop his beach-management plan.

"When I was finalizing my plans for beach management, I sourced people's opinions from that poll," he said.

"Through these outlets, we are able to see the island from a different perspective. We can learn what foreigners think about Phuket."

Governor Nisit urged the media to keep up the good work and to continue to raise awareness of what is happening on the island.

"I want to see Phuket's media grow and continue to keep an eye on our island. I am thankful for what they do," he said. "I am always open to hearing complaints and suggestions from the public. Please come to us with any suggestions you may have to make the island a better place."

— Chutharat Plerin



Gov Nisit thanked the media. Photo: Gazette file

# OAG to take down corruption

By Chutharat Plerin

THE Office of the Auditor General's (OAG) two-day public forum designed to raise the public's awareness of the negative effects of corruption and what issues are faced in combating it started on June 11 at the Royal Phuket City Hotel.

"This is about raising people's awareness of the need for anti-corruption efforts. People need to understand why corruption is unacceptable," said Chairman of the State Audit Commission Chaisit Trachoetham, who led the forum.

Speaking on the panel to an assembly of about 200 people were Auditor-General Pisit Leelava-chiropas, Governor Nisit Jansomwong, Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana, President of the Phuket Anti-Corruption Network Surin Bamrungphol and *Phuket Gazette* Managing Editor Isaac Stone Simonelli.

"The biggest benefit from the forum was discussing which issues are preventing us from battling corruption and what the public thinks should be done," Dr Chaisit said. "On the other hand, the forum offered us an opportunity to explain to the people what the OAG does and how important



Chairman of the State Audit Commission Chaisit Trachoetham led the anti-corruption forum.

public input is."

Governor Nisit called on the OAG to spearhead investigations into construction companies that have won government contracts.

"There are so many multi-million-baht infrastructure projects taking place in Phuket, and when there is a problem, I'm the one who is blamed," Gov Nisit said. "However, there is nothing I can do. I would like to see the OAG investigate why there are

delays in some of these construction projects... and root out the corruption.

"Because the mega projects are taken care of by departments in Bangkok, the OAG is in a much better position to take action against these companies."

Dr Surin opened the discussion in broader terms, pointing out that the way to tackle corruption was by focusing on the next generation.

"We have to make sure they deeply believe that there is no room in society for corrupt people," Dr Surin said.

The Phuket Anti-Corruption Network regularly holds anti-corruption talks at schools and universities, Dr Surin noted.

Mr Simonelli, who was asked to join the meeting to represent the English-language media on the island, pointed out the effect this type of media can have when

dealing with Thailand's image.

"Though the English-language media caters to a minority group in Thailand: expats, tourists and English-speaking Thais, it wields a great deal of power in the way Thailand is perceived by the rest of the world. The reports written in English are the ones that have the greatest impact on many Ultra High-Net Worth Individuals and other markets sought by the Tourism Association of Thailand," Mr Simonelli said.

"Clearly understanding what actions the OAG is taking and why they are taking them is fundamental to accurate reporting. Vagueness and lack of clear explanations of why some projects are being audited and others are not leaves room for foreign readers to speculate what corruption may lie behind the paperwork."

Mr Pisit assured that it isn't too late to send the OAG tip-offs.

"Provide us information so we can check up on possible corruption. You don't need to be directly involved, you just need to point us in the right direction," Mr Pisit said. "Even if money has been inappropriately spent, we can work to return that money to the state."

"We need everyone to join us in fighting corruption."

## Soi Bangla bouncer files police brutality complaint

From Page 1

...us there and dragged me out," Mr Kamolchai said.

Mr Kamolchai told police that Col Sorapong and his friends forced him to grovel at the officer's boots.

"He kicked me in the chin. Then his friends began to kick me as well," Mr Kamolchai said.

Mr Kittipong's version of events and details of who exactly was involved have yet to be confirmed by CCTV footage from within the club, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Patchara Boonyasit told the *Gazette*.

"The only suspect we know of right now is Col Sorapong. We cannot confirm whether or not anyone else was involved. We have to investigate and collect more evidence," he explained.

Afraid of further abuse, Mr Kamolchai went to a friend's house in Phang Nga after being



Mr Kittipong claims the attack was unprovoked.

discharged from Patong Hospital. He returned on June 12 to file the complaint.

Col Sorapong has yet to issue an official statement to the press.

## Officials seize 100 rai of illegally possessed land

ABOUT 100 rai of illegally possessed land in Sirinath National Park were seized by a team of park officials and Navy personnel on June 12.

Seizure notices were posted on the five plots in Sakoo and Cherg Talay, which were being used for rubber plantations, after the owners were unable to present ownership documents for the land.

"The owners are now under investigation for land encroachment," said Sirinath National Park Chief Kitiphat Tharapiban.

Earlier this month, officials seized eight pieces of land totaling about 150 rai in the park, added Mr Kitiphat. Those land owners are also under investigation.

"We will continue to do our best to take back the land for the



Park and Navy officials post seizure notices on the illegally owned land.

nation," said Mr Kitiphat.

Because the alleged owners of the land had no documentation to back their claim, there was no need for the officers to push a case through the legal system in order to reclaim the land, explained Mr Kitiphat.

Claiming that the court process

is 'very slow' when it comes to having land taken back from encroachers with illegal documents, officials have requested the use of Article 44 of the interim Charter to reclaim national park land, Mr Kitiphat told the *Gazette* last month.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong



# NRC members suggest legalization of casinos

A SMALL group of National Reform Council (NRC) members has called for casinos to be legalized in Thailand, citing the presence of booming casinos over the border in neighboring countries. They said Pattaya was the logical location for one.

Major Arnun Watcharothai and Kiangkrai Phumlaochaeng said on Monday that the casino-revival plan was backed by a dozen NRC members, including themselves, reported *The Nation*.

They pointed to the benefits the country would reap – additional spending and tax revenue from foreign visitors and high-rollers who currently have to head to neighboring countries to gamble.

Calling themselves a group of 'NRC members who love Thailand', they said a formal proposal would be submitted to the government soon.

Maj Arnun said the group was aware of the previous unsuccessful



The popular tourist town may soon get casinos. Photo: Jorisamonen

attempts to seek government permits for such complexes, but believed that there would be significant economic spin-offs from this new proposal because

Bangkok, for example, is a major tourist destination with millions of foreign visitors per year. The entertainment and casino facilities could be used as new attractions

to boost tourism revenue.

There are now 22 casino facilities in neighboring countries, with plans to open more in the next three or four years, Maj Arnun said, adding that border areas in countries such as Cambodia would become a gambling magnet similar to Las Vegas in the United States.

Maj Arnun said 80 per cent of punters in these places were Thais, so legalizing casinos in Thailand would plug the leakage of foreign exchange from the country.

At this stage, Pattaya in Chon Buri province is among the most suitable places for the government to consider hosting casino operations, he added.

The NRC will propose the casino-revival plan to the government if the majority of council members vote for it.

However, the final decision rests with the Cabinet and the National Council for Peace and Order, Maj Arnun said.

## AROUND THE nation

### Man strangles kids, kills self over troubles with finances

A FATHER strangled his three children before hanging himself at their rented home in Nakhon Sri Thammarat on Monday, reportedly because of financial stress.

Superintendent Chokdee Rakwattanaphong of the Sichon Police said that investigators learned that the 40-year-old man, who worked on fishing and tourism boats for a living, argued with his wife often over debts and expenses, reported *The Nation*.

Three days prior to the murder-suicide, his wife allegedly left him with the three children aged 14, eight and four, police said.

Police collected evidence for further investigation. The bodies will also undergo examinations at a morgue in Surat Thani.

## Thailand attempts to pacify Hong Kong over tumeric-soaked durian

THE Commerce Ministry will help the Agriculture Ministry to clarify health concerns Hong Kong officials have about the use of the turmeric liquid in exported durian.

The move comes as the ministries warned Thai exporters and farmers not to use any substances that could affect consumer confidence, reported *The Nation*.

Duangkamol Jiambutr, the Commerce Ministry spokeswoman, said the Thai Trade Office in Hong Kong would inform Hong Kong's Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) that turmeric did not harm people's health, so there was no need to ban Thai durian imports.

In a bid to prevent further problems, the ministry will also meet with relevant government agencies and the Thai Fruits Exporters Association to discuss the import fruit regulations for a variety of markets.

A recent media report stated that the FEHD had accused Thai durian farmers and exporters of soaking durians in turmeric and other chemicals to accelerate ripening.

The FEHD warned them not to use turmeric or any substance to accelerate ripening or Hong Kong would ban durian imports from Thailand.

Ms Duangkamol said the government would help ensure that farmers and exporters who used a chemical substance to hasten the ripening of durian are not using that two parts per million.

"Farmers and exporters have to be aware of this warning to not



Durian in turmeric. Photo: The Nation

use any substance that is forbidden by import countries or else it will affect the reputation of Thai fruit and affect the country's exports," she said.

The Commerce Ministry also urged farmers and traders to comply with relevant legal requirements, follow the Good Manufacturing Practice and use permitted food additives only in an appropriate manner.

Hong Kong is Thailand's third largest market for durian exports after China and Vietnam. In the first four months of this year, durian exports to Hong Kong were worth 1.21 billion baht.

Peeled durian is sold in Hong Kong for a healthy HK\$100 per kilogram (435 baht), up from HK\$50 last year.

During the current harvest seasons, the total durian output is expected to reach 639,960 tonnes, of which 338,515 tonnes would come from the East (May-June harvest) and 275,960 tonnes from the South (July-September), with the remaining amount coming from other provinces such as Uttaradit and Sisaket.

# NICE PEAK

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# Last chance

OFFICIALS' reactions to efforts by one resort to spare its guests the annoyance and dangers posed by jet-skis indicates that this plague on Phuket's tourism industry is highly-resistant, defying everything from common sense to existing Thai maritime law.

It remains mystifying how this particular industry has somehow been spared the law-and-order crackdown that has gone a long way toward putting an end to scamming and other illegalities in other parts of the tourism sector.

From any reasonable perspective, the jet-ski rental industry would appear to have been the perfect candidate for a similar clampdown or, better yet, complete elimination.

The *Gazette* has conducted a number of online readers' polls over the years about jet-skis, the results of which have consistently shown that a vast majority of readers, Thais and foreigners alike, would like to see Phuket free of jet-skis for hire.

The statistical trend generally shows growth toward more 'anti' jet-ski sentiments. The most recent poll, conducted earlier this year, indicated that 75 per cent of all respondents felt jet-skis had no place on any local beach.

Even more telling is the fact that only five per cent of tourists who took part in that survey found the jet-ski status quo acceptable. If tourists, the lifeblood of the island's economy, don't want jet-skis for rent, then who does?

Not only do they remain, but they seem to be flourishing, much to the concern of resort owners and tourists with the temerity to think they can enjoy a peaceful swim at a Phuket beach.

Unfortunately, the industry continues to enjoy the support of the Phuket Marine Office, the one agency that should have phased them out under a plan introduced as far back as 2004.

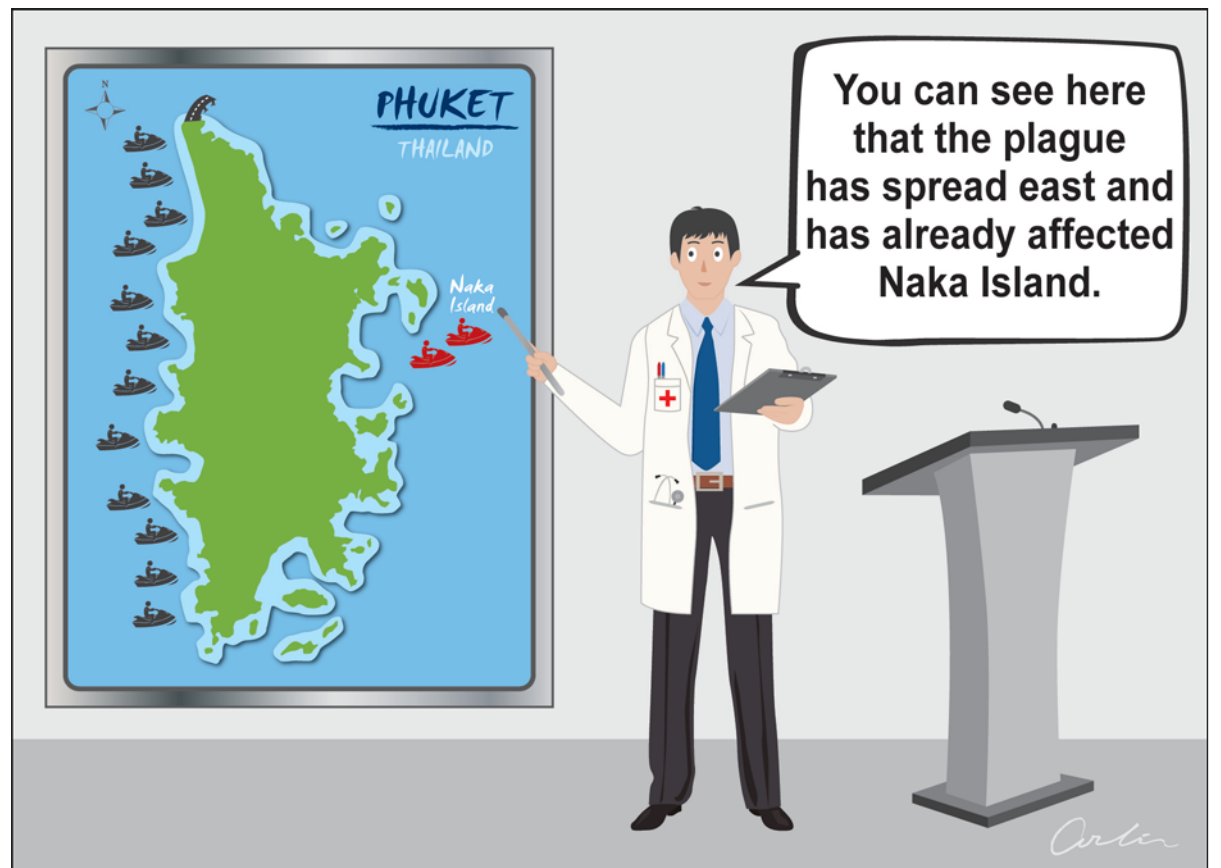
Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut reportedly told a recent gathering of the island's honorary consuls that 'the jet-ski problem was solved' under yet another 're-zoning scheme' – one that gives jet-skis access to about half of Patong Beach and now, apparently, even the remote beaches surrounding The Naka Island resort (see page 2).

This is just the type of place tourists choose for a peaceful sojourn – not to be imperiled by jet-ski cowboys the moment they dip their toes in the water.

The elimination of the jet-ski rental industry could be achieved overnight through the simple enforcement of a long-ignored regulation requiring jet-ski operators to possess a captain's licence.

The only role jet-skis should have is saving swimmers in distress. This is surely the last chance we will ever get to put an end to the international embarrassment that is the jet-ski rental industry.

For all these reasons, the *Gazette* pleads with the National Council for Peace and Order to use their extraordinary powers under Section 44 of the 2014 Interim Charter to order an immediate ban of the rental of jet-skis throughout Thailand and put an end to this tourism-killing plague once and for all.



## Another sad, scary driving story

Re: *Gazette online, Opinion: A stone's throw, June 16*

Sad to read your story, and I'm sure many of us have had similar experiences; I certainly have.

Even worse is that anger management issues are not just restricted to traffic, but you see it many places in Phuket in everyday life.

It has come to a stage where I now say that I value the true friendliness of people on this island based on the way they drive and act in traffic.

Unfortunately, Thailand does not rate very well on that score.

Sh  
Gazette forum

### Prime minister, come see the Phuket chaos

Re: *Gazette online, Opinion: Too good to be true, June 14*

What a great idea: an accessible, realistically priced public transport system in Phuket.

Not in my lifetime.

The National Council for Peace and Order started off so well, and then things came to a grinding halt. The forces of corruption have regrouped, re-armed and have dug in for the long haul.

The prime minister should make an unannounced visit to Phuket to see the chaos for himself.

John  
Gazette forum

### Patong will always be in the dark ages

Re: *Gazette online, Bangla bouncer files police brutality complaint, June 13*

I would forget the brutality complaint.

File assault charges against all concerned and then sue for damages.

## Letters to the Editor

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

What chance has Patong got of ever leaving the dark ages – where law and order is concerned – when high-ranking police think they are immune to the laws of Thailand?

A meaningless 'transfer' for piggish behavior, if that is what indeed transpired, is not the answer.

Criminal charges are in order. Stand him down with no pay, and, if found guilty, remove him instantly from the police force.

Skip  
Gazette forum

### Don't jump so fast to negative conclusions

Re: *Gazette online, Boat propeller slices British diving student's leg near Koh Tao, June 11*

I am so sorry to hear that such a thing happened to this poor young traveller.

All too often, foreigners leave Thailand with physical or emotional scars from unfortunate accidents that happened during their stay.

I hope that Ms Davies makes a swift and healthy recovery from the accident and manages to go home with at least a few positive memories.

On a separate note, I hate to see readers automatically assuming that the motorboat driver was on some sort of drug or was careless in operating the boat that sliced this woman's leg.

What if this man has been doing this job for years and years and has never been involved in any accident until now?

How guilty must he already feel for what happened?

I hope that the police collect all necessary evidence and have adequate information before they charge him.

That way, guilty or not, at least he was given a fair chance.

Regina White  
Surin

### Tragic road accidents happen far too often

Re: *Gazette online, Boy crushed to death by cement truck, June 12*

How is it that these types of accidents happen so often on this island?

One week it's a water truck, the next week a cement truck.

It's horrifying and tragic. That poor little boy's life was taken away from him in an instant – and his parents will have to live with this tragedy for the rest of their lives.

I hope that these stories open people's eyes to the dangers of the roads here, both those who have the power to make real regulatory changes happen and those who operate motor vehicles on a daily basis.

If it ends up saving lives, is that really asking too much?

So sad  
Phuket Town

### Someone knows who will get the job done

Re: *Gazette online, Stash of ID cards found in Kata, June 13*

This story speaks volumes for the lack of confidence in the local police, as the finder of these cards chose to hand them over to the Navy.

Not one for a tinfoil hat, but this seems to be an indicator that the person knew this was the best course of action.

Mister Ree  
Gazette forum

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# Island poised for superyacht glory

## FIRST PERSON

PHUKET plays a central role in the yachting industry in Southeast Asia, in the sense that it has a 10 or 20 year head start as the best-known destination and the main 'hub' for large yachts cruising the region. More importantly, with the industry in Asia now poised to develop rapidly, the island has a genuine opportunity to capitalize on this situation over the next few years.

It has the popularity, geographical position and infrastructure to benefit most from the expected influx of superyachts coming east from the Mediterranean for the winter season.

Phuket is an important location for the yachting industry, in that it is the first and the most obvious stop-off point for all the big boats coming to Asia from the Mediterranean via the Gulf, the Indian Ocean and the Maldives. There are plenty of superyacht marina berths, hotels, refit and repair facilities and so on – it is a world-class cruising destination in its own right.

And now there is a genuine desire among owners, captains and charter guests to find somewhere new and less crowded – and here, even though it's twice as far away, they will find unspoiled and virtually limitless cruising grounds, beautiful beaches and diving spots, as well as great service from friendly, happy people.

The main thing that has been stopping them has been incompatible regulation and the inability to legally charter. It costs up to US\$500,000 to bring a big boat all the way to Asia, so once it's here, it really needs to stay for the entire season. Owners probably only use the boat for three or four



Andy Treadwell has been behind a number of the world's most prestigious yachting and sporting industry events, including the Monaco Yacht Show, the Superyacht Cup Regattas and the World Yacht Racing Forum.

He is the owner of the Singapore Yacht Show and the nascent Phuket Yacht Show, and is currently developing a portfolio of events specializing in the leisure marine sector.

Here, he talks about the impact the growth of the superyacht industry in Phuket could have on the economy.

weeks, so it's important that the rest of the time the crew can be occupied, the boat active and some charter fees earned to offset costs.

I think Phuket will develop. We have been met with a positive, welcoming and proactive response from the government in regards to attracting superyachts to Thailand, and we have been assured that the change in regulations we have been requesting will be actioned very soon.

We have principally focused on the need to allow foreign-flagged superyachts to come here and charter, which is currently not allowed – but only because the existing regulations were based on traditional merchant shipping rules, and have never been adapted for large pleasure yachts. Our proposal was simply to 'customize' the regulations here, similarly to those we have seen adopted in other yacht-friendly countries.

This is not just reasonable, it makes perfect sense. The market will be boosted, and all the local yacht businesses, including the smaller charter yachts and boats, will see huge benefits too.

The government was naturally

keen to understand the economic benefits for tourism and maritime businesses, but also to ensure that if big yachts were to be welcomed in large numbers, they would be operated in an environmentally-friendly way, and would comply with both Thai and international safety and security standards. We helped document positive evidence on all these levels – and, as I say, we have been able to discuss all of these concerns in a proactive way.

Phuket also has a major advantage in that there will soon be more than 100 berths for superyachts and megayachts here – very unique in this region.

At the same time, we are engaging, through our Singapore Yacht Show and our wider marketing efforts with, an ever-growing community of lifestyle-hungry people from all over Asia, who might currently be uninitiated, but are all new potential charterers – and, one day, new yacht owners.

Everybody loves coming to Thailand, and this industry will bring the kind of high-end, high-spending tourism Phuket needs.



Many people risk their lives at illegal u-turns just to avoid driving a few more hundred meters up the road to a legal one. Photo: Jirawat Tumkun

## Lack of discipline

### Island View

By Pruth Kulprasit

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

I HAVE been driving various vehicles in Phuket on a daily basis for 12 years now. I started out riding a Honda Wave, before moving on to a car and a big bike. My 12 years of experience on the road has made me realize that people risk their lives every day because of their sheer lack of discipline.

What do I mean by lack of discipline? Just drive out into the street, look to your left and to your right, and you'll see what I mean.

There are motorbike drivers riding without helmets, driving through stop lights and riding against traffic without caution. Many cars make sudden turns without indicating, and if you honk at them, they'll give you dirty looks. All of these actions can result in accidents.

A lot of Thais and expats on Phuket think *mai pen rai*: don't worry, it's okay.

They think *mai pen rai* when driving through stop lights. They think 'It's okay. There's no need to wait. There are no vehicles coming'. Just last week, I was driving toward Phuket Town from Koh Kaew when I had to stop at the Bus Terminal 2 intersection. During the 45-second wait, I saw 15 people drive through the red light – all without helmets.

On the opposite side of the same intersection, u-turns are forbidden. However, those with lack of discipline ignore the law and make the turn, even with a legal u-turn only 80 meters away.

They think *mai pen rai* when

riding a short distance without a helmet. Maybe they don't want to waste time putting it on, or maybe they just got a new hair cut that they don't want to mess up. Either way, what happens if they have an accident in that distance?

The highlight of all this madness right now, for me, is the new Darasamuth Underpass intersection near Central Festival. Motorists heading south on the way to Central from the Samkong intersection often try to do a u-turn just before the underpass – this is a massive risk. Even barriers and a big sign telling them that a u-turn is prohibited won't stop them from doing it.

These problems are not limited to locals and expats, tourists are also extremely reckless on the road. They don't know the streets, and a lot of them ride at high speeds, helmet-less and shirtless.

All of these decisions can cause accidents, and put the driver's life and the lives of others in danger.

I ask that you please think before you act, and consider those who you might leave behind if your irresponsible decision ends badly. Drive carefully. Exercise self discipline. Do not risk your life, your family members' lives or those of innocent strangers.

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

### Do something about dangerous parking on Thalang streets

I LIVE in Thalang and drive to work in Koh Kaew. Recently, the road in front of Thalang Hospital, next to Tesco Lotus Thalang, was repaved. The curbs are painted black and white, which means vehicles can park on the road.

It is very dangerous to allow vehicle parking by the road when the lanes are not wide enough. When a car parks there, other cars heading in the same direction have to merge into the next lane in order to get around the parked vehicle. It is not sensible road work. The worst part is that this is the road in front of the hospital. What if parked cars block ambu-

lances from entering the hospital?

The authority who takes care of the road work in this area should re-think this engineering.

Concerned Commuter,  
Thalang

**Suthep Piromrerk, director of the Civil Engineering Division of Thepkrasattri Administration Organization (OrBorTor), replies:**

It cost us 5 million baht to repair this road and repaint the curbs. We cannot do much about this problem unless you come to our office and file a complaint.

After that, we can raise the issue with relevant officers who have the authority to make a decision about whether or not to keep the road as is, with the black-and-white curbs that allow parking.

### Not clear about nightclub registration

I RECENTLY opened a restaurant and bar with my Thai friends. I registered my business at the local municipality as a restaurant, and I also registered at the Department of Excise, so that I can sell cigarettes and alcohol.

The Department of Excise told me that I did not have to register

my restaurant as a nightclub, as there is no dance floor.

However, police came to my bar not long ago and told me the opposite – that I must indeed register my bar as a nightclub.

Do I need to register my restaurant as a nightclub? If so, where do I need to go to do this?

Worried bar owner,  
Phuket Town

**Pairuch Kulima, chief of the Phuket Excise Office (PEO), replies:**

Please note if your restaurant has music and a lot of your customers dance there, it will be considered a nightclub. You must register your restaurant as a night-

club, even though there is not a specific place for dancing.

You will need to pay the corresponding retroactive taxes to the PEO for your nightclub registration, starting from the first day your establishment opened.

Please go to the local municipality, which should be the same place you registered your bar and restaurant, to register your business as a nightclub.

**Col Sien Kaewthong of the Phuket City Police replies:**

If your restaurant and bar is considered a nightclub and you do not register it properly, the penalty can be up to a 60,000-baht fine, one year in jail or both.

Send us your queries and we'll ask the right people to respond to them.

Submit your issue at

[www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers](http://www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers)



# Bond investor survival guide



## Finance

By Don Freeman

IT'S inevitable that interest rates will eventually rise, but what do rising interest rates mean for investors and how can you prepare your portfolio? First of all, here is what you need to consider or be concerned about:

### INTEREST RATES AND BONDS

When interest rates rise, prices of fixed rate bonds will fall (and vice versa) because no one wants to buy a bond with a lower rate than what's currently available in the market.

However, and if you own individual bonds until their maturity, you will not actually lose any money (unless of course the bond defaults), as what you lose is the 'opportunity cost' of owning a newer bond with a higher interest rate.

### BOND FUNDS

Most investors own bond funds rather than individual bonds, and that can be a problem because bond fund managers are constantly buying and selling bonds. In general, and when interest rates finally rise, a bond fund investor's principal will decline until interest rates stabilize or begin to decline again.

Moreover, bond funds holding long-term bonds in particular are more exposed to losses than short-term bond funds, which are less risky but also yield less to investors seeking income.

### JUNK BONDS

High yields from so called 'junk

bonds' are tempting in a low interest rate environment. However, there is a reason why some companies, and even governments, must issue bonds with above market interest rates, as these issuers could find themselves squeezed for financing or could go into default when rates rise.

### DIVIDEND PAYING STOCKS

Low bond yields in many developed countries sent investors piling into dividend paying stocks – sending share prices up and dividend yields down.

A rise in interest rates could have some investors exiting these stocks or stock funds for high quality bonds that are guaranteed a certain return at maturity without the risk to principal associated with stocks.

### EMERGING MARKETS

Most emerging market governments have issued a greater share of debt in domestic currencies, but rising US dollar interest rates tend to lower the attractiveness of investments in other currencies. This means that emerging market exchange rates along with stock and bond prices could take a hit.

While trying to 'time' the bond market or guess when, and by how much, interest rates will rise is also a risky strategy, but there are ways to protect your investment portfolio from rising interest rates.

### LADDER YOUR BONDS OR BOND FUNDS

Individual bonds should always be held with 'laddered' maturities dates (1 year, 3 year, 5 year, 10



When interest rates inevitably rise, the prices of fixed rate bonds will fall. Photo: FutUndBeidl

year and so on) to avoid the risk of every bond coming due in a low interest rate environment. This laddering can also be achieved to a similar degree by holding bond funds containing short, medium and long-term maturities.

### DIVERSIFY YOUR BOND HOLDINGS

Besides holding bonds or bond funds of varying maturities, holding government, corporate, high yield (so-called 'junk') or emerging market issues either individually or via funds can be another way to lower long-term volatility and exposure to interest rate movements in either direction.

### INVESTMENT GRADE SHORT-TERM BONDS

Risk adverse bond investors

seeking more protection from rising interest rates might want to allocate a larger portion of their bond portfolio to short-term investment grade bonds and bond funds. Just be aware that the more allocated to short term and investment grade bonds, will likely mean lower returns over the longer term. My bond asset allocation model continues to show the longer term bonds entering a downtrend and focus more on these shorter term bonds.

Fortunately for bond investors, most analysts do not see a dramatic rise in interest rates for developed economies where economic growth remains relatively weak. And even if there is an unexpectedly high rate rise, it should be remembered that while 50% plus stock market declines have occurred, a loss of 10% or more during a one-year period

for US investment grade bonds (or their equivalents) is an exceptionally rare occurrence.

However, my charts do show a bond market sell off and longer term yields are rising – meaning you or your investment advisor will need to take a very close look at your existing portfolio to understand how you could be affected.

*Don Freeman, BSME is president of Freeman Capital Management, a Registered Investment Advisor with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), based in Phuket. He has over 15 years experience working with expatriates, specializing in portfolio management, US tax preparation, financial planning and UK pension transfers. Call for a free portfolio review. Don can be reached at 089-970-5795 or email: freemancapital@gmail.com.*

## CIMBT offers low mortgage rate

CIMB Thai Bank (CIMBT) has soft-launched a new housing-loan program promising the lowest effective interest rate (EIR) for the first three years of a mortgage on a home in any residential project, said Onanong Udomkantong, executive vice president and head of retail loan products.

"We have seen an opportunity to acquire a new generation of consumers who want to choose which residential project they buy in, and not be restricted to a particular project that offers a special campaign," she said.

Most mortgage lenders offer attractive rates at the beginning of the term but the interest is

increased after the first three years.

Showing customers what EIR they can expect for the full term of a mortgage can help customers compare the rates.

Their rates are lowest in the market, and if the program receives good feedback, CIMBT will consider running it long term.

CIMBT targets customers who have monthly incomes of 30,000 baht and are buying a home for about 2 million baht.

They expect the program to attract new mortgages of 2 billion baht to 3bn baht by the end of this year, helping the bank achieve its 2015 new-loan target of 15bn baht.

—The Nation

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## The Westin Siray Bay Resort and Spa, Phuket welcomes new staff members

THE Westin Siray Bay Resort and Spa, Phuket would like to announce the appointment of Director of Sales and Marketing Sanjana Bhattachan and Executive Chef John Ranaudo.

Prior to joining The Westin Siray Bay Resort and Spa, Phuket, Sanjana Bhattachan held the position of director of sales and marketing at Sheraton Krabi Resort and Spa. She began her hotel career in Nepal and gradually moved up to key positions in sales and marketing in Asia Pacific. She previously worked for Marriott and Hyatt hotels. Sanjana will oversee sales, events and catering, and marketing and communications.

Executive Chef John Ranaudo, of Italian heritage, was born and raised in Canada. He returned to Italy where his passion for the food industry grew.

He began his career in an independent hotel and then moved up to reputable properties in Italy and Asia, including Waldorf Astoria, Centara, Amari and Cape and



Ms Sanjana and Chef Ranaudo are the newest members to join Westin.



Kantary hotels. Chef Ranaudo brings more than 28 years of experience to the resort, where he will be responsible for the entire food operation.

The Westin Siray Bay Resort and Spa, Phuket is the first Westin resort to open in Thailand.

It offers a rich environment of calm and comfort to tired travelers.

Located on Koh Siray, off Phuket's east coast, the entire resort overlooks Siray Bay and boasts a secluded beach with direct access.

It is an eight-minute drive from Phuket Town, 45-minute drive from Phuket International Airport and a boat ride away from a cluster of world renowned islands including Phi Phi, James Bond, Similan and Maya.

The resort offers 257 stylishly appointed guestrooms, suites and villas decorated in modern decor and stylish furnishings, and includes breathtaking ocean views and open outdoor balconies in which to relax. —Phuket Gazette



# East coast shopping

## Boat Lagoon brings more choices to shopaholics

By Nick Davies

CHOICE, and lots of it, is what Phuket's cosmopolitan consumers are demanding, and as the shopping scene transforms to adapt to more local-centric lifestyles among the island's international community, smaller family-oriented malls are taking shape across the island.

Leading the way in bringing a more upmarket shopping experience is shopping and lifestyle guru Kanittha Prasopsirikul, managing director of 'By Kanittha', who is a driving force behind new shopping experiences on the island, including the Lighthouse Weekend Market launched at Boat Lagoon in January this year.



Kanittha Prasopsirikul

and homemade baked goods can be found, but today's cosmopolitan consumers are demanding more quality and convenience."

By Kanittha market research has shown a demand for quality goods and personal services; shops for everyday living needs; and edutainment for active kids, all of which needs to cater to the surrounding international community, said Ms Kanittha.

New shopping venues are coming to the east coast soon as local developer Boat Development, proprietor of Boat Lagoon in Koh Kaew and Boat Avenue in Cherng Talay, aims to fill the gap.

"Following the successful monthly markets along the marina's dockside, which attracted several

thousand visitors each weekend, we aim to offer a similarly enjoyable experience on a daily basis, putting local businesses in touch with local customers, while giving those customers a convenient place to relax, snack and meet friends," said Ms Kanittha.

A new shopping arcade under construction at Boat Lagoon plans to bring new business opportunities to local entrepreneurs on the east coast this September.

The brand new Boat Arcade will be a mixed-use community arcade



Boat Arcade has already landed a number of top-flight tenants, such as Villa Market and Siam Commercial Bank.

offering a healthy variety of complementary outlets. It will feature 25 units for rent in various shapes and sizes on two floors. The site has already attracted top-class tenants, such as Villa Market, Siam Commercial Bank; Doi Tung

Lifestyle; Grand Italia Ice Cream; USA Design; Artisan Wine Shop; Kai Coffee & Bakery; PAPA Music; and a tae kwondo school.

"We aim to fill the remaining units with more creative edutainment facilities along side stores

such as florists, hotel supply stores, cafes, health and beauty salons, pet shops, service centers and possibly more vocational training establishments, such as a cookery school," said Ms Kanittha.

## Building your database



Business Buzz

Simon Wetherell

THIS week, let me explain the biggest asset your social media marketing efforts will build for you: your database.

A marketing database is an electronic list of all of your potential customers, with as much relevant information as you can gather about them. Normally, this is combined with a platform that can be used to communicate automatically on a mass level, called an autoresponder.

Facebook has a database of about 1.6 billion people, and Facebook knows a lot of very relevant information about them. That is why the site is worth so much; because of the potential revenue streams that can be accessed by utilizing this information.

An autoresponder allows you to collect people's information, and then group and store it accord-

ing to the marketing activities and goals you have in mind. You can then send out information about your product, special events, updates, bonuses and more to grow your sales and keep your customers loyal. This can be done automatically, which saves you considerable amounts of time.

To get people onto your database, you should provide a reason or benefit for them to join. This can be done simply and cheaply, or you can build instant loyalty by creating a generous offer that people cannot refuse.

The next step is to organize your strategy so that you can create an engaging sales funnel and positive customer experience which in turn builds your database and converts it into sales. We will cover this next time.

*Simon Wetherell is a social media expert, lawyer, best selling author & international speaker. He now resides in Phuket where he trains businesses and individuals on how to profit from the use of social media.*

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# Fighting corruption



Auditor-General Pisit Leelavachirapas and Bangkok Chairman of the State Audit Commission Chaisit Trachoetham present Phuket Gazette Managing Editor Isaac Stone Simonelli with a gift following his participation on an anti-corruption panel.

# Reconciliation at court in honor of Royalty

The Phuket Provincial Court launched a 'Reconciliation Project' in celebration of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. The project will be held in June and July.



Court of Appeals Region 8 President Saboon Wuttiwong (middle) was the chairman of the grand opening ceremony on June 10.

## YOUR Phuket

## Happy Birthday



Tueanjai Holton (left), general manager of The Hotspring Beach Resort and Spa, wishes one of his guests a very happy birthday at Patcharin Restaurant.

# Grand opening of NBT Phuket

National Broadcasting Services of Thailand facility ready to rock



CHAIRING THE EVENT: (L-R) Sutraethai Lerdkasem, executive director of the Public Relations Office, Region 5; Apinan Jantarangsi, director-general of the Public Relations Department; and Isaya Sinbootsakorn, director of Television of Thailand.



ON AIR: (L-R) Isaya Sinbootsakorn, director of Television of Thailand; Apinan Jantarangsi, director-general of the Public Relations Department; Bunjuan Panich, deputy chief judge for Phuket Court; and Woranut Pechdee, Phuket-Trang Club committee representative and PGTV Reporter.



Goetz Bauer, general manager of Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa, gives a welcoming speech.

# Floating Night Market

at Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa on June 11



Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa employees enjoy the event with Thai actors and hotel guests.



The food was served directly from the boat.



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

# ISLAND TRADER

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June 20 - 26, 2015 | [PhuketGazette.Net](http://PhuketGazette.Net)

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

PROPERTY FOR SALE  
of the week

**2-STOREY  
SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE**



See page 15

PROPERTY FOR RENT  
of the week

**NEW POOL VILLA**



See page 16

WHEELS & MOTORS  
of the week

**PASSION WINS  
BY MILLENNIUM AUTO**



See page 18

BOATS & MARINE  
of the week

**Boatshedphuket.com**  
INTERNATIONAL YACHT BROKERS



See page 19

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## Properties For Sale

**RAWAI BEACHFRONT CONDO**

New fully furnished with amenities, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Great location. Must see. Only 7.2 million baht. Tel: 081-892 6710 (English), 081-895 7908 (English & Thai). Email: peterh@asianwind.biz

**CHALONG HOUSE SALE BY OWNER**

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

**1-BED APT. SALE / RENT**

Fully furnished apartment in Chalong. Sale: 1.95 million baht, rent: 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-922 2800. Email: simonchinner@yahoo.com

**POOL HOUSE**

Near Heroines Monument, Pa Khlok Road, 250sqm. Land 452sqm. 3/4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 aircons, big kitchen, furnished, 9x3m pool. Price: 5.25 million baht. Tel: 089-854 0277. Email: catayacht@csloxinfo.com

**POOL VILLAS RAWAI**

New top design pool villas, 2 & 3 bedrooms and bathrooms, large 5x8m pool, nice green area, Rawai, close to Makro. Start 9 million baht. Tel: 096-284 2463, 084-898 8258. Email: p.bumrung515@gmail.com

**KATA OCEAN VIEW**

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

**LAND IN NAI HARN FOR SALE**

Nai Harn. Chanote title. 1 rai. 300m to the beach. 13 million baht. Please call 086-943 0871 (English). Email: vodorod12@mail.ru

**2-STOREY SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE**

Burasiri Village. Koh Kaew. Next to BIS. 3 bedrooms (master bedroom with ensuite and walk-in closet), 3 bathrooms. Fully furnished, 4 aircons, kitchen with separate pantry. Parking for 2 cars. Communal swimming pool, garden and fitness.



For sale: 6.6 million baht or sell down payment: 400,000 baht. Long-term rent: 45,000 baht monthly, 520,000 baht yearly. **089-840 5290 (THAI) 094-579 5666 (THAI / ENGLISH)**

**KATA HOUSE SALE**

4 bedrooms. Reduced price, must sell. Was 3.5 million baht and now 2.99 million baht. Tel: 082-465 9939.

**THE DECK CONDO**

2-unit condo for sale at the center of Patong. The Deck Project. 1) studio unit no.0103309, floor 3, building A, 31sqm, 3.5 million baht. 2) 1-bedroom unit no.010310, 41.5sqm. 4.5 million baht. Full-furnished, ready to move in May 2015. Tel: 081-085 7550 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-344789. Email: ornholand@hotmail.com

**RAWAI BEACH CONDO**

Pay in 10 years. Sell for 1.1 million baht in 40 trimestrial payments of 27,500 baht. Full Chanote title. Ownership forever. Brand new. Fully furnished. Aircon. Kitchen. Tel: 098-331 6449.

**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 or nearest offer. Genuine buyers only. No brokers please. Tel: 081-737 8662.

**22 RAI - 400,000 BAHT PER RAI**

Beautiful plot of land with nice mountain views. Has paved road access and electricity. Located 5km from Tablamu golf course and 10km south of Khao Lak. Price: 8.8 million baht. Tel: 087-277 7794 (English & Thai). Email: patchanee.samranjai@gmail.com

**KAMALA NEW HOUSE**

Living room. Bedroom. Bathroom. Terrace. Cable TV. Internet. Quick Sale 2.5 million baht. Secure place. Tel: 098-045 5421.

**URGENT SALE**

60sqm apartment in Kata Beach center. Reduced from 2.9 million baht. Sale now: 2 million baht, furniture included, free transfer. Please call 081-788 8280. Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

**LAND FOR HOTEL**

1.5 rai, 50m from beach, close to Amora Hotel. Plan for five-storey hotel with 108 rooms. For sale at 28 million baht. Please call 061-261 3486.

**3-BED HOUSE LARGE GARDEN**

Chuan Cheun Lagoon, close to British International School and the Boat Lagoon Marina. Chanote land title, 146sqm. (584sqm), 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. Please call 086-040 6866 (English), 081-979 6707 (Thai).

**FAMILY POOL VILLA IN RAWAI**

450sqm. Very peaceful and secure cul de sac. 3 bedrooms. 2 decks. 2-3 car park. 5 minutes to Rawai pier. Close to all amenities. Walk to beach. 9.9 million baht. For more information, please call 083-642 1300 (English & Thai). Email: adgareau@yahoo.com

**NAKA ISLAND**

Unique 4-bedroom beachfront house, panoramic views to the south, 10 mins to Ao Por pier. 240sqm on 2 floors, 750sqm plot, separate house for staff. Tel: 084-846 1270 (English).

**CONDO FOR SALE**

Royal place condo, 3fl at the corner with swimming pool view, 45sqm. Fully furnished.

**Pls contact 086-4769612 | annanoi@hotmail.com**

**CHERNG TALAY LAGUNA**

Landplots 400sqm till 1,000 sqm. Ask for more information at laplphuket@gmail.com

**CONDO KATHU FOR SALE**

30.15sqm. Fully furnished. 1 bedroom. Living room. Kitchen. Aircon. Tel: 087-508 3516.

**HUGE FIVE-BED BIG POOL VILLA**

This huge five bedroom villa with massive feature pool in Rawai is greatly reduced for urgent sale at 12.5 million baht. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealstate.com

**NICE HOUSE CHALONG**

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

**QUIET NAI HARN POOL VILLA**

Well-maintained 2-storey traditional Thai-style pool villa with 3 bedrooms, in small group of 4 homes. Private and serene. Desirable location with a short walk to Nai Harn Beach, restaurants and shops. Perfect for investment. Price reduced to 4.3 million baht. Email: rgarland@comcast.net

**OCEAN VIEWS, KATA**

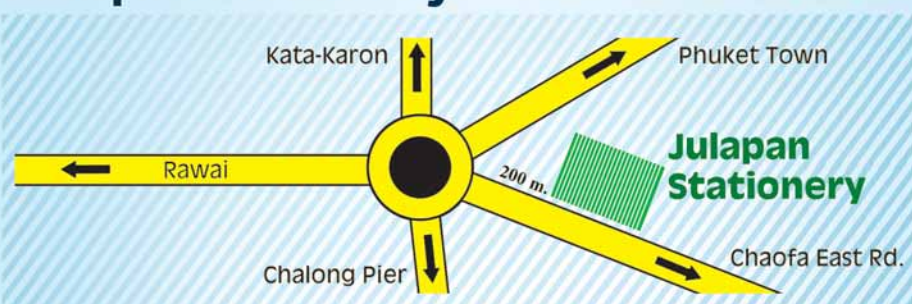
New 1-bed condo, 44sqm. Great views. In-house management & rental program. A valuable investment. Ready to move in. 3.98 million baht or nearest offer. Email: ianscon@yahoo.com

**LUXURY VILLA SALE**

5 bedrooms. 10x5m pool. Big living room. Nice kitchen. Fully furnished. About 300sqm. Quick sale only 8.5 million baht. Tel: 093-713 2278.

## Live in Chalong?

### Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Julapan Stationery



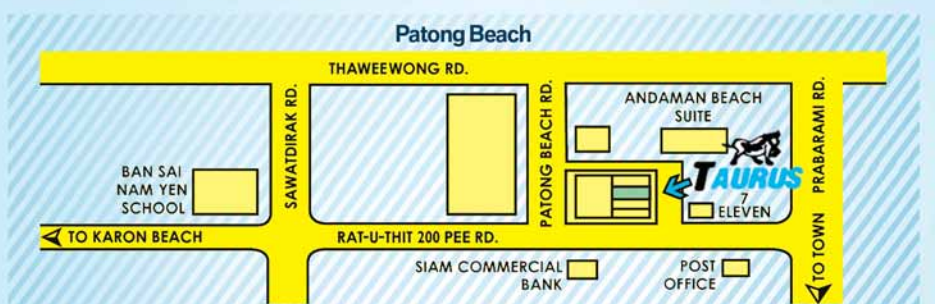
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## Properties For Rent

## Accommodation Available

## LUXURY POOL VILLA



Chalong, new, 110sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, pool, aircons, security cameras, electric gate, high fences. Long-term rent: 35,000 baht / month by owner. Contact Nina. Tel: 089-729 6244. Email: ninaphuket@hotmail.com

## AVAILABLE IN RAWAI

2-bedroom pool villa - July 1. 2-bedroom house till November 1. Low price. Please call 085-787 3046.

## NEW MAI KHAO BEACH HOUSE

10,000 baht. New fully furnished and aircon. 500m to beach. Tel: 081-693 4463 (English & Thai). Email: 321 orchidilla@gmail.com, www.orchidilla.com

## BEACH HOUSE

Chalong, furnished, 2 bedrooms, cable TV, WiFi, garden, quiet, secure, from 12,000 baht / month. Tel: 095-046 4039.

## BRAND NEW ROOMS TO RENT

New fully furnished apartments for rent with bedding, aircon, fridge, internet, TV and WiFi. Tel: 081-278 5968, 089-874 0851 (English & Thai), 081-833 4325 (English). Fax: 076-283073. Email: savcom@ksc.th.com

## HOTEL FOR LEASE

24-room Hotel for long-term lease, big swimming pool, bar, restaurant, kitchen, pool table, located on 1 rai of land, main road in Patong. Price: 4 million baht. Tel: 081-893 7720. Contact email for information include your phone number in the email. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

## NEW POOL VILLA RENT



Apartment, 3 bedrooms, ensuite bathroom. Located at Layan. Contact Daniel. Tel: 081-787 43 83.

## FAMILY HOUSE + POOL

Kathu - near schools, shops. Located at Baan Suan Loch Palm. This modern home has 3 bedrooms + maid room. Secure and safe in a patrolled gated community, major schools including BIS are only minutes away. Major shopping centers such as Central and Tesco Lotus are an easy 10-minute drive. House features an excellent all-weather outdoor area, swimming pool, nice gardens. Longer term rental preferred. Fully furnished. Contact Bea: 087-352 4114 (Thai), Justin: 083-551 1633 (English).

## BRAND NEW ROOMS TO RENT

New fully furnished apartments for rent with bedding, aircon, fridge, internet, TV and WiFi. Tel: 081-278 5968, 089-874 0851 (English & Thai), 081-833 4325 (English). Fax: 076-283073. Email: savcom@ksc.th.com

## TOWNHOUSE SUPALAI CITY HILL



For sale (2.8 million baht) or rent (12,000 baht/month) in Supalai City Hill Estate, Phuket Town. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, quiet, convenient location, furnished, full kitchen, decor, garden, car park, 2 aircons. Available from May 2015. Tel: 089-874 0061, 086-291 4115. Email: stephenfein@gmail.com

## SHOP HOUSE FOR RENT

2-storey, 2-unit shop house for rent near Karon Circle. For more information, please call 076-344922, 083-102 5928. Fax: 076-341870. Email: kkiran23@hotmail.com

## HOUSE BOAT LAGOON

For long-term rent. Fully furnished. Tel: 084-629 3244. Email: fon-daki@hotmail.com

## KAMALA CONDO FOR RENT



18,000 baht per month for long term, at the Trees Residence, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, fully furnished, TV, WiFi available, washing machine. Facilities include 2 swimming pools, 2 gyms, tennis court, sauna, squash court, restaurant, shuttle bus to town and beach, 24-hour security. Tel: 076-529082, 098-683 2433 (English), 061-238 0155 (English). Email: paula jlaydon@hotmail.com

## Holiday Homes &amp; Villa Rentals

## BRAND NEW ROOMS TO RENT

New fully furnished apartments for rent with bedding, aircon, fridge, internet, TV and WiFi. Tel: 081-278 5968, 089-874 0851 (English & Thai), 081-833 4325 (English). Fax: 076-283073. Email: savcom@ksc.th.com

## HOUSE ON THE GOLF COURSE

Loch Palm. Small 2-bedroom/bathroom house for long-term rent. No pool. Great views. Fully furnished. Tel: 081-894 0339 (English). Email: hilltribe@poppiesamui.com

## NAITHON BEACH PALACE



New boutique apartment. 3,800 baht / month. For more information, please call 081-000 9917. Email: merienhotel@gmail.com

## STUDIO ROOM FOR RENT

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

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

## LUXURY APARTMENT

Patong. 1 bedroom, 50 sqm, fully furnished, kitchen, balcony, big swimming pool. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-080 8831. Email: jstuder@loxinfo.co.th

## CHEAP RENT HOUSE

Fully furnished 1-3 bedrooms, aircons, free WiFi, starts from 6,000 baht per month. Please call 081-892 4311. http://panwagreen.weebly.com

## BOUTIQUE ROOM FOR RENT

Fully furnished, WiFi, Mae Luan Road. Tel: 089-668 3639 (English & Thai). Email: zhunaumann@gmail.com, http://BoutiqueRoomPhuket.com

## LUXURY POOL VILLA

Only 20,000 baht per month, lease for 5 months, in secluded resort, near Lauguna. Tel: 089-594 4067.

## KAMALA BEACH HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, WiFi, cable, maid, secure, clean. 16,000 baht / month. Please call 083-645 3546.

## 4-BEDROOM POOL VILLA CHALONG

4-bedroom, 5-bathroom private villa with 8 x 4m private pool for rent in Chalong. Fully furnished with TV and entertainment systems. Includes WiFi and cable TV. Secluded with gated entrance. Tel: 093-584 3711 (Thai), 081-397 6921 (English). Email: terry leetuck@hotmail.com

## RAWAI POOL VILLA



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, available for 6 people, private pool, dining patio, WiFi, carport, walled, gated. 6 months minimum, 12 months preferred. 40,000 baht / month. Contact Sue Walker. Tel: 081-970 17 16.

## 1-BED BUNGALOW RAWAI

Large terrace, big kitchen, aircon, WiFi, quiet. 9,000 baht. Please call 081-271 7092. Email: bri cothailand@hotmail.com

## CONDO FOR RENT IN TOWN

Fully furnished condo with air-con, TV, fridge, gym & pool. 10,000 baht / month. Tel: 092-991 9624. Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

## KATABEACH FOR RENT

Nice, 1 bedroom, kitchen, WiFi, aircon, spa. 500 baht per day. Tel: 086-595 8512, 081-970 4638. Email: nalu mana2000@yahoo.com

## GREAT VALUE CONDO

2-bedroom, 2-bathroom condo, full amenities, linens, utensils, etc. Pool, wifi, kitchen, great location. From as low as 25,000 baht for long term. Tel: 081-892 6710 (English), 081-895 7908 (English & Thai). Email: peterh@asianwind.biz

## TOWNHOUSE SUPALAI CITY HILL



For sale (2.8 million baht) or rent (12,000 baht/month) in Supalai City Hill Estate, Phuket Town. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, quiet, convenient location, furnished, full kitchen, decor, garden, car park, 2 aircons. Available from May 2015. Tel: 089-874 0061, 086-291 4115. Email: stephenfein@gmail.com

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## Laguna HOLIDAY CLUB

Laguna Holiday Club, part of the Laguna Phuket family of resorts, permits members to own their holiday getaway in one of four luxury room types based on a points system that allows great flexibility.

Laguna Holiday Club offers a competitive remuneration and fringe benefits package to qualified individuals.

- **Sales Representative**  
(English with Russian / Mandarin / Cantonese or Arabic speaking)
- **In House Sales Representative**  
(English with Chinese or Russian speaking)
- **Outside Personal Contact Team Leader (Marketing)**  
(Good command in English)
- **Outside Personal Contact (Marketing)**  
(English with Chinese speaking is an advantage)
- **EP Booker / Telesales Agent (Marketing)**  
(English with Chinese speaking is an advantage)

Must have experience in timeshare business for all positions. We are proud to provide an excellent benefits package including: basic salary, generous commissions, medical coverage, training, etc.

Send your CV to [career@lagunaholidayclub.com](mailto:career@lagunaholidayclub.com)  
Call for more information: 076-362400 ext. 5140  
[www.lagunaholidayclub.com](http://www.lagunaholidayclub.com)

Please be informed that only short-listed candidates will be notified

### TIMESHARE / TELESALES PROS

\$\$\$ Exceptional opportunity \$\$\$ Work at our lakeside resort in Chiang Mai. Looking for a few top guns to work the phones into Australia. We supply full training, excellent leads, top commissions & great working environment. Tel: 081-020 4023. Please send resume to [brad@spachiangmaiwaterside.com](mailto:brad@spachiangmaiwaterside.com) or go to our website at [www.spachiangmaiwaterside.com](http://www.spachiangmaiwaterside.com)

### SALES REP. AND TO.

DVC looking for English Reps and TO. For more details call 098-270 8099, 076-342794. Email: [hr@davidvacationclub.com](mailto:hr@davidvacationclub.com)

### FRONT OFFICE MANAGER WANTED

Thai and English speaking. Salary negotiable. Please send CV or contact Anne. Tel: 084-845 0003. Email: [admincontrol@bayshoreprojects.com](mailto:admincontrol@bayshoreprojects.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. Thai national only! For more information, please call 087-882 2856 (English). Email: [luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com](mailto:luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com)

### SALES MANAGER

Developer based in the north is now seeking a sales manager. The ideal candidate is 35-45, with perfect written and spoken English and five years' experience in property market. Tel: 086-004 3008 (English). Email: [angius@villasuksan.com](mailto:angius@villasuksan.com)

### JUNIOR WEB DEVELOPER

Salary: 20,000 - 30,000 baht / month+ bonus. Must be a female / male Thai national who is start-up minded, with clear thinking. We work with worldwide clientele and welcome any junior / beginner. Necessary experience with: Classic ASP or PHP. Some experience necessary with XML, JSON, Javascript, JQuery, HTML5At, ASP MV CAT, SQL Server and IIS / Windows. For more details, please call 098-671 8466 (English). Email: [marina@juslaws.com](mailto:marina@juslaws.com). See more details on [www.sednasystem.com](http://www.sednasystem.com)

### EXECUTIVE SALES MANAGER

Male / female Thai, excellent in communication and presentation skill both Thai & English, self-managed, car fuel covered. 30,000 - 60,000 baht / month. For more information, please call 098-331 6387. Email: [info@phuket-solar.com](mailto:info@phuket-solar.com) or visit our website at [www.phuketsolar.com](http://www.phuketsolar.com)

### JOB, CAREER AVAILABLE

Villa Manager, Guest Service Supervisor (Natai), Villa Technician, Accountant, Housekeeper, Therapist, Beautician. Please send CV or apply in person. For more information, please call 076-527 633. Email: [hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com](mailto:hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com)

### GUEST RELATIONS

Luxury villa in Nai Thon looking for an experienced Guest Relations Manager. Must have education, be reliable and flexible. Salary 20,000+ baht. For more details, please call 080-440 0772. Email: [richard@ivanhoe.net](mailto:richard@ivanhoe.net)

### SECRETARY

Female, Thai national, 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.

### EVENTS MANAGER

We are looking for a full-time event manager. Kathu. Must have experience in recruiting sponsorship. Must speak, read and write English perfectly. Must have minimum two years experience, be proficient in microsoft office: outlook, word, excel. Be extremely proficient in social media: facebook, twitter, google+, website manager. 3-month trial period. After 3 months, contract for additional one year. Salary is negotiable on experience. Tel: 081-797 4100. Email: [charlie@asia-pacific-superyachts.com](mailto:charlie@asia-pacific-superyachts.com)

### SALES MANAGER

- Excellent communication, reading & written English skills.
- Ability to adapt quickly to new trends and new markets.
- Experience working in property markets.
- Must be hard working & dedicated.
- Co-ordinate and work with Management team as required.
- Thai national preferred.

Baan Yamu Residence. Tel: 076-310507. Email: [info@baanyamu.com](mailto:info@baanyamu.com)

### MARKETING MANAGER WANTED

Marketing manager wanted for new product. Thai national. Basic English. For more information, please call 087-893 8747 (English). Email: [info@platinumresidencepark.com](mailto:info@platinumresidencepark.com)

### BUSINESS CONSULTANT

Jus Laws & Consults Company Limited is looking for a Business Consultant. Native English speaking. Law education background. Tel: 076-304353, 091-035 9191. Email: [marina@juslaws.com](mailto:marina@juslaws.com)

### SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Good communication skills and ready to work with business clients. Thai female or male. Good salary. Please call 089-515 5288 (English). Email: [timo.saarinen@swuid.com](mailto:timo.saarinen@swuid.com)

### SALES COORDINATOR

Siam Real Estate requires an experienced naturalised English speaker to administer and co-ordinate sales/rentals enquiries at our Rawai office. Must be a strong organiser, have a pre-emptive approach, be computer literate and have good people skills. Salary + WP provided. Tel: 076-288 908.

### FITNESS PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR

Wanted. We are recruiting for our Weight-loss / Fitness Program Department. We are looking for qualified professionals to join our team. Fluent English speakers only! Rawai. Tel: 087-271 7447 (English & Thai). Email for job details at [recruitment@phuketfit.com](mailto:recruitment@phuketfit.com) or [www.phuketfit.com](http://www.phuketfit.com)

### TUTOR TEACHER

Tutor / Teacher wanted for 5-year-old Australian/Thai child, to teach K3 Math, Reading, as well as Thai language. Monday-Saturday, 4 hours per day. Tel: 093-418 9529. Email: [Shayne.Michia@gmail.com](mailto:Shayne.Michia@gmail.com)

### ENGLISH TEACHERS

Teachers from N.E.S / European countries to teach in schools: Phuket city, Chering Talay. TEFL / TESOL (+ Degree preferred but only essential for F/T). Must be good with YL. 1 x F/T. 2 x P/T. 30,000-35,000 baht / month. Contact head teacher ECC, Phuket. Tel: 076-307 0579, 089-139 8453 (English & Thai), 091-647 5465 (English). Email: [Giles@ecc.ac.th](mailto:Giles@ecc.ac.th)

### ENGLISH TEACHER WANTED

Or native English speaker. Needed for private lessons for my 19-year-old Thai son. For more information, please call 081-797 1497.

### ANIMAL CAREGIVER WANTED LIVE IN

Starting March 1. 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 your resume to Email: [jellinecastro@yahoo.com](mailto:jellinecastro@yahoo.com)

## 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 [Diao@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:Diao@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

## Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

### CHALONG

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

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

### PATONG

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

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

### PHUKET CITY

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

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

### CHERNG TALAY

- ▶ **Chaba Supermarket** (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: 076-325586

### RAWAI

- ▶ **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: 076-388144

### KARON

- ▶ **EuroStyle Tailors** (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

Tel: 076-396911



## Business Opportunities

**FAMILY BAR / GRILL NAI HARN**

Bar / grill area with separate kitchen, seating, play area, separate 2-bed living quarters, 4 months rent free. Good long-term rental agreement. Offers about 900,000 baht. Tel: 080-648 1987, 085-575 3027.

**BAR FOR SALE IN PATONG**

In Otop market. 2 million baht. Includes company & work permit. Great location, full trading figures & profits. Please call 084-185 8719 (Thai). Email: charlie@paddy malones.com.au

**HOTEL FOR LEASE**

24-room Hotel for long-term lease, big swimming pool, bar, restaurant, kitchen, pool table, located on 1 rai of land, main road in Patong. Price: 4 million baht. Tel: 081-893 7720. Email: cc@bayshore projects.com Contact email for information, include your phone number in the email.

## Business Products &amp; Services

**AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT**

Enzo ESEMPI International Co., Ltd is seeking a Thai supplier to make monthly export purchases of peanuts, pistachios and candied fruit. Contact Krystyna. Tel: 094-587 5262. Email: krystyna@enzoesempi.com

**HEALTH PRODUCT MARKETING**

Wheatgrass Powder Co (food supplements) from India are seeking an importer in Thailand. Can be done from home, office or shop. Starting cost 9,000 baht; income potential 20,000 baht per month. Tel: +91-0982-200 2042, +91-0772-190 4904 (English). Email: gwg.ceo@gmail.com

**RESTAURANT IN CHALONG FOR SALE**

Chalong. Good location. Fully furnished. Wood-fire pizza. New 3 + 3 year lease. Cheap rent. Tel: 084-845 4743.

## Notice

**NOTICE FROM FREDRIK CARLSSON**

This is a public apology from our good office to Khun Jill. We sincerely apologize for the miscommunication that occurred. We would like to clear her name, and say that she was never involved in any misdemeanor regarding advertising. In fact, she was professional enough to deal with her clients. We hope this clears things up with all parties involved. Thank you and sorry for any inconvenience. Email: fredrikyoung@gmail.com

## Household Help

**LIVE-IN OR LIVE-OUT HOUSEKEEPER**

Live-in or part-time housekeeper. Requirements: speaks & understands English, cook (Thai and farang), clean, laundry. Salary is negotiable according to skill levels and abilities. Tel: 094-806 0395 (English). Email: cc57fdmy@aol.com



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

- Experienced nannies.
- Nutritious meals.
- Reasonable rates.
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081-868 7676 (English).  
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**DINODAYCARECENTER**

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Legal services. Court interpreter. Translation & Notarial services ATT. For more information, please call 089-873 6533. Email: phuketinterpreter@gmail.com, info@suwatchana-law-office.com

**SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT**

Professional and efficient. E-commerce, websites, desktop software. For more information, please call 085-073 9994.

## Club Memberships Available

**BLUE CANYON COUNTRY CLUB**

Lifetime Family membership available with dues paid for 2015. 650,000 baht inclusive of transfer fee (140,000 baht). I would like to sell next week (June 1-6), so price has been discounted. Tel: +65-0812-79306. Email: mruper1@gmail.com

**GOLF MEMBERSHIP FOR SALE**

Life membership at Loch Palm Golf, Kathu. 500,000 baht, including 72,000 baht transfer fee. For more details, please call 089-871 5355. (English/German). Email: natalithai@gmail.com

**LAGUNA GOLF**

Family membership valid until 12/2024 available for immediate sale 2015 membership dues paid. Price: 440,000 baht inclusive of transfer fee. Tel: 081-970 4228 (English).

**PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB**

Family membership 490,000 baht including transfer fee and yearly fee paid (420,000 baht net). Tel: 091-647 6216. Email: jm.conasiam@gmail.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

**SACK YOUR BOSS**

An affordable home based business that has a 30-day trial + a 30-day money back guarantee. A must see. Tel: +61-49-917 8152 (English). Email: tracy\_j\_cooper@hotmail.com, http://ipasdiscount.com/pre/?id=76298&tid=#sthash.xvBSLAbQ.dpuf

**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANY**

An established, reputable and high profitable property management company with a rich portfolio of villas and common area under contract is available for sale. Tel: 087-264 9695 Email: eb@eb network.it

**OFFICE SPACE LAGUNA**

Plaza del Mar. 4-fully-furnished offices. Suite plus boardroom. Rent entire unit or individual office. For more information, please call 080-045 4474.

## Wheels &amp; Motors

## Saloon Cars

**CAMRY HYBRID 2.5HV 2012**

Top model, perfect condition, only 30,000 mileage, cream leather interior, GPS, front & rear camera, on-deck phone, etc. One foreign owner, never smoking in car. Drive 17km/liter. Cost of new 1.9 million baht. For sale now: 1.2 million baht. Tel: 080-860 7050 (English), 085-888 8485 (Thai).

**HONDA CRV 2.4 4WD**

2007. One owner. Only 63,000km. For sale: 535,000 baht. For more information, please call 089-970 8281.

**MAZDA 121**

Manual 1992 model. Aircon. Good condition. 150,000km. For 100,000 baht. Tel: 085-378 0498.

**3 CARS FOR SALE**

Jazz 2005, auto, tax February 2016, insurance September. Toyota Soluna 2001, auto. Toyota Vios 2009, manual, tax/insurance September. Prices: 185,000 baht, 95,000 baht, 265,000 baht. Tel: 089-831 4703 (English), 084-304 6723 (English & Thai). Email: colinminett@yahoo.co.uk

**TOYOTA INNOVA 2010**

Silver, 2.0L, auto 61,000 km. 499,000 baht. Good condition. Tel: 081-086 9921.

**2011 TOYOTA AVANZA**

7 seats, well maintained, low mileage: 61,000km, new tires, for sale only 340,000 baht. Tel: 084-305 3954 (English). Email: douglasjohn young@gmail.com

## Motorbikes

**KAWASAKI ER 6 N, 650CC**

2010 road bike, ABS brakes, 20,000km. Green book. Excellent condition. 155,000 baht. For more details call 080-040 1114 (English). Email: burtjune@yahoo.com.au

**YAMAHA SUPER TENERE 750**

Green book. 110,000 baht. Contact Alberto for more information, please call 087-896 9076.

**HONDA SPACY FOR SALE**

Auto 110cc motorbike. Like new, 2 years old, 25,000km. Sale: 25,000 baht. Please call 084-845 4743.

## Pick-ups

**EVEREST 4WD QUICK SALE**

10+ years but looks and drives great. Motor also great. Manual. 450,000 baht. Offers over 400,000 baht considered for fast sale. Tel: 081-892 6710 (English), 081-895 7908 (English & Thai). Email: peterh@asianwind.biz

**MITSUBISHI STRADA GRANDIS 2004**

2WD, 4 doors, 5 speeds, diesel, loaded, new parts, run looks great, very reliable. 210,000 baht. Tel: 083-594 3031.

**2010 RANGER DIESEL**  
4WD. Auto. Loaded. Runs. Drives. Looks great. New service. Very reliable. Sale: 380,000 baht. Tel: 083-645 3546.

## Rentals

**CAR RENT 11,000 BAHT / MONTH**

Short or long-term rent with first-class insurance. Delivery service. For more information, please call 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

**CARS FOR RENT**

Short or long-term rent with first-class insurance. Delivery service. Tel: 086-690 0626. Email: bcar rent@hotmail.com

## PASSION WINS BY MILLENNIUM AUTO



Contact: Warut Thongtem Mobile: 089-873 3340 Line ID: torwarut Millennium Auto Phuket



**YACHTSMAN  
HYPALON TENDERS**

Stock Clearance: HYS 280 79,000 baht includes VAT (2 pieces). Light-weight aluminium hull RIBs. Good quality at very competitive prices. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com, www.boatshedphuket.com

**RIVIERA 48  
FLYBRIDGE (2000)**

2 x Diesel 660hp. Caterpillar CAT 3196B. Must sell as new boat has arrived. Asking only 9 million baht. Please call 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com, www.boatshedphuket.com

**DEAN 440  
CATAMARAN (2002)**

Four double cabins. Twin Vetus 42hp diesels. Reduced to US\$160,000. Contact Alan Giles. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com, www.boatshedphuket.com

**SEA RAY 330  
SUNDANCER**

Sport cruiser (2008), twin-petrol 275hp. Mercury 8.1L. Horizon Engines with only 300hr, aircon, generator, etc. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com, www.boatshedphuket.com

**VISION 49 SLOOP  
(1982)**

45hp Volvo MD22. If you are looking for a comfortable cruising yacht at a very reasonable price and capable of winning regattas this could be the one for you. Only US\$69,950. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com, www.boatshedphuket.com

**POWER TEC  
OUTBOARDS  
FOR SALE**

Coming soon with a 2 year warranty for pleasure use. 2.5hp 14,950 baht. 3.5hp 16,950 baht. 5hp 24,650 baht. 6hp 27,250 baht. 9.9hp 42,150 baht. 15hp 47,750 baht. 25hp 56,950 baht and 40hp 74,950 baht. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com, www.boatshedphuket.com

**BOTNIA TARGA  
32 (2013)**

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

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We can meet you on board, take up to 80 photos and full details. We will accompany all viewings and provide non-exclusive brokerage on a "no sale, no fee" basis.

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Charming 21m motor-sail Gulet yacht, ideal for charter, 55 people. US\$150,000 or nearest offer. For more information, please call 085-666 5504 (English). Email: info@jabudays.com Please see our website at www.facebook.com/pages/Yacht-for-sale/423591747727674

**SR MARINE BOAT  
MANUFACTURER**

SR Marine Boat manufacturer. 18-49ft. Used outboards from Japan. Visit our showroom in Rawai. For more information, please call 081-782 092, 081-782 0921.

**BRAND NEW 2015  
KAWASAKI**

Brand new Ultra 310R1500 CC /310, four-cylinder engine, motocross-style, sport seat. For more details, please call 081-754 7599. Email: Sam@mjetski.com

**POWER TEC  
OUTBOARDS**

Coming soon with a two-year warranty for pleasure use. 2.5hp - 14,950 baht, 3.5hp - 16,950 baht, 5hp - 24,650 baht, 6hp - 27,250 baht, 9.9hp - 42,150 baht, 15hp - 47,750 baht, 25hp - 56,950 baht and 40hp - 74,950 baht. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com, www.boatshedphuket.com

**HOBIE CAT 16**

New main, mast float, cover, wheels, lifejackets. For sale: 99,000 baht. Tel: 087-976 0066.

**BRAND NEW 2015  
SEADOO RXPX 260**

On sale: 2015 Seadoo RXPX 260; 1500cc, 260hp. Hot promotion. Very special price for this moment. Reduced from 590,000 baht to 539,000 baht, with warranty. Only 4 units left. Samud Sakorn. Tel: 081-754 7599 (English & Thai). Fax: 034-426403. Email: csutivas@gmail.com

**3.1M YACHT TENDER  
DINGHY**

3.1m Stingray RIB with 9.9hp, 4-stroke Suzuki outboard, storage cover, fuel tank, etc. Great size yacht tender, dinghy, as new 140,000 baht. For more information, please call 089-873 4044 (English), 081-270 3538 (Thai).

**RINKER EXPRESS  
CRUISER 310 (2010)**

Twin 260hp Mercruisers, generator, air conditioning, micro wave, chart plotter, etc. Reduced to a very competitive US\$99,900. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com, www.boatshedphuket.com

**KANTER 54 PILOT  
HOUSE (1993)**

Aluminium Cutter. Yanmar 4LH 170hp diesel. Well equipped and maintained. Just reduced to US\$335,000. For more information, please call 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

**SWANSON 36 SLOOP  
(1976)**

Yanmar 3 Cylinder diesel (2008). New Sails (2008). Great condition inside and out. US\$59,500. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com, www.boatshedphuket.com

**MULTIHULL  
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REGATTA**  
**PHUKET 2015**  
an Ao Chalong Yacht Club event

**9-12 JULY 2015**

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Join the Racing or Cruising Division and enjoy great fun on and off the water. All private and charter multihulls welcome to participate. Multihull Solutions is looking forward to supporting this fabulous, well-established event for the second year running.

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

**Ao Chalong Yacht Club**  
**multihull SOLUTIONS**

**THE SOLUTION TO  
THIS WEEK'S****Cryptic Crossword****COFFEE  
break**

Abbreviations: UPPERCASE (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. AFTERNOON: *foranneto* 10. NORTHSTAR: *ranshort* (T) 12. REEL: fall about 13. MINUTE: minute 14. TEENON: *noteone* 15. COWARDICE: *acrowd-ice* 17. ARCHITECT: *ciechart* 18. SARASIN: *rainsas* 19. CRETIN: *nicer* (T) 20. SEAT: *seta* 23. UNDERDONE: *un-der-done* 25. CONTINUAL: *nocultina* 26. PAYS: P.A.-Y-S 27. STUPID: *putsid* 29. REPULSE: R-sleep(U) 32. REDSETTER: *deterrest* 34. INNERTUBE: *inner-tube* 35. LEVERET: *everlet* 36. DEVOUT: *vetduo* 37. ABET: a-bet 38. SALACIOUS: *alas* [rev]-C-1-O-us 39. RECOVERED: *corveered*

**Down:**

1. BARRACKS: *jeers* 2. OTHERWORDLY: *orworthyled* 3. POSITION: *istoponi* 4. UNSURE: U-N-sure 5. UNDERAGE: U-danger-E 6. PROTECTION: *portniceto* 7. CHEERIO: cheer-1-O 8. GRANDTOTAL: thousand total 11. THOSE: *sothe* 16. RESORT: turn to 19. CUE: *rescue* 21. EQUALNUMBERS: *queersunbalm* 22. SIMPER: S-I'm-per 23. UPPERCLASS: *placespurs* 24. OUTSTATION: out-place 25. COD: *doc* [rev] 28. PARADISE: *parad-is-e* 29. RENOUNCE: *oncerune* 30. EVENTIDE: *event-I'd-E* 31. TERRACE: *retrace* 33. DEVIL: *lived* 34. INVERT: in-V-ert

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## Private Aircraft and Flight Services in Phuket

## Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS



**Built: 1976**

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



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

### Specs:

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

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

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

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

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Superb trike with Konig radial engine. Great economical fun. Little use. Tel: 089-111 6457, 081-397 7598. Email: kajo da1954@yahoo.co.uk

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Selling Robin aircraft or trade it for a 4-seat Cessna or Piper (based in Hua Hin). The Robin: TT AF 300hrs. SMOH 60hrs. 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, CS PA400 i-com, FP5 fuel computer, CHT, OAT, Pitot heat. 4 million baht. Email: thosw@hotmail.com

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## TECNAM P-92

- Price: 1.5 million baht
- Registration: U-B08
- Year of Manufacture: 2002
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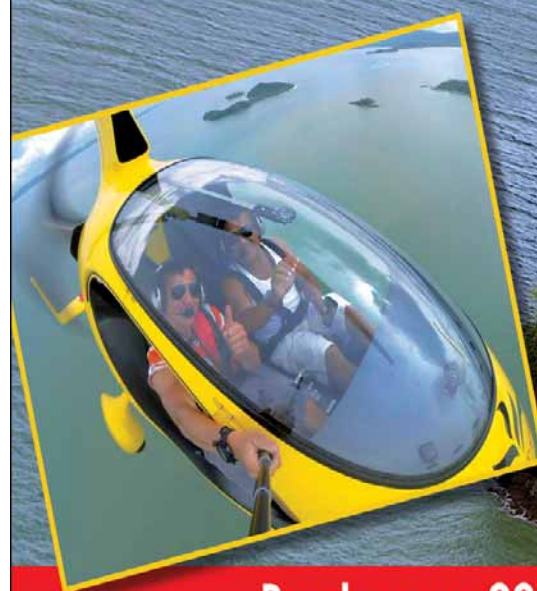
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# #Winners



Simon Hand, producer of the 'Phuket Today' and PGTV, hands over a gift voucher for a one night stay at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort to Kriangsit Sukphan.

THE Phuket Gazette was pleased to hand out prizes to winners of the #PhuketGazette competition at the Southern Criterium 2015.

The lucky winners were social media savvy spectators and participants who garnered the most 'likes' for a picture of them with the *Gazette* logo at the spectacular cycling event.

Prizes were generously donated for the competition by Thanyapura; The Kee Resort and Spa; Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort; and Splash Jungle Water Park Phuket.



Isaac Stone Simonelli, managing editor of the Phuket Gazette, hands over a gift voucher for a two-night stay at The Kee Resort & Spa to Chidchanok Puangjit.



Natthira Susangrat (left), GM of the Phuket Gazette, hands over a gift voucher for a one-month Thanyapura membership to Thatchadamas Uraiwan.



Supanun Supawong, assistant sales manager of the Phuket Gazette, hands over a gift voucher for a one-day pass to Splash Jungle Water Park to Nopparit Wichean (left) and Arnon Jailek.

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### Words from the wise

"It takes as much energy to wish as it does to plan."

– Eleanor Roosevelt

#### Medium

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#### Hard

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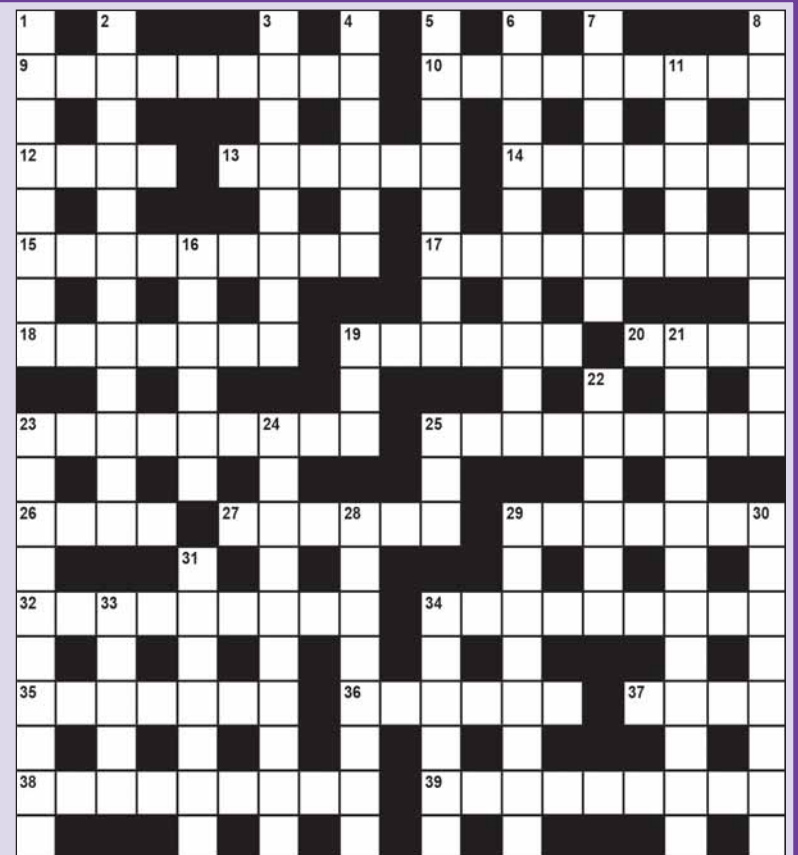
**SUDOKU:** Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

## COFFEE break

### Cryptic Crossword

#### Across

9. Later than midday for Anne to change (9)  
 10. Polaris maybe ran short, about time! (5,4)  
 12. Fall about in a lively dance (4)  
 13. Extremely small period of time (6)  
 14. Note one moving over there in Thailand (3,4)  
 15. A crowd moves on ice without bravery (9)  
 17. Building designer to cite chart in a mess (9)  
 18. Unusual, rains as you find the bridge to Phuket Island (7)  
 19. Idiot could be nicer, given time (6)  
 20. Set a new position (4)  
 23. One French the German tricked, rare! (9)  
 25. No cult in a disruption is ongoing (9)  
 26. Settles per annum. Year, son! (4)  
 27. Put Sid off as foolish (6)  
 29. Right, maybe sleep around, turn, drive back (7)  
 32. Dog to deter rest moving (3,6)  
 34. Pneumatic part of Central London underground line? (5,4)  
 35. Ever let out a young animal? (7)  
 36. Vet duo could be dedicated (6)  
 37. Assist a wager (4)  
 38. Back, alas! Caught one round us being dirty (9)  
 39. Cor! Veered off and rallied (9)



#### Down

1. Jeers at the soldiers lodgings (8)  
 2. Or worthy led movement to the supernatural (12)  
 3. I stop on, I change job (8)  
 4. Hesitant to turn North, certainly (6)  
 5. Too young for socially acceptable danger, moving East (8)  
 6. Defense of port nice to organize (10)  
 7. So long to shout for one round (7)  
 8. Final amount a thousand in all (5,5)  
 11. So the new ones over there (5)  
 16. Turn to holiday hotel (6)  
 19. Prompt rescue in the end (3)

21. Same quantities of queer sun balm distributed (5,7)  
 22. Son, I'm for each affected smile (6)  
 23. Place spurs movement of the elite (5,5)  
 24. Not in place at remote site (10)  
 25. Fish rises short for Doctor (3)  
 28. Parade is in state of bliss (7)  
 29. Give up once rune destroyed (8)  
 30. Happening I'd note at the end of the day (8)  
 31. Carefully retrace the level paved area next to the house (7)  
 33. Rascal lived badly (5)  
 34. Upset, not moving around five (6)

#### Gemini (May 22-June 21)



There's the potential for a stroke of good fortune early on, as a fabulous blend of energies encourages you to think big and take on a challenge or opportunity that may be a bit of a stretch. By doing so, you could find you have more strings to your bow than you realized. Furthermore, a new spending plan can prove very effective.

#### Cancer (June 22-July 23)



Don't think twice about taking up an offer that could be good for you, as you can benefit from showcasing your skills and abilities to other people. Also, from midweek on you may find your courage and general fortitude are enhanced as Mars powers into your sign. If you've recently held back from making a move, you can now decide to go for it.

#### Leo (July 24-Aug 23)



Monday's very special alignment between Jupiter in your sign and Uranus in Aries, could

coincide with an impulsive move. However, despite any initial reverberations, it will be better to take a bit of a chance than not try at all. Even so, with the sun and Mars arriving in your spiritual sector, you may want to regroup and consider your tactics.

#### Virgo (Aug 24-Sept 23)



You can trust your intuition to give you the right information, particularly if you're considering an idea or special offer. Doing so could result in a small windfall or promising deal. In addition, you might feel the need to expand your social horizons by moving in lively circles with those who you naturally sync with.

#### Libra (Sept 24-Oct 23)



A meeting could have special potential that you'll want to tap into. If you find yourself attracted to someone early on then take note, as this could be the special chance you've been waiting for. Meanwhile, the Quarter Moon might push you to go public with an idea – encouraging you into the limelight where you can blossom.

## YOUR horoscope

By Patrick Arundell

#### Scorpio (Oct 24-Nov 22)



An opportunity that's too good to miss could come your way this week, and it may be associated with your job or a career plan. However, if you have a personal ambition, you could be equally motivated to make a start. Later, as Mars drives into Cancer, expect desires to be stirred up should you encounter someone different and exciting.

#### Sagittarius (Nov 23-Dec 21)



With Mercury forming a tense T-square on Monday, good communication may be key to securing an opportunity you've been waiting for. However, if you want to impress the right person you'll need to pay attention to detail. Later, a focus on shared resources can encourage canny decisions concerning your future expenditure.

#### Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 20)



Complex energies reveal that the week could have its problems, yet with the right approach you can overcome any difficulties and make real progress. The issue of whether to express yourself and your creativity freely, as opposed to withholding feelings and information, can be helped by allowing your intuition to lead the way.

#### Aquarius (Jan 21-Feb 19)



A little reflection could help you make the most of a fabulous offer or opportunity. It's also possible you'll want to liberate yourself from persons or activities that have seemed to hold you back. In addition, Mars's arrival in Cancer can be perfect for a new diet or fitness routine, especially if you're keen to get yourself better toned up.

#### Pisces (Feb 20-Mar 20)



Go easy this week, as a powerful desire to shop could upset your finances. If you're finding it hard to control

yourself, then try to set limits to the amount you will spend. A heady focus on pleasure and fun can be a great aid to romance. However, avoid getting stuck in the company of someone who could be a tad too demanding.

#### Aries (Mar 21-Apr 20)



This week's early Jupiter Uranus connection suggests it's worth making the most of any exciting offers that come your way, as they could lead on to something even better. Mars also glides into Cancer and your family sector, stirring up energy and getting things moving – and bringing an opportunity to clear the air.

#### Taurus (Apr 21-May 21)



There's a special aura around home and family affairs this week, as Venus and Jupiter continue to promote good feelings and constructive relationships. The only temptation might be to overindulge – although you probably feel you deserve it. Fond memories could make you feel nostalgic and also motivate you to connect with friends from your past.



## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### June 20-June 21. 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Phuket Baba Wedding

Baba Weddings were the most important celebrations in the life of the Peranakan people, where well-to-do families could display their wealth and prestige during lavish ceremonies. Now, the revitalized tradition is accessible to everyone, either as participants getting married or as spectators watching the wedding procession as it ambles through Old Phuket Town's historic streets.

The Thai Peranakan Association is delighted to invite all to share in the joy of love with the bride and the groom, their families and the Phuket community on June 20-21.

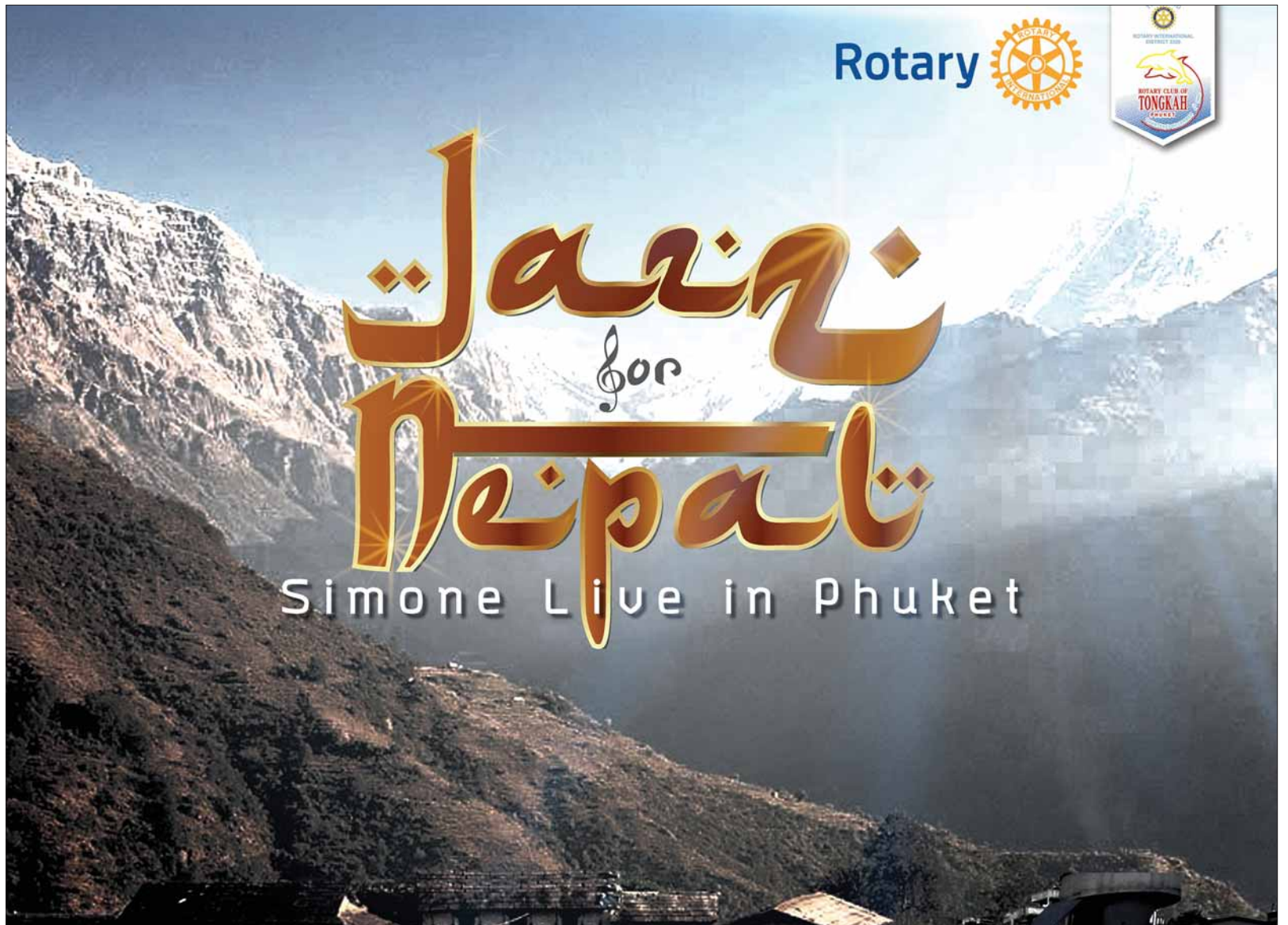
Keep following the *Gazette* for schedules of the day's events or for more information, contact Ms Orasiri of the Thai Peranakan Association at 081 691 1955.

### June 22. Jazz for Nepal Simone Live in Phuket

Rotary Club of Tongkah invites you to join 'Jazz for Nepal Simone Live in Phuket' on Monday at 6:30pm at LimeLight Avenue, where world renowned Austrian jazz vocalist Simone Kopmajer will be featured.

Proceeds, after expenses, will be forwarded to the Rotary Club Thamel district, Kathmandu, Nepal 3290 to assist victims of the May 12 quake and repair damaged schools.

For more information, contact Aom at 086 410 1246.



Join the Rotary Club of Tongkah for a night of smooth jazz and help raise funds for victims of the May 12 earthquake that shook Nepal.

### June 27. Wine Tasting at Wine Lovers Phuket

Wine tasting with live music, Thai appetizers, salad and mini sushi buffet, fruits and six glasses of white and red wine. Only 899 baht. Saturday, June 27, from 7pm to 9pm. Call 076 384 662 or email [info@wineloversphuket.com](mailto:info@wineloversphuket.com) to reserve your ticket. All welcome.

### July 15-19. Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek

Now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek offers exceptional sailing on the east coast of Phuket and quality accommodation. Four nights of extravagant parties that have become famous around the Asian-yachting scene make this one of

the best summer sailing regattas.

Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek 2015 has a comprehensive commercial sponsorship and partnership program that enables corporate Asia to get involved with the world of sailing. The growing popularity of sailing in Asia makes it the ideal platform for companies to

increase their brand awareness. For more information, email [info@phuketraceweek.com](mailto:info@phuketraceweek.com) or call 089 000 4664.

### July 30. Asahna Bucha Day

This day commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to five disciples after he attained enlightenment.







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 <b>Rawai Cable</b> Coverage: Rawai, Kata, Karon Channel: <b>1</b> Monday-Friday: 10am, 1pm, 7pm, 10pm	<b>Truevisions</b> Channel: <b>79</b> <b>PSI</b> Channel: <b>223, 320</b> <b>Dynasat</b> Channel: <b>106</b> <b>Thaisat</b> Channel: <b>185</b> <b>Infosat</b> Channel: <b>185</b> <b>Sunbox</b> Channel: <b>81</b> <b>GMMZ</b> Channel: <b>103</b>	<b>Thaicom 5 Sat</b> <b>3520H</b> Tuesday: 6.10am, 12pm, 7.10pm Wednesday: 6.10pm Thursday: 1.10am Friday: 1.10am Saturday: 1.10am Sunday: 6.10am
 <b>KDTV</b> Coverage: Phuket's West Coast from Patong to Cherng Talay Channel: <b>10</b> Daily: 8.30am, 2.30pm		

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# Hide out in Nai Harn home

Unique, stunning modern Thai-style home tucked away in Nai Harn caters to upscale southern Phuket lifestyle



**Phuket Pads**

**Patrick Lusted**

A VERY unusual yet stunning two-storey, four-bedroom modern Thai-style home is hiding in Nai Harn, only 1 kilometer from the famous beach and beautiful Nai Harn Lagoon.

This is one of the most coveted locations in which one can live on the island because of its access to upscale lifestyle venues.

This home is extremely private, located alone in a cul-de-sac with a mountain backdrop.

The house itself is truly impressive – a striking, modern interpretation of Thai-tropical design.

The entrance opens onto a great open-plan room with a double-height cathedral ceiling, ensuring a cool interior. It features fully-glassed walls at both ends, which are supported by huge pillars on top of parquet and tile floors.

The ceiling eaves are teak, and the large area consists of both living and dining spaces plus a designer kitchen, which features

ample space for storage as well as top-quality stainless steel appliances.

The kitchen hatch opens onto an outside lounge and dining area, which is perfect for serving food, entertaining and hosting barbecues.

Three of the four bedrooms sit on the ground level, with the master suite is on the upper floor, accessible by a grand staircase.

The master suite features a wrap-around balcony overlooking the living area below.

The bedrooms, with teak floors, all have built-in or walk-in wardrobes and en-suite baths and natural features for a spa-like feel.

The upper floor has a game room with a pool table and a private balcony overlooking the pool.

The swimming pool features a built-in jacuzzi and a rock-wall water feature.

The house is fully furnished and includes internet. It is built to universal building codes and has ducted air-conditioning, as well as fans.

There is a maid's room, dedicated laundry room, car port and a half-bathroom on the ground

**This particular home is extremely private, located alone in a cul-de-sac with a mountainous backdrop. The house itself is truly impressive – a striking, modern interpretation of Thai-tropical design.**



The entrance of the home opens into an open-plan room with a great double-height cathedral ceiling.

floor. The total land area is 780sqm and the interior is 400sqm.

The house is going for 22.9 million baht. Offer terms freehold

and has been reduced for quick sale.

For more information contact Patrick

Lusted at Siam Real Estate, quote reference number: HSIL6309. Please call 076-288908 or visit [www.siamrealestate.com](http://www.siamrealestate.com)

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# Building a better market

## Re-sales dominate in luxury real-estate segment as new clients look to buy, not build

By Nina Suebsukchareon

ALTHOUGH not visible across the island's multi-fold property market, the dominance of re-sales over new developments is obvious in the luxurious, but not lavish segment, chairman of CB Riewchard Ellis Thailand David Simister said last week.

Sitting just below the multi-million-dollar villa tier is this interesting segment, which has a number of quality properties in the range of 12 to 30 million baht, are Plantation, The Heights Phuket and Kata Gardens.

"So people have liquidity, but there isn't focus on building in this area," said Mr Simister.

Mr Simister has noticed that a lot of buyers realize that Phuket is a mature market and therefore do not expect to make huge capital gains on built real-estate.

"If you can see something that you can walk in to and you can sit down there for your Christmas holidays – that is more appealing than something perhaps more state of the art, but

at the moment it's a series of brochures and DVDs and the property is under construction," said Mr Simister.

"Probably the main competitor to new development is existing sales."

At the rarefied top tier are impressive projects such as Amanpuri, where the asking price is more than 500mn baht, Andara

1 and Andara Signature.

"The Andara 1 has had a very active series of re-sales, and every re-sale has shown a significant rise. It has risen two and half times from its launch price," said Mr Simister.

Additionally, there are new products coming on stream, such as Minor Group's Anantara villas and Avadina Hills by Kajima. However, Mr Simister pointed out that

the major problem in this tier was a scarcity of good sites.

"In Phuket, land prices, which are obviously the base, essential ingredient for property, generally continue to appreciate. I think that applies [to all land] whether it's for an inland housing plot, an agriculture plot or, obviously,



Two sought-after luxury developments include Point Yamu by COMO (top) and Baba Beach Club by Sri Panwa.

west coast beaches, which are absolutely premium products," he said.

The lack of prime sites on the west coast, which is now relatively congested because of the expansion of tourist hotels and more mass-market condominiums, has led to a lot of people, both tourists and homebuyers,

looking across the bridge to Phang Nga's Natai Beach.

The newest project on the beach is the 42-rai Baba Beach Club undertaken by Charn Issara Development Plc in partnership with China-based Junfa Real Estate Company.

However, Mr Simister mentioned that Phuket isn't all about

luxury villas. At the other end of the spectrum, there has been the relatively recent appearance of small condo units that are not too much different in design or size to mid-town Bangkok, Hong Kong or Pattaya developments, and depending on the size, are priced from 3mn baht upwards.

## MK Real Estate founding family sells stakes

THE Tangmatitham family has finalized a deal to sell its 20.64-per-cent stake in MK Real Estate Development worth 1.2 billion baht for 6.75 baht per share to Castle Peak Developments and CPD Holding.

The deal will make those two companies the major shareholders in MK Real Estate Development, and end the presence of the Tangmatitham family in a business they founded 50 years ago.

MK's founder, Chuan Tangmatitham, 78, said this handover of the family's shareholding was considered a bestowal of the business that he has fostered for more than 50 years upon a team that is determined to drive the company forward, and embrace opportunities to expand into new businesses.

"I believe that with the strong foundation of experienced staff, financial strength and a long-standing reputation among customers, the new executives will be capable of continuing the



The Tangmatitham family sold all of their stocks. Photo: Andreas Poike

company's sustainable growth. All stakeholders – customers, employees and shareholders – will be well taken care of.

"From now on, as the chief adviser to the board of directors, I am willing to give advice to help guide the company toward its business targets," said Mr Chuan.

Castle Peak Development is wholly owned by Suthep Wongvorazathe, former chairman of the Export and Import Bank of Thailand.

MK's board of directors has appointed Mr Suthep as chairman

to replace Mr Chuan, as well as Philipvira Bunnag and Sutida Suriyodorn as executive directors. Mr Suthep said his group was confident that the property market would return to strong growth, while MK had the potential to be one of Thailand's leading residential property developers.

Last year, MK earned 2.4bn baht in revenue and 450mn baht in net profit. Interest-bearing debt was less than 1.5bn baht, reflecting its strong financial position. Net profit margin, at the 20-per-cent level, was viewed as outstanding among listed developers. In the first quarter of this year, MK Real Estate Development reported revenue of 436mn baht and net profit of 30.51mn baht.

"I am confident in the company's growth potential in real-estate development for sales and intend to expand further into the rental business. We aim at being a comprehensive real-estate developer," Mr Suthep said.

– The Nation

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# RPM to see B5bn investment

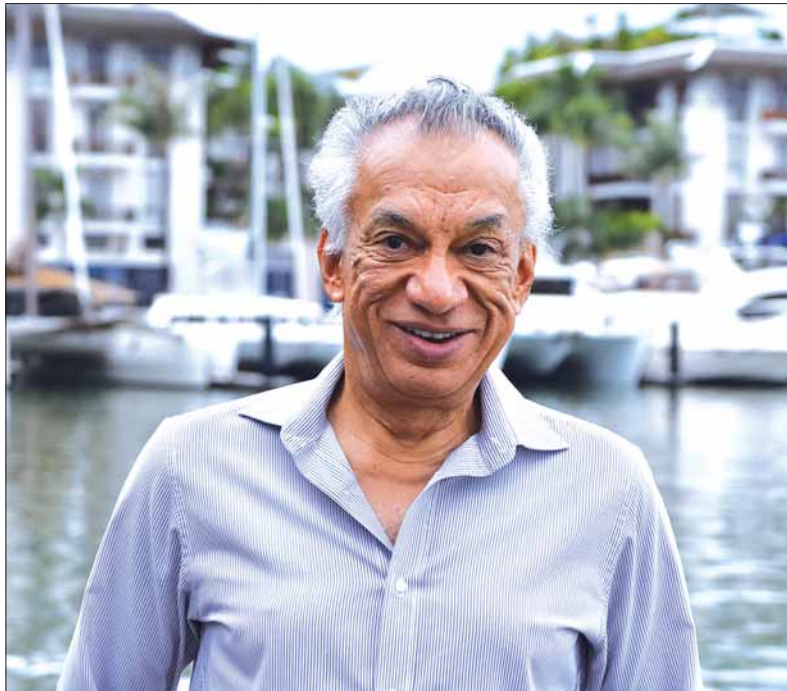
ROYAL Phuket Marina announced a five billion baht investment plan for the next five years under the new campaign #DestinationRPM.

"The 5bn baht planned investment over the next five years is part of my vision to make Royal Phuket Marina an iconic waterfront lifestyle destination," said Gulu Lalvani, Chairman of Royal Phuket Marina.

"Under our #DestinationRPM campaign, Royal Phuket Marina will become a destination in its own right – a thriving residential and business community, and a destination that will support Phuket tourism attracting visitors from around the world."

The plan includes two hotels, a low-rise condominium development, a first-of-its-kind water facility, marina expansion and the addition of a state-of-the-art RPM Children's Zone, with the aim to position Royal Phuket Marina as a leading destination in Asia.

More than 600 hotel rooms are planned to be added to the marina during the investment period. The first of the hotels will be 129-key establishment that will be launched in mid-July. The sec-



Gulu Lalvani sets out to make the marina a 'destination in its own right'.

ond, and much larger, addition will be a 500-key hotel with a theme pool and beach access, which will be geared toward targeting Phuket's growing family segment.

Discussions are underway with a number of international hotel

management companies and the operator is expected to be announced in the second half of 2015, stated a press release on Wednesday.

The marina will see 160 units in eight four-storey buildings

located near the Town Square as part of the La Reserve low-rise condominium development, designed to target the serviced apartment niche.

"After studying the marketplace, we have identified the need for quality serviced apartments on Phuket. La Reserve condominium will cater to that niche and provide an ideal residence and investment for Thai and international buyers," Mr Lalvani said.

Le Reserve offers investors a five year guaranteed rental return.

The marina itself will be transformed as it introduces a world-class dry stack system, the first of its kind in Thailand, whereby boat owners can store their luxury vessels under cover, protected from the elements, as you would with a Rolls-Royce or Ferrari.

"A concierge service will ensure boats are in the water and ready to go anytime, upon request of an owner. The expansion will increase marina capacity to 250 boats," the press release noted.

As an additional feature to draw families to the marina, the investment will include the RPM

Children's Zone.

"With a design and operating team of more than 15 years' experience in setting up and operating children's clubs around the world, the club will consist of play areas, climbing frames, jungle gym, slides, ball pits and swings and will be for children up to eight years old," the release states. "Parents can count on professional child-care services with safe and professional supervisory care while they enjoy all the facilities of the marina."

The developments at RPM are an adjustment based on changes in demographics, Mr Lalvani said.

"Phuket's visitor demographics have changed considerably over the last 10 years. More tourists are looking to the east coast and to new destinations. Approximately 1,000 tourists and residents use the marina's facilities every day. Our marine leisure facilities and central location makes Royal Phuket Marina the gateway to more than 30 islands all within an hour boat ride," said Mr Lalvani. – *Phuket Gazette*

# Phuket pivots into regional education



## Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

SUN, sand, surf and study is without a doubt an unlikely combination of S-phrases. That said, Phuket is maturing into a key Asian resort destination for international level education and the upward trend is showing no sign of stopping.

This past week Thanyapura, the umbrella complex of Phuket International Academy, announced plans to further expand their already considerable 3.5 billion baht investment and expand their already sizable stable of facilities. On a larger scale, an emerging set of property developers are now looking into plans to use education as a core activity to expand their real estate business models.

Recently C9 Hotelworks conducted market research into the sector and found that there are fifteen international schools on the island and eight bilingual (English or Chinese as a second language or those featuring English programs). A total of 7,114 students attend these combined institutions.



Thanyapura is one of the many international schools that are helping boost the island's residency.

Viewing the international segment, which boasts 2,309 children, the top three schools in terms of attendance are British International at the top spot with 830, HeadStart with 374 followed by Phuket International Academy hosting 318 students.

Of the newer entries, Kajonkiet International School has surged over just a few operating years and now plays home to 224.

While the term 'international' may lead readers to believe all the students are non-Thai, the reality is that within this segment, Thai nationals account for 39% and

foreign students 61%. One very relevant metric is the equation of households, meaning families with multiple students in a school, which surpassed 60% in the majority of the larger facilities.

As for the top three English or Chinese language programs at Thai institutions, these ranked with Phuket Thai Hua at 1,821, Kajonkietsuksa School at 1,376 and Darasamuth at 1,013. A total of 4,805 students attend institutions in this segment where Thai nationals make up 92% of the total student composition, though there are 358 foreign children, or

8%. As a key market player, the Kajonkiet Group operates four schools across both sectors.

One key driver of Phuket's attractiveness is the eligibility for foreigners to obtain a Thai non-immigrant education visa (ED) for students and O type for dependent guardians. There is one O visa allowed per student, and this requires 500,000 baht to be deposited into a Thai bank for three months or else 1mn baht for two guardians. There are well over 500 education visas issued within the schools researched by C9 Hotelworks.

Looking at the employment ben-

efits of the educational sector of international and foreign language schools in Phuket, there is a positive job creation of over 2,000 direct positions with the majority of these employees being Thai.

A secondary economic benefit is the demand it generates to the local real estate sector in terms of property sales and rentals. There are also cross benefits to automobile sales, consumer products, banking and the broader service sectors.

Overall education and the increasing critical mass of high-level schools to Phuket is helping create a key point of differentiation for the island, given its impressive scale, quality of facilities and increasingly global audience.

Next time you think Phuket is only a one-trick pony with a tourism-dominated business model, look into the real numbers of what is driving our growth and momentum.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks ([c9hotelworks.com](http://c9hotelworks.com)), a Phuket-based hotel and property consulting firm. His blog ([thephuketinsider.com](http://thephuketinsider.com)) is the source for all hotel and real estate news within greater Phuket.



# Express love for Hong Kong

By Oranee Hildebrand

IF YOU'VE been in business in Asia long enough, eventually you land in Hong Kong. We know the rigmarole: airport to hotel to meeting to hotel and back to the airport. So, despite having been to Hong Kong many times for business, I'd yet to actually tour the city.

I wouldn't have known what there is to see in Hong Kong if HK Express budget airlines hadn't scooped up members of Phuket's media and taken us on a tour.

Though, previously, Hong Kong had just been a day or two of business, it now opened up into an assortment of activities. There was shopping of course – shopaholics, either make sure you didn't sign a pre-nup or freeze your credit cards and leave them at home.

You can hunt down the perfect shoes, outfit or electronics by pounding the pavement one neighborhood at a time, or you can hit up CityGate Outlet or the other malls for some 'necessities'.

If you want to mix sightseeing with shopping it's best to jump on the Victorian-era train to the highest peak on Hong Kong island. One of the most popular attractions, The Peak provides stunning vistas, great shopping and plenty of dining options.

If mountain tops aren't what



The Hong Kong Wheel is yet another worthy site to add to any tourist's check list.

you're looking for, but you still want an aerial view of the city, head to the tallest building in Hong Kong, the International Commerce Centre.

Okay, not the most exciting name for the 100-storey building. However, the Sky 100 Hong Kong Observation Deck offers a spectacular 360-degree view of Hong Kong.

It's a stunning vista – day or night.

From there, it's simple to get back to any of the prestigious shopping malls, thanks to the well-designed public transportation network. More than 90 per cent of the daily commutes in Hong Kong are on public transport, making it the highest rate in the world, vastly

different than Phuket.

Another not-to-miss destination is Ocean Park Hong Kong – schedule a full day. If you have kids, get there early to avoid the afternoon crowd. The 13<sup>th</sup> most visited theme park in the world, Ocean Park has nearly everything: a marine mammal park, an oceanarium, an animal

theme park and an amusement park. Okay, maybe schedule two days for Ocean Park.

Inside the park you'll find Aqua City, which features a world-class Grand Aquarium with the world's largest aquarium dome at 5.5 meters in diameter and a 13m wide viewing panel.

If you're having lunch at Ocean Park, check out Tuxedos Restaurant and enjoy the company of 70 penguins playing on ice.

Now, about Hong Kong food: it could fill numerous novels. Though mainly influenced by Cantonese cuisine, Hong Kong dishes pull from all over the world to serve up a completely mind-boggling array of options.

Stuffed, roasted suckling pig, snake soup and egg waffles from Lee Keung Kee all deserve your attention. However, breakfast felt a little more familiar to my Thai pallet, with its original 'dim sum'.

For seafood lovers, head to Ting Kee Sea-Food Boat on Sea Side Road – it's a buoyant experience and the seafood hits the spot.

After a single trip – that could never be long enough – it turns out that beyond the meeting rooms there is an amazing collection of unique must-visit attractions and must-try dishes to provide tourists with diverse, fun-filled experiences in Hong Kong.



Who knows what you might put in your mouth in Hong Kong.



Don't miss out on some 'original' dim sum. Photo: Charlotte Marillet



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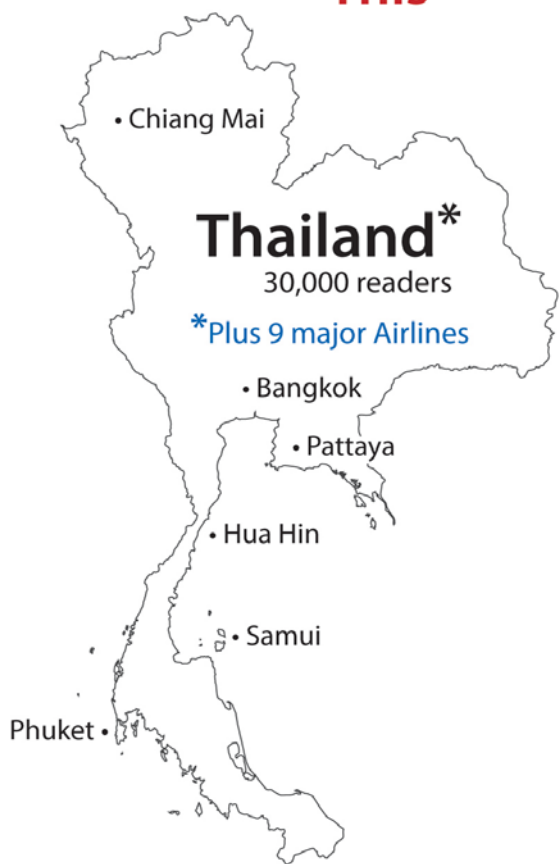
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# Safe cycling in Thailand

Looking at the nation's cycling issues through international eyes



## Blazing Saddles

By Baz Daniel

THE tragic events of the past year have raised the title of this article, 'Safe Cycling in Thailand' from a mere eyebrow-raising non sequitur, to the status of a full-blown oxymoron.

Following the litany of cyclists' deaths on Thailand's roads, many would say there is no such thing as safe cycling in Thailand and that the activity should be banned from the country's bloodied tarmac.

Sadly for Thailand and its all important 'image', some of the accidents have garnered worldwide attention as they involved cyclists who were on global long-distance trips to raise funds for various worthwhile causes. These tragic victims of Thailand's immensely dangerous driving culture had successfully navigated their way across many countries prior to arriving in the Land of Smiles, only to be mown down by inept, careless or inebriated drivers for the entire world to see and report.

On February 18, 2013 Britain's *Guardian* newspaper ran this story:

"A British couple's round-the-world cycling odyssey ended in tragedy when both of them were killed in a road accident in Thailand.

Peter Root and Mary Thompson, who had been chronicling their journey in a blog, died on Wednesday when they were hit by a truck in a province east of Bangkok. The couple, both 34 and from Guernsey in the Channel Islands, had been cycling through Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia and China since July 2011.

Thai police said that investigators found their bodies, their bicycles and their belongings scattered along a roadside, along with a pick-up truck that crashed



Britain's National Cycle Network is a classic example of how to separate cyclists from other road users.

between some trees. The truck driver, 25-year-old Worapong Sanghawatt, was seriously injured in the crash and faces charges of causing death by dangerous driving."

And this one appeared in the *Daily Mail* earlier this year:

"A Chilean cyclist's quest to bike around the world in five years has ended with his death in a road accident in northeast Thailand.

Police say the 47-year-old Juan Francisco Villa Honorato was hit by a pick-up truck and immediately killed on a highway in Nakhon Ratchasima province. Col Torsak Thammingmongkol says the driver was arrested on a charge of causing death by dangerous driving and released on bail."

Clearly these tragedies are a public relations nightmare for Thailand and make a mockery of recent assertions from the Tourism Authority of Thailand that they plan to promote the Kingdom as a cyclist-friendly destination.

These recent disasters also prompted a typically ill-thought-out knee-jerk reaction from top officials at the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and the Department of Land Transport who suggested that a cycling licence was the way to make Thailand's roads safer.

Just for the record, Thailand used to have a law requiring cyclists to get a cycling licence. It was introduced 80 years ago when bicycles and other non-

motorized vehicles were still a major mode of travel and it was revoked in 2003 because it no longer made sense.

In fact, licences have nothing to do with Thailand's appalling driving conditions, the deaths and injuries from which are the second worst in the world per capita.

Under existing laws, all vehicle drivers are supposed to carry a current licence and their doing so makes not one iota of difference to the savage aggression and stupidity which is the daily norm on Thailand's roads.

A vast majority of cyclists are also drivers of other motor vehicles and know only too well the extreme danger of taking to Thailand's roads

on a bicycle. Only a highly skilled and confident cyclist would do so and so a test of cycling competency is an entirely redundant piece of grandstanding which fails to address the real solution to the problem.

Thailand's vehicle drivers will never improve, and so the real solution to the cycling carnage is to separate cyclists and other road users to the greatest degree possible.

Britain's National Cycle Network, founded 20 years ago, is a classic working example of this concept. It is a series of safe, traffic-free paths and quiet on-road cycling and walking routes that connects to every major town and city in Britain. The Network passes within two kilometers of half of all homes in the country and stretches over 22,000 kilometers across the length and breadth of the UK.

Almost five million people use the National Cycle Network, not just for cycling, as the routes are also popular with walkers, joggers, wheelchair users and horse riders too.

Phuket is a prime location in which Thailand could start introducing such segregated cycling and walking trails. Around the Bang Wad Dam, or closing off the Nai Harn Lake loop, or the Mai Khao loop at various times for non-motorized use would be easy options to start with.

Promoting bike rentals, food and drink stalls and post-ride massages are easy ways to monetize such an initiative and offset administrative costs.

All this takes is a little planning, the political will to support it, plus clean and transparent management.

Could such positive steps be fostered in Thailand as a way of at least building a positive response to the awful biking tragedies that have already occurred here?

Only time will tell.



Top officials at the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and the Department of Land Transport recently suggested that a cycling licence was the way to make Thailand's roads safer.



# Fixie passion gives birth to criterium

By Pruth Kulprasit

ONE man's love of fixed-gear cycling races gave birth to the Southern criterium which took place in Saphin Hin, Phuket Town last month.

Vissaves 'Bon' Kumphanthong, owner of Cuca Bike, event organizer and director of the Bangkok Criterium, got hooked on cycling only a few years ago.

"It was between 2009 and 2010 that I started looking for a sport that could improve my health, and I settled on cycling," Bon says. "I wanted a bike that looked awesome and unique, so I ended up settling on a fixed-gear bike."

A fixed-gear bicycle, commonly known as a 'fixie', is a bicycle that has a drivetrain with no freewheel mechanism, and has become increasingly popular over the past 15 years.

There were several major hurdles for Bon after he became a fixie owner. The first was the difficulty of finding a bike shop that could repair, maintain and modify the bike. So, he opened up his own shop – Cuca Bike.

During that time, Bon began establishing his 'biker gang' – Fixed Family Thailand – which consisted of 30 to 40 people who zipped around the streets of Bangkok at night.

"The style of the bike and the sensation we caused got a lot of attention. Some people even joined the family," Bon says.

After a certain point, just riding with 'the family' wasn't enough. Bon wanted to race fixies.

"That's how the Bangkok Criterium was born," Bon says.

The inaugural event, 'The Knight Criterium', was held in December 2011. There were about 30 racers, and the entire event was sponsored by Bon's friends, who also own bike shops around Bangkok.

"It was a small event, but we received lots of positive feedback. Many cyclists wanted to know what a 'criterium' was and wanted to race in the next one," Bon says.

After that, the event began to pick up momentum – the kind of thing a fixed-gear cyclist knows exactly how to handle.

"The next event was held in the beginning of 2012. I was pretty prepared, and knew how to organize the event and how to find sponsors for prizes," Bon says. "There were about 200 participants that time and it came together beautifully, with a lot of post-event coverage on social media sites."

The event was big enough to catch the eye of Cinelli Thailand. The Italian bicycle manufacturing company, based in Milan, mostly



The momentum of wanting to find a healthy exercise led Bon to eventually organize the criterium in Bangkok and Phuket.

produces components for bikes, many of which are widely popular for converting road bikes to fixies. The company recently teamed

up with San Francisco based MashSF to create the popular 'Cinelli MASH' frames, which are widely used for fixies.

Cinelli Thailand got on board as a sponsor for the third Bangkok Criterium. The president of Cinelli, Antonio Colombo, took much interest in the event, and stepped in to back the fourth criterium – which had about 400 participants – with the full power of Cinelli.

Singha Corporation later took over as the main sponsor, backing Bon to arrange three events: one in Bangkok, one in Chiang Rai and one somewhere in Southern Thailand.

"I of course chose to hold the Southern Criterium in Phuket," Bon says.

Comments from the cyclists such as 'why pay a registration fee for such a short race, when cyclists can pay the same amount for a long race' made it clear to Bon that the community needed be educated about what a criterium entails.

"Once I started explaining how the race worked and the prize structure, there was a lot of interest and excitement," Bon says. "I actually couldn't allow anyone to register the day of the event because we already had so many participants."

"We will be bringing the event back to Phuket next year. It will be bigger and better."

The Phuket Gazette and PGTV were proud sponsors of the Southern Criterium 2015.

## Light the house for Jimmy

FRIENDS of an American Phuket expat, Jimmy Pearson, are staging a fundraising party at Dickie's Lighthouse in Chalong on June 24 to help support Mr Pearson's recovery from a recent stroke.

Mr Pearson, originally from California, suffered the stroke on June 10. Though he is recovering well, he now faces many months of physiotherapy to regain the use of the left side of his body.

Mr Pearson's friends are hoping that this event will raise funds to help cover some of his medical expenses. The Gazette has been told that the organizers are currently gathering prizes for a raffle.

Mr Pearson is best known as 'the Jimmy' from Jimmy's Lighthouse – now known as Dickie's Lighthouse – located on the beachfront near Chalong Pier.



Mr Pearson suffered a stroke.

Dickie's Lighthouse, for many years after it opened in 1988, was one of the few places on Phuket where expats could find good 'food from back home'.

If you cannot make it to the fundraising event and would like to make a donation, contact the Facebook group Jimmy's Lighthouse Phuket. – *Phuket Gazette*

## Chalong art evolution

BELIEVE it or not, chaotic Chalong is slowly evolving into a destination where people want to live and tourists want to visit. Thanks to entrepreneurs like Oliver Schibli, who has opened his own art gallery, Bubu Collection, next to Wine Connection, people now have somewhere to go to look at beautiful creations.

Oliver first arrived on Phuket from his native Switzerland in 2012, and was very impressed with the easy-going lifestyle of this tropical island.

"I've always worked on creative projects. I completed a four-year art program in Berne and worked as a sign maker, as I like the creativity and use of big color. I also work with sound and have organized electronic music festivals near the Matterhorn," he says.

Music is important for Oliver when he paints or fashions a sculpture. He listens to what he calls 'life lines' while he paints.

"I work with a very strong color palette as the intensity puts me in a good mood, one that I want to share with others," he explains.

He's opened Bubu Collection, which he calls an Art of Living Gallery, and now his customers can find a whole world of bright, colorful objects to animate their home or office.

Oliver's paintings often celebrate the female form in a graphic style. He fashions art lights made from mannequins.



Head to the Bubu Collection in Chalong to be inspired.

His gallery has a world of interesting accessories, lacquer boxes, hats and even painted elephants. Currently, he is designing brightly colored scarves with custom-made boxes that can be given as unique, splendid gifts.

"I love my work as an artist and not being confined to an office job. I want to express my ideas

through art and share them with my customers," Oliver says.

– *Bruce Stanley*

Oliver welcomes guests to Bubu Collection. He is usually at his desk designing yet another exciting piece of art, always with a smile on his face. You can contact him for a personal viewing at [info@bubucollection.com](mailto:info@bubucollection.com)

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# Design an aerie in Eden

IN A previous article, I wrote about an extraordinary mountain top project in Cebu, in the Philippines. My brief for this project was to suggest plants for such an environment. We started with an obvious choice: bromeliads.

Another very different kind of epiphyte (air plant) is the staghorn fern. Ferns traditionally grow in shade and need moisture – there are a few Boston ferns under the shelter of overhanging rocks in this site – but the fern I had in mind was the huge staghorn, or *platycerium*. These dramatic plants do best when attached to a tree trunk, where they can collect water and fragments of debris.

If most ferns are therefore unsuitable for our requirements, cacti are the bee's knees. Desert plants – accustomed to full sun and equipped with shallow, wide root systems which can cope with habitats of low fertility – have the added ability to thrive on limited water resources, such as mist and dew.

They inhabit some of the driest places on earth and come in all shapes and sizes. While most are spiny, the epiphytic *riphsalis* has narrow, dangling leaves and can be planted in cracks with some compost and draped over rocks or roots. Others – the globular *ferocactus* or the rosette-shaped *crassula* come to mind – form neat shapes, which would add character and variety to bare rock.

They are worth introducing to this aerie.

Other succulents include the genus of aloes, evergreen plants that grow either in rosettes or in spirals, and are usually sharp-toothed and lance-shaped. Red or yellow tubular flowers appear annually. Popular because of their striking form and ability to



## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

tolerate poor soils, succulents are handsome and durable plants. For an example, *A. arborescens* grew on rocky outcrops near my house in southern Spain. I would have no hesitation in recommending it here.

*Yuccas*, already in evidence on the lower slopes, where there is enough dappled shade to support large clumps of ginger, again possess attractive lance-shaped leaves. Though not as statuary, they are hardy as the aloe in dry, exposed conditions and might well adapt to these conditions.

*Y. filamentosa* is the easiest variety to cultivate. It produces long, blue-green leaves from the center of which arise stems up to 10-feet tall, bearing masses of creamy flowers. Another yucca, *gloriosa* (Spanish dagger), comes in a variegated form.

Among other desert plants which need little maintenance, *euphorbias* and *adeniums* tend to be grown in containers in Phuket, but there is no reason why they should not flourish in this elevated fastness.

*Euphorbias* have vicious spikes – hence their nickname ‘crown of thorns’ – but there is also a small variety with a dense, bushy habit and masses of brilliant scarlet flowers.

*Adeniums* (desert roses) are shrubs that have gray, often bulbous trunks and prominent roots. Known in the Philippines by the bizarre name of ‘Bangkok calachuchi’, they can tolerate full sun and meager soil. The trumpet-shaped flowers come in white, pink or brilliant red.

It is essential to study the local flora to see which plants have already habituated to this often hostile environment. Bougainvilleas are one such shrub. They could be encouraged to climb into the existing banyan trees or over the crags. They have



**Arborescens can tolerate poor soils and are handsome plants.** Photo: Andrew massyn

serpentine roots and bloom best in full sun.

Too much sun may in fact be an issue for the ground cover plant which does so splendidly in the established landscape below. There, it has covered the moist, shady slopes with a green carpet dotted with yellow, vetch-like flowers. Up here, at least in the most exposed situations, it looks less at home. Maybe it is worth trying *wedelia*. With its golden, star-shaped flowers and rapid capacity to creep, *wedelia* will flourish in full sun. Another plant that can provide a bi-colored green and purple display is the spiderwort (*rhoeo spathacea*). Arranged in

dense clumps or even singly, *sundang hari* should fare as well amid the high-rise rocks.

There will be losses and failures. But what an awe-inspiring project it is. Only a remarkable imagination could conceive such a synthesis of art and nature. As the man said: Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured you can email Patrick at: [drpaccampbell@gmail.com](mailto:drpaccampbell@gmail.com). Further information about this gardening series and Patrick's other work can be accessed at:

[patrickaccampbell.wordpress.com](http://patrickaccampbell.wordpress.com)



Only a remarkable imagination could conceive such a synthesis of art and nature, says Patrick.



## Tip of the Week

### Dried flowers

WHILE dried flowers are no substitute for the vibrant hues of freshly cut ones, they can nonetheless look very attractive when artistically arranged in a vase. In Europe, we sought the beautiful seed heads of reed mace, better known as bulrushes. Dried hemlock and hogweed, with their long stems and circular umbels, always looked good, as did teasels and spindle berries. Relatively easy to find growing, you cut them and hang them upside down to dry out and stiffen. Perfumed lavender was also a favorite.

Here, oddly, the choice seems more limited, perhaps because the plastic copies are now so lifelike. Index, for example, has a huge range. Personally, I prefer the real thing – if you can locate it. Lotus seed heads on long stems look dramatic, as do the



**Dried flowers are attractive.** Photo: Mohammed Shamma

oval seed pods of large poppies. Dried grasses too. I have also seen statice, which retains its color, as does the shorter daisy-like *helichrysum* or straw flower.

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## SPORT

# Local swimmers rule SEA Games

IT WAS an incredible showing for Phuket in the pool at Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Singapore, with 13 medals won thanks to the combined efforts of British International School Phuket (BISP) and Thanyapura.

On May 28, BISP Year 11 student Fukang Wong stole the show with a blistering second 50 meter of the 100m breaststroke to move from third to first in the final 25m of the race and take gold for Team Malaysia with a time of 1:02.46 minutes.

Next up was Year 11 student Phiangkhwan Pawapotako, racing in the 200m individual medley for Team Thailand. Phiangkhwan pulled into a clear second-place position by the final turn, but needed to fight the final length to hold off a fast finishing Singaporean. She took second place with a final time of 2:18.56 minutes.

The day before, Phiangkhwan claimed BISP's first medal at the Games: a silver medal in the 400m individual medley, just behind Vien Thi Anh from Vietnam. Phiangkhwan got a new personal best, another Olympic qualifying standard in the medley events and a World Championship qualifying time for Kazan, Russia.

On the penultimate day of competition, BISP swimmers bagged another two med-

als in the women's 4x100m medley relay final, with Phiangkhwan leading the Thailand team to silver and Roxanne helping win bronze for the Philippines.

Phiangkhwan also seized a silver and set a Thailand National record with a 2:31.51 minute time in the 200m breaststroke.

Patarawadee Kittiya and Kornkanjana Sapianchai of Thanyapura netted four silver medals. They also broke Thai National records in the 4x200m freestyle, 4x100m freestyle and the 4x100m individual medley.

Peerapat Lertsathapornsuk of Thanyapura, who has a wildcard to the Rio Olympics 2016, ended up missing the podium with a fourth place finish.

However, both Phiangkhwan and Fukang now have three Olympic and World Championship qualifying times between them.

"Over the week, our BISP swimmers have given it their all," said BISP / JSA Swim Academy Head Coach Simon Jones, who was also head coach for Team Thailand at the SEA Games.

"It's been a truly wonderful experience, and for myself, an honor to have represented Team Thailand as a coach."

— *Phuket Gazette*



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