

Phuket Gazette

August 1 - 7, 2015

Now inside **THE NATION** every Saturday

56 Pages / 20 Baht

■ 'THERE ARE NO LAWS ABOUT THIS WE CAN ENFORCE'

Drive at your own Risk

■ Signs of roadway troubles lead officials down dangerous path

By Chutharat Plerin

CONFRONTED with a never-ending array of road-construction projects from multi-million-baht underpasses to reparation of enormous potholes, drivers travelling on Phuket's roads – some of the most dangerous in the world – do so at their own risk, confirmed officials this week.

The issue of road construction safety measures was thrown into sharp focus after a Phuket lawyer flipped his more than 3-million-baht BMW Z4 at the Samkong underpass construction site on the bypass road, and a 10-million-baht-compensation demand was voiced by a mother whose child was killed when their vehicle crashed into an unmarked sinkhole.

An estimated 26,312 people die in traffic accidents in Thailand every year, putting it at ninth place among the top 10 countries with the deadliest roads in the world, according to the World Health



Many attempts have been made to fix a stretch of road leading to BISP. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

Organization. However, when measuring traffic deaths per 100,000 people, Thailand takes the silver with 44 deaths, according to a study published last year by the University of Michigan's Transportation Research Institute.

"Our office is aware that road surfaces are sometimes not safe for motorists due to construction. However, we do demand that construction companies follow site-safety standards," confirmed Samak Luedwonghad, director of the Phuket Highways Office.

There are no laws set in place that allow local government officials to take action if a company fails to comply with the standards.

"Nobody wants accidents. Most compa-

nies follow the standards. When they fail to comply, we follow up. However, there are no laws that allow us to take direct action against them," Mr Samak said.

"If there is an accident, a formal investigation must be conducted and we will pay whatever compensation is deemed necessary based on our responsibilities in the eyes of the law.

"Nonetheless, drivers must use common sense when operating motor vehicles."

The United Kingdom's *Safety at Street Works and Road Works: A Code of Practice* is a 108-page text dictating exactly how to ensure the safety of both those using public facilities and the workers...

Continued on Page 5

Scamming metered-taxi drivers busted

SIX metered-taxi drivers were caught and charged for using tampered meters in a raid initiated by the Phuket Land Transport Office.

The arrests come on the heels of tourists filing complaints about the taxis.

Full story Page 3

BUSINESS



Banking in on the beauty and economy of 'Green Season' cruising grounds.

PROPERTY



Managing Director of Savills expects Chinese cash to trickle down.

LIFE&STYLE



Diving into the ethics of what we do below the surface of the big blue.

www.kisphuket.ac.th

KIS
Kajonkiet International School Phuket

EXCELLENT FACILITIES

SCIENCE LAB
COMPUTER SUITE

ART STUDIO
DESIGN & TECH ROOM

DRAMA & MUSIC STUDIO
1st CLASS SPORTS FACILITIES

YEAR 10 IGCSE
NOW OFFERED

UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
International Examinations

edexcel
Approved Centre



Kiwi wakes up from coma

NEW Zealander Paul 'PJ' Lupi, who was seriously injured in an accident on Patong Hill on July 6, has woken up from a coma and is recovering from his injuries, his brother told the *Gazette* on July 23.

"He woke up and opened his eyes maybe a week ago. We are so glad he is able to respond to us now, squeezing our hands, looking at us, giving us a thumbs up," Mr Lupi's brother Mark Lupi said this morning.

As Mr Lupi's condition is improving, his family is hoping to take him home as soon as possible.

— *Kongleaphy Keam*

Myanmar man dies in crash

A MYANMAR worker died after falling off the rear of a pick-up truck when it was slammed by a sports utility vehicle (SUV) near Baan Jee Teng on Thepkasattri Road on July 26.

"At the scene we found a Myanmar worker named Soe Thue, 25, critically injured on the ground," Lt Col Sanit Nukong of the Thalang Police told the *Gazette*.

Mr Soe was rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital. However, he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Mr Soe had been sitting on the side of the truck bed when it was hit, said Col Sanit.

"The truck was driving in the right lane near the median when the SUV suddenly tried to merge into the lane and hit the left, rear side of the pick-up truck," Col Sanit explained.

"SUV driver Somwhung Ropkid was charged with reckless driving causing death."

— *Thawit Bilabdullar*

Officials raid bars for illegal activities



Governor Nisit Jansomwong ordered raids on several nightlife venues for underage drinking and other illegal activities. One popular spot in Phuket Town, Fubar, was charged for operating as a nightclub without permission. For the full story, visit PhuketGazette.net. Photo: PR Dept

Alleged love triangle leads to violence

POLICE have yet to press charges against two cousins who got into a fight on July 24 in Nai Yang, leaving one with a slashed neck and the other with a bruised face.

Halem Dami, 26, and his cousin Abdultolae Daso, 26, told police separately that they had gotten into a fight over a woman they were both interested in.

Lt Thanom Thongpan of the Tah Chat Chai Police said officers will not press charges against either of the men until they receive medical reports from the hospital and question the two men together.

— *Thawit Bilabdullar*

Rank pig farm inspected after complaints

VICE Governor Suthee Thongyam inspected a group of pig farms in Chalong on July 23 after villagers filed a complaint about foul smells and the pollution of a local canal.

The vice governor gave the business owners 45 days to clean up their act.

"The farms are on private land, so they have the right to run their businesses here. However, we did find activities that could harm the environment and affect public health," he said.

V/Gov Suthee said he would call together relevant authorities to determine the best way to address the issue.

"We will go again to observe whether or not conditions have improved. If not, we will take further action," he confirmed.

— *Kongleaphy Keam*

Contracts for underpasses inked Monday

CONTRACTS for the construction of two underpasses, one at Chalong Circle and the other at Bang Ku Intersection, were signed on Monday.

Work was expected to begin on Tuesday, Samak Luedwonghad, director of the Phuket Highways Office, told the *Gazette* on July 22.

Both projects will have to be completed within 780 days.

— *Chutharat Plerin*

Municipality ordered to fix locals' homes

VICE Governor Somkiet Sangkhaosuttirak ordered Rassada Municipality to repair damaged property or pay compensation within 60 days to villagers whose homes were damaged during a Rassada Municipality drainage ditch construction project in 2013.

After an inspection of the site, V/Gov Somkiet said that the construction of the drainage ditch must continue, but Rassada Municipality must pay

LOCAL NEWS Briefly

compensation or repair the walls within two months.

"If the municipality fails to compensate the homeowners, we will consider filing a complaint with police," he said.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Dozen injured after truck flips

A DOZEN people were injured on July 23 when a pick-up truck hauling migrant workers and a trailer with a backhoe flipped in northern Phuket.

"At the scene we found a pick-up truck flipped over on the side of the road. Nearby, there was a trailer and a backhoe also flipped," said Lt Kraisorn Boonprasob of Thalang Police.

"There were 12 Myanmar migrant workers riding in the bed of the truck. Two of them sustained broken arms while the other 10 received minor injuries. All were taken to Thalang Hospital."

"Near the PTT gas station in

Muang Mai, the trailer somehow became loose and caused the pick-up truck to flip," Lt Kraisorn said.

Wisut Chuayprakong, the driver, has been charged with reckless driving causing injuries.

— *Thawit Bilabdullar*

Section of Koh Kaew-Kathu shortcut closed

ACCESS to Soi Koh Kaew 33 from Thepkasattri Road, behind the Isuzu showroom in Koh Kaew, has been closed off as repairs are made to a roadside retaining wall.

Construction is expected to be complete within 60 days.

"During construction the road will be closed. There will only be one lane for exiting to Thepkasattri Road," said Khuakiet Chitkhua, president of Koh Kaew Tambon Administration Organization.

"We can not let vehicles access Soi Koh Kaew 33 because it is very dangerous. We don't want any accidents happening."

"For now, you can take alternate routes. There are many back roads that are connected." — *Nichana Madsatool*

CARDIO STRENGTH ACCESSORIES SERVICE & SOLUTIONS

THAILAND PREMIER HOME AND COMMERCIAL FITNESS EQUIPMENT SUPPLIER

Tel: 076 261 966-7, E-mail: ts2@sportathlon.co.th
Fax: 076 261 968
108/74 Chalermprakiat Rd. T. Rassada, Phuket, 83000
www.sport.co.th

SPORTathlon

Taxi drivers caught rigging meters, cheating customers

By Kongleaphy Keam

SIX metered-taxi drivers were caught and charged for using tampered meters in a swoop initiated by the Phuket Land Transport Office on July 24.

"We mounted the raid after many complaints were filed by both tourists and locals about high fares being charged for metered taxis in Phuket," said Phuket Land Transport Office [PLTO] Chief Teerayout Prasertphol on Tuesday.

The six drivers were fined 2,000 baht each for replacing the meters that they had registered with PLTO.

"The starting fare is normally 50 baht, increasing by 12-baht increments per kilometer. However, these meters were clocking up higher fares than that," Mr Teerayout said.

"Many people ask why we don't check taxis at the airport, but we can't, as the taxis have yet to start driving. The route to Patong is the best spot to catch them."



Six taxi drivers were caught rigging their meters for higher fares last week. Photo: PLTO

PLTO officers said they will continue to focus on the problem and execute more raids in the future.

Despite complaints about high taxi rates, Mr Teerayout told the *Gazette* that fares would not be reduced in Phuket.

"The standard fare will be

maintained. However, we will work hard to deal with taxi fraudsters who increase fares," said Mr Teerayout.

In light of the current raids, Governor Nisit Jansomwong will be issuing a press release next week about the upcoming launch of the mobile phone

application GrabTaxi that he tabled earlier this month.

"I think the GrabTaxi app will help improve the taxi system in Phuket. Since the customers and the drivers will be dealing with each other through an app, less fraud will occur," Mr Teerayout added.

New prison construction set to begin this month

CONSTRUCTION of the long-awaited Phuket Provincial Prison is set to break ground in August, the prison chief confirmed to the *Gazette* on July 25.

The new prison will relieve some of the pressure on the current facility, which has a capacity of 800 prisoners but detains more than 3,000.

"The new facility will be a top-of-the-line design and have more modern security measures. It will have a capacity of 3,000 inmates," said Phuket Provincial Prison Chief Pichit Wanajit.

Mr Pichit said that construction on the new facility will be completed in 2018.

"The new prison will house only male inmates while the current prison will then detain female inmates," he said.

Mr Pichit also confirmed that the budget for the new prison had been slashed from an original 1.1 billion baht to 796 million baht.

— Chutharat Plerin

Russian tourist facing charges of reckless driving for fiancée's death

A RUSSIAN man who has recovered from a coma resulting from a road accident in Kata on July 4 faces charges of reckless driving causing the death of his fiancée.

Sergey Koltsov, 24, and Marina Smirnova, 19, were driving their rented motorbike on Taina Road in Kata when they crashed into a Karon Police patrol car.

"According to eyewitnesses, they tried to turn right. However, they were startled by an oncoming car and overcorrected, smashing into the patrol car," Lt Santichai Srimai of Karon Police told the *Gazette* on Monday.

The two were taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where Ms Smirnova died from her injuries on July 10 and Mr Koltsov lay in a coma until last week.

"We informed the Russian embassy of Ms Smirnova's death and her body was taken to Russia a few days later," Lt Santichai said.

Ms Smirnova's family, how-



Russian couple Sergey Koltsov and Marina Smirnova got into an accident while driving on Taina Road. Photo: Google maps

ever, did not blame Mr Koltsov for the accident.

"Ms Smirnova's family said that she and Mr Koltsov were about to get married. They were very upset about their loss," Lt Santichai said.

"Mr Koltsov was discharged from hospital early last week.

However, we have yet to question him about the accident."

Officers have already pressed charges of reckless driving causing death, but will wait until Mr Koltsov has fully recovered before questioning him.

— Kongleaphy Keam



NIKKI BEACH

دبي

DUBAI

ARE YOU READY?

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2015

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2015

NIKKI BEACH DUBAI OPENING SOON

CELEBRATE WITH US AND REMEMBER

Tell Only Your Best Friends

TEL.: +66(0)76-681-161 | RESERVATIONS.PHUKET@NIKKIBEACH.COM

WWW.NIKKIBEACH.COM

PM Prayut puts Krabi coal plant on pause

By Chutharat Plerin

PRIME Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha has ordered the hotly-debated coal-fired power plant project in Krabi to be put on hold until a joint committee ensures that all steps of the pre-construction process have been legally carried out.

The prime minister's order ended a 14-day protest on July 23 in Bangkok.

About 100 Krabi residents and environmental activists had gathered to demand a reply from the prime minister over their call to postpone the project's bidding, *The Nation* reported.

Anti-coal activist Prasitchai Noonual told *The Nation* that the protesters were pleased with the government's decision to set up a joint committee to discuss, study and improve the plan to build the 800MW coal-fired power plant in Krabi.

Krabi Provincial Adminis-



Greenpeace activists hang from a cliff in Railay Bay to protest the coal plant. Photo: Greenpeace

tration Organization Vice President Kittichai Angchuan told the *Gazette* on July 24 that he is also impressed by the prime minister's move, which will allow local residents to be more involved in the project.

"Our two weeks of protest-

ing ended when PM Prayut put the project on hold. It will be on hold until it is clear that the Environmental Impact Assessment [EIA] report has passed through every step of the legal process," said Mr Kittichai.

"We are happy with the

result of our actions. The project is on hold and we are now a part of the project's standing committee. I'm glad PM Prayut listened to us."

Mr Kittichai said that the 100-person-strong protest started in front of the Ministry

of Tourism and Sports before moving in front of the Government House.

"Krabi residents Prasittichai Noonual and Akkaradet Chakjinda even fasted in Bangkok for the entire 14 days. They were calling for the government to look deeper into the plan for the power plant," Mr Kittichai added.

"We do not think Krabi needs this power plant. We can produce enough power to support the southern provinces without it."

Mr Kittichai said that a date had yet to be set to discuss the project further.

"We will keep an eye on all parties involved to make sure that no one breaks this agreement," he added.

The coal-fired power plant proposed for Krabi's Nua Klong district has drawn much resistance and prompted many protests from locals and environmental activists over the years.

Thank you Phuket Fertility Center for fulfilling our family dream

"Yesterday, we felt a missing piece in life. Today, we have a dream come true thanks to cutting-edge IVF technology."



Dr. Sasiya Metatratip
Obstetrician & Gynaecologist
Reproductive Medicine
Phuket Fertility Center

Mr. David Lawry and Ms. Prakhong Donla, both Phuket residents, felt on top of the world when their baby boy, Samuel Somkit Lawry, was born on 24 February 2015 by virtue of Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI).



For more information, please contact us at Call Center 1719, or e-mail: info@phukethospital.com
BangkokPhuketFertilityCenter

Call. 1719
www.PhuketHospital.com



โรงพยาบาลกรุงเทพ
BANGKOK HOSPITAL
ภูเก็ต • PHUKET

Pink chickens outrage activists on Koh Lanta



Bright colored fowl being sold as kids toys caught the attention of tourists on Koh Lanta. Photo: Ian@ThePaperboy.com

A CLUTCH of brightly colored baby chicks tied up in a plastic bag has outraged foreigners visiting Koh Lanta, south of Phuket.

Tourist Gina Jones, 33, and her husband were strolling down a beach on Koh Lanta when the bright colored fowl being sold as kids caught their attention, reported *The Daily Mail*.

The pair then took a video of the dyed chicks and posted it on YouTube, unleashing heavy criticism and claims of animal cruelty.

In response to the posting of 'Chicks dyed and sold in plastic bags as TOYS on Thai island' online, Koh Lanta District Chief Duriyan Narongkul ordered an investigation.

"Though we are searching for the vendors, I'm not really sure what we could do if we did

find them. It is unclear if such a practice is really animal cruelty or not," Mr Duriyan said.

"Chickens are not a protected species, so people have the right to own them and sell them.

"It is actually normal to see dyed chickens being sold throughout Thailand – not just on Koh Lanta. Perhaps it was just shocking to the visitors."

However, Mr Duriyan did point out that if they caught vendors torturing the chicks by keeping them in completely sealed containers where breathing properly would be an issue, his team would take action.

"First, we would ask them to stop what they were doing. If they failed to comply, we would ask them not to sell such chickens in the Koh Lanta area," he said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Dangerous cracks in road system

From Page 1

... repairing them. The primary question that those conducting roadworks, according to the manual, ask is: Will someone using the road or footway from any direction understand exactly what is happening and what is expected of them?

The simple answer in the case of the mother of seven-year-old Molly Anne Bailey, who died in a crash into a sinkhole in 2014, was no.

"I was fully aware of the sinkhole. I knew it since the first day, a month before the accident," explained Nitikarn Rotrattanachai. "On the night of the accident, I didn't see any road lights, warnings – nothing at all. I was driving with my low-beams on and they couldn't reach the far side of the six-meter sink hole until it was too late."

Ms Nitikarn, who has changed her name and attempted to kill herself multiple times since her daughter's tragic death, explained that it was an exceptionally dark night and that she was driving less than 40km/h.

Despite the enormous sinkhole posing a lethal threat for more than a month, no contractor had started on the project.

"It takes time to establish the budget, get it approved and then start finding a contractor,"



Phuket has become spotted with roadworks projects from big to small.

ity was handed over from the Department of Rural Roads Phuket Office, confirmed department chief Teeraporn Jiraratnakorn.

"We build the roads and are currently in charge of about 113km of roads. However, eventually, the responsibility for maintenance is transferred to the local government body," Mr Teeraporn explained.

explained Srisoonthorn Mayor Worawut Songyos, who represents the municipality being charged for the death of Molly. "In this tragic case, we had already signed a contract with a contractor and the work supposed to start until the day after the accident."

The local government had been charged with maintaining the road after the responsibil-

Mr Worawut did not deny the municipality's responsibility in the accident. However, he declared that they could pay only a small amount of money for the life lost.

Mr Worawut went on to emphasize that the municipality had not abandoned the case, and asked that both Ms Nitikarn and society at large understand that a 10mn-baht

compensation went beyond their responsibility.

The municipality faces charges of negligence causing death, with the case expected to be handed over to the prosecutor in several weeks.

Unlike in the accident that led to the death of Molly, road construction was already well underway at Phuket's second underpass when local lawyer Rawit Manajira crashed his BMW Z4 into an enormous open hole along the roadside.

"I am now under treatment for my broken ribs, which will take about three months to heal," Mr Rawit told the *Gazette*. "At this point, I haven't filed a complaint against anyone for what happened. I just want to get well."

Those concerned that dangerous road conditions are being ignored by officials can file a complaint at the Damrongtham Center (ombudsman's office) at Phuket Provincial Hall, the center's chief Prapan Kanprasang explained.

"People who have any issues with local authorities are urged to come to our office, so that we can start investigating the situation," he said.

"However, in the case of poor road conditions, please ensure that you contact the proper authority before coming to us. If they fail to act, then let us know so we can investigate."

Chinese tour bus flips on bypass road

FOUR Chinese tourists were seriously injured when their tour bus flipped on Phuket's bypass road Sunday.

The accident occurred at about noon, opposite the Premium Outlet on the southbound side of the road. The bus was transporting 16 Chinese tourists, along with a tour guide, a guide assistant and the driver, from Phuket to Krabi.

Five people became stuck under the bus when it rolled onto its side, confirmed Maj Pornthip Chumsri of the Phuket City Police.

"It took about one hour to recover all of the passengers from the bus. They were immediately rushed to hospital once they were freed," said Maj Pornthip.

Huang Xiang; Sun Li; Chen Lihua; and Ma Ying are still recovering at Mission Hospital.

Thongkum Sae-Lee, 23, the tour guide assistant, sustained serious wounds but has already



Five people were trapped under the bus for nearly an hour.

been discharged by doctors. The remaining tourists and the driver suffered only minor injuries and have also been discharged from hospital.

Police questioned the driver, 25-year-old Danai Kumdee, and were told that he lost control of the bus during heavy rainfall.

"The driver picked up the tourists and drove them to lunch at the Bypass Seafood

restaurant. After lunch, the driver went to make a u-turn to head toward Krabi," said Maj Pornthip.

"It was raining heavily, and Mr Danai lost control of the bus during the u-turn, causing it to flip onto its side."

Mr Danai was charged with reckless driving causing serious injury.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

AMAZING THAILAND GRAND SALE 2015

15 JUNE – 15 AUGUST 2015

More great shopping with valuable offers at the Amazing Thailand Grand Sale 2015

- Enjoy discount offers up to 80%
- Get a chance to win "Travel 365 days in Thailand" for every 500 THB spent
- Get "double" chances when spend with Visa card

Step up to more and more offers at various stores in
BANGKOK • CHIANGMAI • PHUKET • HAT YAI • PATTAYA • HUA-HIN • UDON THANI

www.thailandshoppingparadise.com ThailandShoppingParadise

Queer News

Frenchman gets the point

PATTAYA: A French tourist who threw a beer bottle at a bar girl and then slapped her was left in a critical condition when she stabbed him in retaliation.

Tsunami alert '90pc success'

The tsunami fighting spirit

Hotels see 15pc rise in occupancy

By Athiga Jundee

PHUKET: Hotel rates on the island are expected to rise 15 per cent this year, according to a survey by the Phuket Hotel Association.

Number of 'ya bah' arrests 'increasing'

PHUKET CITY: The number of arrests for possession or use of ya bah (methamphetamine) has doubled since April, the Gazette has learned.

Limo drivers' protest fends off airport meter taxis

Limousine drivers' faces make it plain that they disapprove of plans to give meter taxis greater access to airline passengers.

Seven months after the wave, why is Kamala still like a garbage tip?

More than seven months after the tsunami hit, the clean-up effort in most parts of the island has been so well accomplished that some visitors to the island find it difficult to believe that a tsunami ever hit here. But there is one exception: little has been done to clean up badly-hit parts of Kamala – and local residents wonder why. The Gazette investigates.

The gift of hindsight

tracking, to playing games like Candy Crush.

Sadly, as of December last year, the NDWC application remained to be written only in Thai language despite being officially up and running since December 2012.

Most know Millionaire's Mile in Kamala, named long before the tsunami struck. However, the tsunami tore Kamala in half, and in the July 30, 2005 issue of the Gazette, the stretch of road was unofficially re-named 'Death Row', as piles of debris and rubble had been strewn along the Kamala beachfront.

Whether it was due to the story's call for action from the local government, or just the passing of time, 'Death Row' was not a name that stuck – and most of the island's newer expats have

always known it as 'Millionaire's Mile'.

However, the real shocker in the July 30 issue was just a 200 word or so story sitting at the bottom of page three: Number of 'ya bah' arrests 'increasing'.

That is not a surprise, given that the island is now knee deep in ya bah (methamphetamine).

So, what was the news?

Previously, Phuket City Police were catching people with only a handful of meth pills. However, come 2005, they were arresting people with 100 pills or more.

On June 16, in fact, 220 pills were seized in two cases. I am sure the police would have been beside themselves if they knew that in 10 years' time they would be confiscating thousands

of pills in single raids.

Just last week, two men were charged for moving 25,000 ya bah pills in Phang Nga to pay off a gambling debt.

This issue also touched on a problem that continues to plague the island: taxi drivers.

The airport 'limo' drivers successfully fended off efforts to set up a meter-taxi counter at the airport... you don't have to be an old dog on the island to know how this story ends up.

Then again, even after the National Council for Peace and Order swept the island free of illegal taxi drivers, we still don't really know what's going to happen in the future.

Let's wait and see where the government's next move – supporting GrabTaxi – leaves us.

– Isaac Stone Simonelli

PM Prayut takes US trafficking report in stride

THE government on Tuesday expressed its displeasure with the decision of the United States to keep Thailand at Tier 3 in its latest Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, but it vowed to continue combating human trafficking to meet international standards.

Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha said his government would not convey its disappointment to Washington, but would continue to comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking.

"It is all about the rules and international standards with which we have to comply. The problem has existed for a long time, so we have to solve it in all dimensions, including in legal aspects, working procedure and corruption," PM Prayut said.

"We don't do for any particular person but for our own country. Making things such as our fishing sector legitimate in order to avoid conflict with foreign countries."

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tanasak Patimapragorn said Thailand's placement in Tier 3 does not accurately reflect the significant efforts undertaken by the government.

Can't hide in the spotlight

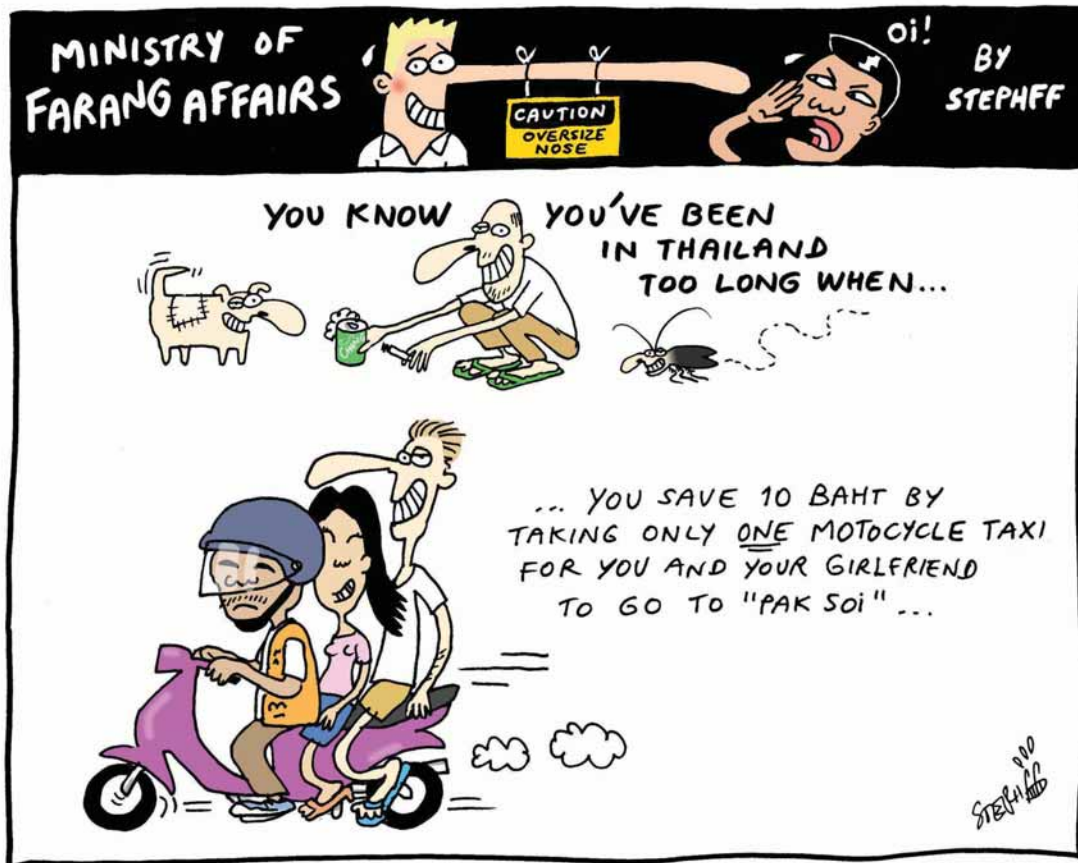
PHUKET has more than its fair share of people 'laying low' for one reason or another – most of them do a good job of it, as they've all managed to avoid the seductive pitfall of becoming actors for the silver screen.

Unlike those in Phuket, a fugitive bank-robber-turned-actor in the US was clearly doing it wrong.

Jason Stange was arrested in Washington state after US agents spotted his picture in a newspaper article about a low-budget horror film in which he plays an evil doctor, Reuters reported.

US Marshals, who had been tracking his disappearance for several months, identified him by the photo and a unique forearm tattoo.

Officers tracked him from a filming location to a store in Olympia, where he was arrested without incident on July 24 confirmed Chief Deputy Jack Williams.



General among 72 indicted for trafficking

THE government said on July 24 it would indict 72 people, including Lt Gen Manas Kongpan, who was charged with being a kingpin in the lucrative human trafficking trade.

The move comes after vast people-smuggling networks unravelled in May when thousands of migrants were abandoned in open waters by traffickers following a nationwide crackdown, a crisis that eventually forced a Southeast Asia-wide response.

Thailand has long been accused of ignoring official complicity in the multi-million-US-dollar trade, which had until recent months flourished through its southern provinces and into Malaysia.

DSI arrests four trapping Thais in KL sex trade

THE Department of Special Investigation (DSI) is taking action against two Malaysians and their Thai wives for luring Thai women into Malaysia's sex trade.

DSI officers have arrested Steven Low or Keng Siang Low, a Malaysian, and two Thai nationals, Ratchadaphan Saenkasem and Kallaya Somsri. The team is continuing to track down other Malaysian suspects.

NATIONAL NEWS Briefly

According to the DSI, the female suspects ran beauty salons, through which they falsely advertised that they could place interested Thai women in well-paying jobs in Kuala Lumpur-based spas and karaoke parlors. After the victims agreed to take up job offers, they were sent to Malaysia and locked up, and only allowed out to provide sexual services to customers.

Catalogs found at the place show that this gang may have lured more than 100 victims.

Police targeting influential figures in raids

CRIME Suppression Division (CSD) police officers and commanders on July 23 raided 11 locations belonging to alleged influential figures in Uthai Thani's Muang and Sawang Arom districts.

Most of the targeted premises were those of former or local politicians.

The 200-strong operation was led by acting CSD chief Akkaradech Pimolsri and CSD deputy chief Kornchai Klaikleung. It seized 20 guns, four bulletproof vests, two tiger skins, two pairs of wild-life horns and a clouded leopard carcass.

Col Kornchai said the operation was part of the Royal Thai

Police's policy to suppress crime, crack down on influential figures and hired guns. Police planned to submit the guns for ballistic testing and check if they were linked to any crime.

B400 subsidy for poor mums

THE government has prepared 600 million baht to pay a childcare subsidy for poor

mothers of children born from October 1, 2015 to September 30 next year.

Under this subsidy project, mothers will get 400 baht per month until their child is one year old.

Firm trying to calm locals about new mine

A MINING company has been trying to calm locals opposed to a new potash mine in Udon Thani by disseminating information, and explaining the environmental impact assessment (EIA).

Asia Pacific Potash Corp (APPC) said sharing information should help clear misunderstanding and facilitate efforts for it to start its potash mining in the northeastern province.

APPC's plan to start mining in Udon Thani has faced stiff opposition for years.

Justice sought for victims of crackdown

RELATIVES of people killed in the 2010 crackdown gathered at the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) on Monday to demand justice.

A representative of the group said they were concerned that the case had started to stagnate.

FOR ALL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENTS, HARDWARE & AIR CONDITIONERS GO TO KEEHIN

KEEHIN



OUR SERVICES

-SALES
-MAINTENANCE
-DESIGN
-CONTRACT WORK

ON BYPASS ROAD, PHUKET

Sales tel: 076 261450 fax: 076 261456-7
Service tel: 076 261460 fax: 076 261464

Email: keehinphuket@gmail.com www.keehin.com

BAANSUKAPUN



108/18, Chalermprakiet Rd (By Pass), T. Rassada, A. Muang
Tel: 076- 261 470 Fax: 076- 261 477 Email: sales@baansukapun.com

Packed prison

CREDIT is owed to the government for finally coming through with funding to build a much-needed and long overdue new prison facility for Phuket (see page 3).

It is well known that the existing Phuket Provincial Prison is dangerously overcrowded. With a maximum capacity of just 800, the 115-year-old facility currently holds more than 3,000 inmates – a recipe for disaster if there ever was one.

Considering the harsh conditions, Phuket Provincial Prison Chief Pichit Wanajit and his wardens deserve a great deal of praise for somehow having avoided any major disturbances.

Whether staff at Phuket Prison can keep this positive track record going until the new prison is completed in 2018 is anyone's guess, especially as the prison population there appears to always be increasing.

Though the *Gazette* agrees with the decision to house only male prisoners at the new facility and keep female inmates at the current facility, another idea deserves careful consideration. The old prison should be used as a 'remand facility', one which detains suspects whose cases are still being tried and who have not yet been formally convicted.

In most prison systems the legal adage 'innocent until proven guilty' is reflected in the detention system and suspects still on trial are held separately from convicts.

Using the existing prison as a remand facility would eliminate the need to truck male suspects all the way back downtown for court hearings, which would only add more traffic chaos to our already overcrowded streets.

While considerably less than the amount previously announced, the 796-million-baht budget for construction of the prison should be enough to build a facility not only capable of detaining inmates in a more humane manner, but also of providing more room for vocational training classes to help inmates cope with the daunting reality of rejoining society.

From a broader perspective, the government should take a hard look at the make up of the prison population nationwide and ask itself how many of those incarcerated truly pose a threat to society. About three-quarters of inmates in most provincial prisons are in for drug-related convictions.

As previously opined in this space, we feel that the overcrowding situation is a clear sign that sentencing for conviction of crimes such as possession of Category 5 substances like *kratom* or marijuana would be the best place to start in order to ease the overcrowding in these facilities.



Safety first: Protecting Phuket's visitors

While some welcome cash-rich Chinese tourists, but others don't, there is no denying the benefits that Thailand enjoys from this influx, as its coffers are getting filled with the flow of funds from China.

However, authorities should stringently enforce laws and regulations on tour operators and tour bus drivers not only for the safety of what some would call an 'army' of Chinese tourists but also those enjoying a vacation here.

It was troubling to read that a bus carrying Chinese tourists flipped over and crashed on the side of bypass road this week, and while fortunately no one was killed in this accident, it is well worth remembering that Chinese tourists are the biggest group of visitors to Thailand, with hoteliers recently predicting that tourist arrivals from China will increase by up to 25 per cent a year over the next three years.

Are tour operators using well-maintained tour buses and are these tour bus drivers competent to drive these large vehicles?

It's not good enough to smile about the money rolling in because some of it has to be spent on ensuring the safety of foreign visitors.

*Newcomer
Phuket Town*

Will this be another failed attempt?

Re: Gazette online, SIM card registration deadline swiftly

Letters to the Editor

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

approaching, July 25

Another well thought-out requirement. The exact same thing was done about 15 years ago. It failed then.

Why? Well, because terrorists were still able to make bombs with SIM cards that were able to receive phone calls.

*Agogohome
Facebook*

Risky road habits put lives in danger

Re: Gazette online, Myanmar worker dies in road smash, July 27

There have been so many road accidents lately involving workers.

How are these trucks allowed to drive around with people, sometimes 10 or more, in the back without any restraints in place for them?

This is particularly disconcerting when they are driving on very busy roads that require high speeds.

I was recently driving down Thepkasattri Road and saw four men sitting on top of the cab of a large moving truck with a crane attached.

If the driver were to brake quickly or swerve, one or more of these men could have easily fallen off and been killed

or seriously injured.

*Gary Simmons
Kathu*

Confused by the harsh charges

Re: Gazette online, Russian faces charges in fiancée's death, July 27

I really don't understand what the thought process behind charging this poor man for the death of his fiancée is.

The charge is reckless driving causing death. How reckless could he have been?

It just sounds like a sad accident to me.

I hope he and his fiancée's family find some peace after this horrible tragedy.

*Annie Thompson
Karon*

Could this really end well for Krabi?

Re: Gazette online, PM Prayut pauses hotly-debated Krabi power plant project, July 24

Although I'm not sure I agree with sitting in protest outside of government offices, I am happy to hear that the prime minister is listening to the people and taking the health of the environment seriously.

These protests have been going on for years. I hope a solution is found that is best for all, especially mother earth.

*Larry Styles
Layan*

Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

Managing Editor: Isaac Stone Simonelli

Managing Director: Oranee Hildebrand

General Manager: Natthira Susangrat

Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

Contact us:

Editorial: news@phuketgazette.net

Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net

Website services: anna@phuketgazette.net

Gazette Guide: guide@phuketgazette.net

Events Sponsorship: events@phuketgazette.net

General: info@phuketgazette.net

Telephone: 076 273555 (10 lines) **Fax** 076 615240

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

The views expressed in the Phuket Gazette are those of the writers and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Publisher, the Editor, the shareholders or the directors of The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd.

Volume 22 Issue 31

Copyright © 1994-2015 The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

Fishing for change

FIRST PERSON

THE Port In-Port Out (PIPO) Center, where fishing vessels weighing more than 30 gross tonnes must come to report their arrival and departure from Phuket, as well as other details of their activities, is just one piece in the puzzle of fighting illegal, unreported, unregulated (IUU) vessels. There are many other measures and departments needed to take care of the issue. We are just one of them.

What seems to be the biggest problem as of late, is that many fishing vessels are disobeying the law. On the other hand, some could be going out to fish without being aware of the law because no one is enforcing it. If officers do not strictly enforce the law, illegal fishing will continue.

However, the PIPO campaign, recently launched by Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha, can help to combat IUU fishing in Thai waters.

There are about 120 fishing boats that weigh more than 30 tonnes registered in Phuket. A total of about 200 legally registered fishing boats are operating here, including those registered elsewhere.

I think more than 80 per cent of Phuket's fishing boats are able to operate legally now, while the rest are working on becoming legal. We have no choice but to only allow legal boats to operate.

To eliminate IUU vessels



Capt Preecha Tuntiruk, 41, of the Third Naval Area Command is head of Phuket's Port In-Port Out (PIPO) Center. Originally from Samut Songkhram, Capt Preecha graduated from the Royal Thai Naval Academy in 1997.

Here, he talks about why

PIPO is necessary in Phuket and what role it takes in fighting the battle against illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing vessels.

from our waters, we need to work closely with other relevant departments to maintain control over many aspects of the industry, such as the total number of boats and how many can operate in a certain area.

In these cases, we need to work with the Department of Fisheries to determine whether or not fishing in a certain area is allowed, and to ensure that

the environment is being preserved and protected. This is essential to maintaining sustainable fishing practices.

We must work together to move forward the nation's strategy to take down IUU fishing and protect the environment.

We must keep what each fishing boat is doing in Phuket on record: when they come and leave, how much fish they have caught, who is the captain and how many crew are on-board and more.

We will add this information to a system that can be accessed

by all relevant authorities throughout Thailand. If a fishing boat leaves Phuket and goes to Ranong, Ranong authorities will already have all the information recorded about the boat and its crew, cargo and activities.

If something does not match up, the boat will be seized and an investigation will start.

Once all the boats are in the system, there will be no mistaking what is going on and illegal operations will be caught. The wrongdoers behind them will be arrested.

This process will take time. All legal things take time. Some parts of the process are beyond our authority and have to be sent to our superiors.

I know that Phuket fishermen probably complain about PIPO. However, they have been fully co-operating with our officers.

These new regulations are forcing some fishermen – many of whom have been doing this for decades – to change their behavior. They have gotten used to fishing without reporting anything to officers. This has to change.



Be sure to pay attention and follow the signs. Photo: John Loo

Taking up space

IF YOU have ever been to Tesco Lotus or Big C – I will go out on a limb to say that most of us on the island have – have you ever parked your vehicle in a handicap parking spot when you are not handicapped? I hope not.

If you have, stop being selfish and give the spot to the people who really need it.

When I was a teenager in university I would often ride my motorbike to Tesco Lotus or Big C. Many times I parked my bike in the handicap parking spot.

I suppose I justified my decision with thoughts like 'the motorcycle parking is too hot', 'the motorcycle parking is too far away' or 'I will only be parked here for a short period of time'.

Yes, all of these things are true, but what if a handicapped person needs to park close to the store and are not able to because the space is taken up by motorbikes or cars with drivers who are fully capable of parking farther away?

I once had a sprained ankle and needed a crutch to walk. My friend drove me in his car to Tesco Lotus to have some food. When we arrived, there

Island View

By Pruth Kulprasit

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

were no free handicap spaces available. They were full of motorcycles. I watched one man park his car in a handicap spot jump out and walk comfortably to the store.

This experience made me realize exactly how important it is to leave these spots open for people who need them. After that, I never parked in a handicap space again.

I continue to see non-handicapped people parking in these spots.

Often, it is a green-plate taxi driver who is either shopping or using the space to set up a taxi service desk.

If people continue to do this, the parking spots will never be free for those they are meant for.

I truly hope that behaviors like this disappear from our community.

Everyone must take responsibility for themselves and their actions. Start with improving yourself to make Phuket a better place for everyone.

Words from the Wise

“Surely someone who believes that God smiles on and rewards the deliberate killing and maiming of innocents believes in a cruel god. That is not, it cannot be, the God of Islam.”

– Judge George A O'Toole Jr, United States federal judge, in his formal confirmation of a jury's death sentence against Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, who was sentenced in June for the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings

Issues & Answers

Did the 'wai' greeting originate in Thailand?

THE *wai* tradition is really beautiful. Did it originate in Thailand? I am wondering because similar forms of greeting are also prevalent in other Asian countries.

Jason Connors
Karon

Jakapong Boonsawang, an official at the Phuket Cultural Office, replies:

Thank you for your question, *wai* is not originally a Thai

tradition. It came here from India and became popular in Thailand after Buddhism spread across southern Asia more than 2,000 years ago. Other Buddhist countries share the traditional greeting.

There are three levels of *wai*: For monks and Buddhist buildings, press your hands together, bow your head, place thumbs at eyebrow level and fingertips at forehead; For adults and esteemed individuals, press

your hands together, bow your head, keep thumbs at nose level while fingertips between eyebrows; For ordinary people or someone a little older than yourself, press your hands together, bow your head slightly, keep thumbs at chin level while fingertips at the nose tip.

You accept a *wai* from a younger person or people of the same age by pressing your hands together at chest level as a sign of respect.

Get smart with cyber security stocks

Finance

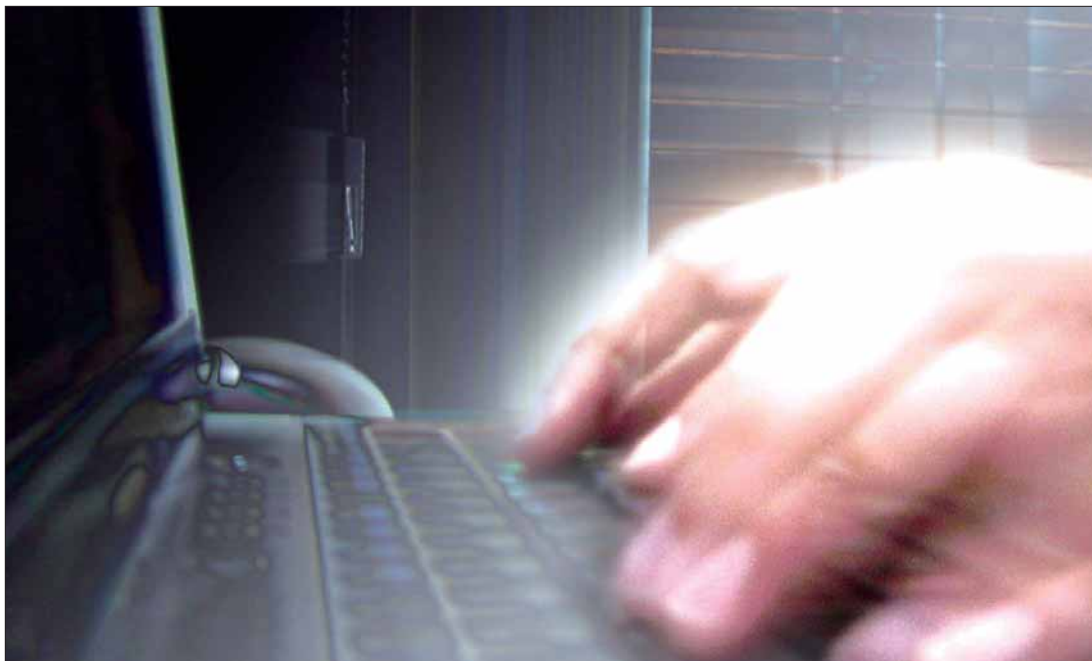
By David Mayes

THE recent New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) trading halt triggered a brief rush into cyber security stocks on renewed fears of yet another serious hack attack.

While that incident was apparently caused by a computer malfunction, it shows just how jumpy investors are when it comes to the possibility of a new high-profile hack similar to the one that hit Target in 2013, during which as many as 110 million customers may have had their personal data stolen, or the embarrassing Sony hack allegedly carried out by North Koreans, and then again with the recent news that the Chinese may have stolen employee data of millions of US Federal employees.

Given the steady stream of high profile hack attacks, investors might want to take a closer look at the following important cyber security stocks along with their returns:

Large cap Palo Alto Networks Inc (NYSE: PANW) offers an enterprise security platform with a firewall to prevent data leaks or hacks. Shares are up over 50% year to date (YTD), up around 145% over the past year and up almost 260% over the past five years.



Investors might want to take a closer look at cyber security stocks Photo: Davide Restivo

Israel-based large cap Check Point Software Technologies Ltd (NASDAQ: CHKP) offers a range of IT security products and services, including anti-virus products. Shares are flat YTD, up more than 20% over the past year and up over 140% over the past five years.

Mid cap Fortinet Inc (NASDAQ: FTNT) offers high performance network security products and services plus it has the third-highest market share in security appliances after Cisco Systems and Check Point. Shares are up nearly 40% YTD, up 75%

over the past year and more than 420% over the past five years.

Small cap Imperva Inc (NYSE: IMPV) offers cyber and data center security products. Shares are up 40% YTD, up 215% over the past year and up more than 160% since late 2011.

Israel-based small cap Cyberark Software Ltd (NASDAQ: CYBR) is focused on securing customers in the financial services, energy, retail and healthcare markets. Shares are up 41% YTD and up more than 85% since last September.

WHAT ARE INVESTOR RISKS?

Aside from the usual risks, it's worth mentioning that individual cyber security stocks tend to face intense competition globally, while small cap players may have limited product lines, markets, financial resources or experienced personnel.

There is also a limited pool of good IT security personnel who tend to command high salaries – meaning there is intense competition for staff at cyber security companies and their private or public

sector customers.

CYBER SECURITY ETF: A BETTER ALTERNATIVE

The PureFunds ISE Cyber Security ETF (NYSEARCA: HACK) was launched in November 2014 as the world's first cyber security ETF for investors who do not want the risks associated with choosing individual cyber security stocks.

HACK seeks to replicate (after an expense ratio of 0.75%) the price and yield performance of the ISE Cyber Security Index by investing in a portfolio of 32 stocks providing cyber security solutions that include hardware, software and services.

As of mid July, approximately 70% of the ETF was invested in US stocks with another 16% invested in companies based in Israel and the remainder in companies based elsewhere. HACK has also achieved a respectable performance of about 25.5% since its November inception and has a market cap at about the \$1.3 billion level.

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

Thaicom to spend B5bn in 2015

THAICOM will spend 5 billion baht this year, 3bn baht of which will go to the development of the Thaicom 8 broadcasting satellite.

The rest will be lent long term to its 51-per-cent-owned subsidiary Shenington Investments to pay for a 25-year extension of the telecom concession of Lao Telecommunications Co, which was originally due to expire in 2021, Suphatee Suthumpun, chief executive officer of

Thailand's sole satellite operator, said last week.

Shenington holds 49 per cent of Lao Telecom, which operates a telecommunications business in Laos.

Thaicom 8, which cost US\$150 million (5.17bn baht), is scheduled to be launched in the first quarter of next year and go into operation in the second half of that year. The company will pay about US\$100 million for this year's development cost.

– *The Nation*

HSBC urges one-stop service for IHQ

HSBC Thailand has urged the government to speed up establishment of one-stop services to streamline the process for multinational companies wanting to set up international headquarters (IHQ) in Thailand.

Thailand is becoming a regional hub for trading and financial services of multinational companies after the Cabinet adjusted tax measures to put the country on par with Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia to support the establishment of IHQs.

Applicants seeking to open an IHQ must have minimum registered capital of 10 million baht with at least one overseas business entity or affiliated branch and minimum 15mn baht annual operating expenses for the headquarters being set up.

Krisda Phatcharoen, head of commercial banking at HSBC Thailand, said many Thai companies and multinationals had shown keen



Krisda Phatcharoen, head of commercial banking at HSBC Thailand. Photo: The Nation

interest in setting up IHQs here, especially in the manufacturing and service sectors.

The interested companies have to deal with four state agencies – the Ministry of Commerce, the Revenue Department, the Board of Investment and the Bank of Thailand (BOT). He said these procedures should be combined as a one-stop service.


The BOT has a role in encouraging IHQs after giving the green

light to multinational companies and large Thai corporates with overseas networks to set up treasury centers in Thailand to support the operation of their affiliates and subsidiaries worldwide in financial liquidity and foreign-exchange risk management.


HSBC Thailand has been active as a financial adviser to large Thai and foreign companies wanting to establish their IHQs in Thailand. It believes IHQs will increase the volume of financial transactions in Thailand. Mr Krisda said Thai conglomerates which have regional headquarters (RHQ) in Singapore are expected to move them back to Thailand, followed by multinational companies.

Singapore is currently the Asean hub for IHQs and RHQs. About 4,000 companies have established RHQs there, compared with fewer than 200 in Thailand.


– *The Nation*



Above all communications support, TOT Fiber 2U, internet broadband service over optical fiber cable provided by TOT with speed up to 1000 Mbps.



Sales and Customer Relation Center 076-367399



Cruising through 'Green Season'

By Bryony Dalby-Ball

PHUKET has been recognized as a world-class cruising destination for many years, with the majority of sailors visiting during the 'high' season months. This period is noted for its favored weather conditions that keep the skies clear, cruising grounds sheltered and beaches packed. However, it is the 'green season' from June to October that is becoming a popular alternative, offering a rare glimpse of a quieter Phuket.

Traditionally, the approach of the southwest monsoon was celebrated not only for the life giving, rejuvenating rains but also for the arrival of the trading ships from India and Arabia. Nowadays surfers and kite-boarders gather on Phuket's western shores in anticipation of the onshore wind and swell to return, game fishermen await the cooler waters for more bountiful catches and yachtsmen look forward to secluded cruising grounds and stronger winds.

During the green season months, cruising around the Andaman region changes dramatically. To sail during this time is to experience these enchanting destinations as they were decades ago: the islands are reinvigorated, vivid and nourished from the rains and the anchorages secluded, peaceful and pristine.



Green season in Phuket offers discounted, world-class cruising. Photo: Helicam Phuket

There are numerous pick-up points around the island of Phuket to start a cruise and many yachts offer discounted rates.

PHANG NGA BAY

Soaring from emerald green waters, the limestone karst islands of Phang Nga Bay are usually draped in dramatic early morning mists, transport-

ing all who visit to an almost prehistoric, 'Jurassic World'.

The bay remains calm year-round and while there's no snorkelling, exploring the in-land rooms or *hongs* of Koh Panak is unbeatable.

PHUKET AND KOH YAO NOI

Koh Yao Noi offers stunning

views of Phang Nga Bay and Krabi and is within a short distance from the main island of Phuket, which provides a multitude of land-based activities and hotels, usually heavily discounted during the green season.

KRABI

During the high season over-

crowded islands such as Koh Dam Khwan (Chicken Island) often lose their charm. However, this quieter period sees their mystique return and they are often found deserted. Phi Phi Island is consistently popular throughout the year and offers sheltered anchorages in various weather conditions, providing easy access to the shore.

The key to enjoyable cruising in the low season is to remain flexible and have realistic expectations of how the weather will affect your trip.

While most days are clear, tropical squalls do roll through on a regular basis, yet rarely last for more than an hour. On average, the wind is consistently stronger than during the high season, generally welcomed by sailors and the reason why numerous regattas are held at this time of year. The swell around Phuket is considered quite small, however southwest and westerly facing anchorages are not advised for overnight stays.

With a well-advised itinerary there is little need to limit the cruising season to the high season months as this allows those who don't mind the odd down-pour a fresh perspective on unrivaled cruising.

For more information about chartering in the region, contact Bryony Dalby-Ball, Charter Manager, Yacht Solutions.

Benefits of having websites



Business Buzz

Simon Wetherell

ALMOST every business has a website now, but what are the real reasons for having one, and are people using them effectively?

One of the biggest advantages of a proper website is to brand your company and create awareness about who you are and what you do.

Displaying your products and services so that people can find out everything they need to know about your business in one easy-to-find location helps them make an informed decision and compare your business to others.

Updating your website frequently is also a great way to get the latest information to your audience quickly, cheaply and in one location.

With a well-planned and presented website the content created can help people find

you through marketing, as well as organic search engines such as Google, Yahoo and Bing.

Your website should be the focal point for targeting customers and getting them to want to join your database so that they are kept up to date with news, special offers and more.

It is a must that your website is viewable on tablets and smartphones. As a society, we want the best information quickly, and we are lazy, so we want it spoon fed to us in simple formats, like video and infographics. This also helps with getting your content shared and liked.

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 Social Media industry. For more information go to <http://PhuketOnlineMarketingSchool.com> or call him on 095 085 3355.



PHUKET
INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM

Family Law/Custody /Divorce/Will

Child Adoption

Notary Public

Litigation (Civil & Criminal Cases)

Company Setup

Business Contracts

Property Law/Due Diligence

Visa & Work Permit

Tel : 091-078 9595

info@phuketinternationalallaw.com

www.phuketinternationalallaw.com

Looking for a place to stay?

See more classified ads at

www.phuketgazette.net



Safe Smart Simple Storage Solutions

FROM ONLY **995 THB** PER MONTH!

Reserve Your Storage Space
Call 076 29 29 09
or visit mystorageasia.com

Mon to Sat 9am-6pm, Sun & Holidays 10am-4pm



MYSTORAGE
Secure, Clean & Cost Effective Self Storage

- ✓ Sizes to Suit all Budgets
- ✓ Personal & Business Storage
- ✓ Motorcycle Storage
- ✓ Left Luggage Service
- ✓ Archive Storage
- ✓ Storage Insurance Inclusive

Jungceylon Shopping Center, Patong, Phuket

Famous singer at Sleep with Me



Worraporn Noiladtee (right), Sleep with Me Design Hotel @ Patong's public relations manager, welcomes famous Thai singer Tao Somchai Khemklad to the hotel when he came to the island for the '80 Men' concert on July 11.

Kids have a blast at action-packed summer camps

British International School Phuket's (BISP) four-week summer camps, which ran from July 5 to August 1, gave children a memorable experience. Aside from an indoor and outdoor sports program, they also had the chance to develop leadership skills and make friends with children from other countries.



Children from across the world had an amazing time at this year's BISP summer camps, participating in scuba diving, wakeboarding, visiting the bird park and much more.

Get ready for Body Fit contest 2015

Competitive body builders were happy to hear the announcement of the 2015 Body Fit contest at Lime Light Avenue on August 2. Wilaiporn Wannaklang, a world champion bodybuilder, was there to encourage guests to participate.



Now on

Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

BROADCASTING PHUKET TO THE WORLD

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

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

LOCAL COVERAGE	NATIONAL COVERAGE	INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE
<p> Phuket Cable Coverage: All of Phuket Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10.30am, 6pm, 9pm Saturday-Sunday: 10.30am, 9pm</p> <p> Rawai Cable Coverage: Rawai, Kata, Karon Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10am, 1pm, 7pm, 10pm</p> <p> KDTV Coverage: Phuket's West Coast from Patong to Cherg Talay Channel: 10 Daily: 8.30am, 2.30pm</p>	<p>MCOT World Tuesday: 6.10am, 12pm, 7.10pm Wednesday: 6.10pm Thursday: 1.10am Friday: 1.10am Saturday: 1.10am Sunday: 6.10am</p> <p>Truevisions Channel: 79 PSI Channel: 223, 320 Dynasat Channel: 106 Thaisat Channel: 185 Infosat Channel: 185 Sunbox Channel: 81 GMMZ Channel: 103</p>	<p>Broadcast to China, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Turkey, UAE, and many other countries around Asia and beyond.</p> <p>Thaicom 5 Sat 3520H Tuesday: 6.10am, 12pm, 7.10pm Wednesday: 6.10pm Thursday: 1.10am Friday: 1.10am Saturday: 1.10am Sunday: 6.10am</p>

Online: www.phuketgazette.net/tv | www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket
Plus 4,600 hotel rooms around the island and all international hospitals.

NOW AVAILABLE ON
KHAO LAK CABLE Channel 50
And local cable networks across Thailand

ents in Paradise

Ocean Wing's first guests



Giving Australian family Emma Rujevic (3rd from left), Lucas Walsh (4th from left) and their babies a very warm welcome as they entered Amari Phuket's new Ocean Wing on July 16 as its very first guests are Pierre-Andre Pelletier, the hotel's vice president and area general manager for South Thailand (left), Richard Margo, hotel manager (2nd from right) and Tipaporn Koonphol, deputy general manager.

Tu Kab Khao restaurant opens doors



There was plenty of good local food at the recent soft opening of the Phuket branch of Tu Tab Khao restaurant. Giving restaurant owner, Teerasak Phon-ngarm (2nd from right), a congratulatory bouquet are Supakorn Boonyakajorn (middle); his wife Wachiraporn Boonyakajorn (2nd from left); Gary Martmuang (left); and Nitipong Kaewmanee (right).

Bowling competition

Bangkok Hospital Phuket's Acting Deputy Marketing Manager Niyompong Torwong and his team participate in a bowling competition organized by Phuket Reporters Club on July 18 at CS Bowl in Big C Supercenter Phuket.



Raring to go are (from L-R) Aranyarat Sunglapo, Bangkok Hospital Phuket's head of Emergency Center, Niyompong Torwong, acting deputy marketing manager and Jason James Garcia, a marketing officer.

Italian restaurants win big



The Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce organized the Ospitalita Italiana Phuket Award Ceremony 2014-2015 at Panwa House at Cape Panwa Hotel on July 17 and awarded four Italian restaurants located in Phuket, Koh Samui and Koh Pha Ngan. Ospitalita Italiana is an international project aiming to certify the authentic Italian restaurants around the world.

(From L-R) Chef Fabio Colapietro (Fabio's Restaurant), Chef Giovanni Ferrara (La Gaetana), and representative of Chef Michele Laiso (Portofino).

FOREIGN FREEHOLD CONDOMINIUM

Serenity by the sea

LUXURY SEA VIEW CONDOMINIUM

Splendid

Condominium

Start 4.85 MB.

KATA BEACH PHUKET

BY KATA SEAVIEW VILLA

Free ! Maintenance fee for 3 years

for first 3 unit *

Free ! Built - in and loose furniture package.

sales@splendidcondo.com
www.splendidcondo.com
[+66\(0\)86 321 4999](tel:+660863214999)

Local swimmers dive into FINA Championships



(From L-R) Lushano Lamprecht, Phiangkwan 'Eing' Pawapotako, Head Coach Simon Jones and Fukang Wong.

FRESH from claiming nine medals at the recent South East Asian (SEA) Games, five members of the BISP JSA Swim Academy, based at British International School Phuket, jumped into the pool on July 24 to compete in the 16th FINA World Championships, taking place in Kazan, Russia, until August 9.

"The opportunity for five of our high school swimmers to qualify and compete at the biggest competition in the swimming calendar this year is a testament to the dedication and application to excellence that these swimmers have shown all season," said Head Coach Simon Jones.

The five student athletes competing are, Felicity Passon representing the Seychelles, Lushano Lamprecht of Namibia, Phiangkwan 'Eing' Pawapotako (Thailand), Fukang Wong (Malaysia) and Roxanne Yu (Philippines).

– *Simon N Ostheimer*

RPM awarded for excellence

By Phuket Gazette

ANOTHER much-welcomed boost for Phuket's tourism industry has come with Royal Phuket Marina being the first marina in Thailand to receive the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence for 2015.

Aside from winning the certificate, Royal Phuket Marina is also the first and only 5 Gold Anchor-awarded marina in Thailand.

"We're very proud to receive the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence. Honoring our marina, residential and lifestyle facilities, this certificate of excellence underscores our aim to consistently deliver the best service and experience to everyone who visits Royal Phuket Marina," said Gulu Lalvani, chairman of Royal Phuket Marina.

"This award is special as it is based on traveler and customer reviews of Royal Phuket Marina. It is very encouraging to have received such positive feedback and we will continue to deliver memorable experiences for visitors and guests at Royal Phuket Marina."

Welcoming visitors from around the world, Royal Phuket Marina offers a waterfront lifestyle with six restaurants and bars, boutique



Royal Phuket Marina is the first marina in Thailand to receive the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence.

shops and health club, complemented by condominiums, luxurious villas with private yacht berths and Phuket's largest exhibition hall.

Other accolades that Royal

Phuket Marina has received include Best Villa Development (Phuket) – Thailand Property Awards (2012), Best Waterfront Development – Cityscape Awards Real Estate

Asia (2010), Best Resort Condo Development – Thailand Property Awards (2007), and Best International Design – International Property Awards (2007).

World number 45 golfer swings by Laguna Phuket Golf Club

PROMINENT golfer, current Asian Tour Order of Merit leader and world number 45 golf player Anirban Lahiri recently visited Phuket, where he conducted a golf clinic and played nine holes with three young and promising island-based golfers at Laguna Phuket Golf Club.

Stopping by in Phuket on the way to the US Open in Seattle, Mr Lahiri stayed at Laguna Phuket's Banyan Tree Resort and practiced at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club.

"I played here during the Thailand Open in 2009 and thoroughly enjoyed my time in Laguna Phuket," said Mr Lahiri.

"After my friend and fellow Tour Pro Shiv Kapur told me about the amazing new facilities, I decided to check it out on my way to the United States. I am impressed by the improvements that have been made.

"The golf course is more



Anirban Lahiri tees off at Laguna Phuket Golf Club.

interesting and challenging than before, with its intriguing strategic layout. The practice facilities are as good as what we get on tour. Staying in the stunning Banyan Tree pool villa only a few steps away from the golf club is truly a privilege for any golfer."

– *Phuket Gazette*

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

August 1. Wine Lover's wine tasting event

Please come and enjoy our wine tasting event with live music. Six glasses of wine, Thai appetizers, mini sushi and salad bar, fruit, desserts and more for only 899 baht. 7pm to 9pm. Please call or send email to reserve tickets. Telephone: 098-713 2179. info@wineloversphuket.com

August 2. Flying Club Social

There will be 'up-close-and-personal' displays of different types of aircraft and, weather permitting, some flying to either participate in or to simply watch from the clubhouse. From 5pm to 6pm we'll be running a Q&A session for any information you might seek about private flying or other general aviation issues in Thailand.

A buffet will be on offer for 250 baht from 6pm onward.



Celebrate Mother's Day on August 12. Photo: Betsssssy

Live music until 10pm.

This is a great opportunity to network and meet new friends, whether you're a fan of flying or not. It will run from 4:30pm to 10pm.

For more information about the event, contact Pat James at info@phuketaviationclub.com.

August 12. HM The Queen's Birthday

HM Queen Sirikit's birthday

is also marked as Mother's Day in Thailand, with festivities taking place throughout the country.

October 23. Chulalongkorn Memorial Day

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, who is best remembered for introducing many progressive reforms and for the abolition of slavery.

Bangkok Airways flies to Hat Yai



BANGKOK Airways will launch a new service between Phuket International Airport (HKT) and Hat Yai International Airport (HDY) starting in late October.

Tasara Taksinapan, the carrier's media relations manager, recently confirmed the new route with Up in the Air, but said that the carrier had yet to issue an official press statement about the service, which will start on October 25.

The flights, which will take to the skies on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings, will be aboard a 70-seat ATR turboprop. They will depart from Phuket at 7:30am and land in Hat Yai at 8:30am. The return leg departs HDY at 9:10am with scheduled arrival at HKT at 10:15am.

One-way fares for the flights



A Bangkok Airways ATR-72 with its colorful decor at Luang Prabang Airport in Laos. Credit: Budgiekiller

would cost 1,890 baht, all inclusive, Mr Tasara confirmed.

"We believe there is very high potential and demand for these flights and we really want to further penetrate the southern market," Mr Tasara said.

Driving from Phuket to Hat Yai takes a minimum of six hours, even under ideal driving conditions, he noted.

With the lack of air services, so-called VIP bus services linking the two cities are the transport mode of choice for many commuters, at a one-way cost of about 1,000 baht.

Minivans and regular buses

also offer the service, at less expensive costs.

While there has been a vast expansion in aviation routes in the region in recent years, the lack of flights linking southern Thailand's two busiest international airports has been a major 'missing link'.

Currently, businessmen and others wanting to fly between the two commercial centers have to fly all the way north to Bangkok, then catch another connecting flight due south.

The last airline to try connecting Phuket with Hat Yai was Phuket-based Happy Air,

which in late 2009 connected the airports with a 'triangle route' that also served Langkawi Island in Malaysia.

The now-defunct airline used a 34-seat, twin-engine turboprop SAAB 340 A. However, Happy Air quietly dropped the flight citing insufficient load factor and then tried a number of other niche routes out of Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok before finally going out of business earlier this year.

Before that, Nok Air tried the route for a period in 2007, but quietly terminated the service in mid-November 2007,

citing insufficient load factor aboard its 150-seat Boeing 737-400 jet aircraft.

At the time of cancellation, a Nok Air spokesperson said that an airplane of about 70 seats was suitable for the route, but that Nok Air had no plans to buy smaller aircraft to service it.

The last airline to run the route successfully was Phuket Airways, which ceased scheduled operations in 2007 following a series of widely-reported safety incidents on long-haul flights to Europe that ultimately led to its banning by the European Union.

Phuket Air ran the HKT – HDY flight with high load factor for many years, and even weathered the post-tsunami tourism downturn in 2004. But its problems in Europe, as well as increased security concerns following the fatal April 3, 2005 bombing of Hat Yai Airport by Pattani-based separatist insurgents, led them to focus on a on 'wet lease-ACMI' structure.

Phuket Air currently operates under a long-term contract with Saudi Arabian Airlines providing charter services, including Hajj and Umurah religious pilgrimage charters to Saudi Arabia.

The Hotspring Beach RESORT & SPA

"The perfect healthy escape"
 "Let Us pamper you in our first class spa"
 "Visit Us Today! Special price for one day pass!"

Thai Restaurant

Pool Villa

Hot spring pools

Cold water pool

OUR FACILITIES INCLUDE FULL BEACH RESORT, 2 RESTAURANTS, 2 HOT SPRING POOLS, COLD WATER POOL, EXPANSIVE SWIMMING POOL, GORGEOUS PRIVATE BEACH, FULL SERVICE SPA, FITNESS ROOM.

THE HOTSPRING BEACH RESORT IS LOCATED ON THE GORGEOUS NATAI BEACH IN PHANG NGA PROVINCE. WE ARE LOCATED JUST NORTH OF PHUKET ISLAND 25 MIN FROM PHUKET INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

WWW.THEHOTSPRINGBEACH.COM T. + 66 (0) 76 580 000-28 | 79 MOO 8, NA TOEY, THAI MUANG, PHANG NGA PROVINCE

Enforcing professional diving ethics

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

ALMOST every diver remembers their first dive instructor, as well as probably every instructor or dive master they have trained under since.

Learning underwater skill sets is a bonding process, it requires a great deal of trust – but what about trusting the dive professional's environmental-impact philosophy?

There is no doubt that diving puts stress on the marine environment through our presence, as well as the choices divers make on how they directly or indirectly interact with the marine world.

So where do divers draw the line when it comes to stressing the environment and the magnificent animals that live in it?

Is snapping your fingers at a Christmas tree worm to watch the brightly colored 'gills' snap up and disappear okay?

What about chasing a giant manta ray, riding a turtle or shining your torch on a sleeping parrot fish?

Spend five minutes on the internet and it becomes clear that there are a lot of people who draw different lines in the proverbial sand when it comes to ethically interacting with marine animals.

"There are no rules and very few laws, just interpretations of what is good and bad for the environment. Is touching a manta ray acceptable? Your first response would be no, but what if you are touching a manta ray to remove a net, line or hook so that it may survive longer?" PADI Course Director Kevin Black of KiwiDiver.com asks.

"An instructor is meant to be



How much is too much when it comes to interacting with marine life? Photo: National Ocean Service

a role model, a marine ambassador, particularly since they make their living from the marine environment. Therefore, it goes without saying that the example the instructor sets for their customers impacts public perception of the importance of the marine environment. If an instructor or dive guide swims along picking up rubbish then a customer will normally follow the example, just as a guide swimming past rubbish sets a bad example."

All dive professionals are supposedly instilled with an understanding of environmental ethics via their training.

"Environmental ethics are ingrained in PADI's philosophy and professed throughout PADI's training materials and Project Aware's mission," says Andy Auer, PADI Thailand West Coast regional manager.

"PADI members are re-

quired by PADI standards to follow a professional code of practice toward the environment."

Nonetheless, social media groups, such as 'Phuket Scuba Industry Name & Shame', use Facebook to regularly broadcast video footage and photographic proof that dive professionals are willing to bend or even break the rules.

"Bending the rules to show students specific things or provide the customer experience the diver wants is definitely the most often cited reason instructors and dive masters give for their abusive and destructive behavior," dive instructor and marine conservationist Joe Blasy, who used to be based in Phuket, says.

"In a tip driven profession, dive professionals convince themselves that, as such, they are somehow exempt from

demonstrating proper behavior when in reality it's actually much more important they set the proper example. These professionals underestimate the influence their behavior has on their students and other divers."

However, there is a temptation to immediately address such issues.

"Creating photographic evidence, videos and written witness reports of the offending situation is best," explains Mr Black. "Then send this to the dive center and their associated training agency or regional manager. Most legitimate dive centers would take this seriously and investigate the matter, council the instructor or dismiss them. This can be harder for centers that have a constant turnover of independent freelance contractors who just move from one company to another."

Mr Blasy concurs, but cautioned anyone from getting directly involved underwater.

"This has led to some dangerous situations after the offending diver became aggressive. Video and photo evidence can be helpful, but consider you and your customer's safety first.

"Individuals will first want to contact the management or owners of the company the offending diver represents. I have had a lot of success with the 'I know your company cares deeply about the marine environment, so I am sure you will want to know...' approach. They have always been receptive."

Of course, if the dive professional continues with unethical practices underwater, the next step is to contact the certification agency to which the dive boat or shop associated with the professional belongs.

Every certification agency has a policy prohibiting abusive or destructive behavior, and all members are obligated to abide by it or risk being expelled.

For example, the two largest certification agencies, SSI and PADI, both have quality assurance departments which actively investigate members, explains Mr Blasy. They can be reached by sending an email to thailand@divessi.com or qa@padi.com respectively.

"More serious violations of marine protection laws should be reported to authorities, which in Phuket would be the Department of Coastal Resources. The Endangered Species Unit at the Phuket Marine Biological Center investigates violations of marine protection laws. They can be reached by emailing pmbc@dmcr.mail.go.th or calling 076-391128," says Mr Blasy.

Sustainable tourism experts to hold intensive training program

THE Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) will host a Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) three-day intensive sustainable tourism-training program at the PATA Engagement Hub in Bangkok from September 15 to 17 this year.

Any tourism and environmental professionals seeking awareness of the best practices in practical and achievable sustainable tourism are invited to participate.

"This is one initiative of the GSTC/PATA partnership and shows PATA's commitment to promoting sustainability awareness in the tourism industry. As

the GSTC has developed a global criteria for sustainable tourism destinations, tours and hotels, PATA is working with them in an outreach program to raise

industry awareness," said Mario Hardy, chief executive officer of PATA.

The three-day intensive course on sustainable tourism aims to attract



The program will focus on sustainable tourism practices, like bamboo rafting. Photo: The Nation

architects, travel agents, academics and educators, developers, policy makers and regulators, tour operators and tourism certification bodies.

professionals from the tourism industry, hotel managers and hotel engineers, entrepreneurs, destination planners and managers, protected area managers,

"GSTC is pleased to be able to offer the training in Southeast Asia, and thanks PATA for its support," said Randy Durband, chief executive officer of GSTC.

"Our lead trainer, Guy Chester has global sustainability experience and can also bring realistic Asia Pacific experience to the training.

"He has developed tourism master plans in China and Fiji, undertaken training in Indonesia and India, and developed and run tourism enterprises in Papua New Guinea." – *The Nation*

Contact td@gstcouncil.org to register.

Shaping up gluteus maximus



Excuse Buster

By Krix Luther

I SWORE I'd never write an article with topics as generic and common as 'bigger biceps', 'five fat-burning secrets' or 'get quads of thunder'.

I hate these types of articles. They are often 2,000 words and harp on about exercises that have been around for years, but are renamed and tweaked so that they are perceived as a brand new, revolutionary exercise that will change the world. This is never the case.

Since the six-week, six-pack challenge has aired in Phuket and around Thailand, I have been flooded with questions like 'how do I firm up my butt?', 'do you know any good butt exercises' and 'how do I get a booty like Kim Kardashian?'

I am a little surprised by how many butt questions have been enticed by the six-pack challenge... regardless, I'll take this column as an opportunity to answer them.

The bum, also known as the



Once you have activated your glutes, you will be ready for a leg and bum workout. Photo: Hakan Dahlstrom

gluteus maximus, is the biggest muscle in the human body. It is the uppermost of the three gluteal muscles. If someone wants a well-developed, rounded backside, they will have to train all three of these muscles and hit them with some hamstring training as well.

Believe it or not, many people cannot activate their

glutes due to long periods of sitting down, whether it be at a computer, while driving or while studying. This results in tight hip flexors, tight *iliotibial* (IT) bands and tight spinal erectors, which in turn can lead to long, stretched out glutes.

This causes other muscles to over activate during leg exercises, while the glutes are being

activated little, or not at all. Even if someone trains most days, if they spend the rest of the day in a seated position, they will have a glute-firing issue.

If after a leg workout you only feel soreness in your quads and hamstrings, your glutes may not be activating. If you haven't felt delayed onset

muscle soreness (DOMS) in your actual bum, chances are you're not using those muscles at all.

You probably know already where you can watch video tutorials about how to get a firm bum, but you could be missing out on getting the shape you want because your glutes are simply sleeping during the workout.

So, perhaps the question now is 'why can't I engage my glute muscles?'

Let's fix this.

First of all, before your leg workout, start with some mobility training. Do some dynamic stretches to loosen the IT bands and hip flexors, then work your way around the legs and up into the lower back (spinal erectors). You can even use a foam roller to loosen up these muscles first. After you stretch for a bit, do some glute-activating exercises (see panel below).

Once you have done some glute-activation exercises, you will be ready for a leg workout. Hopefully, the next day you will have a sore, but more firm and toned bum.

Activate those glutes

Do these exercises to prep your glutes for a training session:

FIRE HYDRANT

Start on your hands and knees. Place your hands underneath your shoulders and your knees underneath your hips. Flex your feet.

Then, with your knee bent to 90 degrees, raise one leg out to the side. Lift with your hip while keeping your lower leg in line. Don't let your foot or knee get higher toward the ceiling. Keep your arms straight as you lift as high as possible.

Do not lean away, and be sure to really squeeze your glutes as you lift. Lower your leg down and repeat.

DONKEY KICK

Start on your hands and knees. Keeping your feet flexed, kick one leg back with the knee bent close to 90 degrees. Don't let your lower back arch as you drive your heel up and back. Make sure you are squeezing your glutes at the

top of the kick and keep your abs engaged. The foot should go toward the ceiling.

Do not let your elbows bend just to kick higher. Bring the knee down and repeat.

GLUTE BRIDGE

Lie on your back and bend your knees to place your feet on the ground hip width apart.

You should be able to touch your heels with your fingertips when you reach your arms down by your side. Position your feet so that you feel your glutes working. Bring your elbows to 90 degrees so your upper arms are on the ground.

Push up your upper arms, back and heels to bridge up off the ground. Make sure your knees do not cave in as you lift. Squeeze your glutes as you drive your hips up. You want to feel like you are driving your knees forward over your toes even though you are driving through your heels. Extend your hips and do not hyperextend your lower back. Lower yourself down and repeat.

NICE PEAK 88
Music Moving On

Phuket's Largest Radio network

Reach 245,000 Thais in English every day!

green FM 93
life in nature

STUDIO LINE AGENCY CO LTD (Tel. 076-210624)

<https://www.studiolinemediaone.com> <https://www.facebook.com/Studioline8893>

MEDIA ONE CREATION GREEN Green on TV energy for life (KPP2 24hrs.) Phuket today PG Phuket Gazette

Chinese funds trickle down to Phuket

By Nina Suebsukcharoen

THE expected rush of Chinese money to overseas safe-haven properties after the recent crash of Shanghai's stock market is an unlikely surge for this popular resort island, which will continue attracting some of the outflow, but less than what people might expect, Robert Collins, managing director of Savills (Thailand), said.

It is clear that Thailand is not the preferred choice of wealthy Chinese, although some of the money is coming here, but this is not at an institutional level and is more in terms of private, small amounts which go to single homes and condominiums, rather than block sales.

"I think the opportunity is there for the Thai market to understand what the Chinese buyer is looking for rather than this assumption that they are going to come here because it is a good value and the sun shines," Mr Collins said.

There is a bigger dynamic

driving purchase requirements and it is expected that more mainland Chinese groups will come here to co-develop with Thai companies, just as Charn Issara Development Plc recently did by partnering with China-based Junfa Real Estate Company in developing the 42-rai Baba Beach Club on Phang Nga's Na Tai Beach.

"There will be a few others. I think CP [Charoen Pokphand Group] has a very good mainland connection. The Chinese have a herd mentality and for historical reasons, they are not particularly individualist – like going overseas, it's a very early stage and they are cautious, relatively speaking, in terms of overseas buying.

"It has bearing on this too, but I think the outlook is pretty good, there is money, there is desire to invest overseas," Mr Collins noted.

While Chiang Mai captured the imagination of the Chinese with the 2012 smash-hit movie *'Lost in Thailand'*, Mr Collins pointed out that the mainland



Robert Collins, managing director of Savills (Thailand).



It is expected that more mainland Chinese groups will come to Phuket to co-develop with Thai companies, just as Charn Issara Development Plc did with Junfa Real Estate Company to build Baba Beach Club.

buyer is not going in for the really big ticket properties in the northern city, with this typically being more in the 10-million-baht price point.

"In Phuket there is a very, very small number of buyers, but it is at a multimillion dollar price point."

As Greece lurches from one nail-biting crisis to another, with the latest deal leading to the release of an interim loan of 7 billion euros, the world remains fearful of the repercussions of a still-possible Grexit. However, Mr Collins said Thailand, and Phuket in particular, are unlikely

to be affected to any great extent.

"From a tourism perspective, I would say there is a secondary impact, but the decline of Russian visitors has had a far greater impact.

"We have gone through a rolling series of crises, of various magnitude, every seven and half years or so and the markets plow on."

Turning to the Thai market, Mr Collins said weak consumer confidence, underscored by Kasikorn Research Center's household Economic Condition Index in June hitting a

record 11-month low of 43.8 percent, is affecting the property market to some extent, but the natural trend is for there to always be ebb and flow and peaks and troughs.

"We are in quieter days right now, which is understandable and, generally speaking, good products in good locations will continue to sell," he said.

"We are certainly not seeing prices come down. There is a large volume of property in the market, but the market follows cycles and we are just in a quieter patch right now. It is completely natural."

AP (Thailand) to start 15 new projects this year

AP (Thailand) plans to launch 15 residential projects worth 24 billion baht over the remainder of the year, which should boost the company's full-year presales to 28.3bn baht.

Four of the new projects are condominiums worth 15.24bn baht combined, six are townhouse projects worth 5.49bn baht and five are detached-housing projects together worth 3.29bn baht.

They form part of the listed developer's earlier business plan to launch 24 residential projects worth 25.62bn baht this year, nine of which came on to the market in the first half.

The program is expected to boost overall revenue to 25.3bn baht by year-end, up 9 per cent from last year's 23.2bn baht, Chief Marketing Officer Vittakarn Chandavimol said at a press conference on July 24.

In its business plan, AP (Thailand) also set aside 10bn baht for land purchases for resi-



Vittakarn Chandavimol of AP (Thailand). Photo: The Nation

dential developments next year.

Mr Vittakarn said that although the economy had grown only slightly in the first half, residential demand had continued to expand in the middle and upper-income market.

This has been the company's main target segment, driving 2015 sales so far this year to 18bn baht, while demand is

expected to continue to grow over the remainder of the year.

Meanwhile, AP (Thailand) customers have faced a mortgage rejection rate of 12 per cent, well below the average of 30 per cent for the sector.

The chief marketing officer said most of its customers had been pre-approved by banks before making a decision to buy a property, as its targeted middle to upper-income buyers still had sufficient purchasing power and financial status to be granted a mortgage.

"Although some customers at our Baan Klang Muang Ratchavibha project complained [about deflection] in June, it has had little impact on our general sales because customers understand the problem [and what AP (Thailand) is doing about it]. As a result, our sales from July 1 to July 20 still came in at around 1bn baht," Mr Vittakarn said.

– The Nation

BOAT LAGOON PARK RESIDENCE
The Ultimate Marina Lifestyle

RENTAL | RE-SALE | LAND

Waterfront | Fully Furnished | Gated community with 24hrs. security

076 238 948 www.boat-lagoon.com

MARKET PROPERTIES ASIA

New chapter for Vietnam property



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

A FEW weeks ago I found myself, once again, on the central coast of Vietnam in Danang.

Over the past decade, the city has undergone a massive transformation and despite the old school charm of tree-lined avenues and the penultimate buzz of Asian-flavored street life, towering skyscrapers are starting to dot the horizon.

My first journey to Vietnam was when I lived and worked in Ho Chi Minh City and eventually found myself stationed in Hue, where, at the time, just a handful of foreigners lived.

Much of the early development of Vietnam's third main city was initially focused on China Beach and the long sandy stretch of land leading to historic Hoi An. Indochina Capital was a pioneer with the Nam Hai and later followed the Furama.

In the 1990s, it was bolstered by private equity funding and overseas capital from markets such as Hong Kong, but despite an early buzz, the market failed to launch into a mainstream trade in real estate.



Bill brings back some property lessons from Danang, along the coast of Vietnam. Photo: Prince Roy

Visa issues, hyperinflation and limited direct international airlift were key challenges.

Things did change in the new millennium, and suddenly aside from a charge in the China Beach area with leisure-oriented property, golf course and sprawling resorts, a renewed focus was on Danang City. Vina Capital spawned apartments, office space and an urbanization kick got under way.

Again, the global financial crisis (GFC) came into play, though one project that sold

successfully was the Hyatt Regency residences.

Elsewhere, early investors were unable to exit on what they had thought would be high capital appreciation rates, and the market floundered.

Post GFC, the city-centric footprint has undergone the most development with an airport upgrade, the entry of hypermarkets and new towers soaring in the center of Danang.

Tourism remained a growth market but key investment came from the private sector

and a leading proponent was the waterfront strip of the city, which has received the most attention from entities such as the Sun Group.

Gaming of course exists in Vietnam, but only for foreigners, and a large complex on China Beach continues to attract what is mainly a Chinese market.

In nearby Hue, just over the Hai Van pass, the Banyan Tree group has been developing the destination resort Laguna Lang Co, modeled after their signa-

ture Phuket icon.

Visas continue to be the bane of hotel groups, though a limited initiative for visa-free travel for a few countries will come into effect in July. This is expected to increase the tourism market and stimulate growth. There is one condition though, and that is it is a one-year initiative. Effectively, the country is dipping its toes in the water before diving into the larger pond.

For property investors, this July also brings about broader reforms under the Law for Residential Housing regime.

A 50-year extension of ownership will be introduced along with foreign thresholds in apartment projects of 30% of units and for landed houses at 10%. That said, even as there are limitations on projects in certain areas and some restrictions will apply, for a party-led government the movement into the free market is a massive change.

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

LaGuna
PHUKET RENTALS

LaGuna
RESALES



Experienced
Property Management
and Rental Services

Property types ranging from

Apartments, Townhomes to Pool Villas

Short to long term rentals from **THB 9K / week**



ANGSANA
RESIDENCES

- 2 bedroom hotel managed condominiums
- Complimentary owners use up to 60 days per year
- Owner privileges and discounts through Sanctuary Club
- Membership to Laguna Phuket Golf Club

Price from THB 17 MB



BANYAN TREE
RESIDENCES
— BANGKOK —

- Luxury 2 bedroom serviced apartments
- Managed by Banyan Tree
- Lifestyle benefits with investment returns
- Owner privileges and discounts through Sanctuary Club

Price from THB 21 MB



LaGuna
RESIDENCES

- 4 bedroom private pool villas
- Lagoon and golf course view
- Owner privileges and discounts through Sanctuary Club
- Membership to Laguna Phuket Golf Club

Price from THB 27 MB

076 362 333

www.lagunaproperty.com info@lagunaproperty.com

Property Centre
390/1 Moo 1 Srisoonthorn Rd.
Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110

More options available, please contact us for more information.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Special Offer!

**SEAVIEW LAND IN PATONG**

Over 6 rai at Soi Baramee 7, title deed chanote, electricity access, concrete road, public water, next to Novotel Hotel. Ideal for nice private home or development. Price at 22MB/rai. Contact Air: 085-044 5144. Email: phattharaporn.e@gmail.com


LAGUNA VILLA ONLY 26MB

Greatly reduced for quick sale, this four-bedroom luxury Laguna Outrigger Villa is at the lowest price on the market and a great home or rental investment. Tel: 080-694 7887 (English). Email: james.harris@zavanagroup.com, www.laguna-phukethouseforsale.com

**PATONG SEA VIEW LAND FOR SALE**

- 500m from Patong Beach
- 1.3km to Jungceylon
- Nightlife within walking distance

Contact Pal. Tel: 089-9675373
Email: kpattarawalee@gmail.com

PROPERTY AND MOTOR INSURANCE  Since 1946

Lambert Brothers Insurance Brokers

- Property Insurance
- Construction
- Public Liability
- Professional Indemnity, Director and Officers
- Group Health and Individual
- Personal Accident and Travel
- Motor insurance

Contact: Paew, Ton, Jane
Phuket Boat Lagoon
info@lambertbrothers.co.th
Tel: + 66 76 273 385

www.lambertbrothers.co.th

2-BEDROOM HOUSE CHALONG

Leafy, aircon, secure, recently painted, partly furnished, 152 sqm / 64sqm house. 2.3 million baht. For more information, please call +61- 0433-366 121 (English), 076-296189 (Thai). Email: nikpotter@web.de

GREAT TIME FOR BUYER / RENTER

Big reduction on 3 bedrooms, waterfront house. Tel: 087-465 8883. Email: mindproperties@gmail.com, www.mindproperties.net/Corner_Unit_Waterfront_House_PKEV0013-Property.htm

5-BED VILLA AT BOAT LAGOON

Beautiful 5-bedroom villa plus maids' quarters in top condition with a total area of approximately 1,200sqm. Waterfront and an indoor area of approximately 550 sqm. The house is fully furnished and has high-quality equipment. Perfect for families with kids. Must see condition. Only 28 million baht. Tel: 081-891 6143, 081-956 5576. Email: norbertfun@hotmail.com

KHAO LAK GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE

Guesthouse at Khao Lak center for sale, 14 rooms, fully equipped. 3 storeys. 10 x 30m ground floor can make restaurant and bar, close to highway, opposite Khao Lak Laguna Resort. Near beach. Please call 076-485118, 081-894 1030 (English & Thai). Email: prasert3112@hotmail.com

LUXURY VILLA FOR SALE

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

REAL SEAVIEW LAND

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

GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS

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

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANY

An established, reputable and highly 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@ebnetwork.it

CLUB MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE**LAGUNA PHUKET GOLF CLUB**

Family golf membership. Valid till 21 / 02 / 28. Priced at 350,000 baht. Tel: 02-623 3329, +63-0917-864 7336 (English). Email: shiela_ubana@yahoo.com

BUSINESS PRODUCTS & SERVICES

Little Einstein

Preschool and Childcare Center

We are one of the newest child education facilities in Chalong, Phuket. Our lessons are conducted in both Thai and English, based on the Singapore thematic system. We offer fun and stimulating preschool activities, surrounded in a happy, safe environment.

Playgroup 1 - 18 months old up to 2 years old

Playgroup 2 - 2 years old up to 3 years old

Nursery - 3 years old up to 4 years old

Kindergarten 1 - 4 years old up to 5 years old

Kindergarten 2 - 5 years old up to leaving for primary school

9/11 Chaofa East Road, Phuket. Tel: 096-873 9372 (English), 093-257 0557 (Thai). Email: einsteinian68@yahoo.com www.littleeinstein.webzmp.com

LEGAL SERVICES

Litigation, legal consulting and court interpreter. Tel: 089-873 6533. Fax: 076-273399. Email: phuketinterpreter@gmail.com

PLUMBING DOCTOR

We refix all plumbing issues. Contact Sumet. Facebook: Sumet Boonlorm. Tel: 081-396 5050 (English & Thai). Email: sumetphuket@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS WANTED**WANTED - CHALONG**

8x4ft pool table with coin slot. Upright double door freezer. Contact Dickie. Tel: 076-383045.

BEAUTIFUL POOL VILLARAWAI

Beautiful 4-bedroom & 4-bathroom pool villa on 800sqm land plot in Rawai/ Nai Harn area. Enclosed living area of 260sqm. Pool is 75sqm in lush tropical garden. Asking 12.75 million baht. Tel: 087-267 1282 (English). Email: davidrosa_mond@outlook.com

PHANG NGA 14 RAI CHANOTE

Situated in the beautiful Lam Rue Valley and National Park, Phang Nga. Price: 3.5 million baht. For more information, please call 081-924 1760 (English & Thai). Email: senna@cscoms.com

PROPERTY FOR RENT

4-BED POOL VILLA NEAR BIS

Set in a peaceful golf estate, a lovely 5-minute drive to BIS, this luxury villa has plenty of space for family living. Only 70,000 baht per month. Tel: +65-098-535 538. Email: ianawal@yahoo.com

CHEAP RENT HOUSE

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

AVAILABLE IN RAWAI

2-bedroom pool villa - July 1. 2-bedroom house till November 1. Low price. For more information, please call 085-787 3046.



STUDIO ROOM FOR RENT

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

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

THAI VILLA & POOL NAI HARN

2-bedroom villa in Soi Naya, 37,500 baht/month. Long term. Tel: 083-396 4007. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com, <http://sites.google.com/site/mervyncrocker/home>

LUXURY APARTMENT PATONG

Patong Tower and Phuket Palace condo. For more pictures and price, please call John or email. Tel: 081-080 8831 (English & Thai). Email: johnpatong@gmail.com

PATONG LUXURY APT.

Paradise Hotel Complex. 150m to beach, large 1 bedroom, kitchen, light, airy. Tel: 086-276 7608.

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

RECRUITMENT



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

Senior Coordinator for Business Development & Events

- Thai national
- Bachelor's Degree or higher in business or related field
- High level of English both written and spoken
- Strong communication skills in Thai and English
- Excellent organizational skills
- Experience in coordinating teams
- Proficiency in MS Office
- Ability to translate documents from English into Thai

Teacher Assistant

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

IT Technician

- Thai national
- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science or related fields
- Excellent knowledge of computer
- Experience working with Mac books and Windows server
- Ability to communicate in English
- Able to work in team and independently
- Hard working in team work attitudes

Library Officer

- Thai national
- Bachelor's Degree in Library Studies
- Experience in library system databases
- Good communication and interpersonal skill
- Good command in written and spoken English
- Proficiency in MS office
- Good team player and service minded
- New graduate are welcomed

Please send a short letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and e-mail/fax and telephone contacts of referees to
British International School, Phuket
59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang Phuket 83200
Tel: 076-335555 Ext.2113 Fax: 076 335573.
Email: chanidapornk@bisphuket.ac.th, sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th

PROPERTY LISTING

Siam Real Estate is looking for a new, part-time member to take property listings and photos around Phuket. Must have own transport. Good commission. Tel: 076-288908. Fax: 076-383646. Please send resumes to jobs@siamrealestate.com

SALES REP. AND TO.

DVC looking for English Reps. and TO. Tel: 098-270 8099, 076-342794. Email: hr@davidvacationclub.com

BAR & LOUNGE MANAGER - PATONG

Experienced Thai female, 30 years old, English speaking, attractive personality. Excellent wage + profit share package. Call Pierre. Tel: 062-830 7754. Email: pierre.zabbal@gmail.com

MARINE ENGINEER

An experienced marine engineer required to work on 23m motor yacht. Tel: 085-378 0498. Email: captain.sanook@yahoo.com



Horizon Karon Beach Resort & Spa
Horizon Beach Resort Hotel

VACANT POSTIONS

- Executive Secretary
- Asst. Secretary to CEO
- Sales Manager / Asst. Sales Manager
- Revenue Manager
- Guest Relation Manager
- Guest Relation Officer
- Receptionist
- Reservation Supervisor / Officer
- Director of F&B
- F&B Manager
- Bar Supervisor
- Executive Chef / Sous Chef

Employment Benefits & Staff Welfare (Karon & Patong)
Employees at Horizon Hotels & Resorts receive various benefits: Service charge, life insurance, meals on duty, hotel uniform, staff bus (to Kathu / Phuket town), staff accommodation (Kathu).

Horizon Karon Beach Resort & Spa
3 Soi Karon Soi 2, Karon, Muang, Phuket 83100
Tel: 076-284555, 076-292526-30 Fax: 076-284382
Email: Apply@horizonbeach.com
www.horizonbeach.com

D-CONDO MINE KATHU

Beautiful 2-double bedroom, 2-bathroom, fully-furnished, 6th floor, lake view condo with cable TV, internet, aircon in 3 rooms, kitchen, washing machine. Gym & 100m swimming pool. 24hr security & parking. Next to Kajonkiet School, near Tesco Lotus, Central and Phuket town. 25,500 baht/month. Tel: 081-893 9127.

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE**HOUSE FOR RENT**

Fully furnished, 3-bedroom house with wifi. Special rate for long-term rent: 12,000 baht a month. Tel: 093-754 3311, 084-754 3311 (English & Thai), 080-521 9888 (English & Thai). Email: sornin_s@yahoo.com

HOLIDAY HOMES & VILLA RENTALS**1-BED SEAVIEW @ COCONUT ISLAND**

Large terrace, 50sqm split level studio, fully furnished, aircon, 330sqm garden, 100m to beach. Long-term rent: 18,500 baht a month. Tel: 089-873 6533. Email: phuketinterpreter@gmail.com

GENERAL AVIATION

1999 ROBIN 2160i

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. 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: thos_w@hotmail.com

AIRPLAY ALTIS MICROLIGHT

Superb trike with Konig radial engine. Great economical fun. Little used. For more information, please call 089-111 6457, 081-397 7598. Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

YOUR HELICOPTER

Flying and owning your own helicopter has just become possible. Free complete flight instruction course with your purchase. For more details, please send email to pat@aeropromgr.com

TECNAM P-92

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

HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?

If you have an aircraft for sale or an interest in aviation and wish to learn how to fly or buy an aircraft or arrange a private flight, etc, please see our website at www.aeropromgr.com/newsletter

TOYOTA AVANZA

2004. Clean, 65,000km, 250,000 baht. For more information, please call 076-385909, 087-277 5216 (English). Email: curlyphyl@yahoo.com

TOYOTA SPORTRIDER

3.0 diesel, 4WD, 3-row seats, central locking, aircon, ABS, power steering, alloy wheels, CD player. 190,000 baht. Chalong. Tel: 087-265 0118. Email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk

RENTALS

CARS FOR RENT @ FAIR PRICES

During August to October we offer monthly rate from 10,000 baht, Toyota Vios, Honda Jazz. Tel: 085-655 2613 (English & Thai), 084-847 4377 (English). Email: stigisaan@gmail.com

TOYOTA VIOS E

December 2008. Silver automatic. Farang owned, low mileage. Rawai area. 349,000 baht. For more information, please call 087-279 8286.

3 CARS FOR SALE

Jazz 2005, auto, tax February 2016, insurance September. Toyota Soluna 2001, automatic. 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

PICK-UPS

ISUZU DMAX PLATINUM 4X4

Auto 2009. Tornado red. New tyres. New battery. Tow bar. Rack. Service history and Blue book. Drives like new at 55,000 km. For sale: 520,000 baht. Rawai. Please call 080-432 4772 (English) or send email for photos, full details at steebeeb@gmail.com

TOYOTA HILUX FOR SALE

Toyota Hilux Vigo Prerunner Champ. 650,000 baht. 3.0 G VN-Turbo. Manual transmission. 2-wheel drive (rear wheels). 4-door pickup. Registered: 2013. 37,xxxkm. Tel: 090-072 8034 (English), 090-072 8035 (English). Email: lilmisschatterbox@msn.com

MITSUBISHI STRADA GRANDIS 2004

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

2010 RANGER DIESEL

4WD. Automatic. Loaded. Runs, drives, and looks great. New service. Very reliable. Sale: 380,000 baht. Please call 083-645 3546.

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

See Phuket from above
Book a trial!

**Unique development - 124 Rai**

If you would like to:

- Learn to fly
- Buy or hanger a plane, or
- Build or rent a hangar

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

Обучение и полеты вокруг Пхукета:
+66 94 386 2294, по-русски.

**HONDA CITY 10,000 BAHT / MONTH**

Cars for short or long-term rent with free delivery service. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com, www.phuket-carrent.net

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. For more information, please call 086-690 0626. Email: bcarrent@hotmail.com

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Old money with new visions

By Nina Suebsukcharoen

BORN to one of Phuket's wealthiest families, yet successfully cruising ahead in new business directions, is none other than Boon Yongsakul, the brains and muscle behind the success of Boat Avenue Community Mall along with some well-received housing projects.

His grandfather, a Hokkien Chinese migrant who came to Phuket, laid the foundation for the Yongsakul family's business ascendancy through the tin-mining industry.

Kanit Yongsakul, Mr Boon's father, was passionate about yachting and branched out from mining by developing Phuket's very first marina, Phuket Boat Lagoon.

Entering the family business after earning a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Canterbury University in New Zealand and a master's degree from Sasin Chulalongkorn University, Mr Boon had a lot of opportunities and great ideas about how to move ahead.

Prior to developing the ever-so-popular Boat Avenue Community Mall, he moved to convert the family's Phuket Shopping Center, which was built in 1981 and had installed the island's first escalator, to Phuket Center Apartments.

After that, he turned his attention to Phuket Boat Lagoon, which he felt

could be much more than just a marina servicing boats.

"We built our village with the vision that it should be similar to Sydney. Mention Sydney to anyone and they immediately think of Darling Harbor and the Opera House with berths, al fresco dining and shopping," Mr Boon said.

After stabilizing the family's Phuket Boat Lagoon Company, Mr Boon moved on to set up his own subsidiary, Boat Development Company, to specifically develop property, which he has done successfully with a few boutique residential estates behind the popular SuperCheap supermarket.

"We opted for a boutique size, no more than 100 houses, so that there is a feeling of coziness and privacy with all the residents knowing each other," he said.

"We also developed Boat Plaza Community Mall, also behind SuperCheap, aimed at being a sports hub for local Thai people."

However, it is his newest business brainchild that makes his eyes sparkle.

Boat Avenue, which he explained was developed on a plot of land purchased from the mother company, was inspired while he lived in New Zealand.

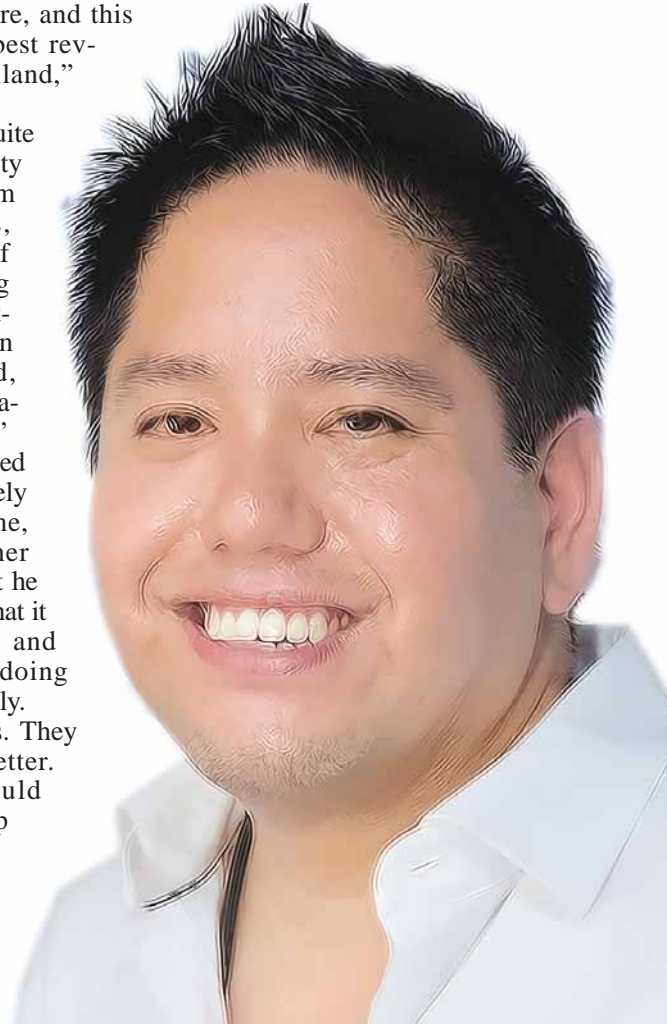
"We built shophouses and put a container mall in one corner and it looks very colorful. We got lucky when Villa supermarket contacted us

to open an outlet here, and this has turned into its best revenue earner in Thailand," said Mr Boon.

"Boat Avenue is quite a high-end community mall and aside from shops and doctors, there are a variety of restaurants serving Japanese, Thai, Western, Indian, Mexican and Chinese food, along with various cafes, bars and bistros."

Having accomplished so much in a relatively short amount of time, one wonders whether Mr Boon enjoys what he does. He mentioned that it is both exciting and challenging to be doing something continuously.

"I love challenges. They help me perform better. I think we should constantly develop ourselves and not cease doing so. My personal concept is to constantly change and move with the world."



Advertising is all about R-E-A-C-H

Reach out every Saturday morning with this!



* Now 30,000 Readers – NATIONwide!