

# Phuket Gazette

October 3 - 9, 2015

Now inside **THE NATION** every Saturday

56 Pages / 20 Baht

## BANKING IN ON MONSOON OF RUBBISH

# Cash for trash

■ Tides bring cash to individuals, families and communities

By Nattha Thepbamrung

THE island's monsoon-season seas continue to plaster popular beaches with rubbish, while the growing urban environment produces an average of 729 tonnes of trash a day.

Though deemed unsightly by expats, locals and tourists, the mass of junk does provide a living for numerous individuals, families and communities.

"About one tonne of trash is swept onto two of Phuket's most popular beaches – Kata and Karon – everyday," said a Kata-Karon Municipality Environmental Department officer, who declined to be named.

"We send people out to collect the trash from the beach daily. Though, we don't record exactly how much is collected, it feels like much more trash is washing up this year and more people are talking about it – I think this problem will continue to grow.

"We really can't control the beach trash because it comes from the sea, all we can do is pick it up and encourage people not to litter."

However, some of what is being picked up has a great deal of value to those in the business of scavenging for recyclables.

The profits from reusable items and recyclables on the island swings big business money of hundreds of thousands of baht...



Continued on Pages 4-5

Employees of Thanasup Recycle Phuket are paid 10,000 baht to 12,000 baht a month.

## Dolphinarium lands import permits

The Nemo Dolphinarium in Chalong has secured permission from the Department of Fisheries in Bangkok to import dolphins and other marine animals for the hotly-contested Phuket attraction.

Full story Page 3

## BUSINESS



Meet Paul: successful entrepreneur, investor and network marketer.

## PROPERTY



Krabi Boat Lagoon set to expand with beach club and condominium.

## LIFE&STYLE



What's in a name? Time to review the rich history of the Phuket Yacht Club.

www.kisphuket.ac.th

**KIS**  
Kajonkiet International School Phuket

EXCELLENT FACILITIES

SCIENCE LAB  
COMPUTER SUITE

ART STUDIO  
DESIGN & TECH ROOM

DRAMA & MUSIC STUDIO  
1<sup>st</sup> CLASS SPORTS FACILITIES

YEAR 10 IGCSE  
NOW OFFERED

UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE  
International Examinations

edexcel  
Approved Centre





## LOCAL NEWS

### Briefly

#### Tourist drowns at Kata Noi

A CHINESE tourist drowned after being swept out to sea from a red-flag zone at Kata Noi Beach on September 25.

26-year-old Junan Liu and his friend ignored warning signs and were playing in an unsafe section of the water when a big wave pulled him out to sea.

Hotel lifeguards were unable to resuscitate Mr Liu upon pulling him from the water.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

#### Ten rescued from teetering Phuket yacht

PHUKET Marine Police helped dislodge a yacht stranded on a submerged rock outcropping off Koh Nai Nui on September 25, following the rescue of ten people from the boat.

Marine Police were able to pull the boat free after sea levels had risen

The slightly damaged yacht was taken to Royal Phuket Marina for repairs.

– Kongleaphy Keam

## Jet-skis to rule roost for upcoming high season



Tourists' desire to engage in the marine activity has long been touted as the reason to have jet-skis. However, a poll that ran for four weeks earlier this year on the *Gazette* website saw a staggering 75% of all respondents vote that jet-skis have no place anywhere on any Phuket beach. Nevertheless, Governor Nisit confirmed that jet-skis will continue to offer their services on Phuket beaches this high season. For the full story visit [PhuketGazette.net](http://PhuketGazette.net)

#### Hundreds bike for governor

ABOUT 200 cyclists mounted their bicycles to bid farewell to Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong on September 28.

The idea of the ride was tabled by Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos.

"About 200 of us will gather at the Governor's Residence early in the morning. We will depart at 6am heading toward the airport and expect to get

there at about 8am to see Governor Nisit off," said Mr Aroon the day before the event.

– Chutharat Plerin

#### Tourist found dead in Patong rental room

A SCOTTISH tourist was found hanging from a wire inside the closet of his rental room in Patong on September 24.

The body of 45-year-old Michael William Smith was discovered by an employee of the residence and a friend, confirmed Lt Col Jongserm Preecha of the Patong Police.

There were no signs of a struggle and Mr Smith's wallet was still in the room along with about 6,000 baht cash.

– Winai Sarot

#### Russian expat found dead in swimming pool

A RUSSIAN man was found dead near his swimming pool on September 28.

A friend of Oleg Ten, 65, discovered him unconscious in the swimming pool and attempted cardiopulmonary resuscitation but was unable to revive him. It

was later determined that Mr Ten died at least two hours before his body was found.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

#### Rough waters claim lives of two fisherman

ROUGH seas claimed the lives of two fisherman this week off Kamala and Sai Kaew beaches.

The bodies of Kaiyasit Wadeesirisak, 25 and Prayat Janmee, 50 were found within days of their disappearance.

Kata-Karon Chief Lifeguard Uten Singsom pointed out that even those not planning on entering the water, but coming in close contact with the ocean are at risk during this time.

– Gazette reporters

#### Phuket's new vice governors announced

THE Interior Ministry announced Phuket's three new vice governors as: Prajiad Aksornthammakul, Phuket Provincial Office chief; Chokdee Amornwat, Department of Local Administration inspector in Bangkok; and Kajornkiet Rakpanitmanee, Provincial Office chief, Suphan Buri.

– Chutharat Plerin

#### Snatched phone returned to Russian tourist

A MYANMAR national was arrested on September 24 after being tracked down in Kathu for allegedly stealing a mobile phone from a Russian tourist.

Dmity Surkov, 32, reported that his phone was stolen from Patong Beach on September 1.

Police were eventually able to pin point the location of the phone and arrest Naing Win, 28, who was holding the stolen item.

Mr Naing denied the charges of theft.

– Kongleaphy Keam

#### Crackdowns on trafficking end in empty hands

A GOVERNMENT push focusing on workers in construction, nightlife and fishing industries, along with beggars and Rohingya, found no human trafficking activities on the island.

– Chutharat Plerin

*The Ultimate in Fine Thai Dining*

Enjoy exquisite Thai cuisine served in a colonial era Sino-Portuguese mansion right on the beach at Cape Panwa Hotel.

For reservations call, 0 7639 1123-5

Open Tuesday - Sunday, 6.30 p.m. - 11 p.m.

CAPE PANWA HOTEL  
27, 27/2 Moo 8, Sakdidej Road, Cape Panwa, Phuket 83000, Thailand  
E: [enquiries@capecollection.com](mailto:enquiries@capecollection.com) [capepanwa](http://capepanwa) [www.capecollection.com](http://www.capecollection.com)

A part of the prestigious Cape Hotel Collection



# Dolphinarium lands import permit for marine animals

By Chutharat Plerin

THE unopened Nemo Dolphinarium in Chalong has secured a permit from the Department of Fisheries in Bangkok to import dolphins and other marine animals for the hotly-contested Phuket attraction.

"We are now working on importing the animals for the show. However, we have yet to confirm how many will be allowed for the performance," said the dolphinarium project manager, who asked not to be named.

It was last reported that four bottlenose dolphins, not six as originally stated, as well as sea lions and seals were destined for the facility.

"In the meantime, our marketing team is working on promoting the show. We don't expect to have a very big grand opening; we just want to offer another entertainment option to tourists," the representative said.

The dolphinarium is slated to open for the upcoming high season in November. However, the company is prepared for it to take a little longer – perhaps not opening until December.



The Nemo Dolphinarium has yet to announce what marine animals it will import. Photo: William Warby

"I understand some people are against us. However, many people are waiting for us to open."

Two such group that continues to push against the company's efforts, garnering the support of locals and taking the issue directly to government offices, are members of the 'Phuket Says No To Dol-

phin Shows' Facebook group and members of the Ric O'Barry Dolphin Project.

A post on the Facebook group denounced the approval of the import permits:

"We can't stop this from continuing without your help. With donations we can educate the community and thus starve this barbaric 'attraction' of

profit," the statement said.

"Don't underestimate the Phuket community. They're very open to learn. Awareness is key."

Earlier of this month, members of the anti-dolphin show group went to Taiji, Japan, to raise awareness about how the marine mammals are sourced for dolphin shows.

## Gov backs Chamroen



Governor Nisit speaks at his farewell meeting.

THE new governor will make the right choices for Phuket's beaches, vowed outgoing Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong.

"I believe that Chamroen Tipayapongtada knows Phuket much better than I do, as he is a native. I think his policies will be what's best for Phuket," Governor Nisit told the *Gazette*.

Gov Nisit stepped down on September 30, with former Vice Governor Chamroen taking the reins on October 1.

"Mr Chamroen and I have discussed the projects that I would like him to pay close attention to," said Gov Nisit.

"One of the projects highlighted was the beach management system. We have had to put a lot of time and effort into this project to get to the point we are today."

Gov Nisit added that he did not try to sway Mr Chamroen one way or another about the final decision.

– Chutharat Plerin



## Fly Bangkok Airways... *yuyab*

It's an entire journey of Happiness.

# Introducing New Route from Phuket to Hat Yai

Starting 11 October 2015

Nonstop from Phuket to

## Bangkok (Suvarnabhumi Airport) Pattaya

## Chiang Mai Samui

Contact your travel agent or call **1771**  
**www.bangkokair.com**

(24 hrs. 3 baht per call within Thailand\*)  
\*Excluding calls from mobile phones



ASIA'S BOUTIQUE AIRLINE

Fly Boutique. Feel Unique.



# New route set to reduce Bang Khu traffic jams

IN AN effort to reduce traffic congestion at the Bang Khu underpass construction site (where the bypass road intersects with Thepkasattri Road, at Toyota Pearl), officials are testing a new route that requires switching off traffic lights at the normally busy intersection.

Starting on October 1, motorists heading from town to Koh Kaew have had to turn left and then make a u-turn near the Premium Outlet Mall. However, motorists travelling on the bypass road to Koh Kaew, as well as those driving from Koh Kaew headed toward town, have still been able to freely drive through the intersection, Somkiet Yimpong, Bang Khu underpass' project engineer told the *Gazette*.

The test will take place over several days, after which officials will decide whether or not



Motorist wait to turn at the Bang Khu underpass construction site.

the new route is successful in reducing traffic jams.

"The underpass project should be finished as planned on

September 14, 2017. However, we aim to complete it beforehand," Mr Somkiet added.

— *Nattha Thepbamrung*

# Understand

From Page 1

...a month. Even entire communities, such as Plai Laem Saphan Hin and Klong Koh Pee, continue to support their families by picking through trash.

Garbage collectors working in the Phuket City Municipality area, such as 54-year-old Paitoon Jeraton, separate recyclables and electronics from the rest of the rubbish during their routes. Five trucks service the area two times a day, collecting about 144 tonnes of rubbish. From that, the municipality workers are able to glean about 4,000 baht each.

"We go to houses, restaurants, markets, hospitals and hotels to collect rubbish," said Mr Paitoon, who has been working as a garbage collector for about 28 years. "Basically, we collect tin cans, plastic bottles, pieces of plastic, metal, cables and cardboard."

With years of experience, garbage collectors know how to dismantle electronics, separating what can be re-sold and what is hazardous to dump. Hazardous waste is properly disposed of at the incinerator, Mr Paitoon confirmed.

The items saved from rubbish bins are sold to small recyclable collectors who are able to bundle the sorted items and re-sell them to production factories in the region. However, one business on the island has gone beyond just being a middle man in the world of recyclables.

## BIG BUSINESS

"My father always said that trash is the gold that you can find everywhere," said Kanin Raksaraj, owner of the private garbage-collecting company Thanasup Recycle Phuket.

The company was founded about a decade ago during the

construction of the Tesco Lotus in Samkong.

"They hired my father to transfer all of the debris from the construction site to the landfill, which is when it occurred to my father to also start transferring rubbish," Mr Kanin said.

After having won the business of a number of hotels, restaurants, shopping malls and government offices, Thanasup Recycle Phuket was able to start turning large piles of trash into piles of cash.

"We collect about five tonnes of trash per day and have about eight to 10 workers sorting and cleaning it so that it can be sold

to a recycling plant in Songkhla," Mr Kanin said.

His employees are paid between 10,000 and 12,000 baht per month.

"After washing and separating the plastics based on quality, they are pressed into a cube so that they can be transferred to the factory in Sadao, where they melt the plastic so that it can be used again," Mr Kanin said. "Plastic that is too dirty to be cleaned up will be pressed into a different cube and sent to a

factory in Bangkok."

Glass, however, is separated by color, ground into small pieces and then sold to a factory in Thalang for about one to two baht per kilogram.

"There are some items that people don't think about having any value at all, such as old pastries and bread, that we are able to re-sell to farms to use for fish or duck food," Mr Kanin said.

However, high quality plastics, worth about 47 baht per kilogram, and tin cans, which fetch about 40 baht per kilogram, are the real bread winners for the company.

"We are the only company that I am aware of that provides private rubbish pickup services that combine sorting recyclables



There are lucky days too, when I find some money or accessories, maybe even a ring or watch that I could sell for ten thousand baht..

— 43-year-old trash picker  
Suchart Ayueunt

## Thank you Phuket Fertility Center for fulfilling our family dream



### IVF packages

- Ovulation stimulation
- Egg collection
- Embryo transfer

### Special price (Baht)

100,000.-  
149,000.-  
30,000.-



**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





# island's economy of rubbish

to such a great profit," Mr Kanin explained. "We make hundreds of thousands of baht per month."

What cannot be sold is put back into the dump trucks to be taken to the Phuket incinerator at a cost of 530 baht per tonne. Hazardous waste costs 22 baht per kilogram and infectious waste costs 15 baht per kilogram, confirmed Prachoom Suriya, chief of the Environmental Division of the Phuket City Municipality.

Unfortunately, not all plastics fetch so much money. The Paktai Plastic Factory in Songkhla, different than the company Mr Kanin sells his recyclables to, offers 11 to 25 baht per kilogram for lower-quality plastics.

"We buy plastic bottles of various grades," said a Paktai Plastic Factory representative, who declined to be named. "We then melt the plastic and create plastic beads."

The beads are sold in 25-kilogram bags at a profit of about 1.04 baht to 1.52 baht per kilogram.

## MOUNTING DAMAGE

Though numerous families rely on the trash produced by the island daily, the massive increase continues to be a cause of concern for government officials.

In May this year, it was reconfirmed that the two operational incinerators at the Saphan Hin landfill – a third one has been offline since 2012 – have a total burning capacity



Cans are crushed into squares before being shipped sold to factors as raw material.

of 700 tonnes a day, falling short of the amount of rubbish produced on the island.

And though a 530-million-baht budget to fix the original, defunct incinerator has already been approved, the project will not be completed until April 2017.

"The bottom line is that people need to work on creating less trash in their daily lives. No matter what, some trash will be created. But we have to make sure we are dealing with it properly and not just dumping it into the ocean," said Meechai Theerapongpaisan, acting chief of the Environment Division of the Phuket City Municipality. "As the island continues to expand and develop, we will do our best to manage the massive amounts of waste. However, people must join our efforts, preserve the beauty of our island and set an example for the millions of tourists who visit our province every year."

## BOTTOM OF THE TRASH PILE

After the rubbish has either gone through the hands of garbage collectors, small-scale recycling operators or even a company such as Thanasup Recycle Phuket, the island's

trash has yet more mouths it can help feed.

Members of the Plai Laem Saphan Hin community, comprising about 100 households, and Klong Koh Pee community, comprising 171 households, live abreast of Phuket's swelling landfill – deriving their liveli-

hood from what can be found among the heaps of unburned trash.

"I make about 300 to 500 baht a day. Right now, times are tough, as there is a lot less trash to collect during low season and the municipality officers manage to burn most of the fresh trash off before we have a chance to go through it," said 43-year-old trash picker Suchart Ayuyeun. Mr Suchart has spent the last 30 years of his life in the small community of shacks at the landfill site.

"Many members of the community have the same job as me. We collect plastic bottles, garbage bags, electric cables and pieces of metal.

"There are lucky days too, when I find some money or accessories, maybe even a ring or watch that I could sell for ten thousand baht.

"Those are rare days though," he said with a laugh.



It's a joy to fly with 3 weekly flights to Cairns from Singapore

All-in return fares from

฿3,825

Singapore (One Way)

฿6,315

Singapore (Return)

฿20,700

Cairns, Darwin, Perth (Return)



SilkAir Studio



30kg Bag Allowance



Inflight Meal



Reliable Flight Schedule

Collect your free S\$20 Changi Dollar Voucher in the transit area. Simply present your SilkAir boarding pass and e-Ticket at iShopChangi Collection Centre to collect your voucher and get ready to shop, dine or unwind at the Ambassador Transit Lounge.

[silkair.com](http://silkair.com)

\*SilkAir studio (on-board wireless entertainment) is available on selected aircraft only. All-in fares include complimentary 30 kg check-in baggage allowance, seat selection, inflight meals where applicable, and associated taxes and surcharges. Fares quoted are for one way and return trip on Economy Class per person, for flights originating out of Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Koh Samui and Phuket. Fares quoted are subject to change due to currency fluctuation and exclude agents' service fee. Bookings are to be made online via [silkair.com](http://silkair.com) or through any SilkAir authorized agents from 01 September 2015 to 15 October 2015 for travel between 08 September 2015 to 31 January 2016. Peak surcharge applied. Subject to seat availability. Ticket validity is 1 month, requires an advance purchase of 7 days, a minimum stay for 3 days and a minimum of two persons travelling on the same itinerary. Ticket is non-refundable, and changes of flight/date are not allowed. Other terms and conditions apply.



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

100 YEARS OF  
PHSST, FIZZZZ  
CLINK CLINK  
GLUG, GLUG...AHHHH

**HAADTHIP**



# Foreigners 'could join Thai insurgency', Samui property agent shot

"Even if at first it looked like utter confusion after the tsunami, I believe that in the end we did a good job."

## Queer News

### Monkey on your back

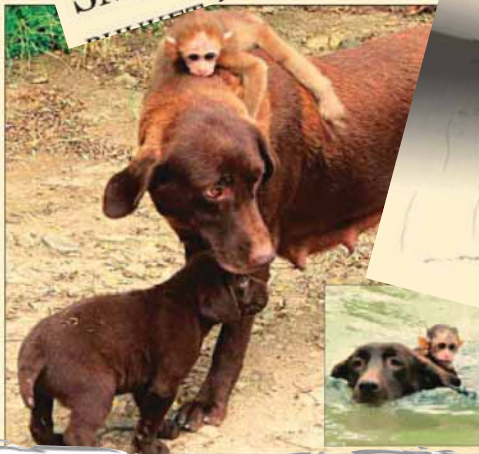
Then, around the beginning of September, the policeman turned up with another animal that needed a good home – an orphaned baby monkey, species unknown and gender not reported. Maj Samphan said he thought the young monkey had somehow managed to escape the clutches of poachers who killed its parents, hoping to catch the baby to sell in Bangkok's black market for exotic pets.

As luck would have it, not only did the baby monkey escape, but it also arrived at Anupap's res-

tatives. Nasa, who had plenty of extra teats for the baby monkey to suckle from, accepted the monkey as her own. Jockey also gets along well with the other pup, as yet unnamed.

At first, the baby primate tried to cling to the dog's stomach monkey-style, but soon found it an easier arrangement to ride on the dog's back, hence the moniker "Jockey".

So close are "mother and child" that piercing screams will instantly ensue if the dog walks even a few feet away from the



# The Phuket Gazette

Volume 12 Issue 40 News Desk - Tel: 076-236555

October 1 - 7, 2005

Daily news at www.phuketgazette.net 20 Baht

The Gazette is published in association with The Nation

## IN THIS ISSUE

**WS:** Property developer at on Samui; Big new rest planned for Phi Phi. Pages 2 & 3

**HIDE STORY:** What is creating a stink in Patong? Pages 4 & 5

**OUND THE REGION:** HIV on up. Page 8

**OUND THE ISLAND:** Tokiko to on song. Page 9

**OPLE:** Onwards and upwards: Winai Buapradit. Pages 10 & 11

**ESTYLE:** Gorillaz make nkeys of the opposition; 9 spy. Pages 12 & 13

**A MAGIC:** Tremulous over ai massage. Page 15

**KE A BREAK:** Crosswords, zzes and Sudoku. Pages 19 & 20

**IST PERSON:** Booze tax ily to fail. Page 25

## Gov urges restraint in vegetarian festival

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn & Sam Wilkinson

PHUKET (Gazette, Kom Chad Luek): Phuket Governor Udomsak Usurangkura has urged mediums at this year's Vegetarian Festival not to be too extreme during the street parades that are to take place from October 3-11. At the same time the Phuket office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) believes the festival will attract more than 50,000 tourists.

Gov Udomsak said he ordered supervising officials not to

let the mediums' supernatural displays get out of hand and not to indulge in acts that might the public or harm the tradition of Phuket's famous festival.

"I have also asked [participating] shrir food vendors to ensure proper food hygiene, and follow-up the Phuket Provincial Health Office will be inspecting food stalls," he added.

Meanwhile, Suwalai Pinpradub, Director of TAT Phuket office, said that the Vegetarian Festival this year will be more



This piercing by a devotee is very restrained

special than previous ones because of the presence of the deity, or "Ruby God", a deity which was flown in from China. More than 14 people have been thrown into the water during the festival. Praserit Fukthong, Chairman of Phuket Shrines, said

## UN envoy inspects tsunami recovery

## Soi Dog Foundation 'closed' as warning

By Anongnat Sarpitut

PHUKET: The Phuket Provincial Livestock Office has

issued a warning to the Soi Dog Foundation

to close its operations

as it is not in compliance

with the law. The

closure, K. Sun

mitted it was because

the real reason

for the closure, K. Sun

mitted it was because

the real reason

for the closure, K. Sun

mitted it was because

the real reason

for the closure, K. Sun

mitted it was because

the real reason

for the closure, K. Sun

mitted it was because

the real reason

for the closure, K. Sun

mitted it was because

the real reason

for the closure, K. Sun

mitted it was because

the real reason

for the closure, K. Sun

mitted it was because

the real reason

for the closure, K. Sun

mitted it was because

the real reason

for the closure, K. Sun

mitted it was because

the real reason

for the closure, K. Sun

mitted it was because

the real reason

for the closure, K. Sun

mitted it was because

the real reason

for the closure, K. Sun

## The gift of hindsight

Stephen Fein and Ananya Hongsa-ngiam reported: As Patong's signature attraction is its beach, logic should dictate that protecting the shoreline from en-

croachment, pollution and other threats that might put off tourists would be the priority.

Unfortunately, Patong Municipality's performance in this regard has been disappointing. The extent of the failure was exposed in May last year, when bright green algae that grow by 'fixing' nitrogen and phosphorus – two main components of human feces – began washing up on the shores of Patong Bay.

In response to concerns about the quality of beaches throughout Thailand, the Pollution Control Department

## Getting naked with a stranger Adults in their late 20s still the most likely to be infected by HIV

## THE TIME machine

News from the past

Storm Winds Devastate 3,000 Rai Phang-Nga

Gazette, issue

ed out 3,000 rai early last month Phang-Nga prov-

was also affected ding. roads and bridges service. Especially e Kapong and Takua-lometers north of here emergency sup- o be distributed.

THE lead story on page one a decade ago, in what has become a familiar cry, was the Governor urging spirit mediums – the people who endure swords, needles and an assortment other objects thrust through their cheeks while possessed by the gods – to practice restraint.

Five years later, it was the Assistant Director at the Tourism Authority of Thailand Phuket Office who stepped in to ask the *mah song* to use only 'traditional' objects such as swords, axes, maces – instruments from Chinese legends. Nonetheless, both calls appear to go unheeded all this time later – guns, badminton rackets and a number of gory moments continue to be part of the festival as the spirits appear to be trying to outdo each other.

Nonetheless, the *mah song* had to share the spotlight on page one of the

October 1-7, 2005 issue. And though the general public had been hounding the government about the conditions of the Mid Road Dog Shelter for months, it was the Soi Dog Foundation that found itself in the dog house as the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office forced them to suspend operations on the grounds that they were not in compliance with Thai law.

Thankfully, that was eventually sorted out and the foundation has since been able to do a decade's worth of good work in managing the soi dog population on the island.

Page one aside, the big story of the issue was a poo-poo platter that we are all familiar with: Patong Beach.

(PCD) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment was launching a 'star-based' beach ranking system. These systems to evaluate the quality of Phuket's beaches seem to come and go, but the one thing that remains is the rubbish – despite the efforts of the National Council for Peace and Order, a number of active environmentalist groups and CSR initiatives.

But as Elwood P Dowd put it: 'Don't you think that's rather too bad?' But we must keep trying. (He of course was talking about his sister not warming up to a 6' 3.5" tall invisible rabbit – but you get the gist of it.)

To read the entire October 1-7, 2005 issue, check out the Phuket Gazette archives online – or, for those who have been around awhile, start cleaning out the attic.

– Isaac Stone Simonelli



## Two suspects re-enact BKK bombing

TWO prime suspects in the Erawan Shrine bomb attack that killed 20 and injured more than 100 people re-enacted the crime at 19 key spots in Bangkok on September 26.

Adem Karadag, also known as Bilal Muhammed, who was the first suspect arrested in connection with the August 17 attack, and Mieraili Yusufu, the second suspect arrested at the beginning of this month near the Cambodia border, were taken to re-enact the crime at key spots where they confessed to committing the crime, Royal Thai Police Lt Gen Prawut Thawornsiri said.

Lt Gen Prawut said Mr Adem's confession was in line with Mr Mieraili's, and that Adem's statements also implicated others in the gang.

## Political motives 'partly behind bombing'

WHILE sticking to the smuggler-revenge theory, police are now convinced political motives were also behind last month's Erawan Shrine bombing.

One of the Thai suspects was involved in the political bombings during the unrest in 2010 and last year, General Somyot



Poompanmuang explained.

"A motive was the authorities' crackdown on a Uighur human-trafficking racket. Investigators believe that there are people who hired the perpetrators. Different groups of people were involved and they shared the same objective and desire," Gen Somyot said.

However, due to the Thai suspects' record, political motives could not be ruled out. Aod Payungwong, also known as Yongyuth Pobkaew, is one of the 17 people wanted in connection with the bombings at the Erawan

## NATIONAL NEWS Briefly

Shrine and at Sathorn Pier.

## Man slays five children in Chiang Mai

FOUR boys and a girl between the ages of five months and

eight years were slashed to death on September 27 by a man suffering from schizophrenia in Chiang Mai. A woman who was the mother of three of children was injured in the attack.

Asapa Siwua, 22, who police said had been released from Suan Prung Psychiatric Hospital in Chiang Mai a month ago, allegedly went inside the children's house with a large knife and killed them.

Yikor Sae Jern, the mother of two boys and one girl who were killed, sustained a knife

wound from her face to her ear. One boy was Ms Yikor's nephew and another her neighbor's son.

Lt Col Sombat Kalasuk, an investigator from Chai Prakarn Police, said they suspect the children were playing and making noise, which drove their neighbor Mr Asapa to become psychotic and attack them.

After allegedly killing the children, the Mr Asapa went back inside his own house with the knife. The house was surrounded by locals until police arrived and made the arrest.

## Rice mill owner acquitted of embezzlement

THE Appeals Court has acquitted the owner of the Nopporn rice mill in Chaiyaphum's Ban Khwao district for his roles in the alleged use of forged warehouse receipts to embezzle rice worth 11 million baht, but upheld suspended jail terms for nine farmers in a case involving 750 tonnes of rice.

## US seeks talks with Thailand

THE United States has sought to expand its cooperation with Thailand and is exploring the idea of holding a fifth strategic dialogue soon, Foreign Ministry spokesman Sek Wannamethee said on September 28.



**Window Design & Awnings**

**OUR PRODUCT LINE INCLUDES WINDOW DESIGN AND AWNINGS**

- Tension Membranes Product • Retractable Awnings • Vertical Awnings
- Canopy • Tents and Warehouse Tents • Drop Arm Awnings • Pergola
- Insect Screen • Sunscreen Roller Blinds



### WINDOW DESIGN AND AWNINGS CO., LTD.

70/89 M.4 Chowfatawantok Road, T.Vichit, A.Muang Phuket 83000  
Email: arunsawadde@hotmail.com www.tentphuket.com, www.windecor.co.th

+66 (0) 89 724 6914 +66 (0) 76 216 447 +66 (0) 76 216 448



# Amazing ironies

IT'S a pleasure to see that the 'Ministry of Farang Affairs' strikes a cord with our readers as each installment serves up a unique and humorous take on the expat experience here in Thailand.

Drawn up by well-known satirist Stephff at *Gazette* partner publication *The Nation*, these cartoons mark a considerable departure from his usual political work. They instead focus on the challenges faced by *farang* living here in the Land of Smiles.

The vast cultural chasm between Thailand and the West has long been a source of surprise, amusement, frustration, confusion, embarrassment – the list goes on – for foreigners. Given this fact, it is not surprising that a number of popular books, like *CultureShock! Thailand*, have been published to try and coach newbies on what to expect after they touch down.

All expats eventually learn the hard way, as no book or travel guide can ever adequately prepare a newcomer for Thailand.

Perhaps the best tidbit of advice for newcomers is this: always expect the unexpected. After all, none other than the country's official tourism promotion body, the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), introduced 'Amazing Thailand' as its official annual slogan back in 1998.

The catchphrase has proven so successful that it has stuck ever since, albeit with minor variations. For example, at the start of 2011, which has come to be known as 'The Year of The Great Bangkok Flood', the TAT reworked the slogan to reinforce the amazement aspect: 'Amazing Thailand Always Amazes You'.

Stephff, who now bears the lofty title of Minister of Farang Affairs, is of course aware that amazement is not only relative, but also cuts both ways; Thais are no doubt just as baffled by the behavior of these foreign hordes of invading tourists.

The current year is an excellent case in point. Despite Thailand being in a period of extended military rule and having suffered the worst terrorist attack ever on its soil, one in which foreigners appear to have been specifically targeted, arrival figures look to be on the increase.

The Tourism Council of Thailand expects the August bombing in Bangkok to have little impact on the upcoming season and for arrival figures to crack the 30 million mark, setting a new record. What could be more amazing than that?

With all this in mind, the *Gazette* welcomes the Ministry of Farang Affairs and encourage our readers interested in keeping up with all the amazing aspects and ironies of expat life to check it out.



## Fine line between ignorance and greed

*Re: Ammonia leak scares Rawai locals, September 22*

What needs to be determined here, as a matter of public health and of course justice, is whether or not the owners are honestly that ignorant. Or is this just another case of cost cutting and greed resulting in endangerment of a few thousand people.

If the latter, jail time is necessary to ensure that this company won't do it a third time.

Jack Hermann  
Gazette forum

### Letters

to the Editor

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

I guess there are some people, mostly just Europeans, who think the dolphinarium is not a good idea, but their thoughts look more emotional than reasoned.

My three kids, aged 8-13, are all looking forward to it and I think it will be a success.

Phuket tourism is moving rapidly toward Asian (especially Chinese) dominance so this attraction is well timed for Phuket.

Ralph Peters  
Gazette forum

There is no easy answer to this.

Dawn Farrell  
Facebook

## Thai Lion Air is still a much better deal

*Re: Up in the air: Nok Air plans big push in Phuket, September 27*

A stated fare of 350 baht with Thai Lion Air means just that – no extra taxes and fees and no extra charge for 15kg of checked in luggage.

Lion Air are not only cheaper, but their brand new fleet of B737-900ER aircraft are rarely late departing – which can't be said for Nok Air.

Geoff Morris  
Facebook

## Where's our 'beach management'?

*Re: Gov Nisit vouches for Chamroen's beach management judgment, September 28*

In my area, we've never had any 'beach management' – no public toilets and the showers have never worked since they were installed over ten years ago.

Additionally, the steps to the beach have been very dangerous for years and there are no government beach cleanups. There is also dangerous broken concrete in the sand near the lagoon.

So will things improve?

Harry  
Gazette forum

## 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 40

Copyright © 1994-2015 The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

## Surin Beach update needed for future

*Re: Officials reveal plans for Surin beachfront makeover, September 22*

I think it really looks great. I hope they will succeed with their plans. I don't understand why all are so negative.

I have met Mr Ma-ann and he is a great guy with nice and good intentions. Surin and other beach areas need an update for the future. Just don't forget some sport zones for beach volleyball, beach tennis and so on. Maybe some outdoor gym facilities like in Patong.

4wins  
Gazette forum

## Dolphinarium will succeed in Phuket

*Re: Phuket dolphinarium scores import permit, September 24*

## Lifeguards fighting a battle every day

*Re: Tourist drowns at Kata Noi Beach, September 26*

Sometimes, when I tell people not to swim in a certain area of the beach, at Bon Island, they ask, 'why?' like I was bossing them about. I answer, 'I don't want you to die here'.

Sadly, even with warnings people still go in. Maybe out of stubbornness, maybe language problems or maybe they just think that they are too brilliant a swimmer.

The lifeguards here are fighting a battle every day and I can't see any answer to this. Many people even go in the sea at night, drunk or early in the morning alone on the beach.



# Giving back to society

## FIRST PERSON

FIXING the road is not our responsibility. However, saving people's lives from accidents that occur everyday through bad road conditions is a big moral responsibility as a community and something we should handle if we are able to.

Many accidents take place everyday because of the potholes near the Samkong construction site. Protests have been held but they did not elicit a lot of change, therefore accidents kept piling up on a daily basis.

A lot of these were shared on Facebook. Sharing concerns on social media is a good way to raise awareness and to push those in charge of road safety to do a better job. However, it takes quite a long time to see action.

So we decided to do what we could in order to prevent accidents from happening. We did not spend much money on this effort but it helped a lot.

We saw that this was a big achievement when we received a lot of good feedback from the public and we have also succeeded in raising people's awareness about doing volunteer work.

On September 20, while we were fixing the road, many local people came to support us.



**Kanin Raksaraj**, 31, owns a recycling business in Paklok, Phuket. A native of the island, he is also currently studying toward a bachelor's degree in political science at Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University. He and his friends are noted as the

team who fixed the potholes on the bypass road.

Here he talks about why he and his friends find this work important and how the power of the local community can help boost social development through volunteer work.

Some helped us with the repairs, while others brought us materials. On that day, we did not just repair the bypass road, but we also fixed several other potholes near Bangkok Hospital Phuket and on Koh Sireh.

For me, doing this type of work is better than staging a protest. Actions speak louder than words. Instead of spending time holding a protest, it is better that we took action and improved the situation.

There was a lot of good that came from our effort. The construction company suddenly started to help fix another part of the road after seeing us make repairs.

A good society starts with good citizens. Start with your-

self and inspire others. If in doing so the society benefits, then please take the step. Other people will follow you.

In my opinion, the more that citizens are involved in society, the faster the pace of development in that society is. If all citizens just ignore problems and throw everything back at the government, these problems will only be resolved slowly.

Volunteering does not cost much, it is more about a moral and positive mindset.

However, we will never intervene heavily in government work. We will just do what we can to help improve Phuket and if we have the time and ability, we will do it.

# Borderline anxiety



Alleged bribes given at the border cause some to feel morally conflicted.

## Island View

By Samantha Hodges

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

THERE are always stories of people who allegedly slip the immigration police money in their passport to cross the border into Thailand, whether it's because they don't have proper documentation or perhaps are nervous about the police giving them a hard time.

Recently a friend of mine went on a visa run to secure her non-B visa. She had all of the right documentation to receive the visa. However, upon arrival at the border the van driver allegedly instructed everyone to put 200 baht in their passport so that there wouldn't be any issues crossing.

My friend was conflicted, as she didn't want to perpetuate corruption.

Unfortunately, she was peer-

pressured by other passengers and the driver to put the money in her passport because they didn't want to wait for her if she was given a hard time.

This made her absolutely livid, as she felt she had done something morally wrong.

It seems to be a catch-22 situation, because Thailand wants to rid itself of corruption, yet one of the main places where this illegal practice supposedly flourishes (the border) does not allow cameras or photos.

How is one supposed to give proof of corruption if it can't be documented? There needs to be a better way to monitor van drivers' behavior and police actions.

There needs to be an impartial, non-governmental party to whom one can send complaints.

I hope in time, action is taken against those who keep this vicious cycle alive so that others are not forced to make last minute moral judgments for utilitarianism's sake.

## Words from the Wise

**"Little League baseball is a very good thing because it keeps the parents off the streets."**

— Yogi Berra

**"Half the world is composed of people who have something to say and can't, and the other half who have nothing to say and keep on saying it."**

— Robert Frost

**"Every act of conscious learning requires the willingness to suffer an injury to one's self-esteem. That is why young children, before they are aware of their own self-importance, learn so easily."**

— Thomas Szasz

## Issues & Answers

### Who is letting their cows roam on busy roads?

YOU may well know the road linking Kathu and British International School (BIS) going around Loch Palm golf course. This road is extensively used by vehicles like cars and tourist vans as it links Patong to the airport.

I live near BIS and I drive on this road twice a day. For quite some time now, I have seen a dozen cows standing, crossing and even sleeping on that road. In simple terms, the cows live there, detached and unsupervised. I have never seen a farmer nearby. Sooner or later an accident will happen. Either head on with the animals or head on with a vehicle coming on the opposite side if the driver tries to avoid them. I don't know what the law says, but common sense dictates that the animals be gated in day and night.

Richard Margo  
Patong



**Ms Vanisa Sareraj, Kathu Municipality officer replies:**

That area is under the jurisdiction of Kathu Municipality.

However, before we could take action, it is essential that someone come to the municipality office and file a written complaint. English is acceptable. Many foreigners living in Kathu area come and write complaints about problems

they have with animals. Please feel free to come to us.

At this stage, we can do very little. However, after we receive a complaint, we can take action. We will go and check to find out who the owner is. Then we will tell them to take care of their cows.

The Kathu Municipality office is located at 12 Moo 2, Vichitsongkram Road, Kathu District, Amphoe Kathu, Phuket. Tel 076 321 500.



## BOT gov's three main concerns



Governor Prasarn Trairatvorakul.  
Photo: The Nation

THE outgoing Bank of Thailand (BOT) governor said in an exclusive interview with the Nation Group that the ongoing political situation, Thailand's economic potential and 'boiling-up issues' were his three main concerns as his five-year term came to an end on September 30.

Governor Prasarn Trairatvorakul will be replaced by Veerathai Santiprabhob, a former economist at the International Monetary Fund, at the end of this month. Prasarn revealed he had told Mr Veerathai that maintaining the central bank's credibility was one of the top priorities of the BOT governor so as to sustain the country's financial stability.

"I think Thailand's political situation is my first concern and from my five years on the job, this is a major issue for the country," said Mr Prasarn.

"During my five years as governor, I had to work with three governments and five finance ministers and this reflects the discontinuity at the political level," he added.

— *The Nation*

# Avoiding risk of market crash

## Finance

By David Mayes

FOR those of you who have been reading my columns for some time now, you probably know that I am not the biggest fan of the stock market at the moment. You may think I am an idiot because I have spent years waiting patiently for the next crash while the markets continue to march on to new highs.

The reason for this is that I understand the cyclical nature of markets and know portfolio performance has been proven in study after study to have more to do with asset allocation than security selection. What that means in plain English is that it is more important to be in the right kinds of investments, depending on where we are in the longer term business cycle, than to pick the next Google, Alphabet, or whatever they are calling themselves at the moment.

The major asset classes fall under two types, traditional and alternative. Traditional assets basically include stocks and mutual funds, as well as bonds and bond funds and cash and money market funds. We could get a little more technical but the main distinction is between these types of investments and 'everything else', which brings us into the world of alternative investments. Of these I like to distinguish between those with liquid, exchange-traded assets and those with illiquid assets such as properties.

At the moment, my favorite asset classes are cash and money market funds, short duration bond funds and trend-following futures funds. I may sound like a broken record, but having a



It is more important to be in the right kind of investments, as determined by where we are in the longer term business cycle. Photo: OTA Photos

bunch of cash ready to deploy will make a big difference in how you view the events that are as certain to come as the daily setting of the sun. If you are heavily invested in stocks, a crash is a terrifying thing. If you are out of the markets and sitting on a pile of cash, it is the most amazing buying opportunity.

The same thing goes for bonds. If you are in long term bonds as interest rates rise, you will be stuck holding them until maturity. And it will be even worse if you are in a fund and the losses get realized because of the redemptions from other investors. However, if we do see the bond market crash quickly, this would also represent a once in thirty

years buying opportunity, rather than a crisis.

Trend-following futures funds are another asset class that tend to do well in bad times, and lately they have been doing well again even when things are going well. Of course I would stick to the bigger and better well known funds like Man AHL, Winton, etc, but a portfolio spread between cash, short term bond funds, and trend-following funds has done pretty well over the last few years, with low volatility overall and very little downside risk relative to the stock market.

The conditions are still far from ideal, especially for retirees, but the three asset

classes I mentioned together have proven the best way to deal with the current situation for those who rightly want to avoid the risk of a stock market crash. The idea of having a bunch of money in cash is counter-intuitive for many, but there are times when it is the right thing to do and right now is one of those times.

*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 085-3358573. Faramond UK is regulated by the FCA and provides advice on pensions and taxation.*

## Turnover growth, innovation connected

GENERAL Electric launched 'ecomagination' as a new growth strategy in 2005. At a cost of US\$15 billion (536.5 billion baht), it was designed to enhance resource productivity and reduce environmental impacts on a global scale. Over the past 10 years, it generated US\$200 billion from the solutions drawn upon the strategy, helping customers in aviation and energy achieve more efficient fuel consumption.

Dow Chemical was determined to generate 10 per cent of revenue from sustainably-

advantaged sales. This year, sales from the products have been rising to 22.4 per cent.

"The business grew much faster than they anticipated," said Benjamin McCarron, founder and managing director of Singapore-based Asia Research and Engagement and a consultant to the Asian Corporate Governance Association.

At the Stock Exchange of Thailand's seminar on ESG (environment, social and governance) and business, he shared the success stories of

companies that embraced sustainability principles with Thai companies.

His message was that there was a connection between turnover growth and innovation – something that would ensure corporate longevity.

"If we understand that this is about better turnover growth, better risk management, operational saving and productivity, the whole question of 'Should we do sustainability and is that a cost?' – should go away."

— *The Nation*



Siam International  
38/54 Nanai Road,  
Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150

Siam  
International

- ❖ Legal consultation      Contact: K.Joy
- ❖ Company formations    Tel: 076 346 149
- ❖ Notarial                      Fax: 076 346 150
- certifications              Email:
- ❖ Contracts                    siamint@loxinfo.co.th
- ❖ Work permits
- ❖ Bookkeeping
- ❖ Visa service
- ❖ Translations



# Paul Pattrapon: Retiring rich, young

By David Mayes

THIS last weekend I had the pleasure of attending a seminar from one of my business partners whom most Thai readers would be familiar with.

They may not know, however, the extent of the business success that Paul Pattrapon has had outside of the limelight of being a Thai superstar.

On top of singing, modeling, acting in soaps, hosting television shows and being one of the highest paid event MCs in the country; Paul has also been a successful entrepreneur, investor, best-selling author and network marketer.

His seminar, Retire Rich and Young, was held in conjunction with Mr Nu from Boat Development Company Ltd, one of the most successful developers on the island.

Paul mentioned that he is asked frequently by childhood friends to help them sell things, but the reason he jumped at this opportunity was that he was asked to help educate people rather than simply hype up a project.

That being said, the houses and villas I saw looked extremely

nice and the locations the company is developing should be extremely desirable in the future.

In his section, Paul went over the many ways he earned active income in his career before explaining, that to really retire happily, we need passive income. As I have written many times, there is a big difference between being rich and being financially free. He also

highlighted the need for time freedom while we still have our health.

Paul explained the six main types of passive income that we can develop to achieve

this, but unlike most of us, he has actually had all six and is thus able to contrast and compare from his own experience.

Many are out of reach for the bulk of us due to the high capital cost required to achieve a large passive income via financial investments or the limits of our capabilities to create intellectual assets, like world-wide best-selling books.

Even though Paul has the number one best-selling personal finance book in Thailand, the market is too small to provide a lasting and large enough income to retire on.

Real estate is one asset class

**As I have written about many times, there is a big difference between being rich and being financially free.**



(From L to R) David Mayes; Panupong Kritchanarat, CEO of Boat Development Co Ltd; and Paul Pattrapon.

where, due to leverage, most people can begin building up a passive income early on in life if they acquire the knowledge and experience to do so.

Paul let the expert, Mr Nu, explain the specific details of this asset class, mainly highlighting the need to get the most important part of the equation correct – location, location, location.

As you have surely heard

many times, this is one area where following the lead of an established developer who is able to affect trends can help you get it right.

The event drew a pretty large crowd and laid out a very straightforward path to achieving financial freedom in a short period of time.

The main conclusion was to start now. Everybody has a day one, but if we never get started

there will never come the day where we can retire with 100 per cent freedom to use our lives in the manner that allows us to follow our own unique passions in life.

Paul's book is available in both Thai and English and you can pick up the English version under the title Retired by Forty at Asia Books or order it online. The Thai version is available at B2S.

## Doubling business success after reading



**Business Buzz**

Simon Wetherell

FOLLOWING on from previous topics, if we know our sales funnel and can break it down into a process map then we can analyze each step of the sales process, see where we have good and bad results, and increase our profitability by improving on every area.

Even a small tweak improving only one or two per cent at each process point, could lead to a massive increase in profitability, even doubling your success.

Take a simple post on social media. People either see it and interact, or ignore it. Now if we can increase the interaction rate we are going to improve the success.

So how do we do that? It is actually much easier than you think. By designing our post

with the outcome in mind, we can help achieve our goal. So if we want people to 'like' our page, simply ask them to. Everything we do should have a call to action.

If we want them to 'comment', make it clear and ask a question. If we want them to visit our website encourage them to click on the link to receive a benefit.

This is all very basic, but 90 per cent of people fail to do such things, thinking that viewers already know what to do. News flash: they often don't. Also people are often lazy and don't think, so they need a gentle push in the right direction.

So try it for yourself. Every step of the way make your desired outcome clear. Spell it out. And then measure it.

If you do it right, I bet you can make a huge difference to your business. I will even bet you 100 per cent I am right! So



Improving only one or two per cent at each process point could lead to a massive increase in profitability. Photo: Highways England

leave a comment with your thoughts.

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://PhuketOnlineMarketing.com> or call him on 095 085 3355.

TM

**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@phuketinternationallaw.com](mailto:info@phuketinternationallaw.com)

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



## Amazing fun at Thai festival

The Tourism Authority of Thailand's 'Amazing Tastes of Thailand 2015' festival, held recently at the Queen Sirikit Park, was a huge success with large crowds enjoying tasty food at numerous booths while also getting a chance to see thrilling presentations by famous TV chefs and well-known actors.



Giving a food demonstration are Channel 7 actors (from L-R) Wichuda Pindum, Natida Pathrachanchai and Om Akapan.

## Mini test drive

Mini Thailand and Millennium Auto held a 'Mini National Test Drive' at Saphan Hin, Phuket, on September 26. More than 20 mini cars were brought in for this fun test drive.



Kallayavee Jiraviriyalerd, managing director of Earth Media Planner, at this fun auto event. Photo: Pacharawat Wasikarn

## Full Moon Party at KEE Sky Lounge

There was fun galore during the recent Full Moon Party at the Kee Resort and Spa's KEE Sky Lounge, with the highlight being body painting.



Porada Srisuwanporn, Kee Resort and Spa's GM (2nd from right) having fun with guests at the party.

## Welcoming the AEC

Srisoonthon school held a special event to welcome the AEC in 2016 with booths displaying information about each of the 10 Asean countries. There were also student performances to entertain visitors.



Worawuth Songyot (5th from left on back row), the president of Srisoonthon municipality and chairman of this informative event, is surrounded by his management team and teachers and students of Srisoonthon school.

## Indonesia and China teams visit beauty expert



Dr. Orawan Kitchawengkul, holistic health and beauty medicine guru (middle), welcomes tourism representatives from Indonesia and China, currently touring the Kingdom as part of the Thailand Health and Wellness Tourism 2015 familiarization trip.

## Holiday Inn Resort wins 3 awards

Ever so proud is Holiday Inn Resort Phuket after its skilled Food and Beverage team won 3 Awards at the recent Andaman Hoteliers Show 2015.



Displaying their trophies are (from L-R) Sira Wongphimol, who won a gold medal in the Classic Bartender Contest with his outstanding pina colada; Chonticha Tabunjong, who was the 1st runner up in the Signature Coffee Competition; and Witawat Chumwong, who received a bronze medal in the Flair Bartender Contest.



## ents in Paradise

# Talk about kidneys

Phuket International Hospital held its 3rd 'Talk to Expert' event recently with the topic this time being 'the risk of kidney disease'.

Arminah Salika, one of the numerous guests attending this talk.



# Media cruise dinner

Andaman Princess 1 recently invited Phuket media for a cruise dinner with journalists treated to tasty Thai food and live music played by a professional band.

Naris Rodnakares, manager of Andaman Princess 1, gives a welcome speech to the media and other guests.



# ANDAMAN TRI SPRINT

Prasert Tantrapiwat and Prathana Tantivit from PELOTON Bike Fit, and Yuttakarn Matarach from Adrenaline Sport Shop, hosted the Andaman Tri Sprint, the first sprint distance triathlon and duathlon race on the island, at Saphan Hin Sport Center on September 27. The competition was split into 3 types: tri sprint, tri team sprint and duathlon. The winner in each category received a sprint shirt.



Paschayaphak Ged-aree (top) competing in the swim leg of individual triathlon for the 15-18 age bracket; Ponsak Sangiamkul (bottom left) gets ahead in the cycling leg of individual triathlon for men in the 19-39 age bracket; and Viyavit Aisakul (bottom right) is all smiles after reaching the finishing line in the sprint leg of the individual triathlon for men over 40 years old.



READY TO MOVE IN

# LH READY PACKAGE

**Full Furnished Quality Detached House  
from Land and Houses**

Receive special privileges  
up to **350,000 B\***

88  
HILLSIDE  
Phuket

88  
KOH KAEW  
Phuket

iniZio  
Koh Kaew Phuket

\* Terms and conditions are designated by company

 **LAND & HOUSES**

 **076-615-188**

• 88 Land and Houses Hillside Phuket, Construction Start: APR 2012 Expected Completion: JUN 2017. • 88 Land and Houses Koh kaew Phuket, Construction Start: MAR 2013 Expected Completion: DEC 2015. • Inizio Koh kaew Phuket, Construction Start: AUG 2012 Expected Completion: MAR 2016.



# Baba Iki: Simple sophistication

By Katie P Arnold

IKI is best described as an expression of simplicity, sophistication, spontaneity, and originality. The phrase iki is generally used in Japanese culture to describe qualities that are aesthetically appealing, and when applied to a person, what they do or have, constitutes a high compliment. It is a broad term that encompasses various characteristics related to refinement with flair.

The decor at Sri Panwa's Baba Iki Japanese Restaurant in Cape Panwa is just that – simple, elegant, offering a panoramic view of the Andaman sea.

Staff are kind and attentive, happy to answer any questions about the menu, as if this is your first visit to a Japanese-style restaurant, you may have a few.

The seafood looks so fresh, as if you had just walked down to the water yourself and plucked it from the sea.

With the open counters

where chefs prepare and cook the dishes, you are able to watch the cooking techniques as your sushi, salad, or meats are prepared. It almost gives an air of a fancier hibachi restaurant, except that the cooking is

done out in the open as opposed to right at your table.

The selection of dishes is enormous, offering many seafood items, exotic beef and traditional Japanese cuisine.

The most decadent item on the menu is definitely the hida beef.

Hida beef, hailing from a black-haired Japanese cattle breed, is best known for its marbling texture of both the meat and the fat, which prevents the juices from escaping during the cooking process.

Words can hardly do it justice. There is not much seasoning needed, a hint of salt maybe. Tender is not even an adequate word to describe its texture.

The food is also beautiful to



Baba Iki gives air of a fancier hibachi-style restaurant.



The food is so beautiful that you will need to admire it before devouring.

look at, with the perfected art of simple elegance throughout the menu. When the food is presented to you, it is something to admire before jumping in and devouring it.

Dessert is equally decadent. From lava cake, flan and chocolate brownies, to the green tea, strawberry and coconut sorbets.

It is the perfect ending to a wonderful meal as you stare out across the cape.

One of the best things to admire about Baba Iki, besides the food, is that it is a wonderful place to bring family or friends, as it is entertaining to watch the chefs. However, it is also an absolutely romantic

place for a sunset dinner for two while sitting outside and taking in the grand view that only the beautiful Sri Panwa can offer.

Whether you are staying at the resort, or just want to have a serene dinner getaway, Baba Iki Japanese Restaurant is definitely a place to relax, dine, enjoy and never forget.

## Phuket's 'Amazing Tastes of Thailand'

FOOD was aplenty when the Tourism Authority of Thailand's (TAT) 'Amazing Tastes of Thailand' rolled through Phuket and onto Thalang Road in Phuket Town.

The fair, part of the TAT's 'Discover Thainess 2015' campaign and an effort to bring locals and tourists together, panned out well as the streets were packed full of excited and hungry people.

Comprised of vendors with styles of food from four regions of Thailand, the street was closed off for performances and presentations by local companies, such as Pura Organic, as well as participation by celebrities, such as Iron Chef Thailand's Chumpol Jaengprai and Bunn Borriboon.

Food offered included *somtam*, *kanom jeen*, varieties of different meats, along with veggies, fruits and sweets from the north, northeast, south and central Thailand, allowing many guests to enjoy food from their home provinces.

Thachana Prathumwan from season 1 of The Voice Thailand



Assistant chefs help prepare Phuket's famed lobster for the salad.

swooned the crowd with western and Thai pop songs, while the Iron Chefs cooked up fantastic, innovative dishes using Phuket's famed lobster.

Also on stage was a fantastically funny food competition between two foreigners and a Thai chef as the chef attempted to teach them how to cook and then compared his dish to theirs.

Martin Smeters from Phuket's own Pura Organic later joined the stage to demonstrate the company's slow juicing process while talking about the benefits of an organic diet.

Tables were set up along the street for people to enjoy the food and festivities with the beautiful backdrop of Queen Sirikit Park as the sun set.

All in all, this food fair was a beautiful way to combine tourists' interest in authentic Thai food and locals' love of cooking and sharing their cuisine.

If you missed out on the great event, don't fret, as Anoma Wongyai, director of the TAT Phuket Office confirmed that this will now be an annual event on the island.

– Katie P Arnold

## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### 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 in Thailand.

### October 30. Phuket Tourism 'By The Numbers' at AMCHAM Event

The American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) Greater Phuket Chapter will present a tourism event led by STR Global's Area Director for Asia/Pacific Jesper Palmqvist at the Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort.

STR is the leading global performance indicator for hotels and will showcase the past, present and future outlook for the island.

Mark Simmons, Outrigger Hotels and Resorts' vice president of sales and marketing in

Asia Pacific, will join Jesper on stage and lead a discussion providing insights on strategy in a volatile marketplace.

Registration begins at 4:30pm. The session runs from 5pm to 6pm.

Admission is open to the public and is 100 baht for non-members.

To sign up for the event please visit [www.amchamthailand.com](http://www.amchamthailand.com) or contact Sarudha Netsawang at [orn@amchamthailand.com](mailto:orn@amchamthailand.com).

### December 5. HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Birthday

HM The King's birthday is also marked as Father's Day in Thailand, with festivities taking place throughout the country. Make sure to keep checking the *Gazette* for local celebrations.

### December 10. Constitution Day

This day commemorates the promulgation of Thailand's first constitution by HM King Prajadhipok (Rama VII) in 1932. Parades and fireworks take place throughout the country.



# Going to the zoo – part two



**Keep It Green**

**By Patrick Campbell**

CONTINUING my analysis of the value of zoos to man and beast, another important argument in favor of zoos is that they support the principle of conservation.

Take an extreme example. There are about 2,300 tigers left in the whole of the Indian jungle, but in the state of Texas alone, there are some 2,000 tigers, all in zoos or wild life parks. As a simple matter of fact, I spotted at least five in Phuket Zoo, whereas the last free-range tiger on the island was killed some forty odd years ago.

Some species, on the verge of extinction, or at least extirpation, have been saved by conservation programs initiated by zoos. Classic examples include Chinese pandas and the orangutan, but other less heralded species have benefited from these initiatives.

Minnesota Zoo has a program called 'Adopt a Park', aimed at helping to save the Javan rhino. However, it is estimated that only three per cent of global zoo resources are actually spent on conservation, and a significantly lower proportion on the far more crucial issue of habitat conservation. It is of little use 'saving' threat-



Photo of tourists with a tiger in 2005. However Dr Campbell says it's a changing world at the Phuket Zoo.

ened species, if there is nowhere in the wild to return them to.

Moreover, animals bred in captivity create their own problems. One is in-breeding, a genetic weakness caused by limited populations, while another and more serious concern centers on their inability to survive in the wild. Most released creatures will die within weeks - from predation or hunger. There is also some limited evidence that 'surplus' zoo animals are sold to circuses - with their unenviable reputation for animal cruelty - and to unscrupulous businessmen who allow them to be shot for

so-called sport. Big game hunting is obviously not dead.

Are most people aware of these issues?

The answer sadly is a resounding 'No'. Zoos, however, can, and indubitably do, help in the business of research and education. Actually seeing animals in the flesh is truly awe-inspiring, as no amount of film footage can match the appearance - close up - of an Asian elephant or a Siamese tiger.

But there are downsides, some of which are in evidence at Phuket Zoo. Good signage with information that both young and old can read and

absorb in order to discover more about the animals is essential.

In the bad old days, the signage used to be very poor, faded by sunlight and often unreadable. Now, it is better, but there is too little in the way of facts and figures.

Thailand's education system has failed conservation badly. What do children know about Thailand's unique pangolins or dugongs? Very little, if anything, about the Kingdom's precious natural heritage is taught in schools, so there is a crying need for zoos to help bridge what is a yawning chasm

of indifference and ignorance.

There is, moreover, still a preoccupation with the 'tame' animal show. Phuket Zoo advertises three different shows: four daily monkey shows, three elephant and three crocodile performances.

I dislike the entire notion of performing animals and especially the 'training' which precedes them, but I do concede that they are enjoyed by children.

However, no zoo can hope to match genuine encounters in the wild - watching a pod of orcas cavorting in the Pacific Ocean, or enjoying the majestic sight of giraffes, elephants, zebras, lions and gazelles roaming freely in Kruger National Park. Those are unforgettable moments, epiphanies in one's life.

At least the guardians of Phuket Zoo, in creating an environment with fewer animals, more emphasis on native species and more "natural" conditions, are moving in the right direction.

"Going to the zoo?" Why not.... you will learn plenty.

*If you have gardening or environmental concerns, contact Dr Patrick Campbell at [drpaccampbell@gmail.com](mailto:drpaccampbell@gmail.com). Many of his creative and academic publications can be found at his website: [GreenGaloshes.wordpress.com](http://GreenGaloshes.wordpress.com).*

## 'Golden sea turtle' saved by merit making vendor

A FEMALE sea turtle with golden leaflets on her belly has been safely rescued and is now under the care of the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) after it was sold for 300 baht in Cherng Talay on September 28.

The Kusoldharm Foundation received a report from Sombat Tannukrork, 48, a *somtarn* shop owner, asking for help for an injured sea turtle that he had bought off of a customer.

"The turtle has lost one of her front flippers and has injuries to her back left flipper," confirmed Patcharaporn Kaewmong, a veterinarian at the PMBC.

"The turtle was probably injured while stuck in a fishing net and may have been brought ashore to be raised as a pet to make merit, as it has many gold leaflets that you would find at a temple on its belly."



The injured turtle had gold leaflets on its belly.

Mr Sombat said that he bought the turtle because he originally wanted to release it back into the sea. However, after seeing the extent of its injuries, he decided to call for help instead.

"I decided that the turtle needed treatment first, otherwise it would probably not survive in the sea," Mr Sombat said.

— Winai Sarot

**The Race of Legends**  
**Laguna Phuket Triathlon**  
**22 Nov 2015**  
 Swim 1.8km Bike 55km  
 Run 12km and 6k Fun Run

SWIM BIKE RUN

Register Now!  
[www.challengelagunaphuket.com](http://www.challengelagunaphuket.com)

CHALLENGE LAGUNA PHUKET TRI-FEST 22.11.15-24.11.15 we are triathlon!

**Official Sponsors:**

**Official Suppliers:**

**Supported by:**



# Getting better with age: Phuket Yacht Club



## On Deck

By Duncan Worthington

PHUKET'S Ao Chalong Yacht Club has been at the heart of the island's sailing scene since its inception 24 years ago. At a time when thatch roofs were all the rage, the original Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC), known then as the Ao Chalong Cruising Yacht Club (ACCYC), was born and had its first official premises on the second floor of Pan's Lighthouse (known today as The Lighthouse).

With Horst Lakits as the Club's Founding Commodore, the Club quickly gained a following with local yachties and cruisers passing through.

The location of the Club has changed a number of times over the years, slowly working its way north along Chalong Bay until six years ago when the need for more space saw it to move next to Ao Chalong Villa where it sits today – on the seafront, overlooking

Chalong Bay.

One constant of the Club, however, has always been the Ao Chalong link.

Being born from the local sailing community, the Club is an active promoter of Phuket and Thailand's sailing credentials and runs a regular sailing series. Other regattas hosted over the years include the Bay Regatta, Platu National Match Racing Championships, the Naga Cup and the Multihull Solutions Regatta Phuket, the latter still a key part of ACYC's roster of sailing events today.

Six years ago, the Club expanded to its current location and followed that with sub-contracting the kitchen and bar facilities to a Kiwi couple, and, as they say, the rest is history.

"Since we moved into the new premises six years ago we



have focused on improving the Club's facilities and building our membership. We outsourced the kitchen and bar to an F&B professional which greatly improved the standards of service and the quality of food," says Mick Kealy, past Commodore.

"Four years ago, the small

dingy sailing club in Ao Yon closed down; it was called The Phuket Yacht Club. At that time, ACYC took over their remaining assets (old sailing dinghies) and this gave us a start for our junior sailing program which has been slowly improving over the years," adds Kealy.

A number of local companies, namely Royal Phuket Marina, Seahorse Furniture, Electrical Marine, Tamarind Villas and Asia Catamarans helped and donated five new sailing dinghies, and since then the Club has run regular junior sail training.

The Ao Chalong Yacht Club has aged well, but the committee and members are not sitting on their laurels. Arguably the biggest change in the Club's history came immediately after it celebrated its 24th birthday.

A change to the name.

Speaking of the change, Scott Duncanson, current Commodore, says, "It gives me great pleasure to announce the changing of our club's name from Ao Chalong to Phuket Yacht Club. It was a decision that wasn't taken lightly by the committee, however. As Phuket evolved as an international marine and yachting destination, we thought it prudent that our name projected an image to match."

Often overlooked, at 24 years old, the now Phuket Yacht Club is one of the island's longest established organizations. Here's to the silver jubilee next year!

*Duncan Worthington is a long time Phuket resident and through Infinity Communications (www.infinity-comms.com) consults to leading consumer brands, hospitality and marine clients in Thailand. In his 'spare time' he runs the marine portal www.MarineScene.asia. #OnDeckPhuket*

## Sailors prepare for King's Cup Regatta



Captains: Prepare your boats and crew. Photo: Guy Nowell

THE island is readying its sails for the King's Cup Regatta 2015, which will take place off of Kata Bay from December 5 to December 12.

Hosting international racing classes, the event will see more than 150 boats and 1,500 sailors competing for one of sailing's most prestigious trophies.

Inaugurated in 1987 to celebrate the 60th birthday of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the event has been held during the first week of December every year since.

Consisting of five days of racing on challenging, scenic courses, the Phuket King's Cup

Regatta brings some of the world's fastest independent racing teams to Phuket.

Under Royal Patronage and organized by the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee under the auspices of the Royal Varuna Yacht Club, Yacht Racing Association of Thailand and the Royal Thai Navy, the region's largest regatta includes dinghies (International Dinghy Classes), keelboats and multihulls among its competitive classes. There will also be a full dress sail past to celebrate HM The King's birthday.

– *Phuket Gazette*

# NICE PEAK

Music Moving On

# 88

EIGHTY EIGHT

# Phuket's Largest Radio network

# Reach 245,000 Thais in English every day!

# green FM

life in nature

# 93

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

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



# Confusion reigns in booze prohibition

## On Your Mind

By Patrick Mattimore

CHINA'S family planning policy, also known as the one-child policy, is a method to control population in that country.

The policy was introduced in 1978 as a means of combatting overpopulation, and while the policy has been somewhat successful in curbing China's birthrate, it has fostered a host of other problems, including: leaving one adult child to provide support for his or her two parents and four grandparents; over-indulgence of the only children – sarcastically referred to as 'little emperors and empresses'; development of birth tourism in which mothers leave China to give birth to subsequent children establishing citizenship for those children elsewhere; unequal enforcement, allowing government officials or other wealthy individuals to skirt the law; sex-selective abortions of fetuses – usually girls – in order to get a child of the family's preferred gender, and so on.

The one-child policy is a good example of a cure being

worse than the ill it was intended to remedy. What's more, although fertility rates in China have declined, those rates were already declining before the policy was instituted. Fertility rates in other countries, including Thailand, have been on the same downward trajectory as rates in China, without governments having to mandate draconian orders.

Phuket and, more generally, Thailand's alcohol sales ban, which forbids the sale of alcohol by businesses within 300 meters of universities, is another example of a well-intentioned law with some very bad, unintended consequences likely. According to coverage in the *Gazette*, the intent of the law is to "eliminate alcohol and drug use, as well as prostitution and gambling, in the areas."

All well and good, but as people in the *Gazette's* forum have pointed out, the likely targets of the ban such as students, will now need to travel further on motorbikes or in cars to get alcohol and will thereby increase the risks of driving under the influence.

Businesses will certainly



An American sheriff dumps out bootleg booze during the US prohibition era. Photo: Orange County Archives

suffer. Bars in cities such as Chiang Mai, already affected by a ban, have begun to hide alcohol and serve patrons in secret. Some bar owners insist they will have to close up shop. Payoffs to police, already a problem for many bars, are likely to increase.

I don't drink alcohol so I don't really have a dog in this fight. But I do have a question.

A trial ban which expands

restricted sales to all businesses within one kilometer of Phuket Rajabhat University will be, if successful, rolled out for other academic institutes on the island, according to Phuket Governor Nisit Jansomwong. How is success to be measured?

Then again, maybe this is all just a dry tempest in a teapot. Apparently, Justice Minister Paiboon Koomchaya has de-

nied that the new law prohibits booze sales within 300 meters of schools and that enforcement will depend upon the drawing of new entertainment zones. That will take until next year.

So, this ban strikes me as just another case of Phuket musical chairs (think beach loungers) where no one really knows where the law stands since the seats keep disappearing.

## Storylog – share your story

FROM freelancer to tech startup founder, Pippo Pramewith has acquired a wealth of knowledge over the past few years.

The founder of story-telling community platform Storylog.co has found his niche.

An avid reader of what he calls 'people stories', Mr Pippo combined his old interest in directing, scriptwriting and entrepreneurship with the new, starting the website Storylog.co as a place for people to write and share their stories.

"My passion is to have a story-telling community. No platform like this is available, especially in Thailand. When you think about a video community, you think about YouTube, while when you think about photo sharing you think of Instagram. We would like people to think of Storylog when they think about a story-sharing community platform," he explained.

Mr Pippo teamed up with his friends and went to pitch his ideas for a tech startup to AIS The Startup 2013. But even though he failed to get through the first round, he received moral



Mr Pippo is interested in 'people stories'. Photo: The Nation

support from senior startup specialist Teerachart Kortrakul.

"Teerachart told me that my idea was interesting, but needed development and improvement to make it stronger," he said.

He took the comment to heart and worked hard to improve his product. A few months later, he applied for the Dtac Accelerate 2013 and finally found success when Storylog became one of 20 ideas picked from 1,000 applicants. He also made the final cut, winning a place in boot camp for three months to groom his startup idea.

The three months in boot camp gave Pippo a leg up in the startup world. He got to know a lot of people with different skills, such as programmers and design-

ers, and emerged confident that he would be able to roll out the full version of the product in three months. In that, he failed and became mired in developing the beta version of Storylog.

"We got stuck in and saw no improvement for almost a year until we decided to join Dtac Accelerate 2014," said Mr Pippo.

This time, Storylog made it into the final five and received seed-funding of 500,000 baht for product improvement. His team were trained and groomed during a second three-month boot camp.

Dtac Accelerate 2014 was the turning point, he said. His team learned the necessary skills and by halfway through the boot camp, were able to launch the beta version of Storylog.

Mr Pippo continued to develop Storylog and finally launched the full version last November. Since then, Storylog has been gaining more visitors and stories.

As the *Gazette* goes to print, Storylog version 2.0 is in the midst of being launched.

– The Nation

*Spend your Summer with us & enjoy our special Promotions!*

**"ALL-IN" RESIDENTS PACKAGE**

18 holes green fee, caddy fee and golf cart "All-In" for **THB 2,850**

\* Valid 7 days per week

\*\*Thai ID card, driving license or visa copy required upon check-in

**SPORT DAY SPECIAL**

Available Wednesdays only, 18 holes green fee at **THB 1,800**

\* Price excludes caddy fee and golf cart rental

\*\*Thai ID card, driving license or visa copy required upon check-in

**SUMMER JUNIOR GOLF TREAT**

Enjoy unlimited daily access to the golf course and a complimentary group golf lesson (Wednesday mornings). Plus discounts on driving range & on-course refreshments!

**THB 5,500 / week per junior**

\* Open to junior golfers 16 year-old and below

**DRIVING RANGE PASS**

Purchase our 20-voucher driving range pass for **THB 1,000**

\* 1 voucher = small basket (30 balls)

\*\* 2 vouchers = large basket (80 balls)

All promotions are valid from 1st April to 31st October 2015.

**076 324 350**

golf@lagunaphuket.com  
lagunaphuketgolf.com

Tag #lagunaphuketgolf to share

f t i s g o



# Preparing property for sale



**By The Book**  
**Kevin Hodges**

WITH the island's real estate market staying strong some owners could be thinking of selling their property. If so, here are some tips for making this move.

## ESTABLISHING A PRICE

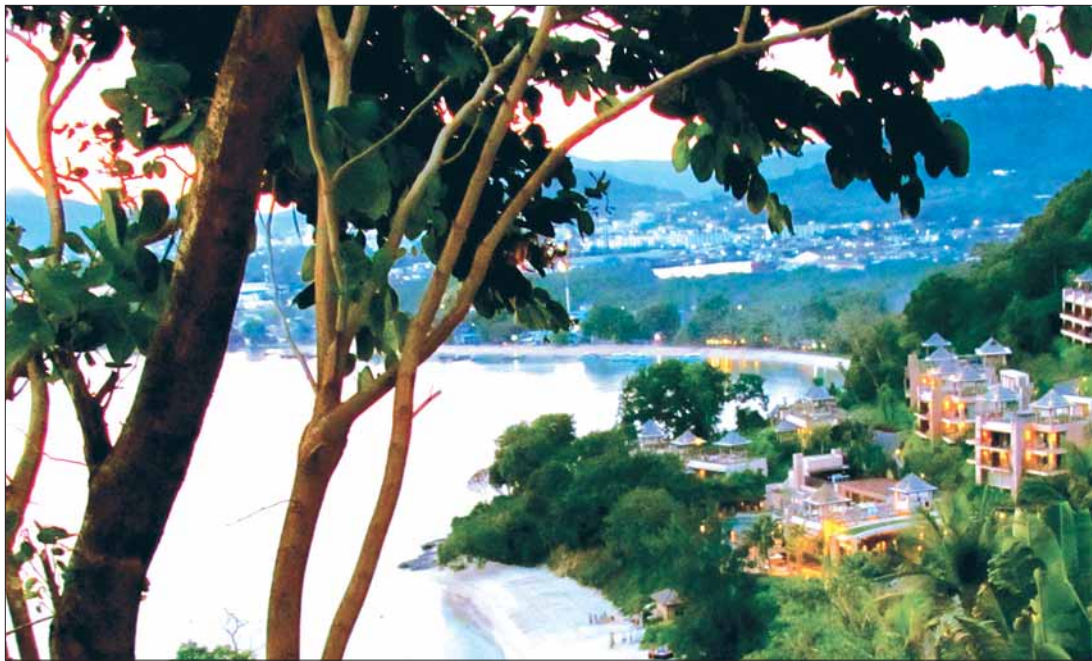
Consider what you paid for the property, how long you have lived there, what similar properties have sold for, any improvements added, present condition of the property, ask the agent about the current property climate and arm yourself with the facts.

## SIGNAGE

Allowing the agent to erect a sign is very important as their brand name and reputation may draw in passers-by as they understand the professional nature of the company that can assist with the buying process and represent their interests.

## QUALIFYING THE BUYER

A major part of the agent's job is ensuring that you have a genuine buyer, that they are serious and actually have the funds available. Many times



There are lots of interesting property for sale on beautiful Phuket. Photo: Jeff Gunn

private sales end in disaster and wasted effort due to misunderstanding between the parties and lack of knowledge of the buying process.

## PRICE PARITY

If you are not exclusively listing with one agent then ensuring that other agents offer the same price is important.

## NEGOTIATING

The key to remember is not to get wrapped up in any games. If you keep your goals in focus

at all times, you will be better able to respond to offers. You will have three choices when an offer comes in. You can accept the offer, reject the offer or make a counter offer. In the end it is what the buyer is willing to pay that counts.

## SHARING COSTS

In Thailand it is customary for the seller and buyer to share the transfer costs 50/50 but this is up to you to negotiate. Sellers must understand the costs associated with selling their property and incorporate them into the

selling price. Trying to renegotiate who pays what fees after a selling price has been agreed with a buyer will almost certainly lose the sale.

## BUYER PAYMENT

Let your agent know at the beginning where and how you wish to be paid, as many buyers wish to receive payment offshore or outside Thailand and the buyer needs to know up front to avoid unnecessary bank and interest charges. Regardless a percentage of the purchase price must be paid

into Thailand to cover transfer and tax fees but the amount depends on negotiation with the seller.

## TITLE DEED

Ensure that there are no complications and that the property is free to be sold with no encumbrances and that the seller is the name on the back of the title deed (or company).

Sellers must ensure that they have all necessary original documentation for their property to complete a sale. A seller should be prepared to provide a buyer with copies of all property documents as soon as a sales price has been agreed so the buyer can complete due diligence on the property.

## RESERVATION DEPOSIT

When the buyer makes an offer acceptable to the seller, usually a non-refundable deposit is taken (min 150,000 baht or 1 per cent of the selling price, whichever is greater) until such time as contracts are exchanged. The reservation agreement allows the buyer 21 to 45 days to review and agree the contracts, if a deal cannot be reached in that time the reservation can be extended by mutual agreement.

# Bangkok sees slower property sales

THE property market in Bangkok and its suburbs is expected to drop by 15.9 per cent in the second half of this year compared with the first half, as the drop in purchasing power is forcing most property firms to delay the launches of new residential projects.

"We are seeing the market drop in the third quarter of this year compared with the second and first quarters as demand for residential property has been absorbed in the first half of the year, especially the demand for luxury residences that have shown strong growth since the first half of this year," said Thai Condominium Association president Prasert Taedullayasatit, who is also managing director of Pruksa Real Estate Plc.

He said that in the first half of this year, total sales value of residential projects in



Bangkok condominium launches will likely dip in the second half. Photo: Anton Stroganoff

Bangkok and its suburbs amounted to 179.3 billion baht, up 31 per cent from the same period of last year. Up to 70 per cent of the total was from condominium projects, especially luxury condos. With

condo projects worth up to 100 billion baht launched in the first half of the year, new condo project launches in the second half of the year will be lower, he said.

The association estimates

total property market value in Bangkok and its suburbs - single detached houses, townhouses, and condos - to be 330 billion baht. In the first half of the year, sales worth 179.3 billion baht were recorded, which means in the second half sales will be down to 150.7 billion baht, a drop of 15.9 per cent.

However, the overall property market in Bangkok and its suburbs this year will grow to 13 per cent when compared with last year, thanks to strong demand in the first half of this year that boosted the market, he said.

The Bank of Thailand reported that the property market, in the first seven months of this year, saw slight growth in keeping with the country's economic situation.

"In 2012-13, most of the

new residential projects were sold out in less than one year after launch, but now new residential projects take more than a year and half to be sold out," BOT senior director of macro-economic and monetary policy department Roong Mallikamas said.

Following the drop in purchasing power, most property firms are delaying the launches of new residential projects in the second half of this year.

Pruksa Real Estate has revised its plan to launch up to 12 new condominium projects worth 15 billion baht. Instead, only four projects worth 7 billion baht will be launched; two of them in the first half of this year, worth 4.56 billion baht, and the other two in the last quarter of the year, Mr Prasert said.

- The Nation



# Krabi Boat Lagoon expands

By Nina Suebsukcharoen

TWO exciting projects will be unveiled by Krabi Boat Lagoon shortly, with one being a beach club near the marina and the other a third condominium building at the marina itself.

Ms Sriya Yongsakul, Krabi Boat Lagoon's deputy managing director, said at an exclusive interview with the *Gazette* last week that the long beachfront plot where the beach club is currently being constructed is close to the marina, with condominium residents and marina clients able to reach it in five minutes via a boat shuttle.

"Today, plots like this are hard to find. There will be a pool, restaurant, beach club and a kilometer-long beach so visitors can go for walks there.

"Outsiders, too, could spend their days off there and undertake activities at the beach club."

This new facility in Krabi, which is just an hour's boat-ride from Phuket and two and a half hours by road, is expected to be completely built by January 2016.

Ms Sriya also confirmed that Building C of the The Cleat condominium at the Krabi marina will be launched early next year, as all the units in Building A and 60 per cent in Building B have already been sold.

These are three-story, low-density residences with Building A having only 20 units and Building B, 23. Sizes range from 38-square-meter studios to 110 sqm duplex penthouses with their own rooftops.

"We are still designing the product so that it differs from buildings A and B. While it has not been finalized how many units there will be, we do expect to offer bigger penthouses so that they look luxurious and have more usable space.

"And there is flexibility for those who talk to us now because we could customize the unit for them."

Pertinently, she did mention that the price would be close the previous levels, starting at 80,000 baht a sqm for studios.

Buyers also have an option of entering a rental pool, although no guaranteed return is offered. It is noteworthy that



A beach club and new condo building coming up at Krabi Boat Lagoon.

the developer is unlikely to build a hotel at this marina because it already owns two in Krabi, the 160-room Holiday Inn Resort Ao Nang and the 220-room Holiday Inn Express.

In Phuket, this developer has the Boat Lagoon Resort and Phuket Center Apartments.

"Right now we have about 10 units for daily rentals and this is not a lot considering the location, as we can accommodate 180 boats. If you are talking about Phuket, the marina here can berth 330 motor yachts."

Up to 80 per cent of Krabi

Boat Lagoon clients are from Australia and Europe where sailing, sometimes around the world, and marine tourism are well-entrenched.

"They come and dock here for maintenance because this is very important and has to be done every year. It's the same as a car, you have to take it to the workshop to get the engine tuned and the body checked once a year.

"Thai workmanship is as good as elsewhere with the fees also being in a good range. At the same time they get a chance to holiday here."

While previously few Thais were interested in sailing, mainly because they wanted to maintain a fair complexion, even though His Majesty the King is a keen sailor, this sport has steadily become more popular.

"At Krabi Boat Lagoon we have a sailing school and there are both Thai and foreign students.

"We also have a kayak service to go along the waterways in the reserve forests, pass through mountains and caves, see monkeys and wild life, so this is good eco-tourism."

**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**

**076 362 333**

[www.lagunaproperty.com](http://www.lagunaproperty.com) [info@lagunaproperty.com](mailto:info@lagunaproperty.com)

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



**BANYAN TREE  
RESIDENCES  
PHUKET**

- Luxury 1-2 bedroom pool villas
- Managed by Banyan Tree
- Owner privileges and discounts through Sanctuary Club
- Membership to Laguna Phuket Golf Club

**Price from THB 32.5 MB**



**LaGuna  
VILLAGE**

- 2 bedroom condominiums in gated community
- Owner privileges and discounts through Sanctuary Club
- Membership to Laguna Phuket Golf Club

**Price from THB 13 MB**



**LOFTS  
at laguna village**

- 1-3 bedroom apartments in gated community
- Swimming pool, fitness, and restaurant on site
- Owner privileges and discounts through Sanctuary Club

**Price from THB 9.75 MB**

More options available, please contact us for more information.



## PROPERTY FOR SALE

**BEEN CHEATED  
BUYING CONDO?**

Consult us to see what can be done. We have experience in this field. First consulting is free of charge. Asean Hotelworks Phuket. Email: development@asean-hotelworks.com

**SEA VIEW LAND  
FOR SALE**

Near Mission Hill. 6 rai. Chanote title. 37,000 baht per square wah, hand-over fees included. Ideal for pool villa, hotel and condo. Free consultation by expert. Project references: Dewa Resort & Spa Phuket, Mama Resort Phi Phi Island, and etc. For more information, please call 083-389 7799, 082-894 6699. Email: pee\_bang56@hotmail.com

**BANGTAO BEACH  
PENTHOUSE**

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 124 sqm with private roof garden, sala. Located in a lovely garden. Complex has pools, gym, sauna, bar, 24hr security on site. 150m to Bangtao Beach. 7.5 million baht o.n.o. Email: sup\_pamas@live.com

**RAWAI - SAIYUAN  
VILLA**

For sale / rent. On 620sqm land, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big garden, pool, quiet area. Must see. 10.5 million baht. Contact Harrij. Tel: 089-731 0283. Email: harrij@loxinfo.co.th

**CONDO FOR SALE**

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

**Pls contact 086-4769612 | [annanoi1@hotmail.com](mailto:annanoi1@hotmail.com)**

**LAND  
CLOSE TO THE SEA**

Land 1.5 rai for hotel, close to Bang Tao Beach, near Amora Hotel. Contact Choochart. For more information, please call 061-261 3486.

**3 RAI IN PATONG**

For sale. Near Simon Cabaret. Chanote title. Ideal for hotels and condos. Tel: 089-724 1505.

## PROPERTY FOR RENT

**KATA BEACH - FOR RENT**

8,000-12,000 baht / month, 500 baht daily, has everything, near beach. Please call 086-595 8512. Email: kataari@yahoo.com

**7 BEDROOMS  
GOLF VIEW**

Large house, 7 air-conditioned rooms, private swimming pool with golf view. Center to all international schools and shopping malls. 73,000 baht per month. Kathu. Tel: 081-271 3228. Email: info@procarpentering.com

**THAI VILLA & POOL  
NAI HARN**

2-bedroom villa in Soi Naya, 37,500 baht/month. Long term. Tel: 083-396 4007. Email: mer\_vyn.crocker@yahoo.com, [http://sites.google.com/site/mervyn\\_crocker/home](http://sites.google.com/site/mervyn_crocker/home)

**HILL & SKY POOL APT.**

Opposite Bangkok Hospital, 40sqm, room with balcony, private car park, elevator. Tel: 076-254480, 093-640 5554, 081-797 1008. Email: idresidences@hotmail.com, [www.idresidences.com](http://www.idresidences.com)

**CHALONG SHOP  
FOR RENT**

Newly renovated. 1,000 square foot. Near Chalong Pier. Dive shop / office ideal. Tel: +65-065-985 6038 (English). Email: gerard.chuah@gmail.com

**FREEHOLD SEA VIEW  
APARTMENT**

Kata, 2 bedrooms, quiet location. For sale or rent. Tel: 086-281 9311. Email: bao\_200@gmail.com

**ART@PATONG CONDO**

Nice 1-bed condo. Fully furnished. Big pool. Gym. 16,000 baht/month. Long term. Email: marklouisw@hotmail.com

**CONDO FOR RENT**

Short or long-term rent at Kathu, fully furnished, swimming pool, fitness. 9,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com, [www.phuket-condo.net](http://www.phuket-condo.net)

**HOUSE FOR RENT**

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons. Fully furnished with small garden, quiet area. 15,000 baht/month. Tel: 083-104 1206. Email: bcarrent@hotmail.com

**APT - HOUSE - VILLA  
SALE / RENT**

Short / long term. 1 rai land with Chanote. 7 million baht. For more information, please call 081-538 2110.

**CHALONG AREA HOUSE**

1-3 bedrooms. Quiet area. Fully furnished. Tel: 081-892 4311. Website: <http://palaigreen.weebly.com>

**SEA VIEW CONDO ON  
PATONG BEACH**

Sea view condo Patong beach, 1 to 2 bedrooms, fully furnished 10 units available for sale/rent on daily/monthly/yearly basis. Reasonable price. Tel: 081-797 7199, 086-683 0786. Email: highstylecondominium@gmail.com

**ACCOMMODATION  
AVAILABLE****PATONG LUXURY APT.**

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

**7,000 BAHT / MONTH**

Attached house, 2 bedrooms, big garden on sea canal, near Boat Lagoon. Contact Mee. Tel: 081-892 4311.

**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 Sep 2015. Tel: 089-874 0061, 086-291 4115. Email: stephenfein@gmail.com

**STUDIO ROOM  
FOR RENT**

**Please contact 086-4769612  
email: [annanoi1@hotmail.com](mailto:annanoi1@hotmail.com)**

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



## JOBS/RECRUITMENT

**CAPTAIN WANTED**

Address: 73/10 Soi 10, Ao Chalong, Phuket 83130. Must speak English. Tel: 076-280420, 089-875 8691 (English). Email: admin@riverrovers.com

**SALES MANAGER**

Real Estate Company looking for a sales manager, English speaking, attractive personality, good wage + work permit. Tel: 089-594 6888. Email: info@arhouse.asia

**STAFF FOR PROPERTY SERVICE**

We need 2 females for an property service, should have a little knowledge of photography. Salary: 15,000 baht. Kamala. Tel: 097-997 1011. Email: alois.horhager@gmail.com

**LIVE IN AMERICA**

Looking for live-in caregiver in America. All travel expenses paid. Luxury private living space. Looking for female caregiver, 18-40 years old, to assist with one senior female and one female special needs child. Excellent salary. Must speak some English. Tel: +1-0763-498 4722. Email: jwetterlind@intravantage.com



InterCall Service was founded in 2006 in Phuket and is a BOI listed company. Our business is to provide call center services to overseas clients. For this reason our Agent Team is a mix of Thais and Europeans. We are now looking for an energetic professional who can handle the accounting for BOI investments. All the activities are in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles.

**Accounting Manager****Essential Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Manage all accounting and finance process, etc

**Essential Knowledge, Skills:**

- All accounting systems and accepted accounting principles
- Ability to use math and apply for VISA and work permit under BOI terms
- Able to write and communicate in English

**Education and/or Experience:**

- Bachelor's degree in accounting or related field
- Bookkeeper licences
- QuickBooks Program skills
- Minimum 5 - 7 years related experience.
- Excellent analytical and problem solving skills related to BOI

We offer you a 5-day week with a good salary and social benefit at our office in Phuket. If you believe you are the right person please send your resume to [bewerbung@intercallservice.com](mailto:bewerbung@intercallservice.com) for further information.

InterCall Service Co., Ltd.

E-Mail: [info@intercallservice.com](mailto:info@intercallservice.com), Website: [www.intercallservice.com](http://www.intercallservice.com)

**Booking.com****Account Manager Hotels Phuket**

As Account Manager Hotels, you are responsible hotel account management initially.

- Support Booking.com BV's acquisition of new hotels in Phuket
- Create quantity and quality reports on results and performance as information support to Booking.com
- Inform hotels about Booking.com, provide hotels the (initial) training on how to use Booking.com's system
- Assist the Senior Account Manager Phuket on the improvement of hotel availability and supply in order to support Booking.com in meeting the demands of visitors on the Booking.com website

For more information, please visit our website at <https://workingatbooking.com/vacancies/account-manager-hotels-phuket/>  
Tel: 076-303100. Email: [workapac@booking.com](mailto:workapac@booking.com)

**BOAT WORKER**

Cleaning, sanding, painting. Please call 099-013 4172 (English). Phuket Boat Lagoon. Email: [boatcrewwanted@gmail.com](mailto:boatcrewwanted@gmail.com)

**APARTMENT MANAGER NEEDED**

Thai national, speak English, hotel experience. Female preferred. Starting at 20,000+ baht. Patong. Tel: 085-694 6463 (English & Thai). Email: [solitude001@aol.com](mailto:solitude001@aol.com)

**SALES MANAGER**

DVC looking for experienced timeshare SM. Good package + WP for right candidate. Patong. Tel: 076-342794. Email: [hr@davidvacationclub.com](mailto:hr@davidvacationclub.com)



CLX THAI launches an exciting opportunity for a Graphic Production Coordinator with high professionalism in graphic products and skilled in languages, combined with creativity and flair to join our highly productive team.

**Position: Graphic Production Coordinator (Thai/German or Thai/English)****In summary, you will be involved in the production of :**

- Catalogue and magazine composition processes
- Product visual understanding, supported by your multi-lingual skills
- Translate creative requirements
- Coordinate and support team on follow-up projects and deliveries

**Desired Skills & Experience:**

- Good communication skills in Thai, German and/or English language
- Knowledge of Adobe products is an advantage
- Willing to learn new skills
- Previous corporate experience is an advantage

Please submit your resume with a recent photo to: [Recruitment@clxthai.com](mailto:Recruitment@clxthai.com)

CLXTHAI Co., Ltd. 44 Moo 3, Palai Soi 2, Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130.  
Tel: 076-380653. Fax: 076-380655.



BACK TO NATURE IN TOTAL COMFORT

**Unique Opportunity In Paradise**

Paradise Koh Yao, a contemporary 72-room boutique resort and spa is located on Koh Yao Noi, an island just a 60-minute boat trip from Phuket in the spectacular Phang Nga Bay.

Our shabby-chic design integrates seamlessly with the surrounding beauty of the natural environment. The resort's 'barefoot luxury' philosophy is complimented with a fully equipped yoga sala and activity center.

We are currently looking for a highly motivated professional to join our dynamic team at Koh Yao.

**HOST CHEF (junior) (1 position)****Duties:**

- Looking after the a-la-cart restaurant and the Chef's table - skilled in culinary creations, outgoing personality - close guest contact
- 3 - 5 years experience in quality culinary establishment
- Fluent in English language, German an advantage
- Creative with new product innovations
- Preferably young locally assimilated foreigner

**GUEST RELATIONS OFFICER (GRO) German Speaking (1 position)****Duties:**

- Front Office / Guest Relations duties - able to speak German
- Previous experience in equivalent property / position
- Fluent in German / English language
- Locally assimilated foreigner or Thai with good German language skills

Comprehensive remuneration will be offered in line with experience

We are looking for high powered, self-confident candidates. If this sounds like you - send your resume with picture to [joeraess@paradise-kohyao.com](mailto:joeraess@paradise-kohyao.com)

**Phuket Gazette**

As part of its expansion into **national** markets, the **Phuket Gazette** seeks two advertising sales representatives.

**Advertising Sales**

- ▶ Thai, age at least 26, with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Bachelor's degree in marketing or related fields
- ▶ Experience in sales and marketing
- ▶ Good command of spoken and written English
- ▶ Must have own transportation and driver's licence
- ▶ Alert, self motivated and goal driven

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to [Anna@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:Anna@PhuketGazette.Net)

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

**PROPERTY LISTING**

Siam Real Estate is looking for a new, part-time member for property listings and taking photos around Phuket. Must have own transport. Good commission. Please call 076-288908. Email: [jobs@siamrealestate.com](mailto:jobs@siamrealestate.com)

**BAR & LOUNGE MANAGER - PATONG**

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

CLUB  
MEMBERSHIP  
AVAILABLE**LAGUNA GOLF  
MEMBERSHIP**

Golf membership. Expires on 07/2023. 350,000 baht. Split transfer fee 50/50. Tel: 081-968 8131. Email: charles.pulaski@gmail.com

**PCC MEMBERSHIP**

420,000 baht plus shared transfer fee. Rawai. Tel: 091-647 6216 (English). Email: jm.conasiam@gmail.com

**BLUE CANYON  
MEMBERSHIP**

Family membership available. Fees paid up for 2015. 850,000 baht, transfer fees included. Please call 083-172 2602 (English & Thai). Email: stevebrad57@yahoo.co.uk

## BUSINESS PRODUCTS &amp; SERVICES

**CHOM  
LAWYERS & MORE****Legal Services**

- Litigation, Notice Issuing
- Company Formation & Restructuring
- Contracts & Wills
- Real Estate, Land Due Diligence
- Translation & Verification
- Notarial Services

Tel : +66(0)76 393 909 / +66(0)80 714 4477  
Email : chomlawyersandmore@gmail.com

CONTACT : Mon - Fri 9am - 6pm  
65/295 Moo 1, Chaofah-East Rd., Wichit,  
Muang, Phuket 83000

“OUR CLIENT, OUR FRIEND”

MISCELLANEOUS  
FOR SALE**COMPLETE  
SOFT BLASTING  
EQUIPMENT FOR SALE**

Consists of Atlas Copco XAS 97 compressor on trailer, 5.3m<sup>3</sup>/min/190 CFM; Gritco Micro Strip Blasting System; Whirl jet nozzle (extremely gentle to surfaces); Water jet nozzle (for wet blasting); Air dryer/cooler; adjustable high pressure water pump (for wet blasting); all necessary hose connection; and 22 tonnes of different blast media. All machines have been used for only 70 hours and are in perfect condition. All blasting equipment and blast media are imported from Europe. For more information, please call 081-787 9535 (Thai), 086-277 2323 (English / German). Email: tucalex@gmail.com



## PETS

PERSONAL  
SERVICES**QUICK TRANSLATION**

Deliver quality and timely translation services (Thai-English). Tel: 081-893 6414, 087-464 35 08. Email: sthrika@hotmail.com

## SURFBOARDS

**FOIL SWORD 2  
FOR KITESURFING**

4 times used. 65,000 baht. New: 2,800 euro. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: jyfieviet@gmail.com

**2 HOMELESS DOGS  
NEED A NEW HOME**

2 toy poodles dumped on the side of a busy road in Rawai. Now looking for a new home as soon as possible. For inquiries contact Sherin.peace@gmail.com

**Little Einstein  
Preschool and Childcare Centre**

Newest child education facilities in Chalong, Phuket. Provides Early Childhood English Education Programme to develop and equip early learners for future studies. Our lessons are conducted in both English and Thai. 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).  
Website: www.littleeinstein.webzmp.com Email: einsteinlan68@yahoo.com

**PLUMBING DOCTOR**

We fix all plumbing issues. Contact Sumet. Facebook: Sumet Boonlorm. Tel: 081-396 5050 (English & Thai).

**LEGAL SERVICES**

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

**WANTED - CHALONG**

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

## GENERAL AVIATION

**Unique development - 124 Rai**

If you would like to:

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

Call Robert: +66 81 810 4510 (Eng. Ger.)

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

**YOUR HELICOPTER**

Flying and owning your own helicopter has just become possible. Free complete flight instruction course with your purchase. For more information, 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.

**See Phuket from above  
Book a trial!**

**Book now: 0935 92 7558**







# Understanding the soul of Phuket

By Chutharat Plerin

FEW people in the world understand Phuket's unique culture better than Assistant Professor Pranee Sakulpipatana, known to the general public simply as Associate Professor Ajarn Pranee. Though she is a historian, Ajarn Pranee doesn't need to dig into other people's past to understand the Baba culture that is quintessentially Phuket.

Now 68 years old, Ajarn Pranee was born on Thalang Road – the heart of Phuket Old Town. She is from a Chinese immigrant family – the original expats of Phuket – who settled on the tin mining island about 150 years ago.

"I am so glad that I was born in a very old-fashioned era. It was so beautiful when people were so kind and lived without technology. Old fashioned people spoke nicely. Nothing like this age, when people are rushing and can be so selfish," Ajarn Pranee said.

"I received my Thai name in 1956, when I was just 9 years old; Field Marshal Plaek Phibunsongkhram, former Prime Minister, was the leader

at that time."

Ajarn Pranee's family wasn't the only one to adopt Thai names as anti-communist sentiments were rising and a hysteria about the perceived threat posed by communists in the United States was in full swing.

"We changed our names after one of my neighbors was deported because she married a Chinese man who was an insurance agent – the government alleged that he was a communist," Ajarn Pranee said.

"A few years ago, she visited Phuket for a family-business event – she is from a wealthy Phuket family. I remember when she was living here; they sold very expensive watches.

"I was surprised how clearly she spoke the Phuket dialect after all these years. It was just another example of how beautiful Phuket is, and made me love the island even more."

Ajarn Pranee's first language is the Phuket dialect of Thai, her second language Hockien Chinese, followed by central Thai and English.

Honorary Consul to Phuket for Nepal, Phuket Community Foundation President and Thai Peranakan Association Vice

President, Ajarn Pranee's life work – beyond caring for her husband and their two children – has been to preserve and educate the world about Phuket's Baba culture.

"I write a lot of articles describing Phuket's unique culture. I am upset anytime someone tries to publish material about Phuket's history that is incorrect. I don't want to see our culture being modified for some ulterior motive, especially for business motives," she said.

For example, her family owns the oldest Phuket Pateh, similar to batik, shop in Phuket, established in 1932.

"I learned about the fabrics from my grandmother, who lived to almost 100 years, and my mother, who is now 96 years old. They taught me everything, which is why I understand the fabrics so well and how to dress in true Baba fashion.

"But then people come in and try to say their fabric is 'Phuket fabric'. When I tell them they are wrong, that it is not, they get angry. I don't mind if people want to do business here and bring other textiles to the is-

land, as long as they are truthful and do not try to manipulate our past to meet their present needs."

Ajarn Pranee is more than happy to walk the streets of Old Town recalling the history that lives behind each home's door and the culture that created it, something that she knows must be shared and preserved for future generations.

"My dream is to continue to freely work for Phuket, the place where I was born, raised and has given me so many opportunities. To do this for the rest of my life will bring me great happiness."

Rendering:  
Adriano  
Trapani



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