

Phuket Gazette

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Dolphins and turtles can mistake plastic bags floating in the Andaman for jelly fish, which are part of their natural diets.

Andaman trash takes toll on local marine life

Steady increase in reports of dead marine animals

By Kongleaphy Keam

ENORMOUS amounts of trash and discarded fishing nets continue to wreak havoc on the region's marine life with two dolphins and one turtle being rescued this month alone, despite raised awareness on the issue, said Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong, head of the endangered species unit at the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC).

"Compared to last year, the number of reported animals being washed ashore has increased about five per cent," said Dr Kongkiat. "For the last 10 years, the numbers have steadily increased by about three to five per cent each year."

The entire Andaman region has seen an estimated 300 protected animals washed up on its shores in the past year, with Phuket yielding about half of the total.

Out of the 150 cases on Phuket, about 100 were turtles, 40 were dolphins and 10 were manatees or whale sharks.



TRASHING THE SEA

"Discarded fishing nets and the enormous amount of rubbish being thrown into the ocean is the leading cause of injuries for these beautiful marine animals," Dr Kongkiat explained. "Many animals mistake plastic bags as jelly fish or accidentally consume other rubbish, which eventually leads to serious infections and debilitating illnesses. Additionally, we regularly see damage from fishing nets on certain protected marine creatures, such as turtles."

According to research undertaken by PMBC's Hirun Kanghae, between December 2014 and September 2015, more than 150 kilograms of trash washed ashore at Koh Lon, off Rawai.

"We chose to conduct our research on the beaches of Koh Lon and Mitrphap Beach because they are not visited by tourists and the beach is not regularly cleaned by the Rawai Municipality. This allows us to collect more accurate data on how much trash is washing up from the Andaman," Mr Hirun said.

"Though Koh Lon is east of Phuket, it is still representative of the western beaches. We know that a similar amount of trash is washing up on the shores of Kata, Karon and Patong. However, these areas are cleaned in the morning by the municipalities."

Most of the 150 kilograms of trash...

Continued on Page 5

Dolphins not connected to Taiji killings, says manager

THE general manager of Nemo Dolphinarium has denied that any of the recently imported dolphins at the controversial facility were poached from the wild.

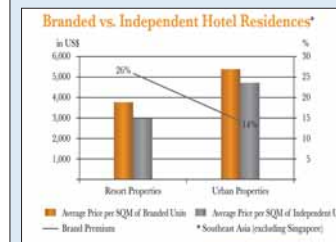
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BUSINESS



Leading hospital surgeons create 'dream team' at new medical tourism facility.

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Four-year-old survives dad in red-light crash

A KOH YAO man was killed and his 4-year-old son injured after they ran a red light in Phuket Town on October 19.

Rakchart Koondee, 36, and his son Chinnapat Koondee, who was riding passenger in front of him, were turning right when they failed to stop at the traffic light. A motorbike with right of way, collided with Mr Rakchart.

Mr Rakchart was declared dead on arrival at hospital, while his son suffered minor injuries.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Rubber tapper killed, unable to pay off men

POLICE are hunting a group of men who killed a Myanmar rubber tapper who was only able to give them 6,000 baht cash – not enough for them to spare his life.

When officers arrived at the scene on October 18, they found the body of 34-year-old Kyaw Soe. Also at the scene was Mr Kyaw's wife, named by police only as 'Yo'.

The men, comprising both Thai and Burmese, asked for more money. When Mr Kyaw was unable to produce the cash, one of the men stabbed him with a three-pronged spear.

Mr Kyaw was dead by the time officers and rescue workers arrived.

– Winai Sarot

Transfer rumors false, says Gov

PHUKET Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada denied on October 18 that he

Man saves tourists stuck in deep mud



VIDEO REPORT: A man's act of kindness went viral after he rescued a Norwegian photographer and his partner from the mud along the banks of the Krabi River. Chat Ubonjinda laid down flat in the mud and allowed the two tourists to step on his legs and back as they clambered out. For the full story, visit PhuketGazette.net.

would be transferred from the province because of the Thalang riot.

"Due to the recent rumor that I will be transferred from the island, which is confusing people, I would like to assure you that I have yet to receive such an order," Governor Chamroen wrote on his Facebook fan page. "Only the Ministry of Interior has the authority to transfer me."

The Governor asked that people be careful about what information they choose to believe and share via social media.

– Chutharat Plerin

LOCAL NEWS

Briefly

Post-mortem tests negative

POST-MORTEM urine tests on the suspected drug dealers whose deaths caused the Thalang Police Station riot have come back negative.

Doctors have confirmed that the deaths of the two men were caused by the collision during the police chase and that there were no signs of additional violence, said Phuket Vice Governor Chokdee Amornwat.

Police claim to have found 50 pills of *ya ba* (methamphetamine) and one kilogram of *kratom* leaves in the men's bags.

– Kongleaphy Keam

Grieving family to sue rioters

FAMILY members of the patient whose death may have been prevented if rioters had

not blocked the ambulance he was in from reaching a hospital earlier this month, are prepared to sue those responsible for initiating the mob.

Chian Srichoo, 73, was being transferred from Krabi Hospital to Bangkok Hospital Phuket for treatment of his coronary stenosis [blockage of the coronary arteries] when the rioters forced the ambulance to re-route to Thalang Hospital.

The family believe that, had the ambulance been able to get through, Mr Chian would have had a better chance of survival.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

US embassy complaint sees shops busted

A UNITED States Embassy complaint led to officers seizing more than 4 million baht worth of fake brand name goods in Patong on October 18.

Officers from the Economic Crime Suppression Division (ECD) Division 4 stormed 12 shops in the Patong area, rounding up pirated brand name items.

The maximum penalty for selling pirated goods is four years imprisonment, a 400,000-

baht fine or both.

However, shop owners had already fled the scene.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Promthep Cape paragliders banned, for now

PARAGLIDING at Phuket's iconic Promthep Cape has been temporarily banned, confirmed Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos.

The ban follows complaints of paragliders blocking public land and telling visitors to get out of their way during takeoffs.

Municipality workers have been ordered to patrol the area to ensure that no one without a proper license from the Department of Civil Aviation and direct permission from the municipality itself takes off from the strip.

– Chutharat Plerin

Chinese tourist dies snorkelling

TOUR guides and doctors were unable to revive a Chinese tourist who was found in an unresponsive state while snorkelling at Koh Racha Yai on October 15.

Zhang Jie, 29, was snorkelling at Patok Bay with about 20 other tourists when he was found motionless in the water, confirmed Lt Wuttiwat Liangboonjinda of the Chalong Police.

Guides pulled Mr Zhang from the water and began performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) while being rushed by speedboat to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Mr Zhang was pronounced dead after doctors were unable to resuscitate him.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Transparency demanded for Pud Jor Shrine

A PROCESSION on October 14 saw dozens of members of the Pud Jor Shrine marching to the Muang District Office to file a complaint against the shrine's president.

The group requested that the office investigate the financial transactions of the shrine and that complete transparency be put in place for all further transactions.

The large crowd gathered and presented the complaint letter to Muang District Chief Administrative Officer (palad) Narit Lerdee, but quickly dispersed afterward.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Nemo dolphins not connected to Japanese slaughter, says manager

By Chutharat Plerin

THE Nemo Dolphinarium dolphins, which recently arrived at the controversial facility on Phuket, were not poached from the wild and have no connection to the annual dolphin slaughter at Japan's Taiji Cove, Dolphins Bay Phuket General Manager Supreecha Suthamanondh told the *Gazette* on Tuesday.

"Our five dolphins are among 19 dolphins that were born and raised in an aquarium in the Ukraine. Each one of them has an embedded chip to verify their identity, which is registered with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)," Mr Supreecha explained.

"The dolphins and two seals legally arrived in Phuket earlier this month and are now in quarantine, as training specialists and veterinarians work with them."

Five people from the Nemo Dolphinarium in Ukraine joined the animals on their trip and are now working with Mr Supreecha to ensure that they adjust to the new facility.

"We have a lot of faith in the company, as they have been in this business for years."

However, Sea Shepherd



The five dolphins arrived earlier this month. They are now being acclimatized to the new facility. Photo: Dolphins Bay Phuket

Conservation Society confirmed to the *Gazette* in 2014 that the original marine animals slated for shipment from Ukraine to the Phuket facility had a direct connection to the annual slaughter of thousands of dolphins in Taiji.

Three of the dolphins, two Pacific Bottlenose and one Black Sea Bottlenose, were born in captivity in 2012 and are being directly exported from Ukraine,

said Sea Shepherd Conservation Society Asia Director Gary Stokes at the time. Additionally, five more Pacific Bottlenose dolphins are being re-exported from Ukraine; and all five were originally caught in the wild in Japan, he explained.

"The only place in Japan that catches wild dolphins is Taiji. We had 20 Bottlenose [dolphins] shipped from Taiji to Nemo [representatives] in

Ukraine a few years back. Nemo has not imported any other dolphins from Japan except these," said Mr Stokes.

Nonetheless, Mr Supreecha assured the *Gazette* that such a connection did not exist between the dolphins that were finally approved for the facility.

"I understand people are concerned about the possible connection between Taiji and our dolphins. However, I can assure that they are not wild dolphins and did not come from Taiji," he said.

The 100-million-baht facility, with seating for 900, is not only designed to be a tourist attraction, but also a learning center for students and underprivileged children, Mr Supreecha said.

Ticket prices are set at 1,200 baht per person, with discounts for students and underprivileged youth.

However, the facility has one more legal hurdle to jump through before its soft opening.

"The next step is to have the Department of Fisheries do a final check of the facility and approve it," Mr Supreecha said.

"I assure you that we are following all the standards required by the Department of Fisheries and other dolphinariums around the world."

Warrants issued for rioters



Police Commander Tesa Siriawato. Photo: Nakorn Sri Thammarat Police

A TOTAL of 33 arrest warrants were issued, as of Wednesday, for alleged instigators of the Phuket riot, which saw more than 20 police officers injured, confirmed Region 8 Police Commander Tesa Siriawato. An additional 14 warrants are expected to be issued 'soon'.

Early on in the investigation Provincial Police Commander Patchara Boonyasit confirmed that police had photographic and videographic evidence of the suspects.

"Most of them are local teenagers... who are involved with drugs or other criminal activity. They have criminal records," Maj Gen Patchara said at the time. "I think the serious rioting was not about the deaths of the two men, but were revenge attacks by the teenagers."

— Kongleaphy Keam



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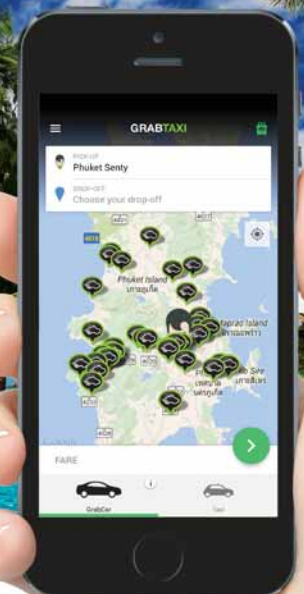
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Religious leaders in on beach affairs

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE island's religious leaders will be joining one of four committees tasked with ensuring the successful implementation, upkeep and management of Phuket's 10 per cent beach zone policy.

The four-pronged approach will include a consultant board, a management board, local government representatives and a public relations team.

"Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada has ordered me to set up the beach management teams and ensure that we are following all regulations and that none of our actions are illegal," said Phuket Vice Governor Chokdee Amornwat on October 20.

The consultant board will comprise Phra Visutthi Thamma-kanee, the head of Phuket's monks; Phuket Islamic Committee President



The beach management system will now comprise four different sections. Photo: Voratuss Intasee

Komon Doomluck; Royal Thai Navy Third Area Commander Sayan Prasongsamrej; 41st Military Circle Commanding General Teenachat

Jindangen; Phuket Public Prosecutor Pisitpol Phumsawat; Region 8 Police Commander Tesa Siriwato and Sirinath National Park

Chief Kitiphat Tharapiban.

The management board will be led by Governor Chamroen and will comprise relevant officials at the provincial level.

The local government team will be divided by Phuket's three districts, with each district chief heading the management in their area.

"This team is responsible for establishing the 10 per cent zones in their jurisdiction. They must establish clearly marked areas that can be captured via aerial photography," Vice Governor Chokdee said. "This way, we can easily check the situation on the ground from up above."

The local government teams will also be in charge of ensuring that rules are strictly enforced and that appropriate signage is in place.

The fourth prong of the new system will be a public relations team that ensures tourists and locals understand the beach management plan.

"We want to ensure that everyone fully understands the situation," V/Gov Chokdee said.

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Costs of trashing the Andaman

From page 1

...collected were hard plastics, Mr Hirun confirmed.

After a full year of research is completed, Mr Hirun plans to present his results at a number of workshops to educate locals, tour guides and fisherman about how their daily lives are affecting marine life.

"Trash control is our biggest challenge right now. We have talked to the media many times to educate the public, and asked for cooperation from fishermen, tourists and tour business operators to help with waste management," Dr Kongkiat said.

Tour groups are one of the biggest producers of trash found in Phuket's waters, explained Santi Pawai, director of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MOTS) Phuket Office.

"I have informed tour operators many times to keep all of their trash on the boat, as well as collect any trash they find floating in the sea," he said last week.

Mr Santi also noted that MOTS is planning to work with the Andaman Tourism Association and local tour business operators to start a trash collecting campaign on Phuket and Koh Hei.

Meanwhile, Nikorn Tormaitree, vice president of the Andaman Tourism Association admitted that some tourism activities are damag-

ing the environment.

"We have been educating our members about this issue. Currently, there are about 900 members in Phuket comprising tour boat owners, tour guides and tour sales personnel," he said.

"We understand that trash can destroy the sea and harm marine life. We will try our best to ensure waste is being properly disposed of."

ARE MORE DYING?

The increase in reports of the number of marine animals being injured, however, might not be a sign of more creatures being hurt, explained Dr Kongkiat.

"The increasing number of reports does not necessarily mean that the animals are having more problems. I believe part of the increase is due to the amount of people who are now willing to call in an injured animal to our workers," Dr Kongkiat said.

The PMBC has built a strong network with the Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation, as well as many local volunteers.

"Immediate on-site rescue measures are extremely important. Therefore, we have educated everyone in our network on how to help each animal properly," said Dr Patcharaporn Gaewmong, a PMBC veterinarian.



Trash found on a beach in Rawai. Photo: PMBC

COST OF CARING

Because of the vast amount of time needed to treat the marine animals, the expenditures of the PMBC per rescue swing wildly.

"Dolphins are more difficult to cure. They generally have a disease that causes them to be expelled from their pod. Usually, they then start swimming closer to shore, where they are more likely to eat trash and get even sicker."

Rescue efforts for a dolphin case can cost up to 50,000 baht, as transferring costs are higher and often freelance staff must

be hired to care for the dolphin overnight.

"We get a total of 800,000 baht per year from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment to support our rescue efforts," Dr Patcharaporn said.

Dr Kongkiat confirmed that the current funding was enough for them to continue their rescue efforts without financial hindrances, but that didn't guarantee their ability to save the animals.

"The reason that we cannot save so many injured animals is because the animals are very sick and severely injured by the

time we get to them. We need to take preventative action," Dr Kongkiat said.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The number one step toward preventing accidental deaths of marine life is to stop sea dumping and begin cleaning out the vast amounts of rubbish already filling the Andaman, Dr Kongkiat explained.

"Yes, those operating in the fishing industry and marine tourism industry are aware of the increasing affects that the amount of refuse being dumped into the Andaman has had on marine life. They are now taking some responsibility for it – they are doing their best to help. However, they are not the only ones who use the ocean.

"Other stakeholders must also step up to make a difference, otherwise we will never see results."

Tourists, locals and expats – of all walks of life – must stop sea littering and encourage others to also end this incredibly damaging practice, Dr Kongkiat said.

"We must continue to educate the public so that we can clean up the ocean and eventually start seeing less marine animals, such as dolphins and sea turtles, become victims of human carelessness."

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Phuket Marine Office to play hard ball with foreign-yacht owners

THE Phuket Marine Office has vowed to toughen its stance on foreign yachts needing to install Automatic Identification System (AIS) devices and report to the Phuket Yacht Control Center.

September last year, Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat

Theerakulpisut told the boating community that all foreign yachts in Phuket had to be fitted with AIS devices by October 1 or face six months in jail. However, he recently admitted that his officers had been 'playing soft' and being flexible with foreign-vessel owners

with regards to the new regulations.

Part of the official order released in English on Monday read: Marine Office Phuket Branch would like to emphasize that all foreign boats that enter and leave Phuket province's port[s], which are

cruise[ing], yacht[ing] and [sic] sailing yacht have to:

1. Keeping the Automatic Identification System (AIS) system active at all times.

2. Bring the vessels to Chalong Bay for checking your chip position with the Vessel Traffic Monitoring System

(VTMS) before moving to marina, anchoring or leaving Thai waters.

"They must now comply or face the consequences of not following the rules and regulations of Thailand," Mr Phuripat said.

— Chutharat Plerin



Phuket Governor Chamroen

Gov calls for peace as riot rumors swirl

THE Phuket governor this weekend squared off against rumors that another riot will strike the island due to suspicions over the fairness of the investigation into the deaths of two suspected drug dealers earlier this month.

"As the Phuket Governor who has taken responsibility for the riot, I plead with you, the people of Phuket, especially those who are again thinking of breaking the law – please don't," Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada wrote on his Facebook fan page on October 17. "If you feel that justice is not being served, please come see me in person at Provincial Hall or file a complaint to the Damrongtham Center. This is the best way for us to find a solution."

Thalang Police Superintendent Chanuchan Cholsuwat confirmed to the *Gazette* that he was aware of the posts being shared via social media about a possible second riot.

— Chutharat Plerin

Expert vows to fix Phi Phi

A SPECIAL adviser will set up his office within Hat Noppharat Thara - Mu Ko Phi Phi National Park to review the national treasure's policies and developments, as the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) continues to investigate hundreds of millions of baht disappearing during the collection of national park fees over the last three years.

"The goal is reform. I don't care about the investigation or the results that the DNP will eventually reveal," said Thon Thamrongnawasawat, a member of the National Reform Council, who will be taking up his post in Phi Phi within the next three weeks. "The national park covers more than 200,000 rai. However, they only have four officers and two small boats, which is just unbelievable."

Dr Thon explained that all park entrance fees collected were supposed to be sent to the DNP main office in Bangkok and then redistributed to parks. However, quality proposals have to be submitted to the DNP for development and park management projects for any funds to be allocated.

"So, I will go there and help them write a strong proposal. For example, I will research what areas corals have been damaged in, and include an action plan on what is necessary



Solid proposals for more funds must be written, expert says. Photo: Gazette file

to protect them," Dr Thon said. "Phi Phi simply needs more in the way of human resources. There needs to be people in charge of the ticketing system, patrols, prevention efforts, protection efforts and research."

A two-month, national-level investigation by the DNP launched in May uncovered unnerving discrepancies in the number of visitors to the park and the actual amount of money that could officially be accounted for.

"On May 17, only one day before DNP officers arrived, the amount collected for the Phi Phi National Park entrance fees was

recorded at only about 80,000 baht," Dr Thon said. "However, a day after, the amount became more than a half million baht. During the two-month investigation, June and July, they collected about one million baht on some days."

As part of the investigation, Chaithat Boonphupantanti, chief of the national park, was transferred to the position of Director of Watershed Conservation. The new park chief was named as Sorayut Tansathian.

Dr Thon has requested that a new national park fee system be implemented throughout Thailand in order to prevent

money from disappearing into the hands of corrupt park officers. The system, expected to be in a testing phase by the end of the month, will be similar to that of Thai Thicket Major.

"By doing this, we can ensure that all fees are being collected properly. Also, the DNP can better regulate the number of tourists visiting certain fragile ecosystems in national parks," said Dr Thon.

"Local national park officers will still be sent out to check that tourists have bought tickets, but will not be permitted to sell tickets."

— Kongleaphy Keam

Tiger-mauled Australian returns to visit big cats

THE Australian tourist who was mauled by a Phuket tiger last year returned to Tiger Kingdom on October 16 to visit the big cats.

"This is my first time on the island since the last visit twelve months ago. My leg is good... it healed well," said Paul Goudie, who immediately set off for Tiger Kingdom with his wife Jennifer and son Jake, once they arrived in Phuket.

"The doctor took the muscle from the other leg and put it over here [the injured leg]. It took four months to heal; I went back to work in February. However, it is all about [having] a good

attitude. I'm not angry at anyone."

In October last year, Mr Goudie had just had his photograph taken inside a cage with a tiger and was struggling to stand up when one of the Tiger Kingdom employees watching the animal went to steady him and prevent him from falling on the big cat.

"We believe the tiger was trying to protect our staff, so it bit Mr Goudie. Notice that it attacked him instead of our employee, who was standing closer to the tiger's head," said Tanawin Boonpang, Tiger Kingdom's supervisor, to the *Gazette* in an exclusive interview

following the attack.

Since the accident, Tiger Kingdom employees have kept in regular contact with Mr Goudie and were happy to see him return.

Though Mr Goudie said that his fondness for tigers and big cats in general remained, he wasn't quite ready to get back in the cage with them.

"I don't know if I'll go back into the cage. We'll see, maybe. One step at a time," Mr Goudie said. "I'm just happy to come back and catch up with everyone."

— Chutharat Plerin



Paul (2nd left) returns to Tiger Kingdom.

NATIONAL NEWS

Briefly

Warrants set for lese majeste charges

THE Military Court has agreed to issue arrest warrants for an undisclosed number of people over lese majeste charges, Assistant National Police Chief Sriwara Rangsiyapramman-akul said on October 19.

He explained that the people facing charges were accused of falsely claiming to be connected with the monarchy for personal gain. They are charged with violating Article 112 of the Penal Code.

However, Sriwara declined to identify or even say how many were involved.

Aussie tourist held for robbing BKK bank

AN AUSTRALIAN was arrested on Monday after allegedly robbing a bank with a fake gun in Bangkok.

Zachary Adrian Cronin, 23, managed to get away with 158,000 after an alleged 12-second holdup at a Thanachart Bank branch. He was captured



shortly after by a couple of good samaritans and a patrolling police officer.

Mr Cronin claimed that he had run out of money, and had robbed the bank so he could buy a ticket home.

Elephants' ire leaves motorist groveling

THE hottest subject among social network users on Monday

was a video clip showing a herd of angry wild elephants surrounding a man on a road in Khao Yai National Park. Originally riding a motorbike, he abandoned the vehicle during the confrontation.

The motorist was seen in the video *wailing* the animals and netizens seem to think that was why he was not harmed during the confrontation.

The incident took place on a road on the way down from the national park in Nakhon Ratchasima province.

Woman charged for murder of foreign husband

POLICE have charged three people over the murder of an 84-year-old Japanese man at his Angthong home on Tuesday.

Kazuo Yoshioka's Thai wife was the alleged mastermind of the vicious crime.

Confessed killer Samphan Jamjang, 46, told police that he and Mr Yoshioka's wife, 48-

year-old Poranee Napadon, had planned the murder three days in advance. Mr Samphan also implicated Sarawut Sa-ardsri.

Ms Poranee denied having her husband killed.

Officials look into hill tribes' possible misuse of property

AUTHORITIES are investigating the occupants of land plots in the emerging tourist destination of Phu Tub Berk in Phetchabun to determine whether they have contravened the objectives of the government's project to provide land to hill tribes.

The Public Welfare Department allocated many land plots in Phu Tub Berk to hill tribes, so they could make a living. In the beginning the tribes grew cabbages, filling mountainous areas with green orchards. It added appeal to the area, which offers spectacular views of seas of clouds.

In recent years Phu Tub Berk has become a popular tourist destination with several resorts and restaurants popping up, many of them illegal.

Royal Forest Department Director General Chonlatid Suraswadi said that his department had already taken action against resorts in the area because their presence ran against the objectives of the land-allocation scheme.



HOMEWORKS PHUKET

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Fighting trash

THE excellent work the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) has done over the years to try and save iconic ocean animals found washed up on the islands shores deserves the full support of the community. However, as the head of the agency's Endangered Species Unit has pointed out, the real solutions are preventative measures that see the community tackling the enormous amounts of rubbish occupying Andaman marine environments.

Newcomers to the island may be unaware of the fact that Phuket was once renowned for the sea turtles that came to nest along the pristine shores of our beaches, most famously the leatherbacks of Mai Khao.

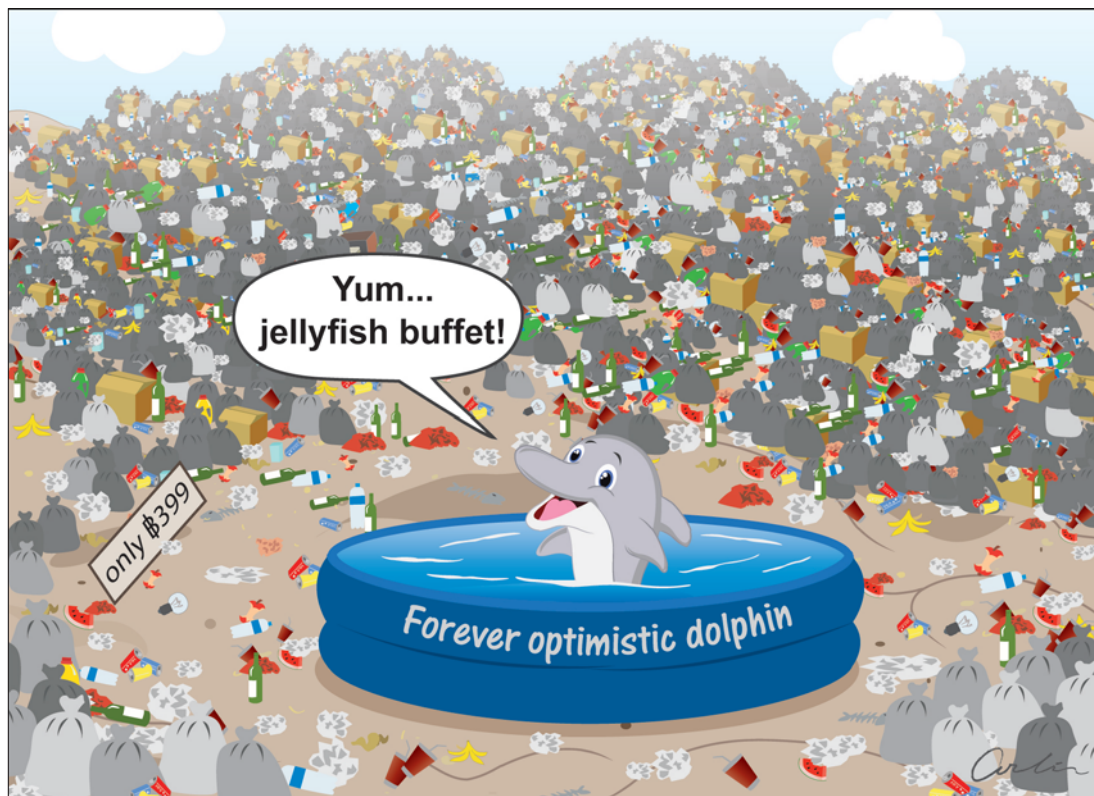
Nowadays, the spectacle can only be appreciated on the island by watching old Thai movies of that time, because leatherbacks no longer nest on Phuket – at least there hasn't been any record of them doing so for years. When news about leatherbacks does make local headlines, it is far more likely because a carcass washed ashore after the animal choked on a plastic bag or was maimed by a fishing net.

The same fate has applied to many other sea turtle species that have nested here for eons. Unlike the leatherback, hatchlings of species like the ridley and green sea turtles can be nursed in onshore enclosures until they are old enough to be released into the sea, giving them a better chance of survival against predators, at least theoretically.

A quick look at other species that are suffering from our neglect makes it abundantly clear that natural predation is simply not the problem – we are.

Only 20 to 30 per cent of dolphins recovered by the PMBC are even alive. Those that are recovered with their hearts still beating usually suffer from internal infections that are often brought on by eating plastic bags, which they had mistaken for jelly fish.

The devastating affects of sea dumping and littering goes far beyond the harmful effects that are highlighted by ambassadors from the ocean – iconic marine animals such as dolphins, turtles and giant manta rays. Fragile seagrass beds, mangroves and coral reef systems – and all those who call those environments home – are being obliterated through our careless actions. Too often the public becomes attached to saving a single dolphin or turtle, when the greater battle to be fought is one that is more difficult to emotionally connect with – the war on sea dumping.



To diffuse or control, that is the question

Re: Injured police say no force used against protesters, October 13

Maybe this is what happens when you disrupt the supply of drugs.

It seems that police in Phuket know it's better to diffuse a situation than to try and control it. Unfortunately, this teaches the wrong lesson to protesters.

Whenever a public dispute takes place, police take a low key approach, except if the dispute is political, when the police are more proactive. Tear gas could have been used on this mob, and taught 'em a lesson.

anon
Gazette forum

Hoping words and actions are wise

Re: Battling mob mentality, October 19

The words spoken by Gov Chamroen are very wise, I hope the following actions will also be wise and just.

Corruption has been so much part of the past culture, let's hope that this will be replaced by justice.

William Moynihan
Facebook

Going cheap just might cost your life

Re: Chinese tourist drowns on snorkelling trip, October 16

If the Chinese keep looking

Letters to the Editor

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

for the cheapest tours, then people will keep dying. Training costs money.

If you book with a good tour company, not a box or an agent, then you get a good boat and trained staff. Cheap tours means poor boats and bad staff.

These tours with a good company only cost about 1,800 - 2,000 baht, including, breakfast, lunch and soft drinks and fully trained staff. Save 200 baht and it could cost you your life.

Simon
Gazette forum

Phuket loses free attraction, activity

Re: Paragliding temporarily banned in Rawai, October 17

Tourism loses an attraction that cost Phuket nothing; the paragliders lose the fun; and the slope reverts to local-culture 'maintenance', meaning not only unkept grass, but also plastic bottles and trash all over the place.

But, there is a winner in any permit issuance systems in Phuket, and the man who will preside over this one has already told you who that is.

Roo
Gazette forum

Untrained security guards are a shame

Re: Island View: Tradition of bouncers beating punters, October 17

The arrogance and unprofessionalism of the word bouncer assigned to the shirt of an untrained security guard is pathetic.

They are security personnel assigned to protect customers and staff and definitely not allowed to dish out violence unless in self defence.

Every security person should be photographed and have his Thai ID kept at Patong police station in an identification book kept for victims of violence.

skip
Gazette forum

Donation system more profitable

Re: Tourists talk about Thailand's national park double-pricing system, October 20

It doesn't make you feel particularly welcome when you get charged extra for being 'foreign'.

I'd love to see how long this would last if we implemented it back home in Australia.

But seriously, I think if they used a donation system where they tell you how a donation of a particular amount would be used and how it would help, they'd probably end up with a lot more money in the bank.

Tommy Kendall
Facebook

Phuket Gazette

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Affecting monkey business

FIRST PERSON

THE main objectives of the Sea Monkey Project are to create a database for future studies of monkeys, conserve their environment and to help prevent them from changing their natural behavior.

In 2006, Dr Gumert from Nanyang Technological University of Singapore first found a long-tailed macaque that was able to use tools to break open the shell of its food in Prachuap Khiri Khan province. He then broadened his research to Ranong, Phuket and Phang Nga.

Soon we will continue our research in Trang and Surat Thani.

The brain of a monkey can develop more than just giving it the capability to use tools. They can do much more than we imagine. However, human behavior has now begun to interfere with their natural way of thinking and using their brain.

We have yet to conclude our research and decide to what extent a monkey can use tools to benefit its life and the lives of its species. However, the one thing that is strikingly clear, is that Thailand's ever-growing tourist population is preventing them from developing or using their naturally learned behaviors.

Feeding the monkeys will only make them lazy, waiting around to be fed as opposed to hunting and searching for their meals.

I fear that, if it continues, generation after generation of monkeys will completely lose their ability to find food for themselves.

Another problem that persists when a group of monkeys become dependent on food



Kritkantatong Kantap, 46, has been a member of the research team at the Sea Monkey Project of Chulalongkorn University since 2010 where he is part of a team that studies monkey species in Thailand. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science

from Ramkhamhaeng University.

Here he talks about how feeding monkeys can be detrimental to their natural behavior and what the effects will be if it is continued.

from humans is that, if food is not readily available when they want it, they will go into peoples' homes or steal from hikers and tourists, instead of figuring out where they can find the food naturally for themselves.

This can be very dangerous, as monkeys may become hostile and can carry many diseases that can be transferred to humans. Adversely, humans also have the ability to spread disease to the monkey community through physical contact or from items around their homes.

Most people think that monkeys are able to eat anything that humans can. However, this is not true.

For example, long-tailed macaques naturally eat things from their direct environment near the sea, such as crab and shrimp. This is why they have developed the ability to use tools, such as rocks, to break open shells.

On the other hand, pig-tailed macaques living in the mountains eat fruit found in the trees.

So what you would feed one species, may not be good

for another.

Another issue that comes from feeding monkeys is the amount of trash it produces.

Often tourists will throw food in plastic bags for the monkeys to eat, with out cleaning up afterwards.

Additionally, monkeys may rummage through garbage bins for food, throwing plastic and other trash on the ground.

Therefore, the best thing to do for everyone would be to stop feeding them.

I understand that this may not be the easiest solution, as many tourists come to Thailand to see and feed monkeys.

Tour operators should know how to educate tourists on what they can and can not feed the monkeys, monitor their behavior and help clean up the environment around them.

It's a very difficult situation, as so many people come here to see and interact with the monkeys, as opposed to witnessing them in their natural environment.

To gradually solve the problem, we will start by educating students.



Firecrackers are used to ward off evil spirits. Photo: Dean Noble

No longer traditional

I WONDER how many people, including tourists and locals, actually know the history and meaning of the Vegetarian Festival, because it is nothing like it was in the past.

If people were to judge the festival by what they saw or heard now, then their reaction will most likely be one of fear or misunderstanding.

A lot of people avoid viewing the ancient traditions because of the crowds, traffic, abundant use of firecrackers and teenagers riding their motorbikes around like gangsters.

However, just riding from my house in Thalang to Phuket Town during a time of day when there are no processions, I can still experience all of those annoyances.

The younger crowd wear the traditional white outfits, symbolizing that they are following the rules of the Vegetarian Festival. However, though they are eating vegetarian food, they are still smoking, drinking and behaving badly, zipping down the streets at high speed.

Another difference between the traditional festival and what we have now is how firecrackers are used. Traditionally,

Island View

By Pruth Kulprasit

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

firecrackers are thrown at the *ma song* to scare evil spirits away. However, people now throw them at oncoming motorbikes and pedestrians, with potentially dangerous results.

On top of all of this, most places celebrating will play a *Da Bei Zhou* (a Buddhist chant) to help people feel at peace, but now some people have remixed the chant with drum and bass.

The main point of the Vegetarian Festival is to slow down, pray to the Chinese Gods at the shrines and to be kind to yourself and other people. However, the Vegetarian Festival has turned into a trendy event where people think it's good enough to wear white and eat vegetarian food for 10 days.

People have forgotten that it's not just about cleansing your body, it's about cleansing your mind and spirit as well.

Words from the Wise

"When you're drowning, you don't say 'I would be incredibly pleased if someone would have the foresight to notice me drowning and come and help me', you just scream."

— John Lennon

"Make bold choices and make mistakes. It's all those things that add up to the person you become."

— Angelina Jolie

Issues & Answers

Am I charged for spam text messages received daily?

I HAVE dtac mobile service and receive junk SMS messages every morning. Do I get charged for receiving these messages? How can I block them?

Nicha Panjeen, dtac call center representative, replies:

There are two types of messages you might be receiving. If they are from dtac, they are free of charge. However, if they are extra service messages,

such as horoscopes or daily news that you may have signed up for either on purpose or by mistake, you will be charged.

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

Submit your issue at:

www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

There are three ways to block the messages. One way is by dialing *137, then you can choose either Thai or English language, and follow the prompts. Another is by calling the call center at 1678. Once you have the operator on the line, tell them the mobile number that keeps sending the unwanted messages and they will cancel them for you. The last options is going to the nearest dtac shop and ask our staff for help. It will take only a few minutes.

Don't wait: Stock up on these stocks



Finance

By Don Freeman

MARKET corrections like the one that started last August are never times to completely abandon the stock market. Instead, they are great opportunities to buy quality stocks with strong fundamentals and technical charts, that should emerge higher once the correction is over.

For that reason, you should consider adding the following stocks to your market correction shopping list because (thus far) they have held up nicely and are likely to continue being leaders once this correction has run its course:

Salesforce.com, inc (NYSE: CRM). Large cap salesforce.com has a \$48 billion market cap and is focused on customer relationship management (CRM) as a provider of enterprise cloud computing solutions that include apps and platform services along with professional services. Salesforce.com also happens to be a favorite on Wall Street right now because many analysts see substantial billings growth and have raised their fiscal 2016 estimates on both revenues and earnings.

Palo Alto Networks Inc (NYSE: PANW). Large cap Palo Alto Networks has a \$15.4 billion market cap and calls itself the next-generation security company that helps



Take a look at Don Freeman's top stock market picks. Photo: Iman Mosadd

keep both private and government organizations secure from cyber-attacks. Given that the rising panic over high profile attacks or hacks is fueling spending on cybersecurity, stocks like Palo Alto Networks are able to consistently beat earnings expectations quarter after quarter. Moreover, cybersecurity stocks like Palo Alto Networks might make nice acquisition targets for growth-starved vendors like Cisco Systems and IBM.

Priceline Group Inc (NASDAQ: PCLN). Large cap Priceline Group has a \$63.5 billion market cap as a leading provider of online travel and travel-related reservation and search services through brands that

include Booking.com, KAYAK, agoda.com, rentalcars.com and OpenTable. Priceline Group has also recently acquired rival Orbitz (adding brands like Orbitz.com, CheapTickets, ebookers, HotelClub and Orbitz Partner Network to its portfolio). In addition, low oil prices for the foreseeable future will mean more disposable income for consumers around the world to spend on leisure travel.

Google Inc (NASDAQ: GOOGL; GOOG). Large cap Google Inc has a \$429 billion market cap with most revenue (as much as 90 per cent) still derived from its core internet search and advertising business. In August, Google announced it would restructure into a parent

company called Alphabet. A slimmed down Google will contain the company's core businesses (including Android, YouTube and Maps) while anything further afield will be placed under Alphabet.

While Google.com remains the search engine of choice for most Internet users (at least a two thirds market share), the advertising business has been flat-lining as marketers spend more on mobile where rates are much lower partly due to the smaller screen sizes. Nevertheless, there will be enough "moonshot" projects (e.g. driverless cars, Google Glass, etc) along with more down to earth ventures (e.g. High-speed broadband internet and cable

TV, smart home products, venture capital investments, etc) under Alphabet to ensure potential growth in the future.

However, let me add a word of caution in that I don't believe the current market correction is completely over, as I can easily see a further 10 to 25 per cent downside from September market levels. I've also raised the cash allocations within the portfolios of my clients to both limit any further downside risk, as well as to have funds on hand to shop for quality stocks as they go on sale.

One final consideration: You may already own some of the previously mentioned individual stocks without realizing it because they are already in the ETFs or other funds you own. For that reason, you should always consult with an investment advisor who will make any asset allocation in individual stocks based upon your entire portfolio and any underlying investments in the funds you own.

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

Biggest state bond issue to be launched this month

THE Finance Ministry will issue government bonds worth 50 billion baht with a three-year maturity and 3-per-cent interest, to apply to the 2016 fiscal budget deficit of 390bn baht.

"We expect more retired civil servants to buy this round of government bonds that will

be offered from October 19 to February 29, 2016, with a minimum purchase of 1,000 baht and a maximum of 2 million [baht] per person per account," said Suwit Rojanavanich, director-general of the Public Debt Management Office.

— *The Nation*

Hedging currency against greenback

STANDARD Chartered Bank urges traders to consider currency hedging, because the market could send the baht back on an upward trajectory by the end of this year.

The market had been bullish on the United States dollar since last year, as it expected the US Federal Reserve to start normalizing interest rates, making the baht and other regional currencies turn weak.

However, the Federal Reserve has taken no action yet. It has delayed its decision on raising interest rates because the economic data of the US does not look great.

If the Federal Reserve does not make a move this December, the US dollar's bullishness will end and the Federal Reserve will hold the current rate



The market has been bullish on the US dollar. Photo: Picture of Money

throughout next year, explained Callum Henderson, head of foreign-exchange research at Standard Chartered.

Southeast Asian currencies will gain the most if the Fed-

eral Reserve holds rates throughout next year, because the prices of commodities will pick up and exports will recover.

— *The Nation*

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TOT

Facility focuses on medical tourism

New building at PIH part of Bangkok Hospital Group's master plan

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

ONE of the primary reasons the Bangkok Hospital Group purchased Phuket International Hospital for 3.61 billion baht last year was to bring the hospital's exceptionally strong aesthetic surgery branch into the fold, explains Sanguan Kunaporn, the director of the Phuket Plastic Surgery Institute at Phuket International Hospital.

This month, the group will stage the soft opening of a new 900 million baht medical tourism facility at Phuket International Hospital.

"When Bangkok Hospital took over, they wanted Phuket International Hospital to focus on cosmetic surgery, so they re-assigned the building for medical tourism," Dr Sanguan said. "It will not be just for plastic surgery, but will house an anti-aging department and skin care department."

Teams of surgeons from the two hospitals will be joining forces at the new facility, which has 10 operation auditoria and more than 60 patient rooms.

The number of in-patient rooms gives the facility plenty of room for growth, as the two hospitals combined served 3,500 patients last year, and the teams produced more than 500

million baht in revenue, explains Dr Sanguan.

"We arranged for this building to be a one-stop service for our clients. Our clients can come from the airport or their hotel to this single building to get their consultation, pre-operation investigation, operation and even enjoy the comfortable lobby and in-patient rooms," he says.

Though 2014 was a strong year, there have been struggles for the hospital this year, with nearly a 25 per cent decline in patient numbers, forcing the group to look for new markets.

Phuket International Hospital's original medical tourism market was Americans seeking sex changes. Thailand, via the brilliant work of Dr Preecha Tiewtranon, from the Preecha Aesthetic Institute in Bangkok; Dr Sanguan from Phuket International Hospital; and Dr Suporn Watanyusakul, from the Suporn Clinic in Choburi, earned Phuket the nickname 'World Capital of Sex Changes'.

With access to the internet in Thailand by the late 90s, the doctors were able to effectively market their high-quality work globally. However, the American market was eventually replaced by Australians and New Zealanders, who now com-



Dr Sanguan is eager to see the two hospital's surgical teams united.

prise 70 per cent of the medical tourism patients at the hospitals.

"Phuket is one of the key players in medical tourism in Thailand, or I would even say the Asia Pacific region. After the AEC opens up, we hope that we can tap into new markets," he says.

Dr Sanguan has already met with medical travel agents in Myanmar to start gauging the

potential of the market.

"There is a lot of opportunity there, because there are not a lot of good hospitals or clinics that can provide good services to the Myanmar people or expats," he says.

"Most Myanmar patients go to Bangkok, but they are interested in what we have down here in the way of aesthetic plastic surgery."

Though the Chinese market is also part of the strategy, as it is Phuket's largest in-bound market, most who come to Thailand for medical tourism are here for wellness, anti-aging and skin treatment packages – few are arriving for plastic surgery.

The new facility is now fully operational with a large surgeon team, and Dr Sanguan expects to see prices at the facility unchanged despite the merger and is hopeful that the group will be able to regain lost ground and bring profits back to the level of 2014.

"During this downward trend of the global economy, we don't think we can increase our prices, because we might lose patients to centers in Bangkok and other countries," Dr Sanguan says.

However, a number of mega-shopping complexes being developed on the island is expected to increase Phuket's attractiveness. It will become a destination where new techniques and cutting-edge equipment allow someone to undergo breast augmentation – the most popular type of aesthetic surgery – and be on one of Phuket's famous beaches the next day and there will also be world-class shopping, Dr Sanguan says.

Engage with consistency



Business Buzz

Simon Wetherell

One of the biggest issues businesses have with online marketing is attracting eyeballs to their content.

It doesn't matter how good your website or social media content is if no-one sees it. So the secret to getting much better results is to get your content seen.

Here are five quick tips on how to increase your results with no budget:

1. Build a Database
2. Send your new content to all of your contacts and followers
3. Make the content relevant and interesting
4. Be consistent
5. Create an evergreen email campaign

As always, your content should be interesting and en-

gaging. Sales content should be obvious, and value content should be sales free and beneficial to your target audience.

When engaging with your followers you should be consistent with both the frequency as well as the tone. So if you commit to a daily message, keep it coming, get people into the habit of looking for your content. Also be consistent with your tone, so that the message stays the same and does not confuse your audience.

Finally, you can set up and automate your database so that when they join they get all of the relevant information you want them to have in a consistent, controlled and automated manner.

Simon Wetherell is a social media expert and lawyer. He trains businesses and individuals on how to profit from the social media industry. For more information: PhuketOnlineMarketingSchool.com or call him on 095-085 3355.



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Jungceylon Shopping Center, Patong, Phuket

Hospital supports Veg Fest 2015

Bangkok Hospital Phuket hands out Vegetarian Festival t-shirts and protective ear plugs to the Phuket Gazette team on October 14.



DRESSED IN WHITE: (from L-R) Kanchana Rassameearamwong, marketing officer of Bangkok Hospital Phuket; Isaac Simonelli, managing editor of the Phuket Gazette; Niyompong Torwong, deputy marketing manager of Bangkok Hospital Phuket; Wassasiree Sathapongpakdee, marketing officer of Bangkok Hospital Phuket; and Piyarat Techamanosikul, marketing officer of Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

Changing children's smiles

The Dusit Smile Project, organized by Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket, put together a charity rally and lunch for the Home & Life Foundation. The money raised was donated to the Dusit Smile Project's work with children with facial deformities.



Nataporn Rothhass (left), director of human resources at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket, presents a trophy to Suthep Pimomrerk and his wife.

Matchmaker, matchmaker

Pullman Khao Lak welcomes wedding planners from Phuket and India to the resort in order to showcase Khao Lak as the 'new' wedding destination in Thailand.



DREAM WEAVERS: (from L-R) Sidd Ketkar, director of sales; Jerome Stubert, general manager; Sujittra Rongmuang, sales event manager; and Matt Fynch, director of sales and marketing extended a warm welcome to wedding planners from Mumbai and Phuket.

27 years of welcoming the world

Phuket International Airport celebrated its 27th anniversary on October 8. The airport is now preparing to be the 'Gateway to the Andaman'.



FLYING HIGH: (from L-R) Sub Lt Thanee Chuangchoo, acting executive vice president; Monrudee Gettuphan, general manager; and Amnuay Sarachart, executive vice president. Photo: Phuket Best Event

Why don't you Sleep With Me, after the pool party?

Sleep With Me Hotel got things going with the Red Beach Party at the hotel's 'Sanook with Me' pool bar on October 2.



Worraporn Noiladtee (left), PR and marketing manager of Sleep With Me Hotel, and General Manager Sittichai Tanakorncharoen (2nd left), welcome guests to the party. Photo: Southern Life Style

Moss gathers in Phuket



Thai Singer and actor Patiparn 'Moss' Patavekarn takes his family on a luxurious getaway at The Residences by Anantara.

ents in Paradise

Calling for more sausages at Hyatt's Oktoberfest

Hyatt Regency Phuket Resort will be celebrating Oktoberfest; the traditional German festival, with an array of Bavarian delicacies and authentic beer. The party started on October 14 and will run until November 15 every Wednesday and Saturday at the pool bar.

PULLING OUT THE BRATWURST: Alessandro Martinelli, head chef; Keith Massey, general manager; and Chantanat Kaewpetch, marketing and communications manager.



THE TEAM: (from L-R) Nontawit Atimuttisan, commis chef; Phattharaphisit Thanarattanon, sous chef; Alessandro Martinelli, head chef; Sutthinon Kongprasom, sous chef and pastry/bakery chef; Pairoj Yaisawang, commis chef – pastry/bakery; and Jeerasak Tongsawaswattna, chef de partie.

Ushering in emperor gods Veg Fest 2015

Kathu Municipality raised the *Go Teng* pole at Kathu Shrine, which is the symbolic start of the Vegetarian Festival. After the pole raising on October 12, the festivities were in full swing until October 21.



Siwa Sangmanee, advisor to the Ministry of Interior, chaired the ceremony.

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Phuket readies for first-ever 'Bike for Dad'



Governor Chamroen

CYCLISTS will soon be chosen to participate in the first-ever 'Bike for Dad' event in honor of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 88th birthday.

A total of 100 Phuket cyclists will have the chance to ride to Bangkok, along with cyclists representing other provinces in the Kingdom to pay tribute to HM The King.

It is not yet known what qualifications riders will need in order to participate, as the governor is waiting for more information from Bangkok.

"There will be two events. In one event, 100 qualified cyclists and 20 substitute cyclists will be chosen to ride from each province to Sanam Luang, in front of Wat Phra Kaew and the Grand Palace," Governor Chamroen explained.

Registration dates for the event have yet to be set, though Gov Chamroen said that they plan to announce the chosen cyclists on November 2.

A second event will be held in Phuket where cyclists will travel on a 29-kilometer course.

Registration will be from November 2 through November 30.

— Chutharat Plerin

Laguna's Race of Legends

THE 22nd Laguna Phuket Triathlon will be taking place on Sunday, November 22, marking the beginning of Laguna Phuket's week long Tri-Fest.

The event consists of a 1.8 kilometer swim, 55km bike ride and a 12km run.

This year's triathlon will celebrate its 22nd year while simultaneously welcoming the return of the Challenge Laguna Phuket on Sunday, November 29.

The 3rd Challenge Laguna Phuket consists of a longer, more challenging triathlon, comprising a 1.9km swim, 90km bike ride and 21km run.

During the week-long, multi-sport event, Laguna Phuket will be a hive of activity, with athletes and guests taking part in social activities, training sessions and competitions.

Tri-Fest has proved a popular attraction for international athletes who are eager to sample the delights of Thailand while rubbing shoulders with the likes of Swiss Olympian Ruedi Wild, professional triathlete and previous Laguna Phuket Triathlon winner Massimo Cigana (Italy), professional Australian triathlete and multiple-record holder Luke McKenzie and fellow Aussie and world champion Melissa Hauschildt, to name a few.

The crowd will also be thrilled to see the return of Australia's Belinda Granger, the darling of the triathlon world who retired from her pro career at the 2014 Challenge



The Laguna Phuket Triathlon has quickly become a popular attraction for international athletes and has been dubbed as 'The Race of Legends'.

Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest.

Ms Granger will participate in the 2015 Challenge Laguna Phuket as the race's ambassador, bringing along her following triathletes to experience the Tri-Fest that has been dubbed 'The Race of Legends' and in which she herself is a star, achieving numerous podium finishes including two champion titles, in 2008 and 2010.

Massimo Cigana, the Tri-

Fest's first four-time champion, will try to defend his title alongside his fellow Italian pro Alberto Casadei with whom he made history at the triathlon last year as they crossed the finish line together and became the event's first dual champions.

To date, a combined 1,300 athletes have signed up for the two main races. Registration for the Tri-Fest is open until November 15 with an esti-

mated total of 1,500 athletes expected to sign up.

Race organizers have recently announced a 15 per cent discount for tickets to its well-known award parties for the Laguna Phuket Triathlon on November 22 and Challenge Laguna Phuket on November 29.

For more information, contact info@challengelagunaphuket.com.

— Phuket Gazette

Pup of the Week

HEY guys, Aiden here.

I am a male Doberman-Thai mix and I just wanted to let you all know that I am up for adoption at the Bodhi Shelter in Phuket. I have been at the shelter for 1.5 years, since I was a puppy.

I adore people and would love a home to call my own, where I can go on walks with my owners and have fun play dates with other dogs.

I love to please and promise to be a very well trained boy. I am good with strangers, kids and other dogs.

I have been at the shelter for a while now, and although I enjoy being with my friends, I am much more settled down



Aiden wants a new owner.

and would love a forever home.

— Aiden

If you are interested in adopting Aiden or another dog, please contact Tina at 084-628 8077 or athenatina@gmail.com

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

October 24, Wine Tasting & Party with Live Music at Wine Lovers Bistro

Wine tasting with live music that includes 6 glasses of white and red old and new-world wines. Enjoy tapas appetizers, a sushi and salad bar, dessert and fruits for only 899 baht.

For more information contact Gumrai at 076-384 662.

October 30, Phuket Tourism 'By The Numbers' at AMCHAM Event

The American Chamber of Commerce Greater Phuket Chapter will present a tourism

event led by STR Global's Area Director for Asia/Pacific Jesper Palmqvist, in the Similan Ballroom 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.

To sign up for the event, visit www.amchamthailand.com or contact Sarudha Netsawang at orn@amchamthailand.com

November 22-29, Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest

A week-long carnival of multisport fun and tri-related activities for you to enjoy at Laguna Phuket.

Join the Laguna Phuket Triathlon (22 Nov) and the Challenge Laguna Phuket (29 Nov).

Between these world class back-to-back triathlons take in the excitement of the Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest experience and rub shoulders with pros.

For more information, visit challengelagunaphuket.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.

Phuket Classic building recognition

THE annual Phuket Classic Bodybuilding Event is ready to begin on Sunday, November 8 at Central Festival Phuket with former governor Maitri Inthusut set to open the proceedings. It will be conducted under the watchful eye of the World Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation.

"It is a competition that aims to promote a healthy lifestyle amongst participants and spectators," said organizer and world female champion Wilaiporn Wannaklang, president and founder of the Phuket Bodybuilding Club.

"I came to Phuket three years ago with a dream," stated Ms Wilaiporn. "I could not achieve it alone but managed to convince some very kind people who believed in what I was trying to do. With their help I was determined to succeed."

In its inaugural year, the



Wilaiporn Wannaklang (2nd right) attends last year's Phuket Classic weigh-in. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

Phuket Classic was held with a handful of contestants which amounted to little more than a display for Central Festival's shoppers, but it was a trial run for greater things to come.

"The assistance of sponsors, such as Muscletech Thailand, The Vijitt Resort Phuket, Central Festival Phuket, Naiharn Gym and Smart Gym, helped us a lot," said Ms Wilaiporn,

"and the Dara Hotel was invaluable with its generosity and assistance in accommodating both athletes and officials."

Ms Wilaiporn has definitely succeeded and shows every sign of continuing to do so. With improved publicity and organization, the event has gleaned greater interest both within Thailand and internationally.

Last year's Phuket Classic

was an overwhelming success with 150 contestants competing in various categories and spectators swelling to overflow levels for the large ground floor staging area.

"Nobody anticipated the overwhelming interest generated by this event," quoted a Central Festival Phuket staff member.

Bodybuilding had brought

Ms Wilaiporn a sense of discipline and self-worth. It had changed her life and affected her outlook. Her previous lack of focus and direction in life had sharpened and been given purpose. It is the gratitude she feels for this opportunity which drives her efforts to give back to the community what she has learned and from which she has benefited.

"To me, the Phuket Classic is more than just a sporting event which provides opportunities for those aspiring to be recognized as champions. It is a target for those who are on a journey of altering their lifestyle for the better," Ms Wilaiporn said. "To reach competition status means that you have adjusted your life to such an extent that you are proud of your achievements. While winning a prize can be good, pride in achieving a better way of life can be more satisfying."

— *Phuket Gazette*

Cardio-metabolic illness

SEVERAL hospitals have recently set up new departments to deal specifically with a cluster of diseases known as cardio-metabolic illnesses.

Cardio-metabolic illnesses are diseases that impact cardiovascular and metabolic functions and can lead to serious long-term morbidity and premature mortality. The diseases are often combined and include high blood pressure (hypertension), high blood lipids, obesity and diabetes. They are among the most frequent medical problems in adults over 45 years old and especially the elderly.

Cardio-metabolic illnesses are also referred to as 'cardiovascular risk factors', because they favor an excessive and early development of an extensive vascular disorder known as arteriosclerosis, which is the common underlying complication of all these diseases.

Atherosclerosis results from the build-up of cholesterol, fats and calcium deposits on the inner linings of arteries. The accumulation of these substances creates atheromata or atheromatous plaque, which gradually restricts the diameter of the vessels and subsequently impairs the blood flow and the normal functioning of the affected organs. Moreover, the plaque can fissure and trigger a rapid clotting process that can abruptly interrupt blood flow



Dr Gerard Lalande

and thus the crucial oxygen and nutrient supply to the cells. A heart attack can result if the clot is in a coronary artery, a stroke (ischemic stroke) if it is in a cerebral artery, and peripheral artery disease if it is in a leg.

Atherosclerosis primarily damages the heart and the kidneys, the eyes and the brain and may lead to heart and kidney failure, poor eyesight and blindness and weaker cognitive and intellectual function respectively. As a result, atherosclerosis is a major contributor to poor life quality as we grow older.

Importantly all these diseases evolve silently (without noticeable symptoms) so you need to have regular routine check-ups to detect them. Symptoms occur when the lesions are already severe and often irreversible.

— *Dr Gerard Lalande / The Nation*



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A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Bangkok Airways spreads its wings



By Stephen Fein

BANGKOK Airways finally launched a daily flight service connecting Phuket and Hat Yai with an inaugural ceremony after touchdown at Hat Yai Airport on October 11.

As previously reported by Up in the Air, the link between south Thailand's two busiest airports is long overdue. There are thousands of people from Songkhla and surrounding provinces who have been clamoring for an airline to resume a service linking the two cities. The route is also expected to be a boon for visa runners from Phuket needing to get to destinations like Penang



Bangkok Airways executives join Phuket officials to celebrate the new Hat Yai route. Photo: Bangkok Airways

in Malaysia.

Until now, many people wanting to avoid the six-hour ride between the two locales had to fly more than 1,000 kilometers north to Bangkok then get a return flight south.

The new service, which costs 1,890 baht all inclusive, has a flight time of just less than

one hour.

On the other hand, Emirates has announced it will begin a twice-daily service from Dubai to Phuket starting on December 1 and has now entered into a codeshare agreement with Bangkok Airways.

Jabr Al-Azeeby, area manager for Thailand and

Indochina, said the new flights were in direct response to expected strong demand in the upcoming high season.

"By introducing a double daily service to Phuket we increase convenience and flexibility for residents of Phuket and the southern region of Thailand, making it easier to

connect to Dubai and the rest of the world. This newly added service will complement our recent codeshare agreement with Bangkok Airways, offering ease of connection from different cities across Southeast Asia to and from Dubai and providing a smoother, more convenient travel experience."

Emirates will operate the new flights with a Boeing 777-300ER, offering eight seats in First Class, 42 seats in Business Class and 310 seats in Economy.

The new outbound flights will depart Phuket at 9:30am and arrive in Dubai the same day at 1:20pm local time. The return flight will operate four times per week, departing Dubai at 10:55pm and arriving in Phuket at 8am the following day.

Emirates flies 42 times a week to Bangkok, and from December 1, four of the six daily flights to Bangkok will be served by an A380.

THAI to push transformation

THAI Airways International (THAI) will speed up its cost reductions and revenue improvements to return the national carrier to sustainable profitability, THAI president Charamporn Jotikasthira said.

Mr Charamporn made the remark after the THAI board met with the State Enterprise Policy Committee.

Mr Charamporn said THAI had seen some progress with the overall transformation plan but it was still moving too slowly in its efforts to cut costs and improve revenue from

commercial operations, so it would have to pick up the pace.

He added that other plans such as the sale of retired aircraft and flight reductions had been on track.

All departments had their own operational targets but some appeared to be taking too long to start implementing the turnaround programs. This might be because the national flag carrier had never made such a large-scale transformation at such a fast pace before, Mr Charamporn said.

— The Nation

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Citizens push criminal charges



Law & Order

By Robert Virasin

THE recent events surrounding the British national Andy Hall, Academic Dr Wyn Ellis, and the online news outlet Phuketwan, reflect a peculiar aspect of the Thai criminal system. Unlike criminal court systems in most Western countries, a private person in Thailand can initiate criminal prosecution if they are a victim of a crime.

In Thailand, people are able to access the criminal justice system through two channels. The most common way is for a private citizen to file a complaint with the police. The police gather evidences and submit the case to the public prosecutor. The public prosecutor determines whether to file formal charges after reviewing the evidence.

The second method is a private criminal prosecution. Under this method, crime victims have the right to file a case against the accused perpetrator. In cases where the victim is seriously injured or dead, the spouse or heirs can file the lawsuit. Generally, a private prosecution is faster, more focused and more efficient than a public prosecution because an attorney will assist in the investigation of the case to



Unlike in many western countries, a private citizen here can initiate criminal charges. Photo: Joe Gratz

strengthen the victim's charge.

Private prosecution of criminal cases helps to overcome several problems with the current criminal justice system. Firstly, there are limits to the number of cases that a public prosecutor can handle. Private prosecutions alleviate the shortage of prosecutors within the public system.

Secondly, there are problems with undue influence, which may make public prosecution of certain crimes, or charges against certain individuals unlikely. Private prosecution of crimes allows those types of cases to move

forward even if they become an embarrassment to high ranking officials or other powerful individuals.

And thirdly, some crimes are just not a priority for public prosecutors. Once charged with a crime, prosecutors cannot allow the perpetrator to plea bargain to lesser charges to settle the case. So the prosecutor may be reluctant to file certain charges because they are not willing to see the case through to the end. In these situations, an injured party can still move forward to seek punishment against their perpetrator.

However, the system of pri-

ivate prosecution also brings a host of problems. Allowing private criminal prosecution can alleviate the manpower shortage in the public prosecutor's office, but it increases the burden on the court system. The processing of cases in Thai criminal courts can already take over a year.

There is also the problem with duplicate charges against the accused.

Andy Hall was acquitted of criminal defamation from a case filed by the attorney general's office last year. However he is now being tried for the same charges through the

computer crimes act by a private company. The fact that a public prosecution has been initiated or completed does not prejudice the victim's right to bring a criminal action on the basis of the same offence.

In addition, initiating a private prosecutorial action is generally limited to those who have the ability to fund private attorneys to file and prosecute their cases. Criminal legal prosecution can be very costly. There have been complaints that corporations and the wealthy have used private prosecution to silence critics. Criticizing the wealthy and powerful can open up individuals to a costly legal action and possible imprisonment.

The private prosecution system is a tool. It can be used to bring about justice when government officials refuse to prosecute. However, it can also be used to intimidate to prevent disclosure of information or critical opinions. It is generally up to the courts to distinguish between justice and intimidation.

Robert R Virasin is a licensed US Attorney and managing director of Virasin & Partners. Co-author Yutthachai Sangsirisap is a licensed Thai Attorney at Virasin & Partners. They can be reached at info@virasin.com or at www.virasin.com.

The great equalizer

By Hakon Bruaset Kjol

RIGHT now in Myanmar, a digital revolution is taking place. Every month, hundreds of thousands of people are getting access to telecommunications services for the first time, drastically changing the way they work, learn and interact.

Just less than four years ago, virtually nobody had access to the internet or mobile communications, but within the next five years, 90 per cent of the country's population is slated to have coverage.

With changes such as this, we are at a tipping point when it comes to the ability for emerging economies to lead the way into the digital world. This newfound access to the educational, professional and social opportunities brought by the mobile internet can bring about a sea change in the entrenched socio-economic gaps faced by

many in emerging Asia.

As a telecommunications provider, Telenor Group believes the internet is the great equalizer. It allows



Hakon Khjol.

knowledge and opportunity for all, regardless of where people live or what background they are from. The impact that access to digital communications has had on people, societies and local communities is immeasurable – it is a matter of continuing to improve access through an unwavering commitment to enabling a digital future for all, not just the few.

– *The Nation*

Hakon Bruaset Kjol is senior vice-president and head of Corporate Affairs, Asia, Telenor Group.

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Port Takola prepares to open phase one

PORT Takola yacht marina and boatyard in Krabi will resume construction at the end of next month with the first phase of berths scheduled to open in May 2016.

Owner Suriya na Nagara, a retired admiral of the Royal Thai Navy, along with his son Matthew na Nagara, are developing the marina within the family's private estate.

"After careful study, we decided to develop a marina to take advantage of the many positive factors of the site, including its perfect shelter and excellent geographical location," Admiral Suriya explained.

The marina will be the focal point of a 110-acre (450,000 square meters) community that will include residences, a resort hotel, nature trails and a museum. This will be a low-density, low-rise development that will take advantage of the landscape that comprises a mix of woodland, grassland and mangroves.

In charge of the marina's design is British maritime civil engineer and marina specialist Simon Arrol, who served as managing director for Camper & Nicholsons Marinas Ltd for 16 years and later founded Island Global Yachting in Dubai.

Mr Arrol has worked on marina projects in 39 countries



Retired Admiral of the Royal Thai Navy Suriya na Nagara is building the marina on a family-owned estate.

and has participated in several renowned projects including Grand Harbour Marina Malta, Port Gocek in Turkey, Port George (later renamed Port Louis) in the Caribbean and The Palm Jumeirah Dubai.

The first phase of Port Takola is valued at US\$8 mil-

lion and is scheduled to open with 48 berths stern-to a 4 meter wide concrete pontoon supplied by Marinetek.

The pontoon will be able to accommodate yachts ranging from 12m to 40m in length. 3-phase electricity, water, gasoline and diesel fuel will

also be available. The approach channel will be dredged to a depth of 2.5 meters.

Meanwhile, the boatyard will feature about 10,000sqm of dry storage area; a 38-tonne capacity launch and recover facility; and various technical services.

"The first phase of Port

Takola is only modest in terms of scale and facilities, but it will be sufficient to provide a great experience to yacht owners and their guests. Our approach is to create a boutique marina that sits comfortably with the surrounding landscape," said Mr Matthew.

"We want to combine the legendary Thai hospitality with the management standards expected by sophisticated international yachtsmen."


During the next couple of years, Admiral Suriya intends to build an architect-designed Capitainerie having a commanding view over the marina basin. This will incorporate 5-star standard restrooms for clients. The adjacent Cafe du Port will offer an all-day bar-restaurant service.

Offices and retail units for yachting-related businesses will be built along the basin edge, and the boatyard will be improved with boatsheds, workshops, and welfare facilities for the yard workers and local professional crews.

Yacht owners who wish to visit or relocate their yachts to Port Takola are able to reserve their berth in advance.


To mark the opening, Port Takola will be offering promotional prices to the first 20 yacht owners who sign up for a berth.

— *Phuket Gazette*





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GH Bank may double soft loan amount

THE Government Housing Bank is considering doubling the amount of soft loans set aside for low- and medium-income earners to 20 billion baht as part of the government's economic stimulus campaign, after witnessing high demand for the loans on the first day of their availability.

On October 19, there were about 2,000 applications for 2 billion baht in loans, said GH Bank president Angkana Chaimanat.

GH Bank will take at least two weeks to evaluate whether to increase the amount, she said.

Chatchai Sirilai, GH Bank senior executive vice president, said soft loans of 10 billion baht would help around 7,000 people borrow money and the 10 billion baht in loans should be approved this year.

The bank's board of directors will consider doubling that amount, Mr Chatchai said.

Ms Angkana said the num-



GH Bank President Angkana Chaimanat. Photo: The Nation

ber of applications from Bangkok and the provinces was about the same.

GH Bank expects to receive applications for about 1 billion baht per day. The bank will consider each application within three days, she said.

The bank would allow borrowers who had been approved for soft loans to delay signing loan contracts in order to reduce their worries over their financial burden in the case of those waiting for the new mortgage fees to be announced by the Interior Ministry.

Under GH Bank's soft-loan scheme and its new-loan criteria, people who have a monthly salary of 30,000 baht can borrow as much as 3 million baht.

Those interested have one year to submit their applications to get an interest rate of 3.5 per cent for the first year and 4.25 per cent for the second year. From the third year until the end of the contract, customers will receive a rate of MRR (minimum retail rate) less 0.75 percentage points. The maximum repayment period is 30 years.

Ms Angkana said GH Bank was not worried about the scheme resulting in a spate of non-performing loans (NPLs) because there was real demand for this money – for purchase of homes to live in, not speculate on – and the loan conditions included a special tax benefit designed for first-time buyers. The bank's NPLs equate to 5 per cent of its total loans.

— *The Nation*

Branding unlocks property potential



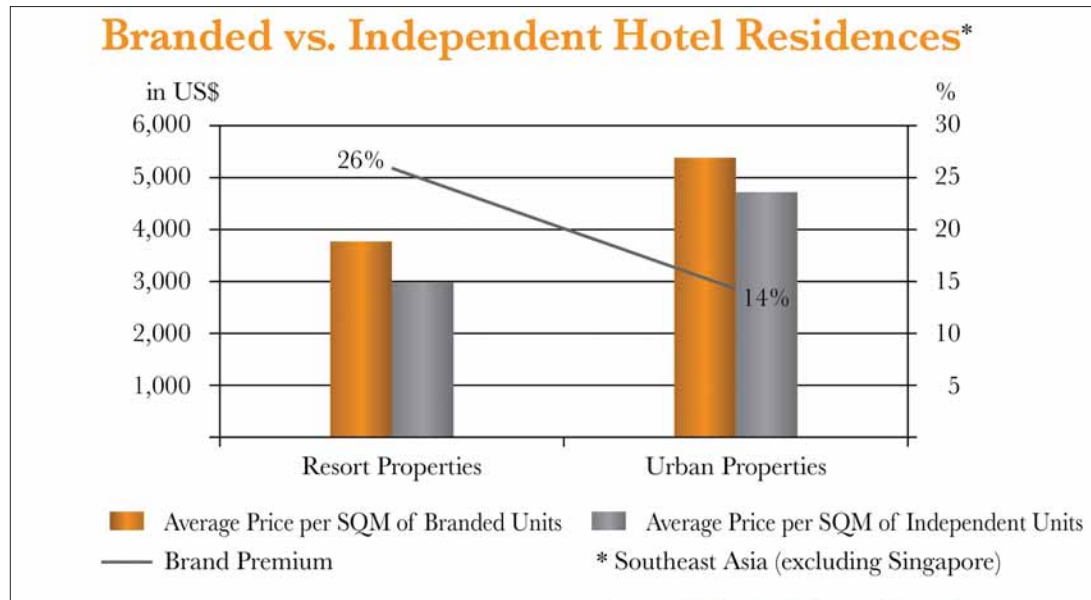
Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

THAILAND, and more specifically Phuket, is leading a strong Southeast Asia trend in hotel residences to the tune of US\$3.5 billion in properties currently up for sale. Overall the SEA regional market inventory is valued at a whopping US\$16 billion.

Recently, we conducted research throughout the Southeast Asia markets and identified nearly 120 developments with over 28,000 units. Thailand accounts for 37 per cent of the broader region, with over 40 developments. The lion's share of these is in resort destinations, though seven are located in urban areas. Viewing the Thai sector, the top three markets are Phuket, Bangkok and Pattaya.

One key hotel brand push has been that chain affiliations create higher pricing points compared to independent projects. Our data shows that this holds most true in resort offerings where a 26 per cent premium is demonstrated, though in urban properties this drops to 14 per cent in broad



Thailand accounts for 37 per cent of Southeast Asia markets, with over 40 developments.

market terms.

Recently, I had discussions with property developers who want to get inside what really drives buyers to these sorts of offerings versus the somewhat more traditional viewpoint on yields and capital appreciation. Sentiment seemingly remains a strong driver, as is the perception that capital values will be protected and grown by what is thought to be a higher standard of property

management that exists in hotels, versus pure residential estates or buildings.

Thai hospitality groups such as Minor, Onyx, Dusit and Centara are all registering a growing presence in hotel residences here and abroad. Singapore's Banyan Tree group, which was an early adopter of branding, has even created a real estate-led brand with their successful Cassia offering. On a broader playing

field, global hotel chains such as Starwood, Shangri-La, Movenpick, Four Seasons and Ritz-Carlton continue to create critical mass in the residence sector.

Looking back into the Thai looking glass, urban offerings tend to command considerably higher selling prices per square meter at an average of nearly 242,000 baht, while resort locations come in just over 134,000 baht. Higher land

prices tend to drive this dynamic and underlying land costs remain both the friend and foe of the property development set.

Though Asia's real estate trajectory has continued to be prolific since the end of the global financial crisis, pricing continues to be a key factor and this also overlaps with the issue of sizing. Two important things to note here are that discretionary spending, which is linked to the ultimate total value of the property, is a factor, as is the connection to ongoing rental yields that in many cases are more favorable for smaller units.

A current difference to the past is a greater number of hotel branded properties that do not rely on promises of guaranteed returns or rental yields, but tap into consumer's increasing demand for quality versus quantity and the driving emotion that things are indeed better over the fence in 'brand land'.

Bill Barnett is the Founder and Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks (C9Hotelworks.com), a leading Thailand-based hospitality and real estate consulting firm

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

**BLUE CANYON
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Blue Canyon family membership available. Price negotiable. Tel: 081-271 7701 (English). Email: hemalegdr@hotmail.com

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Home schooling, native English, female, Monday-Friday, 9.00-2.00pm, 4 children, 7-9 years old. Salary: 40,000 baht. For more information, please call 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

REAL ESTATE AGENT



Real Estate Agent position available at international villa phuket for experienced Thai female agent who can speak Thai and English for both sales and rental in Chalong, Rawai, Kata to Patong area. Salary plus commission. Email: nina.phuket@hotmail.com



Marketing Staff Wanted

Staff needed to join a promotions team to work in Real Estate. Thai female with good English communication skills.

Please call 095-429 6653. Email: info@arthouse.asia

SALES STAFF WANTED

Sales staff wanted, able to speak and write English. Reply by email only. Good income. Patong. Tel: 081-893 7720. Email: cc@bayshoreprojects.com

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CAMERA MAN NEEDED

Camera man needed for freelance works in Phuket. Tel: 093-561 9369. Email: promotustv@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR
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We are looking for hotel receptionist, speaking Thai and English fluently. Kalim. Tel: 092-726 9738 (English), 092-726 9967 (English). Email: Tomsky38@hotmail.fr

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Asia Pacific Representatives Ltd is an international company dealing with customers in Asia and Australia, as well as decorative surface suppliers from Europe. We are looking for Customer Service Assistant. 30-35 years old. Thai national. Excellent English. Chalong. Tel: 076-281341. Email: jobs@aprfleiderer.com

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

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Cleaning, sanding, painting. Phuket Boat Lagoon. For more information, please call 099-013 4172. Email: boatcrewwanted@gmail.com

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Experienced Thai female, 30 years old, English speaking, attractive personality. Excellent wage + profit share package. For more information, please call 062-830 7754. Email: pierre.zabbal@gmail.com

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. For more information, please call 076-288908. Email: jobs@siamrealestate.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

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

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

CLASSIFIEDS ADMINISTRATION 2 POSITIONS

Qualified candidates will be:

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

and should have:

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

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to **Diao@PhuketGazette.Net**

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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



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

School Nurse (1 Position)

- Thai national
- Bachelor's degree of nursing or higher with active licence
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- Good spoken and written English
- Service minded
- Interpersonal and problem solving skills
- Challenge job-oriented
- Team player

Human Resources Officer (1 Position)

- Thai national
- Bachelor's degree in human resources, administrative, business laws or related fields
- Some experience in staff recruitment, responsible for taking care of long-term visa for foreign teachers and administration work
- Proficiency in using computer and able to read and speak English
- Good personality, human relation and service-minded person

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- Thai national
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- Experience in library system databases
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- Good command of written and spoken English
- Proficiency in MS office
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Please send a short letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph by email/fax and telephone contacts of referees to
British International School, Phuket
59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang Phuket 83200
Tel: 076-335555 Ext.2113 Fax: 076 335573.
Email: sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th, kojchapani@bisphuket.ac.th

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**

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