

# Phuket Gazette

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A young child is brought on board the HTMS Bangpakong after being rescued from the Similan Islands. Photo: Royal Thai Navy

## Floods wreak havoc

Airports closed, roads were cut off, the Royal Thai Navy had to rescue tourists stranded on the Similan and Surin Islands and a devastating landslide killed at least 12 in Krabi.

See pages 6-7 for full stories

# I will not plead guilty: Fanelli

**EXCLUSIVE**

By Stephen Michael Fein

RONALD Fanelli, the American arrested last July for the stabbing murder of bar hostess Wanphen Pienjai, told the judge at a pre-trial hearing this week that he "would never plead guilty" to charges of premeditated murder because he was acting in self-defense.

Speaking to the *Phuket Gazette* through a telephone at the visitor's center at Phuket Provincial Prison, Mr Fanelli for the first time gave his version of how he came to stab the 33-year-old employee of the Sweethearts Bar in Kata.

"It's an open court, so I will tell you what I told the judge," he said.

He told the judge through an interpreter that Ms Wanphen came screaming at him with a



Ronald Fanelli in custody.

switchblade as he slept at his rented home in the Thanthong residential estate in Chalong, he said.

He awoke suddenly and reacted instinctively when he turned the blade back on Ms Wanphen, he told the judge during the questioning, which lasted about 15 to 20 minutes, he said.

He expressed concern about the accuracy of the translated version of accounts, however.

"It seemed that I would speak for three minutes and then she [the translator] spoke for just three seconds," he said.

From behind a plexiglass window, Mr Fanelli demonstrated the facial gestures and hand movements that took place as he took control of the switchblade and plunged it into Ms Pienjai's chest.

After he realized Ms Pienjai was dead he went into a "state of shock", he said.

"I was not crazy or insane at the time, but my mind was gone for three or four weeks after that," he said.

It was during this period that Mr Fanelli was the subject of one of the most intensive manhunts the island has seen, with the Phuket City Police offering 50,000 baht for information leading to his arrest.

Continued on page 3

## Phuket raises 2.2mn baht for Japan

THE official Phuket relief fund for Japan as of noon last Saturday had amassed 2,204,332.92 baht in donations to provide relief for those still suffering from the ongoing effects of the earthquake and tsunami that struck the main island of Honshu on March 11.

The figure represents all donations made in person at the Phuket Tsunami Relief Center for Japan at Provincial Hall, or deposited into the relief fund bank account controlled by the Phuket Provincial Comptroller General's Office.

The relief fund more than doubled after two large donations by local organizations were made last Thursday.

Prince of Songkla University Phuket Vice President Methi Sunbhanich handed 300,000 baht to Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha on the day, while Ban Thai Beach Resort & Spa manager Boonlert Sukhotu chipped in with a 100,000 baht



Relief supplies are arriving. Photo: US Air Force

donation from the resort.

Although the center stopped receiving donations at noon last Saturday, Governor Tri Augkaradacha announced that afternoon that donations will continue to be accepted in the bank account until April 10.

Gov Tri also announced that Phuket will

continue its efforts to raise funds for Japan disaster relief.

"The Phuket Provincial Office will join many other companies and organizations that will hold a "Walking Street" on Thalang Road [in Phuket Town] on April 9 and 10 for one last push to raise donations," said the governor.

Many artists from giant Thai recording company Grammy will join the event, he said.

Gov Tri was scheduled to meet organizers for the event to firm up details.

"I expect the least we will be able to raise is 10 million baht," he added.

- Pimwara Choksakulpan

The relief fund account details are:  
 Phuket Tsunami Relief Center for Japan  
 Account No 805-0-41578-3  
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 Phuket Branch



## Prescription addiction

The *Gazette's* Alexandra Andersson looks into how easily prescription drugs can be obtained through pharmacies on Phuket - and the ills they can bring.

See page 16

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# This Week

## Special report

Phuket's prison is more than 300 inmates over capacity, and arrivals keep piling in. **Page 7**

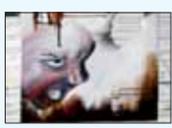
## Business

Woody keeps us up to speed with internet connectivity rates around the island in Live Wire. **Page 12**

## In focus

 Is the new Cambodian marriage law a joke? **Page 14**

## Art

 Peer into an exhibition of teenage angst. **Page 18**

## Fashion

 The Gazette's Julia Dennis gets tips from Paul Ropp. **Page 24**

## Sport

 FC Phuket have made it to the top spot of Division One. **Page 48**

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Thursday



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# Body found in ravine

EMERGENCY response volunteers struggled in rain and darkness last Saturday to recover the body of an unknown man from a ravine in Wichit.

The body was discovered at about 5:30pm by local plantation owner Kittidej Jingjit.

Mr Kittidej was en route to check construction of a hillside workers' sala off Soi Anusorn in Wichit Village 3.

Noticing a strong odor and presuming it to be from a dead animal, Mr Kittidej asked his workers to investigate.

Climbing down, the workers discovered the decomposing body of a man.

Mr Kittidej immediately reported the discovery to police.

Arriving at the scene with Phuket Ruamjai Kupai rescue workers, the police found the body stuck against a rocky outcrop in the gorge.

Initial investigation revealed that the man suffered massive head trauma that left his face beyond recognition.

There were also deep lacerations in the right arm and left leg that left both limbs almost completely severed. At least 10 other stab wounds had been inflicted.

The victim was wearing only a pair of jeans and canvas sneakers.

Investigators found a blood-



Police and rescue workers arrived at the scene just before dusk, but had to wait into darkness until the corpse could be hoisted out of the ravine.

stained shirt and army hat nearby.

No identification documents were found on the body or at the scene.

Rescue workers needed to use a plastic stretcher, ropes and slings to hoist the body out of the ravine.

The operation was further hindered by the onset of darkness and steady rain.

Officers estimated the man had been killed about five days earlier. The man was probably murdered elsewhere and dumped in the remote location in order to avoid detection, the police said.

Thai and Burmese people in the

area questioned by police said they had no idea who the victim was.

No people were reported as missing from local communities, they said.

The corpse was reported as that of a man who was "tall and dark skinned", but the race and nationality of the victim remain unknown.

Police said DNA samples would be taken to try to identify the man and find his killer or killers.

Anyone with information that could help police identify the deceased are asked to call Phuket City Police at 076-212155.

- Yodsak Jarana

## Earth Hour saves B21mn

PHUKET saved 18.65 Megawatts, or the equivalent of 21 million baht, in electrical consumption during Earth Hour last Saturday.

Provincial Electricity Authority Patong Manager Tanom Sukgum announced the figure at Phuket's official event at the Royal Paradise Hotel in Patong.

The hotel was chosen to be Phuket's official landmark for Earth Hour, shutting off all non-essential lights for the hour.

With Mr Tanom at the official ceremony, chaired by Kathu District Chief Siriphath Phathakul, were Phuket Provincial Energy Office Chief Jirasak Tumma-wetch and Patong Deputy Mayor Prasan Yodtor.

Incessant rain led few to turn out for the event, though many across the island took part in the global phenomenon that is esti-



mated to have had more than a billion followers in 131 countries.

Despite the poor attendance, Mr Tanom said that Phuket had improved on its energy-saving efforts last year with Patong alone saving 2.6Mw, up from 1.8Mw in 2010.

"If the rain stopped, I think more people would have joined in," said Mr Tanom.

"Some business operators were afraid customers would be frightened by the lights suddenly going out in the pouring rain," he added.

See also First Person on page 9.

## Tourist Police want you

THE head of a foreign volunteer police group working in Phuket is recruiting new members to help patrol the busy streets of Patong

Wal Brown, who heads the Royal Thai Police Region 8 International Liaison Volunteers, told the Gazette, "We are seeking suitable people who would like to assist in our program in the Patong area."

"We need people, both men and women, from all nationalities with a variety of language skills. It is important that you have some English-speaking skills," said the Australian.

For more information, contact Wal Brown on (084-447 1978) or Dave MacKay (084-848 3637) after 1pm.

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**FAMOUS NIGHTCLUB PATONG**

## Fanelli to fight murder charge

From page 1

The reward money was later shared among case investigators following Mr Fanelli's arrest on July 17 in a rented home in Karon. Mr Fanelli told the *Gazette* he understood why the local media "chose to sensationalize" the man-hunt, but insisted his actions in disposing of Ms Wanphen's body came during a period of extreme mental stress.

Ms Pienjai's body was discovered stuffed into a suitcase a few days later in a remote area off Chaofa Thani Road in Wichit.

Mr Fanelli said he was told by his lawyer that his trial would take "one to two years" to reach a verdict once it begins, regardless of how he pleads.

He would never plead guilty to premeditated murder, but had yet to discuss with his lawyers what would happen if lesser charges were offered in exchange for a confession, he said.

Appearing healthy, he said US Embassy officials came to visit him "about two weeks ago".

One local English-language news website sent an email to the embassy inquiring why they were showing "extreme interest" in his case by making regular visits, Mr Fanelli revealed.

The official told him embassy staff were required by law to visit at least once a month any US nationals imprisoned but not yet formally charged, he said.

Asked about his health and conditions inside the prison, he said he saw a doctor a few weeks ago and was back on all his prescribed medications, which had run out after his return from Suan Saranrom psychiatric hospital in Surat Thani.

Although many inmates were complaining about cold weather during the recent rainy spell, he welcomed the rain as the overcrowded prison was far too hot most of the time, he said.

# B147mn boost for disaster center

THE Cabinet has approved 147 million baht to set up the Andaman Disaster Warning Center in Phuket so local authorities will have the ability to issue a wide range of warnings using the system set up by the National Disaster Warning Center.

The center will be responsible for activating alarms in Phang Nga, Krabi, Trang, Ranong and Phuket, explained Governor Tri

Augkaradacha last Saturday.

The center, the exact location of which has yet to be determined, will be the focal point of evacuation planning and establishment of safety zones set up in the five provinces.

Funding required to develop and implement disaster management plans will be administered through the center, he said.

Each province will also set up

their own provincial disaster-response centers, all to be operated under the main center in Phuket.

A hard lesson learned in the 2004 tsunami disaster was that overloaded mobile phone systems crashed from the number of calls and SMS messages placed after the waves struck.

To prevent a recurrence, each center will coordinate with disaster management officers and

emergency response crews on the ground through shortwave radio.

The center also aims to have a fleet of trucks fitted with reverse-osmosis filter systems in order to be able to provide fresh water to people in disaster areas.

"For example, they would be able to park by any beach and start providing fresh water within 20 minutes," he said.

# Tip-off leads to ya bah raid on airport limo driver home

By Atchaa Khamlo

POLICE arrested the young wife of a Phuket Airport taxi driver last Thursday, catching the woman with a stash of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills and a firearm in the family home where she was caring for her three young children.

Thachatchai Police identified the suspect as 22-year-old Sukhon "Bow" Bajongjit, a resident of Phuket.

Police obtained a warrant to search the couple's home after investigation revealed the suspect and her husband, 29-year-old Anusorn "Noi" Petcharat, were supplying drugs to local youth near the airport.

Police arrived at the home at 7am, but Mr Anusorn had already left for work.

A search uncovered 382 *ya bah* pills stashed inside the pockets of some garments inside the home.

Drug-taking paraphernalia, an unlicensed .22 caliber gun, and 10 bullets were also seized as evidence.

Ms Sukhon told police all of the items belonged to her husband.

Police asked the suspect to arrange a meeting with her husband, who was apparently tipped off about the raid. He remains at large.

Thachatchai Police said they will



Sukhon 'Bow' Bajongjit after her arrest at Tah Chat Chai Police Station.



Mrs Bow claimed the drugs and firearms belonged to her husband.

unaware that the driver was none other than Captain Narong Buakon of the Kamala Police.

Capt Narong drove the suspect back to Kamala and then at 10pm pulled into the Na Nok police checkpoint, where he identified himself as a police officer and searched the suspect with fellow officers.

They found 4.5 grams of *ya ice* and 13,500 baht in cash on his person.

Both cash and contraband were seized as evidence in the case.

Mr Akkaradet confessed to charges of possession of a Category 1 restricted narcotic with intent to supply.

apply for an arrest warrant for Mr Anusorn as soon as possible. They believe he is still somewhere on the island.

In an unrelated case, Kamala Police that same day successfully conducted a sting operation to arrest a man who was allegedly supplying local youth with *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine).

Police informants arranged a deal to buy some of the powerful stimulant from 28-year-old Akkaradet "Sam" Koesumpan of

Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

Mr Akkaradet arrived in Phuket aboard a bus from Nakhon Sri Thammarat with the intention of meeting the informant in Kamala at 9pm.

He alighted at the Heroines' Monument and called the informant, asking to be picked up because he didn't know the way to Kamala.

Shortly thereafter, a tuk-tuk arrived at the designated meeting point and Akkaradet got in, totally

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## Phuket cops catch up with runaway 'Beer'

A 20-year-old man was arrested last Thursday after taking a brand-new Mazda 2 for a test drive from Phuket Town all the way to Wiangsa in Surat Thani, about 200 kilometers away.

Yutthapong "Beer" Malila, originally from Surat Thani, contacted the Anupas Mazda showroom in Phuket Town the day before, asking to take a new car for a test drive, police said.

Sales representative Thitaporn Markkaew agreed to accompany Yutthapong as he drove the Mazda 2 away from the showroom.

When they reached Tah Chat Chai at the northern tip of the island, he drove into a side street next to the police station and asked Ms Thitaporn to get out of the car.

He wanted to pick up his boyfriend and didn't want the lad to misunderstand his having a woman with him, he said. He reassured her he would come back, said police.

Believing him, Ms Thitaporn got out of the car. After several hours of waiting, Ms Thitaporn walked to Tah Chat Chai Police to report the car stolen.

After triangulating Yutthapong's



'Beer' and Ms Thitaporn pose next to the stolen car.

position from his mobile phone signal, police finally found him the next day. He was using his phone at a gas station in Surat Thani.

Only after arresting him did police learn there were outstanding warrants for his arrest on charges of embezzlement in Lamphun, in Northern Thailand, as well as for robbery in Surat Thani.

Mr Beer denied the embezzlement charge, but confessed to breaking-and-entering theft in Surat Thani, police said. He denied stealing the car, however.

Mr Beer was being held at Tah Chat Chai Police Station pending his arraignment.

- Atchaa Khamlo

# Dognappers breed fear in Khon Kaen

A GANG of dog snatchers is stealing pampered pooches in the northeastern city of Khon Kaen, leaving many dog owners devastated over the loss of their cherished four-legged friends.

The gang, whose reign of terror has lasted two years, is targeting pedigree breeds with placid temperaments, such as golden retrievers, Siberian huskies, chihuahuas and Pomeranians.

The gang uses pickup trucks to catch large dogs, waiting for an opportunity before scooping the hounds into the vehicle.

Smaller dogs are grabbed by passengers on motorcycles.

Internet forums and social networking sites are full of "missing" announcements for cherished pets - but most are rarely seen again.

Sometimes, when owners have offered rewards for the return of their dogs, the gang has given them back - for cash.

Chumporn Para, owner of the Khon Kaen Link website, said



messages about stolen dogs were increasingly being posted on his web board.

"Owners don't inform police because they're afraid it's a silly thing," he said. "The police are busy. They probably don't have time to look for dogs, so [the owners] turn to social media instead."

Chomsurang Namphrom had her eight-month-old pedigree pug "Jokey" taken by the dastardly gang. She said he had been sired by an Isarn (Northeastern Thailand) champion showdog and cost her 4,000 baht.

With tears in her eyes, Chomsurang explained how much she loved Jokey, how she had

treated him like her own child... until the dog snatchers struck.

A friend took Jokey out for a walk and while the dog played by Khon Kaen lake, three young men pulled up on a motorbike and swiped him.

Chomsurang put an ad on Khon Kaen Link, offering 10,000 baht for Jokey's return.

She received a call from a person claiming to have bought Jokey who said he would be returned on payment of the reward.

But when Chomsurang confirmed the police had been notified - the person hung up. That was the last she heard from them.

"I still can't accept it," she said. "I keep his toys and clothes for him and I write messages to him - I say 'I miss my child so much'."

"I'm waiting for my child to come back to me. Now I can't think of replacing him with another dog because I still love and wait for Jokey," she said.

- Kom Chad Luek

## Double Down: Ex-con nabbed in drug bust



Mr Panya (center) points to evidence seized in the raid. Photo: Yodsak Jarana

THALANG Police on March 25 arrested a man they described as an "important" *ya bah* (methamphetamine) dealer who previously served an eight-year stretch in jail on drug charges.

Panya Kumanchan, 39, told police he had been smuggling the *ya bah* from Bangkok to Phuket for two years before his capture.

He was caught in possession of 1,037 *ya bah* tablets and 168 bags of *ya ice* (crystal meth) with a total value of around one million baht.

He had already sold more than half of the current shipment to dealers on the island, officers quoted him as saying.

Police also seized Panya's Mazda Astina 323 and a Honda Wave motorcycle.

An examination of his bank account showed he took in several million baht per month, they said.

Inspector Wirayut Sitthiratnakun of Thalang Police Station

said investigators suspected a unit in the Kan Kaha government housing project in Srisoonthorn subdistrict was being used as a base for drug dealing.

After casing the premises for some time, they established that Mr Panya lived there and was selling drugs there, he said.

Inside the house they found a PVC pipe containing *ya bah* and *ya ice*, the police said.

Mr Panya allegedly confessed that the drugs were his and that he planned to sell them. He will be charged with drug possession with intent to sell.

Mr Panya served eight years in prison in Nonthaburi on drug charges, police said.

He sourced the drugs from a man identified as "Mr Ek" in Bangkok, regularly travelling between the two cities by coach to resupply, said police.

- Yodsak Jarana



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## Italian man arrested on rape charges

AN ITALIAN man was taken into police custody at Phuket Airport last Friday night on an arrest warrant for the alleged rape of a Thai woman on Koh Samui.

The suspect, in his 30s, was to fly out of the country that night.

He was intercepted at the airport at 9:30pm after Immigration officers there were informed that Samui District Police had issued a warrant for his arrest.

Police at Tah Chat Chai were called in to make the arrest. The man was detained at Tah Chat Chai Police Station until officers from Samui arrived the next day to escort him back to face charges.

Samui Police duty officer Pumiwat Rodkerd told the *Gazette* from Bangkok that the alleged rape took place on March 15.

The woman said she willingly went out with the man before the alleged assault occurred, he said.

"We have to investigate further to find out exactly what happened," Lt Pumiwat said.

# Overcrowding plagues prison

By Atchaa Khamlo

PHUKET Prison is already more than 300 inmates over capacity, yet new arrivals continue to exceed the number of prisoners released each month.

One prison official told the *Gazette* last week that seven to eight new inmates pass through the main gate each day, while only about 15 are released each month.

The are currently 1,362 prisoners at the facility: 1,173 male and 189 female. Phuket Prison is designed to house no more than 1,000 inmates, the officer said.

"Phuket Prison is consistently requesting other prisons in Bangkok, Surat Thani and Nakhon Sri Thammarat to take on extra prisoners so we can cope with the overload," said the officer.

In an attempt to reduce the number of new inmates, the prison is continuing its social rehabilitation program for those sentenced for less serious offenses.

As part of this effort, volunteers from the Phuket Red Cross



Red Cross President Naline Augkaradacha hands one of the inmates a rehab graduation certificate.

arrived at the prison on March 23 to conduct a three-day behavioral rehabilitation clinic for 60 selected prisoners: 30 male, 30 female.

All 60 are serving short sentences for minor drug offenses, most only one to two years.

The prisoners engaged in "ice breaking" activities and other

trust-building exercises, as well as taking part in group discussions about the long-term effects of illegal drug use – including the social stigma of being incarcerated.

The discussions were also aimed at improving the inmates' understanding of the boundaries

of acceptable social behavior.

"We teach inmates to change their behavior so they can help others and become good people who live at peace in society," said one Red Cross volunteer.

All 60 prisoners passed the course and were issued "graduation certificates".

## Body of missing teen found on plantation

THE body of a teenage boy was discovered by the side of the road in a Phuket rubber plantation last Saturday.

The body was later identified as that of Thawatchai Maelanon, a 15-year-old who went missing from his home in Nai Yang on March 19.

Villagers found the badly decomposing body a few meters off the access road to Namuang Village, a rubber planting community off Thepkrasatri Road, about eight kilometers south of the Airport Road turnoff.

Thalang Police duty officer Pratheung Ponmanat arrived at the scene with Kusoldharm Foundation volunteer rescue workers to investigate and recover the body.

Police suspect the boy was lured to the remote area and slain by "enemies".

The advanced state of decomposition made it impossible to determine the exact cause of death by initial examination, however.



The body of Thawatchai Maelanon, 15, was found just meters from the road past the plantation.

Kusoldharm Foundation workers took Mr Thawatchai's remains to Thalang Hospital, where it was to undergo further examination and be claimed by relatives.

- Wichai Witthawat

## Lionel Cleary dies at age 76

WELL-known long-term Phuket resident Lionel Cleary died of organ failure last Friday after weeks in hospital due to a fall.

He was 76.

A memorial service was held for him at Rawai Temple on Tuesday. He was cremated the next day.

Mr Cleary was a regular visitor to Phuket for 29 years and a resident for more than 18 years after that.

He first arrived in Phuket with friends via an overland trip from Lahore in 1965 at the age of 30.

That trip inspired him to return almost annually until 1986, when he spent much of each year in Phuket until 1994.

On retiring that year, he settled permanently in Phuket and soon established himself as part of the growing expat scene in the south of the island.

As with many expats who come to Phuket to "retire", he took on a number of English-teaching positions in the late '90s



Lionel was a regular attendee at the many Mom Tri's Boathouse events over the past 17 years, most notably their art exhibitions, literary evenings and wine tastings.

and also did a brief stint as proof-reader for the *Phuket Gazette*.

Together with a number of other Rawai and Kata expats,

He was also a keen and regular attendee at the Assumption Catholic Church in Phuket Town.

Mr Cleary travelled the world extensively and became something of a purist. He hated the arrival of the Coca-Cola culture into native communities, but above everything else he was a people person who loved to travel and led an incredibly colorful life.

He will be fondly remembered by his many, many friends in Phuket and around the world.

- Peter Notley / Bill Curran

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# More rain on its way

THE Southern Meteorological Center (West Coast) at Phuket International Airport on Thursday forecast more rain on its way with widespread thunderstorms and isolated heavy showers across Southern Thailand.

The Phuket MET office on Wednesday issued another weather advisory – the third in nearly as many days – warning of heavy rains and high seas from a low pressure system covering most of Southern Thailand.

Although the warning came after a week of heavy downpours, it heralded the onslaught of the heaviest recorded rainfall for the past month.

In the 24 hours that followed the weather monitoring station in Phuket Town recorded 101.6mm of rainfall, while the weather sta-

tion at Phuket Airport recorded 185.4mm during the same day.

The deluge brought the rainfall recorded so far this year to 443.5mm in Phuket Town and 571.9mm at the airport.

Throwing into sharp relief just how much rain fell on Phuket in the past month is that the 30-year average (from 1961 to 1990) for Phuket rainfall in March is 60.4mm.

However, while the final week of March saw the island soaked from Tah Chat Chai to Rawai, throughout the rest of the month there were 12 days when no rain fell at all or what did sprinkle down barely registered at the island's two weather monitoring stations.

The advisory on Wednesday warned of possible "very heavy"



Many roads across Phuket were inundated by the heavy downpours over the past week. Photo: Neil Quail

rains along Thailand's entire Andaman Sea coastline, with the risk of flooding and landslides in high-risk areas in all six Andaman Coast provinces: Ranong, Phang Nga, Phuket, Krabi, Trang and Satun. Wind-driven waves up to

four meters high were predicted to persist in the Andaman Sea.

All ships in the area were advised to proceed with caution and all small vessels advised to remain in port.

Conditions were expected to

return to start returning to normal on Friday, when the low pressure system was expected to move to the Bay of Bengal and the high pressure system over much of the rest of the region was expected to weaken.

– Phuket Gazette

## Landslide kills 12, injures 30 in Krabi

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE death toll in the landslide disaster that struck Krabi rose to 12 on Wednesday, while 30 people remained unaccounted for.

Khao Phanom District Chief Administrative Officer Trithawat Rakmuang said that one of the dead has been identified as 31-year-old Paisarn Chusri.

He added that at least 24 people have been injured so far.

"Six subdistricts (tambon) comprising 54 villages are at risk of landslides and flooding, and tambons Na Khao and Kok Han are in serious trouble after landslides there killed people," Mr Trithawat said.

There were about 1,000 people stay-

ing at an emergency shelter at Huay Nam Kaew school and another 400 at a shelter at Wat Tam Kob, both in tambon Na Khao, he said.

"Local organizations have set up in these shelters to coordinate relief efforts and provide food and drink for those seeking shelter," Mr Trithawat said.

"Right now we can't call anyone in the areas affected by the mudslides as mobile phone services are down. The water supply is also out.

"If it stops raining, the situation will improve," he added.

Donations of food and drink have already begun arriving, he said.

An officer at the Khao Phanom District

Office internal security division in Krabi on Wednesday told the *Gazette*, "The first mudslide occurred yesterday in Baan Ton Han, in Na Khao subdistrict.

"One person died and a few hundred others had to stay in eight temporary shelters set up by the District Office at local temples and schools."

However, some 1,000 villagers in other at-risk villages in the area were asked to evacuate temporarily as a precaution, he added.

Chuengnarong Choochuay, chief administrator of Khao Phanom Municipality, confirmed that a second mudslide took place in the municipality at about 10am on Wednesday.

"Four people were injured, two seriously," he said.

"The road to the village is blocked, so officials are having trouble getting through to render assistance," he said.

Officials from Khao Phanom Municipality and members of various other government agencies and private rescue foundations were organizing the relief effort, he said.

"About 100 people have had to move out the area and stay in relatives' homes" Mr Chuengnarong said.

It was still too early for an accurate assessment of damage to the village, he added.

## Gov issues warnings for landslides, floods

PHUKET Governor Tri Augkardacha on Monday ordered government officers from all departments to be on the lookout in high risk areas where the onslaught of rain could cause landslides.

"As it has been raining heavily in Phuket for the past few days, it may cause problems with flooding and landslides," said Gov Tri.

Specifically, he ordered all three District Offices in Phuket – Kathu, Thalang and Muang – as well as officers from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Phuket office (DDPM-Phuket) and other local organizations to keep close watch on 14 areas already identified as at high risk for landslides.

The 14 areas are: Baan Mai Reab, Baan Nua and Baan Kalim in Kathu; Baan Kanaen, Baan Kuan, Baan Pak Cheed, Baan Lipornbangkok and Baan Tha Rua



Officers were ordered to be prepared for landslides in high risk areas. Photo: Gazette file

in Thalang; and Baan Kata, Baan Bangla, Baan Kokchang, Baan Watmai, Baan Laem Promthep and Baan Chidcheaw in Muang district.

Gov Tri reminded officers that the Provincial Office has a 50 million baht reserve fund from which to offer immediate assistance to anyone affected by flooding or landslides.

– Phuket Gazette

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# Thai Navy rescues tourists



Tourists were ferried to HTMS Bangpakong in rubber dinghies.

THE Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command on Tuesday rescued Thai and foreign holidaymakers who were stranded on islands in the Similan and Surin archipelagos due to the heavy seas.

HTMS *Bangpakong*, under the command of Joint Rear Admiral Rangsarit Sattayanukul, sailed to the Similans from its port at the navy base in Thap Lamu, Phang Nga, at 2pm.

A total of 133 tourists were safely returned to the mainland

after being stranded on the remote islands since the previous Saturday, when an active low pressure cell settle in the region bringing heavy, wind-driven seas.

The tourists came ashore at the base in Thap Lamu at 8:30pm.

Another navy vessel, HTMS *Longlom*, left Ranong Harbor at 7pm to conduct a similar mission to rescue tourists stranded on the more remote Surin Islands.

All 73 were safely returned to



A couple embrace after being reunited safely ashore in Phang Nga. Photos: Royal Thai Navy

shore at Kuraburi Pier in Phang Nga at 10pm.

Tourists to the popular marine national parks typically get there by speedboat from Kuraburi and other ports in Phang Nga, but high seas made it too dangerous for them to continue operating.

The ongoing bad weather could spell an early end to the dive tour-

ism season in the parks, which close annually during the monsoon season from May through October.

Meanwhile, Royal Thai Navy ships in the Gulf of Thailand on Wednesday moved in to help thousands of tourists stranded on Koh Samui, where flights and ferries stopped operating for safety rea-

sons on Tuesday.

At the time of going to press Nakhon Sri Thammarat Airport remained closed pending safety inspections and repairs following the devastating floods that swept through Southern Thailand, killing at least 21 people and temporarily displacing hundreds of thousands.

## Winds rip yachts from moorings



Many boat owners were caught off guard by the severity of the storm conditions. Photo: Phil Gallimore

SEVERE weather conditions on Monday broke several boats from their moorings and pushed them ashore at Ao Yon.

Many boat owners were caught unaware by the force of the storm as the bay is much considered a safe haven at this time of year.

"Very strong winds challenged the moorings and large waves

were breaking on the shore, which was very unusual," said Mike Downard of Sail in Asia Training.

"Six boats hit the shore, but one has been taken off already now that the weather has moderated slightly," he said late on Monday afternoon.

Two motor cruisers were well dug in by the keel, he reported.

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## Where is all this violence leading?

Re: Gazette online – Body of missing teen found in rubber plantation, March 27

What enemies could a 15-year-old boy possibly have that would lead to murder? This increasing trait of resorting to murder in any dispute is frightening, but between kids it's incomprehensible.

So is the number of cases where victims were lured to desolate, dark areas to be attacked. What should we be blaming? Violence on TV? Video games?

Logic  
Gazette forum

## Fair weather sailors fail fundamentals

Re: Gazette online – Phuket Storms winds rip yachts off their moorings, March 28

It's unbelievable how many boats end up on beaches in Phuket when a little bit of weather comes through.

I can only think of two reasons for it and one is they don't check weather forecasts as often as they should. The second is that they do not use adequate mooring/anchoring gear for the area they are in.

I know of one person on a large vessel in Ao Yon that watched a weather forecast and moved the vessel to shelter elsewhere. So there is merit in watching the forecasts and investing in proper moorings.

After all, this was not a tsunami – just inclement weather that had been forecast, albeit unusual at this time of year.

Fair weather sailors, I say.

Neill  
Gazette forum

# Making strides in being prepared

**THE earthquake and tsunami disaster in Japan last month once again forces us here in Phuket to re-view our readiness for a potential repeat of the events of December, 2004.**

As this goes to print, the death toll from the 9.0-magnitude quake off the coast of Honshu stood at over 11,000, with more than 16,000 people listed as missing.

The entire global community empathizes with the Japanese people and waits to see if the heroic workers at the badly-damaged nuclear power plant in Fukushima will be able to contain what is likely to go down in history as the worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl.

It goes without saying that it is best to prevent a disaster rather than to try to mitigate the effects of one, but contrary to some sensationalist media reports it is impossible to predict where and when seismic events will occur.

Science can tell us, however, which areas are more at risk. Unfortunately Phuket lies in such a zone, a fact that we became tragically aware of in 2004.

No people on the planet were more aware of the risks of a tsunami, or better trained for an evacuation, than the people of Miyagi prefecture.

While this training saved thousands of lives, the proximity of the earthquake's epicenter to the shore made it impossible for many thousands more to reach higher ground before the inundation.

## Phuket Gazette

Fortunately for Phuket, we are located far enough away from the Sunda Trench fault zone to conduct a successful, wide-scale evacuation if necessary – provided that our early warning system is operational, effective and trusted by people in risk areas.

Efforts by the United States government to set up an early warning system with tsunami detection units in the Indian Ocean were laudable, but with the exception of India and Thailand regional efforts to continue this work have been almost a complete failure – most notably in Indonesia, the country at greatest risk.

As the years since the 2004 disaster have taught us, maintenance of an early warning system is technically difficult and expensive work, the type of endeavor easily compromised by unstable politics, corruption and difficult-to-prevent vandalism on the high seas.

However, the deployment of two new warning buoys late last year and the establishment of an Andaman Region Disaster Warning Center here in Phuket [see page 3] are positive signs that our level of preparedness is far higher than it was in 2004 – and for now it looks likely to slowly continue to improve.

## Weather whingers

I am sick of listening to complaints about the heavy rainfall that hit the island last week: what a bunch of crybabies some people are.

For a start, the rain was no worse than what can happen in any given week from May

through November, so it's a bit over the top to use words like "unprecedented" and "record breaking" to describe it.

On an island where the collective memory span seems to go back months rather than years, I would like people to recall the terrible drought we suffered through in early 2005, just after the tsunami poisoned

groundwater supplies in many areas and we went with hardly any appreciable rainfall until April and May.

Getting 100 millimeters of rain in a single March day is no less than a gift from Almighty God, possibly because he forgives us for our pathetic inability to store enough water to get through the year – even though we live in

one of the rainiest places on Earth.

Personally I think we need a few inches of snow to make people appreciate the wonderful climate we enjoy here.

Somchai Huasaikul  
Kuku

## Paying it forward

Re: Reclaiming lost property in tuk-tuks, Issue & Answers March 26 issue

Our guest who left her bag in a tuk-tuk she took from Patong to Karon went back to the same taxi stand in front of the Hard Rock Cafe where she got in that same afternoon and... with help from some very friendly tuk-tuk drivers, they found her bag and she got it back. Everything was still in the bag, too. Thank you Gazette for your help.

Lies Sol  
PR Manager  
The Boathouse, Kata

## Keeping it 'Pura'

Re: Gazette online – Policy on Thai residency should not be a secret, March 27

I have been coming to Thailand for 15 years and support my Thai and adopted families to the fullest of my ability. I am close to retirement, which I always thought I would spend in Thailand. Now I am having grave reservations about doing so with a decent standard of living.

The well-worded article (above) did not point out that while Purachai was blocking farang (westerners) from obtaining residency permits in Thailand, his family was residing in New Zealand and he later took up residency there himself after leaving government.

Resident  
Gazette forum

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## Issues & Answers...

### Tax confusion

I recently received a summons to appear at the Revenue Department's Phuket office over irregularities with my 2009 (2552) tax return.

I did not understand. I had never previously had a problem; the only difference was that I had changed jobs late in the year.

It transpired that two tax returns (*Por Ngor Dor* 91) had been filed in my name.

I filed one myself, as usual, using an income and tax statement from my first employer. My new employer did not provide me with a statement. At that stage they had not taken any tax from my salary.

The second was filed by my new employer, without informing me.

None of my work colleagues were aware that a tax return had been filed for them, too.

The Revenue Department officials that I dealt with informed me that filing two PND91 forms for one year was illegal, and that the error was mine.

They had me sign a document

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

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IssuesAnswers

– written in Thai – that, as far as I understood it, had me accept responsibility.

I protested that I had not been informed correctly, but they insisted and I signed.

Who was at fault? What should a foreign employee know or do to avoid such a problem?

The Revenue Department official also recalculated my tax liability for 2009. According to her calculations, it was nearly twice what I normally pay, and she requested that I pay the outstanding tax at the Samkong office on that day.

I would have expected to pay a little extra tax given that my new employer had not deducted any tax for the time I had worked there. I

was shocked at having to pay so much extra. I feel I was over taxed. Why the discrepancy?

Did the official forget to allow for the tax that had already been deducted by my first employer? Was her calculation based on the minimum amount of tax payable by a foreigner?

I understand that the usual minimum tax is waived for foreigners employed by state-owned institutions, which both my employers were. Was it a penalty for illegally filing two PND91? If I have been over taxed, how do I claim a refund?

A Taxpayer  
Phuket

**Santi Srivaro, a tax lawyer at the Phuket Revenue Office replies:**

The first thing you need is to get your tax receipt from your second employer.

When you change employers, you need a statement from both employers to prove how much tax you have paid during the whole tax year so you can file a *Por Ngor Dor*

# A new set of rules for Phuket's power hungry

## FIRST PERSON



**Tanom Sukgum**, 53, is Manager of the Patong office of the Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA), a position he has held for the past four years. An MBA graduate from Suan Dusit Rajabhat University, Mr Sukgum here talks about taking Earth Hour "beyond the hour".

PHUKET currently uses about 300 megawatts, equivalent to about 500 million baht, of electricity each month. The only province in the South that uses more power is Surat Thani.

Electricity use on Phuket increases by 10% every year. The two main substations, the one near Supercheap and the one in Chalong, are not enough to support rising needs in Phuket. We now have to build a new substation within five years with a potential output of 230,000 volts.

As far as I know, Thailand is aiming to produce electricity from renewable sources within the next 20 years.

It is time for everyone to be aware of saving energy in our daily lives and not just with public campaigns such as Earth Hour 2011.

We all should take it as a deeply concerning issue.

We all know that Phuket is a top tourism destination, but keep in mind that we have limited energy supplies. We shouldn't be wasteful of these limited resources and should not portray the island as abundant with water and power.

Individuals can help by shutting off non-essential lights in their homes. If you find public light or water not functioning correctly - report it to the appropriate authority. Don't think that it is none of your business, we should do this for the common good of Phuket.



A large range of energy-saving light bulbs are now available. Photo: Mattes

Use "green" electrical devices that save energy. They may cost more to install, but they help save on your electricity bill.

Business owners should install solar panel systems to produce their own electricity, like they have done at Patong Merlin Hotel, the Royal Paradise Hotel and Coral Beach Resort. These three hotels have reduced their electricity bills by 20% each.

Avoid using excessive amounts of electricity during peak hours (6:30pm-9:30pm). The PEA gives discounts if you reduce usage during these hours.

Set clear policies on saving electricity, such as aiming to decrease electricity use by 10% every year. Turn on office air-conditioners from 9am to 11am and 1pm to 3 pm only, and keep looking for new ways to save energy.

# The fast lane to heartbreak

## Island View

By Vanessa King

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

WHAT does it take? Seeing with your own eyes, a car slam into a motorbike and watching as the bike rider is catapulted through the air and crashes down in a pool of blood? Seeing a body on the road surrounded by family trying to summon life from it? Or worse: A child severely injured? A baby?

What does it take to get drivers to slow down; to use the correct lane and not cut in and out so they can speedily get to their destination; to realize that whatever it is in their busy lives that causes them to drive so dangerously can wait and that looking out for all road users is of more importance?

We know all too well the disturbing sights of motorbikes and sidecars laden with people - whole families and their luggage on board. Imagine if your car slammed into them.

Expats living here have moved to a developing country.

Did you know that according to United Nations statistics, 29.9 per cent of Thailand's population is - by western standards - desperately poor, earning 1,606 baht or less per month?

Understandably, people weighing down their motorbike sidecars probably have no other choice.

If only there could be a government-sponsored education program and free helmets, at least for Thailand's poorest. These measures could reduce dangerous attitudes towards driving and accidents. Better still, if only there were a more efficient public transport system to help lessen the number of those who need motorbikes.



How many accidents does one need to see before a person changes his ways?

Everyone can play their part. Beginning a campaign to make roads safer begins with individuals being committed to safer driving. It starts with each and every one of us.

Phuket is a beautiful tropical paradise and we all deserve to enjoy it. There are so many beautiful sights to see and good times to be had, but please stop and think. Don't risk your own safety and the safety of others around you.

How your life would change if you were to be the cause of a terrible accident, forever etched in your memory and in the memories of all those touched by the tragedy.

Please. Stop and think.

## ...asking the questions that affect you...

91 (PND91) tax return claim form.

If they do not provide you with a tax receipt, please report this to our office because this is illegal.

By law they must still provide a statement of tax paid, even if they have not made any tax payments on your behalf.

Regarding tax-exemptions for foreigners working at state-owned institutions, only qualified professors teaching at government educational institutions are exempt from paying income tax - and even then they are exempt for only the first two years.

You can file only one PND91 tax return claim in any one tax year, but you can file an "adjustment form" to accompany the initial PND91 to make sure that you disclose all details in your tax return.

There is no prescribed penalty for filing two tax returns. We will just use the second PND91 form filed. But to sort this out, you will need to come to our office next to the Muang District Office at 267 Mae Luan Road in Phuket Town.

Please call us first at 076-211280 ext 130 to make an appointment to

make sure we can meet.

When you come, please bring all the documents you have that are relevant to this problem, including the summons to come to the Revenue Office and the document you were asked to sign.

Also ask a Thai-speaking friend to come along to translate for you.

It would be very helpful if you could remember the name of the officer who handled your case, too.

Then we can take this step-by-step and resolve this problem.

### Are Phuket beaches open to the public?

I took some friends to Tri Trang Beach the other day - which I have visited for 15 years - only to be told that I was not allowed to bring my own drinks onto the beach.

The operator said we had to buy drinks from the restaurant they operated and rent a beach chair.

We moved further down the beach as I have never had this happen before. The operator fol-



Tri Trang beach on Patong Bay is known for its relaxing atmosphere, unlike its infamous neighbor.

lowed us and intimidated the women in our group although I (a Westerner) was the only one who spoke Thai.

The women finally gave the operator some money as they didn't want a problem.

Has Tri Trang Beach become a private beach? If so, how? I thought all beaches in Thailand were available to the public.

I like the beach and frequently take guests there, but I object to

the operators using stand-over tactics to intimidate my visiting friends. We did not cross private land to access the beach.

Andyman Patong

**Anthiptha Pimthong, an officer at the Patong Municipality Environmental Health Office, replies:**

Thank you for letting us know about this incident. We will ask local people what is going on there.

This is the second time I have heard about this type of behavior.

Your understanding that all beaches are public is correct, but if you sit on or use a beach chair - or use any other service provided by a vendor who has a permit to work on the beach - then of course you must pay.

Patong Municipality issued permits to some vendors to work on some parts of Tri Trang Beach about three years ago.

Those vendors pay annual permit fees. In return, they get to work on the beach and we collect their trash.

**Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukhaban replies:**

This location is public. However, I'm too "small" to be able to help with this problem.

You can file complaints about this behavior with our Phuket Governor at Phuket Provincial Hall in Phuket Town.

I have heard that tourists are being subjected to this behavior at other beaches too, not only at Tri Trang.

# Krabi marina to become region's fifth yacht hub

By Daniel Waites

PHUKET's rising popularity as a sailing destination is straining the capacity of the island's four yacht marinas, particularly during high season.

Fortunately for the region's yachting community, work is well underway on a rival facility, Port Takola Marina, under construction across Phang Nga Bay in Krabi.

Robert Reynolds, a property consultant working on the project, recently told *The New York Times* that the marina was 50 per cent excavated.

Once complete the 680 million baht first phase is set to open in mid-2013 Port Takola will feature 250 wet births to accommodate yachts of between 10 and 35 meters. Future phases may see berths for larger vessels.

Retired surgeon admiral in the Royal Thai Navy, Suriya Na Nagara, is developing the project, which is being designed by marina consultancy Arrol.

Built on the site of a former shrimp farm, Port Takola is about 3 kilometers away from Krabi Town and 50 km from Phuket's east-coast marinas.

Phuket is already home to the Boat Lagoon, Royal Phuket Marina, the Yacht Haven Marina and Ao Po Grand Marina, which have



**NEW MARINA:** The site of what will be Port Takola Marina in Krabi, adding to the region's four existing marinas.

a combined total of 661 wet births. There are also plans to develop a new marina in Chalong Bay.

But observers believe there is room for another competitor. Gareth Twist, managing director of Ruea Yachts told *The New York Times* that Port Takola would provide another option for yachts to head out for a days cruise to another safe destination with facilities, fuel, power and water.

Having this additional marina in Krabi running will offer a perfect stopover for any of the yachts

based in Phuket, he told the paper.

Krabi's quieter atmosphere and relatively unspoilt scenery is likely to be a selling point for the marina.

The project is also in line with a new Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) strategy to target the yachting market as part of a wider goal to attract more high-end tourists to Thailand.

Last month TAT Governor Suraphon Svetasreni told *Kom Chad Luek* that the growing popularity of yachting with Asians meant sailing tourism could be a

growth market for Thailand.

It's spreading increasingly into new groups of tourists. Previously it was popular with European and American tourists, but now its more and more popular with Asians, he said.

Mr Suraphon said the TAT was already doing promotional work on yachting tourism and planned to do much more.

He said the infrastructure already in place in Phuket meant the island had the potential to become a world-class center for yachting.

## In brief...

### AirAsia upbeat about Thailand and tourism

AIRASIA sees bright prospects despite a wave of natural calamities and unrest in parts of the world, but is taking steps to cope with the situation by raising funds in key markets starting with Thailand and Indonesia.

Group chief executive officer Tony Fernandes said the aviation business would grow in the East despite unrest in the Middle East and North Africa and Japan's crisis.

The earthquake and tsunami in Japan will not affect outbound travellers heading to Bali and Phuket. Inbound travel to Japan is slowing, but recovery will not take long, he said.

"We have been through many crises in the last nine years – 9/11, oil crises and airport closures – but we are still growing," Fernandes said.

He said the group remained on course for an initial public offering on the Stock Exchange of Thailand and in Indonesia that is expected to raise US\$10 million (900mn baht) by the end of this year.

Fernandes said Thai AirAsia planned to use Bangkok as the hub to link with India and China, where there is huge potential. It also planned to develop new domestic hubs such as Krabi and Hat Yai in the South and Chiang Rai in the North.

Thai AirAsia has gained a 40-per cent share of the domestic market in Thailand.

### Laguna marathon expected to be a boon for tourism

MORE than 5,000 runners from around the world are expected to test their mettle in the Laguna Phuket International Marathon on June 12, with Thai-German star Mario Maurer and contestants from the latest season of "The Biggest Loser Asia" taking part.

Regarded as Asia's largest and fastest-growing marathon event, the Laguna Phuket International is set to stream over Phuket once again following the massive success of the fifth edition last year, which drew 5,329 runners from 34 countries.

The event, which has been a major international attraction since its inception in 2006, will offer a strong kick to the province's tourist services and economy.

The Laguna Phuket International Marathon also gives participants a chance to do their bit for the local community through Laguna Phuket's Developing Sustainable Schools programme.

– *The Nation*

If you have any suggestions for our business brief section, then email editor@PhuketGazette.net,

– *The Nation*

## Industry urges new limits on foreign hotel investment

HOTEL operators have urged the government to limit newcomers' access to their industry, to soften the impact from the opening-up of the tourism sector under the

Asean Economic Community (AEC) in 2015.

Udom Srimahachota, adviser to the Thai Hotels Association (THA), said that if Thailand is to be open for foreign investment, it should be limited to certain areas – particularly those outside Bangkok – and new properties should be five-star only to protect small and medium-sized operators.

"Seventy per cent of hotel operators are small or medium-sized and have limited access to funding. They could be thrown out of business if the sector is open without any restrictions," he said.

Thailand has 350,000 hotel

rooms, excluding 200,000 rooms at guest houses and serviced apartments. Most are in major cities such as Bangkok, Phuket, Chiang Mai, Hua Hin and Pattaya.

Meanwhile, the Thailand Professional Tourist Guide Association urged the establishment of a council to protect local tour guides.

Viroj Sitprasertnund, adviser to the association, said talks were underway with the International Trade Negotiation Department on setting up such a body.

He said the council would set and control quality standards of tour guides.

It would also be responsible for

their certification and oversee welfare issues.

"Foreign tour guides would have to be registered and certified by the council. This would help block foreigners' entry," Mr Viroj said.

There are 400,000 registered tour guides in Thailand, excluding some 5,000 illegal guides mostly serving tours from China, South Korea and Russia.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva recently presided over the "Electronic Standards for the Asean Tourism Industry" event, where he stressed the importance of technology in driving the sector forward. Ahead of the AEC, he also urged the integration of product and service sales with operators in the region.

For years, Thailand's tourism sector has been hit hard by many factors. This month's disaster in Japan and crises in the Middle East and North Africa are expected to shave Thai hotels' revenue by 5 per cent this year, as the average room rate may drop further. Udom expects the Japan disaster alone to affect 1 million room-nights.

Piyamarn Tejabaibun, chairwoman of the Tourism Council of Thailand, said it would soon revise its tourist-arrival target from the original projection of 17.5 million because of the crisis.

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# Bike Week to motor in with B600mn total

By Daniel Waites

ORGANIZERS of Phuket Bike Week 2011 believe this year's event could attract a record 6,000 big bikes to the island, and along with the Songkran festival inject at least 600 million baht into the economy.

Last year's event was a smaller affair than usual, after the red-shirt protests in Bangkok led some visitors to stay away. With the current lull in Thailand's turbulent political climate, organizers expect bikers to return in their droves.

The event, now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, will take place in its traditional slot of April 8 to 10, just before the Songkran festival kicks off.

Senior Phuket officials including Deputy Governor Niwit Arunrat and Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*Orborjor*) President Paiboon Upatising announced the event earlier this month at Phuket Town's Merlin Hotel.

The festival is being organized by Phuket province, Patong Municipality, Phuket Big

Bike Club, Phuket Riders Club and Ride Thailand magazine. It will once again aim to attract big-bike lovers from across Thailand and the world.

As well as celebrating biker culture, the event will campaign for safe riding during the Songkran festival, when road casualties tend to increase.

Wittaya Singkalah, the event organizer, said bikers from more than 500 clubs would attend from 26 different countries around the world, especially Asia, Europe, America and Australia.

The event is expected to see more than 6,000 big bikes on display with more than 10,000 visitors coming to Phuket to enjoy the festival.

By comparison, last year's event was attended by 2,800 registered bikers, attracting an estimated 9,000 people.

This year's attractions will include a big-bike exhibition on Patong football field, a big-bike tour of Phuket and stage performances at Loma Park by famous artists



**MONEY MAGNET:** Phuket Bike Week 2011 expects record numbers. Photo: Christian Mouchet

including Carabao, Bao Wee, Pe Hi-Rock, Hin Lek Fai, Jiab Pisut and Lam Morrison. There will also be international performers.

The climax of the event will come on the evening of April 9, when all the big bikes at the event will be lined up on display next to Patong Beach.

Wanaprapha Suksombun, assistant to the

director the Phuket TAT Office, said the event would bring a bit of color to Phuket in advance of the Songkran festival.

About 80-90 per cent of Phuket hotel rooms are already booked up over the Songkran period, with tourists expected to put an extra 600mn baht into the economy during that time.

# Island's media coverage just got smarter

LONG a leader in online publishing, the *Phuket Gazette* has taken a leap into the handheld space with crisp and "functionally immediate" new Apps for both the iPad and the iPhone.

And though only less than a month into these new media, the company is more than pleased with the response.

"These were basically R&D-type projects for us. I don't think anyone here thought they would lead to so much market interest. We've now had more than 400 downloads, implying an annual rate of something close to 10,000 - right from the start," said *Gazette* publisher John Magee.

The *Gazette's* iPad App is currently the first to appear in Apple's search results under the search term "Phuket", and is the only App available from any media company in Phuket.

The iPhone App, available for both versions of the phone (3 and 4), is one of 37 Apps for Phuket, and one of only two offered by media companies here, the other being FM Radio 91.5.

Both of the *Gazette* Apps are free downloads. For the iPad, the content, which changes many times every hour, is completely free of charge. The company's

revenues will come from display advertising starting late in July this year.

For the iPhone, the content, which is identical to that for the iPad, is by subscription only, priced at US\$3.00 for 3 months; \$5.00 for 6 months; and \$9.00 for one year. All *Gazette* phone content is ad-free.

Thus far, most iPhone subscriptions have been for six months and the company expects a high renewal rate based on its experience with the *Digital Gazette* where more than 80 per cent of subscribers renew annually.

*Gazette* IT Manager Seubsak "Big" Sahaworapun, who led the team programming the new Apps, notes that, "With either 'pad or phone', *Gazette* readers can comment in our Web forums; place classified advertising; promote their own events in our Calendar; and even raise

**iGazette:** In the *Gazette* iPhone App (above), content is by subscription only, but it's ad-free. Subscription sales have been brisk.

issues that affect them personally in their day-to-day lives in Phuket.

"And of course they can read, while 'on the go', all of the Daily News, Lifestyle features, Queer News and much more that is available in the *Gazette* Online - in a super-clean format and without lugging around a computer.

"And while on their iPad, readers

can also access the digital version of the entire *Phuket Gazette* newspaper, page by page."

The *Gazette's* new iPhone App is available as a free download to the device from the App Store.

But are these trendy (ughhh) new devices and their Apps for the youth market only?

"I don't believe the popularity of

digital devices is necessarily age-segmented at all," Magee says. "It's the content that defines readership."

"At something well past 60, I bought an iPad four months ago and am addicted to it - the world in your hands with content for all ages, and on a screen which is just the perfect size," he added.

- *Phuket Gazette*



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# Live wire: TOT downloads stall

OUT of the blue last week, a friend of mine sent a panic message: suddenly, for no reason he could discern, he was unable to download the security update to Adobe Flash.

He was sure he had a virus, and the virus was blocking Flash updates. It's a reasonable concern – my first reaction was to run through a full antivirus check – but shortly after, I started seeing reports on the Phuket Internet speed reporting site [phuketinternetspeed.com](http://phuketinternetspeed.com) that other folks on the island weren't able to run the speed test.

The intermittent reports turned into a flood. By the end of the next day, eight people had notified me that they weren't able to download anything from the Internet.

They couldn't run the speed test or other popular download speed tests. They couldn't get the critical Adobe Flash patch or the new

Java patch, nor could they download the new Firefox 4, which came out on March 26.

Some of them reported that their antivirus programs weren't working because they couldn't get the latest signature files downloaded. All of them were mystified – as was I – because they had no problems going to most websites. The

TOT speed test, which only goes to Bangkok, ran blazingly fast. But our speed test, which goes to San Francisco, didn't even start. The one thing the afflicted customers had in common was that they were all using TOT's 4 Mbps or 6 Mbps service.

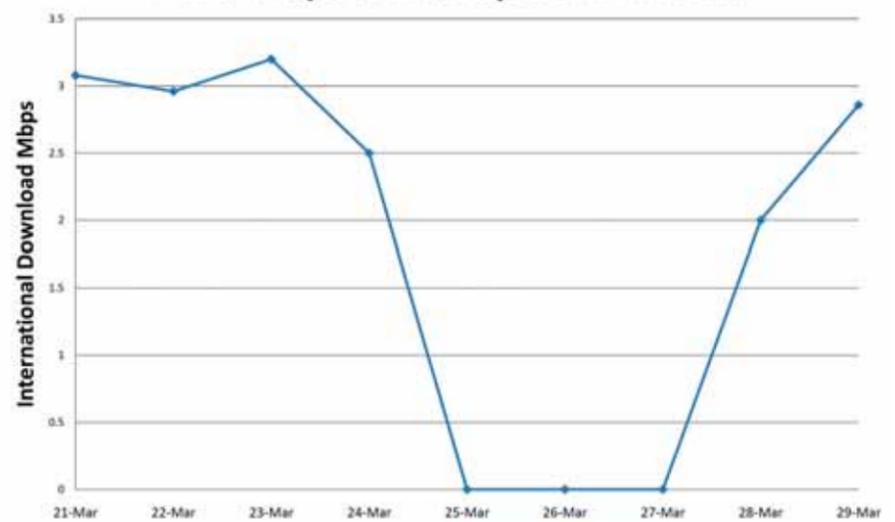
The problem didn't seem to affect TOT's 8 Mbps service, but the 4 and 6 Mbps customers were left high and dry – and without patches, AV updates, or the new Firefox – for much of five days.



## Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

TOT 6 Mbps Service Speed in Phuket



**BELLY FLOP:** For three full days – and part of two other days – TOT customers with the 4 Mbps and 6 Mbps service weren't able to download any files from the Internet.

I've talked with several friends in the Internet Service Provider business, and I'm still at a loss to understand why it happened. Apparently somebody inside TOT turned off the inbound international data pipes for 4 Mbps and 6 Mbps customers, possibly by misconfiguring the TOT International Internet Gateway (IIG) known as AS 38040, possibly by forgetting to pay the bill.

How and why – if, indeed, there is a “why” – remain a mystery.

If you aren't yet reporting your Internet speeds, drop by [phuketinternetspeed.com](http://phuketinternetspeed.com) and sign up. It's free, easy and you can help shape the future of the Internet in Phuket.

For news updates follow Woody on Twitter: @PhuketPC or drop by [AskWoody.com](http://AskWoody.com)

# Out with the old, in with the New World Order

IN TIMES gone by, investors believed the only way to run a portfolio was to have a 70:30 ratio of equities and bonds – in that order. This ratio should have now gone the way of the dodo.

A simple but effective way of investing today is to use multi-asset, multi-manager funds.

However, the canny investor needs to also see how the fund manager chooses the funds.

Until recently, the average investor presumed “emerging markets” were high risk and so dedicated only a small weighting of a portfolio to them. However, many times have I seen emerging markets save portfolios, though the road was bumpy.

The recent problems that have shaken the more established markets to the core have persuaded people to look elsewhere – and to emerging markets – for returns.

As one fund manager at Miton recently said, “Many investors [are looking] to reassess both the absolute risk associated with emerging market investments, as well as the risk relative to other asset classes, especially previously perceived safer developed market assets.

“We have been gradually increasing our exposure to emerging markets...over the last 12 months,” he added.

More good news for new investors is that it is becoming much easier to invest in this asset class. Also, liquidity is improving as many funds are no longer asking people to dedicate their investment for specified periods.

It is difficult to discern whether emerging markets are gaining more attention because they are more accessible or because of greater investor demand.

These days there are many investment trusts, open-ended funds and exchange-traded funds (ETFs), among other available investment options. These all offer investing in index trackers, equities, bonds, commodities, property and currencies that are either hedged or not.

Potential investors can dip their toes into emerging markets by investing in companies that are in major indices, such as the Dow Jones or FTSE.

This indirect approach allows the cautious investor access to emerging markets and companies that use well known, transparent and ac-



## Island Investor

By Graham Macdonald

cepted Western business practices.

This new interest in emerging markets stems from their economic outlook appearing more favorable than developed markets, and attractive economic fundamentals show a healthy state of affairs for risk assets.

However, there are some concerns. Politicians and economists in charge of emerging markets must ensure their economies do not overheat as this could create pressure on local interest rates.

This in turn may create a dilemma for investors: the returns could be much higher than in older markets, but the risk is higher.

However, there has been a great improvement in Thailand over the past decade or so with excellent Finance Ministers such as Thailand's Korn Chatikavanij, who won Global Finance Minister of the Year from *The Financial Times' Banker* magazine last year, leading the way.

Things are looking rosy for emerging markets and developing countries for two reasons: population growth and productivity.

Much of the developing world is benefiting from an expanding working age population brought on by urbanization and natural evolution. This simply means more young people are joining the workforce.

Goldman Sachs recently calculated that in India this demographic trend will contribute four per cent of annual Gross Domestic Product by 2020.

The rise in productivity is also a natural progression and not difficult to achieve. To begin with, developed countries are exporting their expertise to emerging markets so they can boost profit margins.

However, the knowledge does not stay within the emerging market. People improve on what has been imported and send it back to the Old World and/or keep it for themselves.

A perfect example of this is that broadband Internet was brought to South Korea by America, but America's broadband speed is now less than 10 per cent of South Korea's.

Another important factor is that emerging markets are at the start of their economic development cycles.

This means there are many investment opportunities for capital to be allocated to, thus creating the opportunity for rapid economic growth and development.

This leads to the continuous loop as quoted by Miton, “Investment spending creates employment, which in turn boosts income growth and subsequently consumption. This then further stimulates investment it is spending, and so on.

“It is only after the number of easily exploitable investment opportunities start to diminish that economies slow and move on to the growth paths typically experienced by the mature economies of today's world.”

Despite this, emerging markets do have a lot going for them (see table). But anyone investing in emerging markets should nonetheless not be too lax, as some risks are not as apparent as they are in developed economies.

For a start, it is a lot harder for an investor who is not familiar with these markets to find a company they feel comfortable with.

This is because the economies of these countries are relatively young compared with those of the developed world, and so the natural course of who survives has not yet rounded out the market.

There is also the issue of transparency and good gover-

## Emerging market positives:

- Emerging markets' debt ratios and fiscal deficits are less than half those in developed countries.
- Average debt to GDP for emerging market economies stands at 33 per cent, compared to 104 per cent of GDP for developed markets in 2013
- Since early 2008 developed markets have experienced 25 sovereign downgrades, compared with 21 upgrades in emerging markets in 2010
- Potential Growth differential favors emerging markets: 5.8 per cent for emerging markets vs 1.6 per cent for advanced economies

nance, which is generally taken for granted in fully developed economies.

Despite potential pitfalls, there is good money to be made from emerging markets and the risk:reward ratio looks good.

Without doubt there will be volatility, but the trend will be upward. Any short-term hiccups are only for day traders to worry about. People in it for the long-term should not lose any sleep.

Continuing low interest rates in the West will lure more capital towards emerging markets. Until this changes and volatility hits unacceptable levels, the New World Order should definitely be part of your portfolio.

Graham Macdonald, MD of MBMG Group. E:[graham@mbmg-international.com](mailto:graham@mbmg-international.com). MBMG Group will not accept any liability for errors or omissions in above article.

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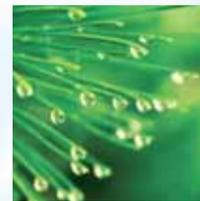
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# Cambodia outlaws 'sham marriages' – is here next?

By Nicholas Altstadt

IF YOU are a non-Khmer male and over the age of 50 or make less than US\$2,500 a month – and you're seeking a bride – roughly five million women of marrying age have now been put off-limits.

If you're a Khmer woman, you have, as of this month, effectively been denied the right to freely choose a spouse as enshrined in international human rights law.

On March 7, the Cambodian government issued new marriage requirements that have been touted as a crackdown on "sham marriages" and human trafficking.

Government spokesman Koy Kuong explained: "We are preventing fake marriages and human trafficking," adding that the government had knowledge of cases where Cambodian

women were sent into prostitution or "used as slaves" in their husbands' home countries.

He also said that couples should "look like a real couple, not like granddaughter and grandfather".

The reason for salary requirements is to ensure "Cambodian women can live a decent life," Mr Koy said.

According to World Bank statistics, the poverty line in Cambodia is about US\$0.45 per day, per person, below which an estimated 35

per cent of the population lives. If a Khmer woman makes more than US\$14 a month, she is living above the poverty line, and – according to the government – if her husband makes at least US\$2,500 a month, her life can be "decent".

## IS THIS A JOKE?

"When I first heard this news story, I literally thought it was a joke. But in Hun Sen's Cambodia, I have come to realize that fact is often stranger than fiction," said Phil Robertson, Deputy Director Asia for Human Rights Watch.

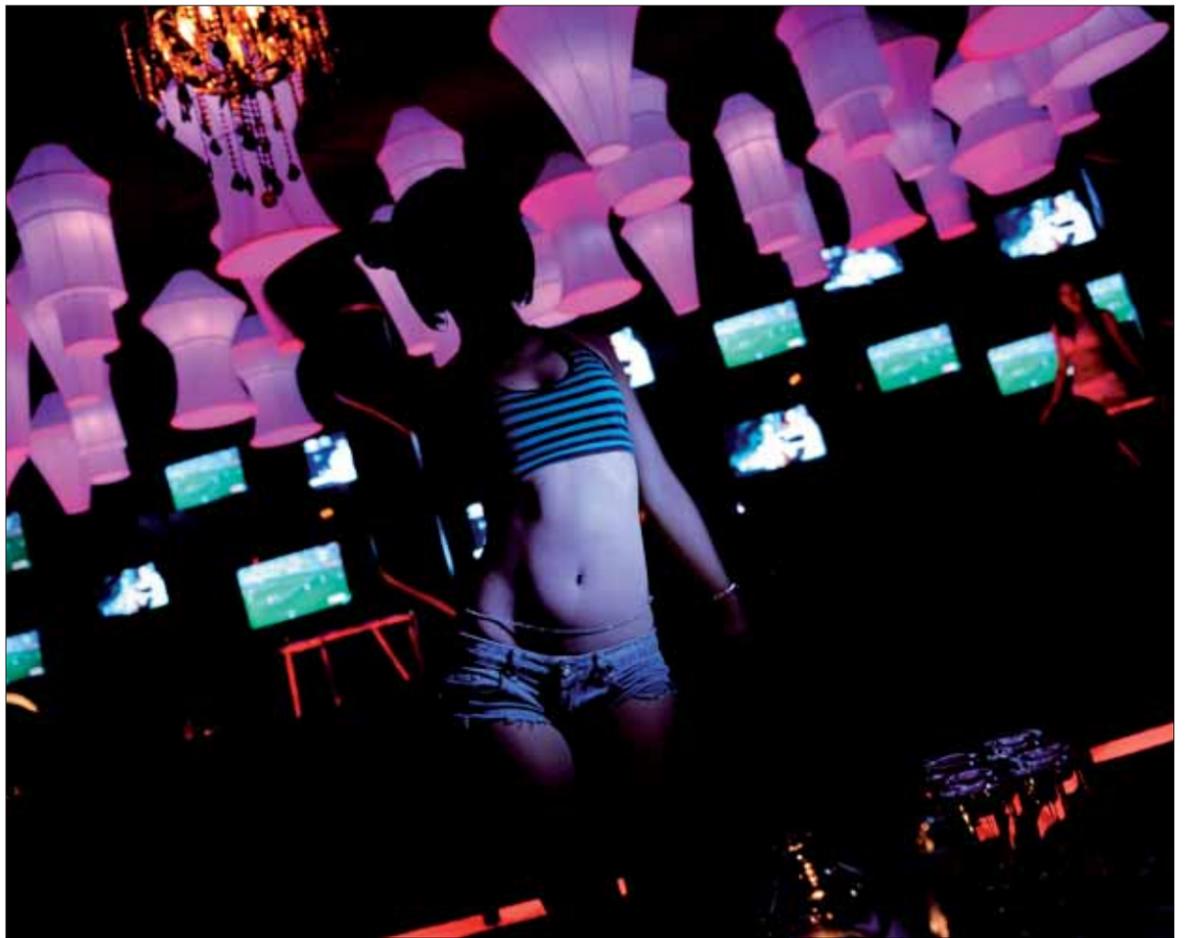
"Even when the Cambodian authorities say they are doing something to protect human rights, they come out with laws and policies that do precisely the opposite, resulting in more violations of human rights," he said.

"It is particularly disconcerting that this policy is being justified as somehow contributing to the fight against human trafficking when in fact I expect it will have no appreciable impact whatsoever on ending trafficking," he said.

"The majority of trafficking cases that happen to Cambodian women occur to those crossing borders illegally to work in neighboring countries, who are then duped into human trafficking situations –

**"In Hun Sen's Cambodia, I have come to realize that fact is often stranger than fiction..."**

– Phil Robertson,  
Human Rights Watch



**SEX INDUSTRY:** A girl dances at a bar in Pattaya. The US State Department identifies Thailand as a source, destination and transit country for people who are subjected to trafficking in persons. Photo: AFP

sometimes for forced labor, sometimes for sexual exploitation – and the Cambodian government is doing little to help them.

"When they don't have an effective anti-trafficking policy to help Cambodian women overseas in Thailand, Malaysia or elsewhere, the government then plays a game with a nonsense policy like this to divert attention, blame a small group of foreigners and restrict the rights of Cambodian women," Mr Robertson said.

"The ban is akin to hitting a fly with a sledgehammer."

## THOUGHTS FROM THAILAND

"This law will not help stop human trafficking – why does it single out foreign men over 50 as the ones doing something illegal?" asked Nilwadee Siriput, a recent graduate of Prince of Songkla University (PSU) Phuket.

"It's not fair to the couple – a couple that really love each other and want to live the rest of their lives together. The governments [Cambodian and Thai] should provide more education about working abroad to people if they want to cut down on human trafficking," she said.

"The Thai government should promote more awareness of human trafficking in rural areas like my hometown [Patthalung] – especially about 'sex trafficking', so that women cannot be so easily

lured into the industry," she added.

Chan Lon, a young professional from Burma who works as a trainer for Burmese journalists and hosts a radio program for Voice of America in Chiang Mai told the *Phuket Gazette*, "Women can be victims of human trafficking in so many different ways, not only because of marrying an older foreign man."

**"The Thai government should promote more awareness of human trafficking, especially about sex trafficking."**

– Nilwadee Siriput,  
PSU Phuket graduate

Chan Lon also felt it was strange the Cambodian government would assume foreign men over the age of 50 are worth targeting as possible human traffickers.

The Thai government would not do well to follow the policies of its neighbor but "should take necessary steps to protect women from being victims of human trafficking and not impose a law that cannot achieve anything," she said.

"It would be more effective if the government could provide safe and secure living conditions by creating job opportunities for women in Thailand and educate them about human trafficking."

## IS HERE NEXT?

"I think the Thai government is smart enough to recognize the serious shortcomings of this Cambodian initiative," Mr Robertson said.

"Frankly, I don't think Thai women and the women's rights movement would permit such a ban to come into place here because they would say, 'It's my life, it's my decision, and I will marry who I want'."

"And they are right – the right to marry is a core human right. The fact that such a policy would most likely be universally condemned in Thailand says a lot about the important gains the women's rights movement has made in Thailand and casts a spotlight on how far the Cambodian women's rights movement still has to go," he said.

"The Thai government has set out policies requiring that foreigners who marry Thais must have a certain level of income to qualify for a special 'spouse visa', but if the foreigner doesn't have the money, that does not prevent them from marrying.

"This does not violate any international human rights standards that I can see. If the foreigner does not have the money to qualify for a spouse visa, it just means they have to go back and forth on whatever temporary visa they can get in order to stay with their Thai spouse," Mr Robertson said.

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# It's raining jobs

As we enter the Songkran holiday season, there's never been a better time to search for a teaching job...

PHUKET'S recent weather might be frightful but the teachers' job climate is delightful.

As schools across the island end their academic year and break for the Songkran holiday, dozens of Western teachers are finishing their contracts and moving on. With the annual educators' exodus comes the low season for Phuket's hospitality industry. Both of these trends bode very well for expats who are looking for teaching jobs.

Of course if you want to find work as a teacher in Phuket, it helps to be fully qualified. That means a bachelor's degree in one hand and at least a TESOL certificate in the other. Without the degree, the Ministry of Education will not grant you a teacher's license, so legal work is limited to language schools and private businesses. Without the TESOL certificate or a proper teaching qualification, most employers will wonder why you've applied at all.

## In the Classroom

By Eric Haeg

Thai Hua, Darasamuth, Phuket Wittayalai – you name the school – are all probably looking for a teacher or two. Kajonkiet is currently advertising three openings and if the past is any indication of the future, they'll be hiring through to the beginning of the school year. In February, Satee Phuket placed an ad with the *Phuket Gazette* listing 12 vacancies. Prince of Songkla University is also looking for teachers on [ajarn.com](http://ajarn.com) and various language schools are advertising vacancies on their websites.

Those looking for jobs should know that primary and secondary schools aren't looking for seasonal work. They'll want you to sign a one-year contract and it should be honored through to the

end. If you're looking for seasonal work, that can be found in Phuket's hospitality sector.

As the calendar moves closer to low season, more and more hotels and other such companies will begin hiring teachers to help staff members improve their English skills during their down time. These jobs take more effort to find but if you're lucky, you'll land a low-season gig paying a decent wage. In some instances, you'll be offered room and board.

Many of these seasonal positions will be filled by teachers working for language schools so it pays to drop resumes at ECC, Earth Language and similar institutions. Teachers working for these schools exist within a gray area of regulations, so applicants without degrees could start here and work hard to prove themselves as reliable, competent teachers. With any luck, you'll secure a permanent position by this time next year.



IN DEMAND: English teachers in Phuket. Photo: Suchart Changate

Although it should go without saying, many here know it needs to be said: A job search on Phuket should be approached just as it would be in the West. An error-free resume is a great start, but once offered an interview, professional appearance and due preparation will go a long way.

Time is of the essence and anyone looking for a job should hurry. Most positions fill quickly and

even Thai staff will be away from their offices during the week of Songkran. After that, the window of opportunity shuts to within a sliver's width of itself, and those looking for Phuket's perpetual paradise will be pounding the pavement once again.

If you have a TESOL or TEFL issue you want addressed, then contact Eric at [kru.phuket@gmail.com](mailto:kru.phuket@gmail.com)

## Government launches hiring plan to recruit more English teachers

THE Office of the Basic Education Commission (Obec) will seek a 350-million baht budget to hire 300 native English-speaking teachers for its primary and secondary schools, in an effort to tackle the shortage of English teachers, a senior official said earlier this week.

According to the proposal, the native speakers would each get about 1mn baht per year – a salary of 83,000 baht per month – compared with the 9,000 baht per month drawn by any native Thais teaching English.

Obec chief Chinaphat Phumirat said the foreign teachers would be from the United States, Canada, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, India and the Philippines.

Obec's secondary schools currently have only 25,000 Thai teachers who have graduated in English language, while primary schools have 5,000 such teachers.

He said last year's move to employ 3,000 Thais who had graduated in the English language to teach at its primary schools had boosted the students' academic results greatly.

Obec hence felt encouraged to consider employing more native speakers to teach at its schools.

Mr Chinaphat said Obec was coordinating with the Foreign Ministry to recruit the native English-speakers, possibly retired teachers or teaching graduates in their fourth year of study who want to get overseas



Obec wants more English teachers in Thai schools. Photo: Joanne Fearnley

experience in Thailand.

They would be given annual contracts and would teach at district-level schools, he said.

Meetings will be held from April 22-24 to discuss the plan before it is submitted for the Cabinet's approval in May, he said.

The plan would need a 350-mn baht budget to hire 300 teachers for the period October 2011 to October 2012.

He said the plan was a five-year project aimed at hiring 1,000 teachers. However, they would hire 300 teachers in the first year to screen them first.

– *The Nation*

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# Addict's haven

Getting under the skin of Thailand's prescription drug problem

**PILLS IN PHUKET:** Prescription drug abuse is a problem on the rise here due to lax control laws. Photo: Jacek Becela

By Alexandra Andersson

ALTHOUGH illegal, over-the-counter sale and purchase of benzodiazepine derivative drug like diazepam (Valium) and alprazolam (Xanax) is common in Thailand, and is even tacitly accepted by many local authorities. However the practice exposes buyers to health risks including addiction or overdose.

Last year, a high-ranking source in the Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO) admitted to *The Gazette* that his department permitted pharmacies to sell prescription drugs over the counter, despite the fact that it is prohibited under Thailand's Psychotropic Substances Act of 1974, which outlaws the possession of 'Schedule IV' drugs without a prescription.

"In Phuket we're not so strict as this is a tourist place," he said. "We grant permission to pharmacies to sell the drugs, but they need to report to the PPHO first."

This attitude has led to Thailand becoming a prescription drug haven of sorts, where people are able to self-medicate, without being prescribed proper dosages or having the risks explained. Many tourists also buy in bulk and smuggle drugs into countries where laws are more seriously enforced.

Mr Peter Davison, Manager of International Services at Phuket International Hospital, acknowledges this problem.

"You get gray areas in Thailand, where some medications which are restricted are still dispensed without following the law," he said. "But the requirement of a prescription is for the safety of the person taking the drug. It needs to be monitored by a doctor for things like side effects and addiction."

The lack of such monitoring has caused many a Phuket residents to fall into the downward spiral of drug addiction.

"We have treated people who had issues with being addicted to these drugs, and there's no doubt about that," Mr Davison said.

One such person, who lives in Phuket but wishes to remain anonymous, experienced this first hand.

"At first I would only take them if I couldn't sleep, or was going on a long bus journey," she said, "but later it became a daily thing I did to deal with stress and anxiety."

Before she knew it, she had been taking Valium every day for six months.

"I became completely reliant on it. If I didn't take it, I would be awake all night and have anxiety attacks," she said.

It was the widespread availability of Valium that kept her from breaking free of

her dependence, she said.

"It is very easy to get them from the pharmacy, they don't ask any questions. I alternated between five pharmacies in Chalong every week to get bags of 10 pills of 10mg for just 100 baht. I never encountered any problems at all."

Eventually, she had to go back to her home country in order to wean herself off the pills. "I experienced withdrawals, I felt anxious and not myself. I also did not sleep at all for many weeks," she said.

But the self-imposed exile was worth it. "If I hadn't have gone back home and stayed here it would have been a lot harder because I just knew they were there – easy to get and cheap."

Aside from addiction, overdose can also be a potential issue. "Overdosing on Valium can be a big problem, because the dosage depends on how big your body is. For example, 10mg would be a large amount for a child where it wouldn't be a lot for an adult who weighs 100kg. On top of that, every individual body is different," Mr Davison explains.

The Phuket resident who struggled with Valium dependency was quick to point out that tolerance to the drug increases over time.

"After a while it was not having as much



Prescription meds. Photo: Wikinoni.

of an affect as it did in the beginning. There were times I took them and still couldn't sleep, so I had to take more."

"I think it can be very dangerous if people aren't aware of what they are taking – if they think that because they've got them from the pharmacy that means they can take five," she warns.

The availability of these drugs also keeps people from exploring other treatment options.

"If you are using it to sleep or ease anxiety, maybe you should be looking at non-pharmaceutical options with assisting you sleep. There are other avenues, don't become reliant on using this medication," Mr Davison says.

The former addict agrees: "Now I eat healthily and exercise to cope with stress – and I feel a lot better than I did on the medication," she said.

## Phuket blood center stocking up for Songkran accidents

THE Phuket Regional Blood Center run by the Thai Red Cross will set up mobile blood donation clinics in Phuket this month.

The center aims to build up stocks of all blood types for the run-up to, and aftermath of the Songkran Festival holiday period, when demand for blood peaks due

to an increase in accidents, Center director Pornthip Rattajak said.

During the Songkran "seven days of danger" road safety campaign last year, Phuket saw 60 reported traffic accidents resulting in two deaths, according to the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) Phuket office.

This year's "seven days of danger" runs from April 12 to 18, when most businesses close and many local residents travel to take part in the traditional Songkran festivities.

The dates and times of the clinics in Phuket are as follows:

**April 5:** 12am to 4pm: Makro

**April 8:** 10am to 3pm: Movenpick Resort and Spa

**April 11:** 11am to 6pm: Central Festival Phuket

**April 12:** 11am to 6pm: Central Festival Phuket

**April 17:** 12am to 4pm: Sri-kurusingha Spa Club

**April 17:** 11am to 7pm: Big C

**April 21:** 1pm to 4pm: Katathani Phuket Beach Resort

**April 24:** 11am to 7pm: Big C

**April 25:** 10am to 3pm: Robinson Jungceylon, Patong

**April 26:** 1pm to 4pm: Radisson Plaza Resort Phuket, Panwa Beach

**April 28:** 1pm to 4pm: Phuket International Hospital

**April 28:** 1pm to 4pm: Centara Grand Beach Resort

**April 29:** 12am to 5pm: Phuket International Airport

From April 7 to 17 donations can also be made at the Phuket Regional Blood Center, 8.30am to 4.30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and from 8.30am to 8pm on Tuesday and Thursday, and from 9am to 3pm on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

Contact the center, located in the government complex area near Saphan Hin, at 38/193 Rattanakosin 200 Pi Road, Phuket Town at T:076-251178 E:phuket rbc@yahoo.com.

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# For the love of Longtails

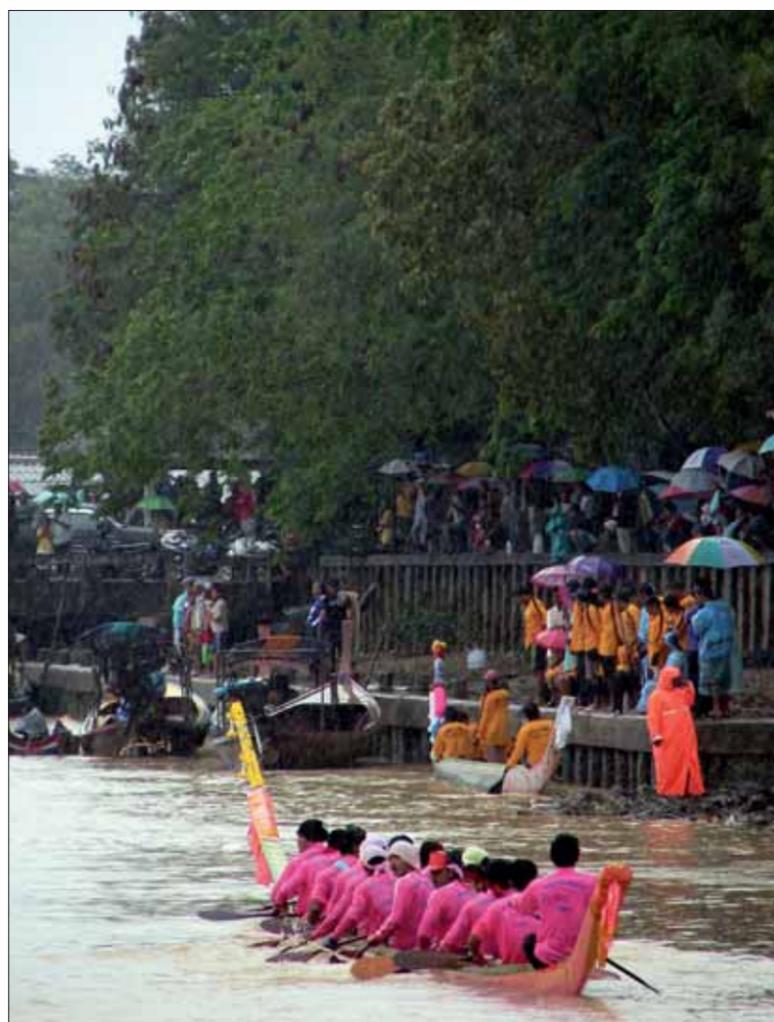
Thousands of spectators braved dismal weather to cheer on teams at the annual Koh Panyee Longtail boat races



Local boys break the water  
By Pimwara Choksakulpan



STUNNING: The races took place in the scenic Phang Nga Bay.



RAIN OR SHINE: Spectators turned out in their thousands for the races.

THE downpours over the past week did not dampen the spirits of about 3,000 villagers at Koh Panyee, in Phang Nga Bay, who turned out for the floating village's annual "longtail" boat race.

"This event is a big deal for us. If the weather were good, I would have expected about 20,000 people to come today," said Damrong Sinto, president of the Koh Panyee Subdistrict Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*).

The traditional race was this year held from March 28 to 31.

For the third time the venue was Tha Dan Pier, a popular jump-off point for tourists heading out to explore Phang Nga Bay.

As a special incentive, a Royal Trophy donated by Her

Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn was up for grabs for the champions this year.

Racing crews and handmade boats were entered from Koh Panyee Subdistrict, as well as from the neighboring districts of Thap Put and Takua Thung.

"Longtail boat racing is a traditional event for locals around here. Villagers love to come out, watch and cheer on their teams," said Mr Damrong.

One of the key factors in the annual event's popularity is that village pride is at stake, he explained.

"Almost every member of the village comes out to cheer for each race because each boat represents

a whole village, not just a few individuals," Mr Damrong said.

"Besides, it is a chance for our elderly villagers to catch up with old friends and have fun outdoors," he added.

The main traditional race features crews of 32, while a second race is for crews of 20.

All contestants paddle a 100-meter course down a marked channel, in the same style as Chinese dragon boat races.

Smaller categories at the event now include boats with crews of five as well as canoeing and kayaking races.

"Regardless of the hard rain, we will continue racing until March 31," said Mr Damrong on the blustery opening day.

All finals will be held on that day, he added.

"I would like everyone, Thais and foreigners, to have fun here. I expect about 30,000 people that day," he said.

Over the years the longtail races have been a drawing card bringing tourists to Koh Panyee, Mr Damrong explained.

"These races, with the background of limestone cliffs and different shaped islands, help promote Phang Nga Bay tourism.

"It lets tourists know that Phang Nga is different from other tourism destinations in the Andaman Sea, such as the Surin and Similan Islands, which are only open only four to six months a year.

"In Phang Nga Bay, tourists can experience unique views and experiences all year long," he added.



HEAVE HO: Each longtail team represents a village in the area. Photos: Pimwara Choksakulpan

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# Enter the mind of a frustrated, creative teen

Stepping inside the artistic world of Casey Underwood



Oil on canvas piece 'Desire'.

By Alexandra Andersson

THIS is raw teenage angst splattered on canvas with the technical skills of someone well beyond her years.

Eighteen-year-old Casey Underwood – daughter of interior designer John Underwood – is currently displaying the pieces made during her senior year of the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at British International School in an exhibition entitled



DISTORTION: A row of wax heads entitled 'Portrait of Decay'.

"Bacon and Stone" at Brush restaurant in Kalim.

The collection showcases Casey's ability to evoke powerful emotions through art, using a variety of techniques.

Burnt canvases, sweeping brush strokes depicting surreal screaming faces, sand, mirrors, dripped candle wax and inanimate objects are all incorporated to produce a captivating final result.

Feelings of restraint and a yearning to spread her wings – sentiments

so common among young adults everywhere – are the fuel that power this visual explosion.

"My main inspiration for my later pieces was my own frustration, confinement and how I feel living in Thailand for such a long time. In a way I am sick of being in my own teenage world and being stuck in one place. I want to just get out of the confinement and just leave," Casey explains.

She points to a piece called *Portrait of Decay* which includes a row of four life-sized wax figures of her head at varying stages of melting and decomposing.

"This represents how things deteriorate over time, like history and culture, how it is just eroding. And the fact it was my head illustrates how living in one place for such a long time makes me feel like I am deteriorating because I am sort of just stuck and can't come out," she says.

Another piece, entitled *Claustrophobia*, is one she feels particularly proud of. At first glance, it just looks like a big box. This is an interactive piece though, requiring the viewer to step inside. Once you do, the art experience is taken to a new level. You are in another world. Casey's world. Casey's mind.

Two large, two-meter-high canvases make up the side walls and feature close-ups of frustrated screaming faces in hues of blue oil paint. The ceiling has a roaring mouth painted on it. The floor is a mirror. The other walls of the box are black.



ANGST: One of the screaming two-meter-tall faces in 'Claustrophobia'.



PROUD: From left are IB Co-ordinator BIS Michele Watson; Petra Duner; Casey Underwood and Head of Art at BIS Claire Lester on opening night.

"When you go into it, it is like you are a part of it and you are experiencing how I feel. The mirror distorts everything and there is a video that is supposed to be played with it too. It expressed many areas I explored, like seclusion and captivity. This was just an idea. I didn't know how it would turn out, but I am so happy with the result," the young artist says.

**'I am sick of being in my own teenage world...I want to just get out of the confinement.'**

Casey will soon be off to the University of Arts London to do a foundation course in Art, an experience she is very much looking forward to, particularly the independence and inspiration it will bring. And though her art depicts feelings of confinement, she says she will miss Phuket.

"In this exhibition you can also see how Thai culture, the people, nature and tradition has given me ideas and influenced some of my pieces like *Poverty* and *Vulnerable*," she admits.

It's rare to see a young artist able to express such a deep well of emotions with a refined and mature level of technical skill. Fellow



The burnt canvas technique

student Petra Duner's work is also on display and well worth a look, so catch the "Bacon and Stone" visual arts exhibition before it closes on April 25.

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# More than just a chick flick



**AGE DEFYING DUO:** Diane Keaton and Harrison Ford co-star in 'Morning Glory'.



**LEADING WOMAN:** Rachel McAdams plays the uptight producer Becky.

IT'S NOT often a romantic comedy that focuses on a strong female lead ends up being insightful, clever and genuinely funny.

They usually end up falling victim to one of the most abused formulas in cinema: open with a frustrated and lovestruck damsel and end with oversaturated romance with a man who might as well not be able to speak.

The man always dresses impeccably, only speaks when spoken to, and has a name like "Brad" or "Trevor". Yes, I gag at the thought of "chick-flicks" too.

This is unfortunate, because it's never questioned whether determined and successful women are indeed prevalent in today's world.

For whatever reason though, Hollywood seems keen on collectively portraying them in the form of a helpless woman in need of serious therapy.

It isn't working. *Eat, Pray, Love* was not a good movie. Jennifer Aniston's face has become a warning sign for anyone who likes to believe that intelligence is something that can be written into a film.

Last year's *Bride Wars* brought the female stereotype to an all-time low by assuming entertainment for 20-something women comes in the form of snobby, hateful, insidious tramps. And that's when

they're having a good day.

Considering all this, audiences might take the idea of going to see *Morning Glory* with a slab of salt.

I was one of these people, but an all-star cast and some fairly encouraging reviews lured me into the theater anyway. The film turned out to be a pleasant surprise.

With Harrison Ford, Diane Keaton, and Jeff Goldblum as co-stars, *Morning Glory* has the advantage of a superb cast, but it is very much Rachel McAdams' show. Her performance gives the film the legs it needs.

She plays Becky, who at first glance seems to be the run-of-the-mill lead for a romantic comedy. She's a 20-something effervescent workaholic who has spent so much time at the office that she has forgotten how to accept a date.

Men are interested in her, but she's interested in work and needs a man who understands that she's perfectly fine on her own.

That is an exceptional quality for a lead female character, and McAdams' plays her with perfect authenticity. Becky is funny and strong-minded, yet vulnerable in all the right ways.

After being laid off from a local network, she finds herself as the executive producer of a mainstream morning news

## Film

By Scott Phillips

### Morning Glory

**Director:** Roger Michell  
**Starring:** Rachel McAdams, Harrison Ford, Diane Keaton, Jeff Goldblum  
**Genre:** Comedy  
**Gazette Rating:** 4/5

show that is failing miserably.

The network's producer (Goldblum) is aware that any new hires are a last-ditch effort to avoid cancellations. Becky takes on the job knowing this and has high hopes anyway.

This is an area in which *Morning Glory* is again exceptional. It is one of those films that gives a rare insight into a lesser-known profession: the executive producer. Becky's job comes off as an intimidating one that requires superhuman multitasking. Yet if there were a personality that fits the job, Becky has it. She's playfully neurotic in the way that people who multi-task for a living must be.

The story unfolds as Becky must compile a successful team to restore glory to the morning news show.

There's not much to say without spoiling it, but suffice to say it is entertaining and thoughtful.

Thanks to successful acting careers that have spanned decades, Diane Keaton and Harrison Ford both know that people enjoy watching them.

They don't have to do much with roles like this to attract viewers, so it's hard to fault them for not being a little more adventurous with their characters.

Keaton plays the same sarcastic, loveable woman that audiences have seen time and time again. Ford plays the middle-aged drunk whose bitterness masks a hidden charm waiting to be revealed.

Their performances could have been phoned in, but there are still several moments where the two interact as two on-screen anchors that make us wish we could actually tune in on a daily basis. It adds the touch of light humor that holds much of the film together.

If you're in the need for a light and fun date movie, look no further. You'll be pleased *Morning Glory* is not just another mindless romantic comedy full of feminine stereotypes.

It may not be completely free of all of them and certainly includes the token romance, but it is without question a cut above the rest.

## It's not all good! Here's what they had to say

"Harrison Ford stars in this comedy which collapses in a heap whenever it tries to take off."  
 - *The Daily Telegraph, UK*

"Harrison Ford gives an under-par performance in this disappointing TV-studio-set romantic comedy."  
 - *The Guardian, UK*

"An opportunity to update 'Broadcast News' falls flat with too much sitcom and not enough sting."  
 - *The Hollywood Reporter*

"Morning Glory, which despite an appealing premise and terrific stars, veers so wildly in tone that it never settles into a story worth believing, let alone remembering..."  
 - *The Washington Post*

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# Love shines through the rain for local musicians

Love Aid Phuket may be postponed, but find out why there's still plenty to sing about for these musicians...

By Fraser Morton

IT'S been a tough few weeks for the organizers of the Love Aid Phuket music concert and despite their best efforts, sometimes Mother Nature just has her way.

The torrent of storms that have swept through the South of Thailand over the past week forced organizers to postpone the fundraising concert for Japan. It was due to take place tonight (April 2).

Some of this country's best-known musicians were scheduled to take the stage, including Thai pop sensation Tata Young, Thai reggae icons Job2do and many others.

Although their parade has been rained on, organizers vow the concert will take place, but at a later date, not currently disclosed.

But if you thought it was all bad news for the Love Aid Phuket team, then think again – they still have plenty to sing about in the name of love, and it's quite catchy too.

An official anthem, *Shine A Loving Light*, has been released by the Love Aid team, with more than 30 local musicians lending their vocals, time and hearts. There's even a music video available online. If you want to listen while you read, then go to [www.loveaidphuket.org](http://www.loveaidphuket.org).

It's Phuket's answer to *We Are*



STRING MEN: Boy De Castro, Pat Savage and George Cordeiro on guitars.

*The World* (think Live Aid, Michael Jackson, Lionel Richie and company with outrageous haircuts reaching out to help Africa in 1985).

Produced by Gary Crause and recorded at his Legends Music Studio in Boat Lagoon, the *Shine A Loving Light* anthem is a heartfelt message from the motley crew of young and wizened singers and musicians who feature on it.

Rob Cooke co-wrote the song with Gary, which took the pair less than a day to have a demo in-hand, and set about looking for Phuket musicians to lend their support.

Gary said many people were quick to respond to their pleas for help on the song. In the days following his appeal, dozens of musicians turned up at this studio which resulted in the March 24

recording and music video shoot.

Professional cameraman and videographer Graham Andrews, shot the music video, which Gary applauds as a work of art.

"It was a real honor to have so many musicians give their time," he said.

A YouTube video of the event has already gone viral and a DVD and CD are expected to be completed soon with all proceeds going to Japan.

Since going live earlier this month, the Love Aid Phuket website has received more than 100,000 page views and has hundreds of followers through Twitter, including Yoko Ono, Japan News Daily, News Sans Frontiers, Japan Up and more.

See [PhuketGazette.net](http://PhuketGazette.net) for more information as it becomes available.

## Recording artists on 'Shine A Loving Light'

Singers who lent their vocals to the track are:

Rob Cooke, Gary Crause, Bonnie Anderson, Nikki Jackson, Blaze Crause, Rianne Davies, George Cordeiro, Joyce Gabriel, Pat Savage, Ricky Zen, Jimmy Fame, Boy De Castro, Chris Gayo, Charles Brown, Marc Mulloy, Sascha, Katie Mitchell, Chloe Findlay, Nitya Handa, Anastasia Zmeeva, Fransiska Greene, Shannon Smith, Jay Gietzelt and Charlotte Trudgill.

Contributing musicians on the track are:

Rob Cooke on slide, acoustic, electric, rhythm and bass guitars. George Cordeiro on electric and rhythm guitars. Blaze Crause on electric and rhythm guitars. Boy De Castro on bass guitar. Gary Crause on piano, synth and string programming. Chris Gayo on piano. Pat Savage on drums, electric and rhythm guitars



FROM THE HEART: Bonnie Anderson and Ricky Zen in the studio.



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# Holger Schwab

HOLGER Schwab is the Managing Director of Sea Bees Diving, one of Phuket's most successful underwater and resort operators. He arrived in Phuket in 1995 with his wife Helga, responding to an advertisement in a dive magazine that Sea Bees Diving was for sale.

He immediately liked the island and bought into the company, which was established in 1991.

In his first year as owner, Holger says he worked seven days a week, fourteen hours a day. He only had a small team of four divers and a rented boat. The following year he built his first dive boat by converting a fishing boat to the company's requirements.

"We have succeeded because we focus on very good service and enjoy several wholesale contracts with the largest diving agencies in Germany and Switzerland. Our goal is to offer the best quality dive experience for a fair price."

By 2002, Holger was able to build the *MV Excalibur II*, which he says offered a much higher standard in dive boats for day trips. With a 23 meter length and six-meter beam, the boat has its own galley, cocktail bar and showers to accommodate 25 guests plus staff. In 2007, a sister ship, the *MV Aragon*, followed.

Holger was born outside of Augsburg, in the Bavarian region

## EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

of Germany. He was introduced to water sports as a child while on family holidays in the Adriatic Sea. He learned how to dive during his military service.

"I learned to dive in a small lake in Germany. It was dark and cold but I immediately loved being underwater and the feeling of being weightless. In 1989, I traveled to Australia and around Southeast Asia and started diving in the region."

Holger started his dive career in St Tropez on the Cote d'Azur, as a dive guide exploring 50-to 200-year-old sunken ships that had created underwater reefs which were magnets for fish and other marine life.

He spent the next few years managing dive centers in the Canary Islands and on the Red Sea before deciding to settle on Tobago-Trinidad where he hoped to manage his own dive operation.

"I had met an old lady who offered a 30-year lease on a beautiful property on Tobago, right at the beach, and I was ready to go into business, but the local government

would not approve the lease so I looked for other opportunities."

That's when he discovered a partnership in Sea Bees was available and flew to Thailand.

Holger also built the Palm Garden Resort in Chalong, in 2000, to provide his overseas clients with a place to stay and train as it was walking distance to his dive boats. The resort has twelve double bungalows, classrooms and a deep pool for training.

The same year his son Tim was born in Phuket and he opened a center at Khao Lak for dive trips to the Similans. And in 2005 he opened his Khao Lak Palm Garden Resort with a similar set-up to his Chalong operation. This was also the year his second child, Alisa, saw the light of day here in Phuket.

He built a catamaran, the *MC Stingray*, in 2004 to provide a speedy yet quiet option for divers who wanted to explore the Similan Islands in style and speed. In addition, he is now operating two liveaboards, the *MV Marco Polo* and the *MV Genesis I*.

Most recently, Holger has opened a dive center at Pak Meng in Trang province as he wants to offer more remote, nature-oriented dive trips in the future.

Now managing several dive and travel-related companies, he lives with his family in Chalong.



By PETER CHILD FOR THE PHUKET GAZETTE

### About Expat Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Expat Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket, and for having made those contributions in successful partnerships with Thais. For many, the contributions have entailed significant investment, often in the mid-80s and 90s when the rules of business were, ahh, not always clear. Some are not in business at all, but all have one thing in common: if there were a *Who's Who in Phuket*, they'd be in it.

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PHUKET: The sixth annual "Lucky License Plate Auction" held in Phuket Town over the weekend raised 23,504,500 baht. Kanok Siripanichkorn, chief of the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO), has told the Phuket Gazette - "I am very happy with the revenue raised - it's five million baht more than last year," he said....  
March 1, 2011  
Full Story

**Phuket Police target ladyboy meth users**  
PHUKET: Almost fifty per cent of the ladyboys rounded up in a sweep of Phuket's Soi Bangla area last night tested positive for methamphetamines, Patong Police say. The random testing, led by drug suppression division inspector Akanit Danphithuksart, targeted transsexuals along Soi Bangla and...

**Events Calendar**  
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Date	Hours	Title
Mar 7 - 13	08:00 - 23:30	RPM Facebook: Guess the Beach Game
Mar 8 - 11	21:00 - 01:00	Mango House Festival
Mar 12	07:00 - 16:00	Transforming Felicity and Adversity at Mind Centre
Mar 13	20:30 - 12:30	Salsa Night @ Les Anges
Mar 16	09:00 - 12:00	Phuket Yacht Club Kid's sailing
Mar 17	10:00 - 12:00	Celebrating The Burgundy Grand Crus by Drouhin
Mar 18	19:00 - 22:30	Phuket International Women's Club AGM and lunch
Mar 19	10:00 - 14:00	Curry Fridays
Mar 20	19:00 - 23:30	Second Belly Dance Party
Mar 25	20:30 - 10:30	FREE Computer Clinic - Chalong
Mar 26 - 27	10:00 - 12:00	SIX of the Best in Phuket
Mar 26 - 31	18:30 - 23:30	Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron Island Regatta
	08:00 - 17:00	Bacon and Stone Visual Arts Exhibition
	11:30 - 23:30	

ST. Patrick's Ball 2011 at Movenpick Karon Beach  
FREE Computer Clinic - Chalong  
Curry Fridays  
FREE Computer Clinic - Chalong  
Chakri Memorial Day - Patong  
Stock Market Investing for Beginners (FREE)  
FREE Computer Clinic - Laguna  
Phuket International Women's Club AGM and lunch

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# Savoring Six of the Best chefs



**BEST MEN:** From left are James Christopher Stanton, F&B director, Paresa Resorts; Silvano Amolini, executive chef, Dusit Thani Laguna; Jimmy Karl, executive chef, Anantara; David Hamilton, executive chef, Banyan Tree Phuket; Thomas Smith, executive chef, Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket and Stefano Artosin, executive chef, Amanpuri.



**READY STEADY COOK:** The chefs hard at work on the night.



**SIX OF** the island's top chefs joined forces on March 25 at the Paresa Resort in Kamala. The culinary talent was sourced from some of Phuket's premier resorts, including The Paresa Resort, Amanpuri, Anantara, Banyan Tree, Dusit Laguna and Sheraton. The six-course Modern Flavors dinner was expertly put together, to the delight of the lucky diners. All proceeds went to the Good Shepherd Sisters charity.



General manager of Banyan Tree Francois Huet, co-chief executive officer of Paresa Resort Poompong Patpongpanit and Susan Huet.



Mathew Fryar of Anantara with Mr & Mrs Jon Ashenden



**CHEERS:** Chefs James Christopher Stanton and Stefano Artosin

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Gourmet Sunday + more.

# Paul Ropp wants to make you happy



By Julia Dennis

FASHION designer Paul Ropp may be best known as the king of “Sun and Fun” style, but he’s also a therapist.

“Fashion is affordable therapy. Colors make you happy. They are mood changing,” says Ropp, when speaking of his signature fashion philosophy, which has propelled his Bali-based empire into 34 countries.

There are four outlets in Phuket alone. After all, the man who makes clothes for people “who would rather be naked” and dressed Jim Hendrix in his heyday, has a thing or two to say about what the confident women of Phuket need to stand out in a crowd of nearly-naked beachcombers.

I spent some time with Ropp at his vibrant Surin gallery boutique, wringing him for tips on how to look enticing in Phuket. It was my day as a kid in a candy shop with the happiness guru.



## What is sexy?

IN THE Paul Ropp vocabulary, sexy is not the right word to describe a woman. As Ropp explains, “You don’t have to flaunt you cleavage or crotch to be sexy. I believe in sensual, not sexual.”

Looking around Ropp’s store, it’s all about soft, barely-there fabrics that accentuate a woman’s best qualities and make them feel secure about others.

“You can throw on my shirt, a man’s shirt, and it reminds us of the first thing you put on in the morning” says Ropp.



## What is Phuket’s ‘Little Black Dress’?

“BLACK is for people who are too afraid to use color,” says Ropp, who is decidedly fearless in the realm of head-turning hues and textures.

The LBD really just refers to a go-to item in every woman’s wardrobe to simply put on and feel good, but Ropp argues black has nothing to do with it.

“Color throughout the ages is for enticing a reaction of positive nature. Showing off bright colors lets a woman express a side of themselves maybe they’re too inhibited to show in other ways.”



## What’s a good accessory?

ACCESSORIES are a good way to update your look instantly without a costly closet overhaul.

A fresh, fun, new bag to sling around town is a popular choice.

“These days I’m looking for the ‘I can, I do, what’s next?’ Approach to fashion and accessories,” says Ropp.

And still his motto of function over frivolity rings true even when talking about a flirtatious new bag to turn the heat up.

“It needs to be the right size,” he says. “Something you can put everything in the world in.”

## What is inappropriate to wear in Phuket?

“ANYTHING uncomfortable is inappropriate,” says Ropp, who uses 100 per cent hand-made fabrics that float around the body.

“Fashion in Phuket is not about expensive dry cleaning bills, only durable, functional, and affordable clothing.”

Ropp’s representatives work with clients to choose pieces that are eye-catching, yes, but not freakish.

“We collaborate with them,” says Ropp. “At first they may say ‘I can never wear that’ and then boom! They love it.”





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## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### April 2. Mariner Madness with live music at Royal Phuket Marina

Crazy Fool's Kitchen presents yet another night of live music. Let your hair down while listening to some legendary tunes from the Glenn and Max Wailin Band, live at Marina Boardwalk from 6:30pm onwards. Free entry. Crazy Fool's Kitchen is the home of cold beer, cracking banter and great live music and raffle prizes – all proceeds to go to the charity 100 friends.org. Contact: Prim at T: 085-6917250 or Murat at T: 081-7973364 E: muratc@royalphuketmarina.com or visit W: royalphuketmarina.com.

### April 2-3. Kids Sailing with Topper Sail Phuket

Set sail on an adventure with Topper Sail Phuket Optimist and Topper Sailing Pathway courses. Come and join one of our introductory courses from April 2 to 3 or April 9 to 10. Once you have mastered the basics, join our junior club sessions (most weekends, 2pm to 4:30pm). Kids sailing courses are also offered during the school holidays (April 11 to 15 and April 18 to 22). Topper is the number one dinghy sailing school on Phuket. In our fleet, we have optimists, toppers, topaz dinghies with spinnaker, lasers, hobie cat and topaz omega with spinnaker and trapeze. Contact: Katy Gooch at T: 085-2159185 E: toppersailphuket@gmail.com or visit W: toppersailphuket.com.

## April 13-15. Songkran Festival



Songkran (Thai New Year), also known as the Water Festival is held during the 'driest' (not this year) months in Thailand. Songkran is celebrated by Thais throughout the country by pouring – traditionally only a little, but these days a lot – of water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

### April 3. BIS Tennis Tourney

Social singles skill-level-based tennis tournament from 8am to 6.30pm at the British International School. Level 1 to 3 registration at 8am, start at 8:30am. Level 3.5 to 5 registration at 1:30pm, start at 2pm. Finals at 5pm. Entry: 500 baht per player. Contact: Dianne Browning at T: 089-4698100 E: didee51@yahoo.com.au.

### April 3. Thanyapura Organic Arts Market

Come let the healthy and artful pleasures of the Thanyapura Organic Arts Market turn Sunday into something special for you and your family. Load up on Phuket's freshest organic produce and sit down to taste the gourmet organic

pleasures of Thanyapura's own soon-to-open DiVine restaurant. Activities will include an art exhibition with works from the Rawai Arts Village, The Love Art Studio, Red Gallery and Nakonai Art Museum, a "Kidzsole Walk on Water" and an open house of sports facilities available. The pleasures of Thanyapura are simply endless. Come join the fun! Contact: Napapen at T: 076-336000 E: napapen.k@thanyapura.co.th or visit W: thanyapura.com.

### April 4. GreenLOVE Festival at British International School

The British International School CAS and Community & Service students will host the Third Annual GreenLOVE festival to raise awareness about local and international environmental issues and solutions. The festival will take place from 1:30 to 4pm. Students will aim to educate each other and the wider community about recycling, waste management, and how to implement eco-friendly and sustainable solutions. On display in the main teaching building foyer will be: Micro-nice eco-friendly cleaning products (household/office and automobile/marine), renewable energy displays, energy conservation ideas and more! Contact: Kathy Manthei Coulson at T: 076-238711 E: kcoulson@bisphuket.ac.th or visit W: bisphuket.ac.th.

### April 6-12. Salsa at RPM

Royal Phuket Marina's Salsa Class will be held every Wednesday, starting April 6 from 7:30 pm to 8:15 pm for beginners and 8:15pm to 9pm for intermediates. Private lessons and all dances possible. Contact: Murat at T: 081-7973364, Didier at T: 084-3062016 (French, English) E: bastien.didier.uxo@gmail.com or Anna at T: 084-0517455 (Thai, English) E: dance@phuketdance.com or visit W: phuket-dance.com.

### April 7. Stock Market Investing for beginners (FREE)

Course includes: The essentials of investing in the US and global financial markets; four ways to protect your money from the most common scams directed at expats; how to invest in growth technology stocks and emerging market economies such as Thailand, Vietnam and China; stocks on the move and when to buy

Google, Apple or Microsoft etc. Join Don Freeman, President of Freeman Capital Management, and learn to find the best stocks at the right time and when to sell to protect profits. Sponsored by Woody's. Contact: Don Freeman at T: 089-9705795 E: freemancapital@gmail.com or visit W: freemancapital.net.

### April 7. Thank the Press Bunny Night Party at Central

Central Festival Phuket is inviting the press and media to join the "Central Festival Phuket Thank the Press Bunny Night Party 2011" at the Pimento Bar Lan Lom Bar Circle, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, from 6 to 9pm. Contact: Ploy at T: 076-291111 E: kosiromanee@central.co.th or visit W: central.co.th.

### April 8-10. Alan Wallace: Transforming Felicity and Adversity

During this retreat, Alan Wallace will explain his teachings, together with guided meditations for putting them into practice. Time: Friday 7 to 9pm, Saturday 9am to 5pm, Sunday 9am to 12pm. For non-residents the price is 1,175 baht per person, for residents it is 2,795 baht per person (single) and 2,495 baht per person (double), and includes accommodation for two nights and meals. Contact Alex or Nantawan at T: 076-336030 E: mtc@thanyapura.co.th or visit W: thanyapura.com

### April 9-15. TSLC Songkran Sports Splash Camp

Celebrate Songkran at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club. Celebrate the water festival with lots of activities: football, basketball, tennis, Thai boxing, judo and visiting Jungle Splash! Half day: 600 baht (either 9am to 12:30pm or 1:30 to 5pm), full day: 1,000 baht, five days: 4,000 baht, nine days: 7,000 baht. Lunch is available at 200 baht per day. Contact Giles at T: 076-336000 E: tslc@thanyapura.co.th or visit W: thanyapura.com.

## Free Computer Clinics

Is Windows driving you nuts? Want to know about the best Internet connections in Phuket? Need help finding a repair shop or a dealer that knows what they're doing? Join *For Dummies...* author and local Windows guru Woody Leonhard in his free weekly seminars. Sponsored by Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

April 3 – Patong, April 10 – Laguna,  
April 17 and 24 – Chalong  
Starts at 10am.

For more info contact Woody at T: 076-290468

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Hard Rock Cafe drew hundreds to its swimwear contest last Saturday.



Photo: Christian Mouchet

# Message from the heart for 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary

Dearest Cleo,  
Together, we are strong.  
Together, today as we celebrate our love.  
Together, we face our new beginning as we embark on our new journey.  
Together, we share memories, but there are many more to come.  
Together, we stand when we fall – a promise unconditionally.  
Together, we are one..you and I forever. Happy 1<sup>st</sup> year anniversary.  
I love you very much! Beb Q



Happy couple Cleo and Beb. Happy anniversary from the Gazette team.



VOCAL TALENT: Thai pop singer Nat Myria (left) performed at Jungceylon last Friday night as part of the Patong shopping mall's four-year anniversary celebrations.

**YOUR**  
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AGENTS' DELIGHT: International travel agents from Dertour were on the island last week for a hotel site inspection at the M venpick Resort & Spa in Karon.



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# Now that's a ball...

A TOUCH of Irish charm came to M venpick Resort and Spa in Karon last Saturday as the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual St Patrick's Ball went off without a hitch. The ball was held to raise funds for the Life Home Project.

While heavy storms brewed outside, the assembled crowd inside partied the night away dressed in formal ballroom attire: Flowing gowns and cocktail dresses were on show, while tuxedos, smart suits and even a few kilts were spotted on the dance floor.

Hans Rudie, general manager of M venpick, kicked off the night by welcoming Declan Kelly, Ambassador to Ireland. During his speech, Mr Kelly said the Irish government would be donating 300,000 baht to the Life Home Project.

As the bubbly came out, the atmosphere quickly turned to party mode.

A lavish international buffet was put on by M venpick

chefs with red and white tipples provided by Wine Connection.

The night's live auction generated a whopping 500,000 baht, with two tickets to see pop sensation Justin Bieber in Singapore next month up for grabs.

Blair Spears secured the highest bid and promised to give the tickets to his 13-year-old son.

The tickets were donated by Michael and Rona Hoskins.

Music came thick and fast from Siobhan McGovern and The Roaring Bhoys on the night.

The organizers would like to thank the following sponsors: M venpick, Etihad Airlines, Diageo Moet, Wine Connection, Irish Times Pub, *Phuket Gazette*, 91.5FM, Image Asia, Burasari, Tawan Cruises, Frances Lynch, Hugh Fitzgibbon and Mark Plunkett.



Kathy Manthei Coulson from the British International School; Irish Honorary Consul, Helene Fallon Wood; Hans Rudie, GM of M venpick and Daoroong, Manager of Life Home Project.



KILTWATCH: Craig Thomas from Etihad Airlines, Hans Rudie and Greg (the kilt wearer – nice!)



Tommy Corley, Ana Milena Corley, Helene Fallon Wood, Peter Wood, Anne Kelly, and Declan Kelly, Ambassador of Ireland



Declan Kelly, Ambassador of Ireland

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# The Impossibly Possible Quiz

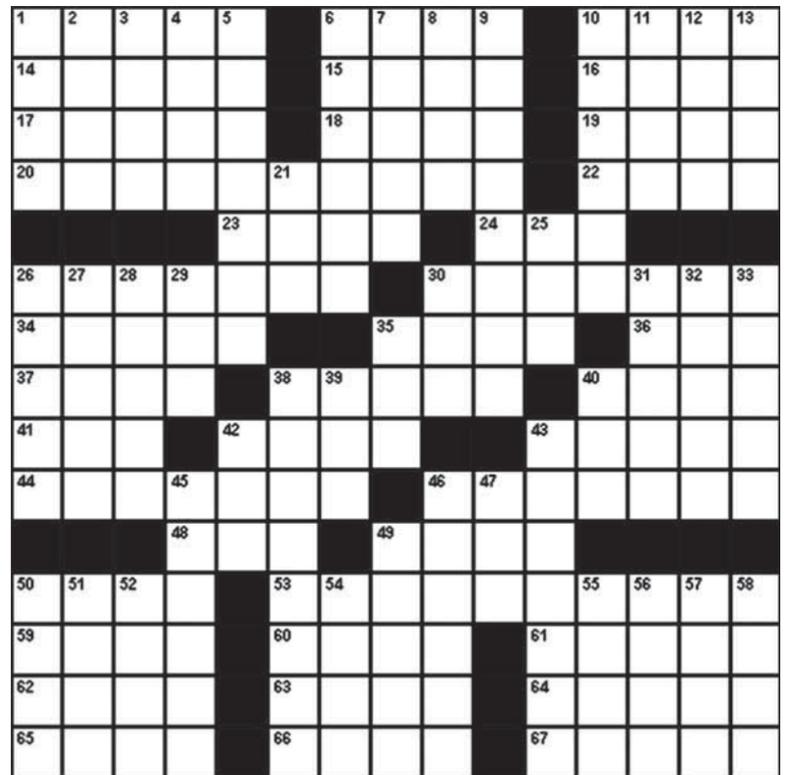
## Quizzical about the world?

1. Which planet has the highest mountain: Earth or Mars?
2. Who was once known as the "King of Soul", and now as the "Godfather of Soul"?
3. What is the real first name of the famous golf player Tiger Woods?
4. What are Alpha Centauri and Sirius?
5. In which war was Operation Desert Storm?
6. Which insect accurately indicates the air temperature: cricket, mosquito, or spider?
7. How many men have walked on the moon: 4, 8, or 12?
8. Which is the world's second-largest country in land area?
9. What is the most common blood type found in humans?
10. The name of which area in the Pacific means "many islands"?
11. What is the only word in English ending in the letters "mt"?
12. Which US store chain is named after the first mate in Moby Dick?
13. What is Triskadekaphobia?
14. One tablespoon = how many teaspoons?
15. What does a philatelist do?

Quiz answers on page 39

- Across**
1. Group of eight
  6. Starch used in puddings
  10. Suffragist Carrie
  14. A Simpson
  15. Earth Day subject
  16. Oil of \_ \_
  17. Disney mermaid
  18. Goad
  19. Mown grass
  20. Wishing you hadn't
  22. \_ \_ majeste
  23. Bound
  24. Elton's "John"
  26. Curved upward
  30. Render utterly perplexed
  34. In the dairy
  35. Israeli dance
  36. Suffix with Capri
  37. Agog
  38. Sordid
  40. Aforementioned
  41. Compose
  42. D-Day beach
  43. Cordage fiber
  44. Legging
  46. Cougar
  48. Actor Kilmer
  49. Categorize
  50. Drive\_ \_
  53. Providing light
  59. Mourn
  60. Author unknown
  61. Norwegian name of Norway
  62. Pond organism
  63. Hue
  64. Sniff
  65. Celestial body
  66. Former spouses
  67. Gut course

- Down**
1. Actor Epps
  2. Attention
  3. Math course
  4. Antiquing agent
  5. Erased
  6. Group of seven
  7. Bitterly pungent
  8. Continue
  9. Stars and Stripes



10. Small slice
11. Winglike parts
12. Shooting marbles
13. Actress Daly
21. Apex
25. \_ \_ roll
26. Not appropriate
27. Strength
28. Shorthand taker
29. Marry
30. \_ \_ de guerre
31. Hate
32. Functional
33. Passover feast
35. So there!

38. Star-shaped
39. Decoration at the top of a chair leg
40. Concorde, e.g.
42. Country bordered by Canada and Mexico
43. Ardent
45. Type of consonant
46. Indicates a direction
47. Pound sound
49. Biscuit-like quick bread
50. "\_ \_ the night before Christmas"
51. Cease moving
52. Baltic capital
54. Windows alternative
55. Actress Downey
56. Mine finds
57. Unattractive
58. Actress Ward

Provided by BestCrosswords.com. Used with permission.

Puzzle solutions on page 39

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): Calmer times lie ahead for Arians this week. The stars promise that the month of April will bring more satisfaction than March did. Your social energy is high and planning a party is likely to be on your agenda. This could be the perfect opportunity to invite a water sign you would like to get to know romantically. Those with a birthday this week will have more energy in the year ahead.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): Taureans are advised to wake up and smell the roses as April commences. After a busy start to the year, there are hints that you are too focused on work and money matters. The stars predict that a romantic connection made in March is about to bring more happiness than you thought. Those committed should involve their partner more when making plans.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Those Geminis who made necessary adjustments to their lifestyle in March are forecast to make great progress in April. Others, who have yet to accept that staying in the fast lane is taking its toll, could be brought back to earth with a

bump this week. A water sign is ready to give useful advice if you are ready to listen this weekend.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): The stars forecast hitches concerning technology early next week – keep information backed up to avoid last minute panic. You should receive an ideal opportunity next week to pay back someone who made a fool of you on the first of April. Where romance is concerned, out of sight is not out of mind. Someone who appeared to have forgotten you existed is forecast to remind you that romance is still on the horizon.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): Leos should avoid expecting the worst this week. The stars indicate that your fortune during April will depend on having a more positive outlook. Those who are trying to get a new business off the ground will benefit from talking to an earth sign this weekend. Improvements to your financial situation are forecast, with chance of sudden gain on Monday or Tuesday.

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): A heightened emotional state could cause Virgoans to misinter-

## YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

pret others' words or actions. Contact with water signs is forecast to be especially vulnerable midweek. Your creative abilities will be strong during April – this is an auspicious time to venture into new work territory. Put property matter decisions on hold until later this month as new information could change your view.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Where work is concerned, progress will be smoother during April. Someone who has been as prickly as a cactus lately is forecast to be easier to communicate with this week. Librans should be able to make allowances for this person's behavior when they learn what was at the heart of the problem. Your personal life is well-starred, with emphasis on a romantic relationship with a fire sign.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): Ideas come thick and fast to those born under the sign of

Scorpio this week, but following them through may be another matter. The stars suggest that you stick to familiar territory for the time being – there are signs that fresh business ventures bring success later this year. A domestic issue requires tactful handling early next week – if you react too quickly, a molehill will become a mountain.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): The first half of April is predicted to be an eventful period. Those Sagittarians still seeking an explanation for a mystery involving a close friend should hear answers this week. Your financial luck increases, but this is not an auspicious time to listen to advice from others. Trust your own judgment and the results will be positive. In the realm of romance, drama knocks at your door this weekend.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Benevolent astral conditions encourage Capricorns to channel their energy more productively this week. New work projects are well-starred during April, with focus on joining forces with another earth sign. The stars suggest that a new social circle

will open up and you are forecast to find more compatible friends within. Those with a romantic partner are advised to work harder on finding compromises to issues that keep arising.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): Learning more about a problem will allow Aquarians to find the right solution. The stars suggest that clarification will come early next week with help from another air sign. Where romance is concerned, obstacles are removed if you have been hoping to pursue a relationship with an earth sign. Those already committed get good news from their partner this weekend.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): In the world of work, the stars suggest keeping your options open. Those born under the sign of Pisces who jump at the first opportunity will regret this later. Your romantic outlook is mixed during the first half of April. History repeats itself this week and Pisceans are advised not to make the same mistake twice. Money matters are subject to disagreements midweek – be sure of your facts before leaping to conclusions.

# PROPERTY Gazette

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## Thavorn vows to shake up Phuket property industry

By Atchaa Khamlo

DEPUTY Interior Minister Thavorn Senneam in Phuket last week vowed to petition the government to allow foreign investors to rent properties on 50-year or 90-year leases.

He also said he would ask the government to set fixed interest rates for first-time home buyers.

Any rises in interest rates during the term of the first-time home buyer's mortgage would be subsidized by the government, he explained.

Mr Thavorn also said he had already raised with the Finance Ministry the extension of the maximum term for mortgages to 40 years.

The current maximum term for mortgages is 30 years.

"We are still in talks about that," he said.

Mr Thavorn announced the volley of new measures at the "Living Happily in Residential Estates" public seminar on March 27 organized by the Phuket Land Office and Phuket Property Association.

The conference was organized in response to the Damrongtham Center and the Consumer Protection Office, both at Phuket Provincial Hall, receiving a slew of complaints from residents in residential estates across the island.

Among the 500 participants at the event were high-end officials



FIRM STANCE: Deputy Interior Minister Thavorn Senneam

such as Phuket MP Raewat Areerob, Phuket Provincial Land Office chief Paitoon Lertkrai and Phuket Vice Governors Nivit Aroonrat and Somkiet Sangkaosutthirak.

Among the attendees was Department of Lands Deputy Director-General Montien Thongnit.

He pointed out that more than 15 residential developments in Phuket were approved each year. Since year 2000, he said, 236 projects comprising 22,681 plots were approved – with 40 of those 236 projects having body corporate management companies set up to manage the estates as separate legal entities, said Mr Montien.

It was the failure of such companies, which usually run the



COMMUNITY TIES: The 'Living Happily in Residential Estates' public seminar on March 27 drew hundreds. Photos: Atchaa Khamlo

communal services and manage common areas such as roads and parks on the estates, that had led to the spike in complaints against developers, he said.

Deputy Interior Minister Thavorn said plainly that all investors in residential projects, including condominiums, were protected by law.

In light of the rising tide of complaints against developers, Mr Thavorn called on government officers to step up enforcement of developers upholding their legal obligations to their buyers and tenants, especially developers who did not deliver what they advertised.

"Some project developers have not upheld what they have pro-

moted, such as providing buildings that do not follow what their advertising has promoted, and that has led to many complaints," he said.

Mr Thavorn called on relevant organizations to enforce compliance with building regulations by investigating actual construction being done and land title deeds to ensure ownership transfer was being conducted legally.

He also called on local authorities to make sure services such as the collection of rubbish and the consistent supply of electricity were well provided to reduce the number of complaints by residents on the island.

For more on this story, see w: [PhuketGazette.net](http://PhuketGazette.net)

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# Investment tide flows both ways in property



## Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

WHAT do they say about the familiar tongue twister...picking seashells from the seashore? It's all about selling those little shiny creatures from the deep blue sea.

My palms suddenly break out in a sweat as I type this, realizing that I may have erred into the environmental and ethical no-go zone.

"Leave those shells where they are!" I hear. My mind skips to that ubiquitous tourism infomercial, "Don't buy them. And take home only memories" uttered by a smiling, bland tour guide.

Thoughts of pearls being plucked from the luxury-view seaside lead my mind to wander. I wake awash in the sound of waves gently lapping against the shore. Ahh yes, our wandering Prince of Tides indeed has reawakened.

But this time a brochure in front of me fizzles the fantasy in thin air. The images are not of tropical beaches or seashells, but illustrations of CBD real estate in London.

Lots of "esses" are scattered throughout the text: safe haven, security, serene and, yes, even satisfactory are all lumped in with the salt and pepper.

Over the past 24 months when the appetite of foreign property buyers in Thailand came to resemble a case of bulimia, several internationally affiliated property



LONDON CALLING: Thailand's taste for all things English has never more evident than in recent years. Photo: Joe D

agents looked at business models that could sustain the lean times or downturn.

As we all know, the great t-shirt event of last year certainly caused not only foreigners to view Thailand's business climate as if it were a bongo band gone awry, but also well-heeled Thais started looking at investing in other parts of the world to mitigate property risks.

Asia certainly led the recovery after the economic crises, and many Thais took to the skies instead of their cars to look for the perceived safety of real estate elsewhere in the world.

One keen agency in Bangkok,

Savills, has been marketing London and UK property extremely successfully, as they realized that the tide of investment buyers not only comes in, and but goes out beyond the distant horizon as well.

Another key player, CB Richard Ellis, recently made headlines as they hooked up with Europe-based Horizon Investment Management to lure high net worth domestic investors and institutions to the continent.

Let's face it, given the choice of either waiting for the missing in action foreign buyers or creating new opportunities – the latter makes a lot of sense. It's like that kitchen door: not only does it swing in, it swings out as well.

Our global village and the changing fortunes between East, West and in between, change so quickly that perhaps instead of relying on exporting value-based

goods from Thailand and switching over to making boatloads of baht by buying into foreign property markets makes sense.

Thailand's taste for all things English need only be demonstrated on any late weekend night with the masses huddled around television sets cheering to the Premier League.

Thailand has exported its unique food around the world, but what goes around comes around and London casts an alluring eye to increasingly cosmopolitan Thais.

Whether that extends to Ireland remains to be seen. Irish pubs continue to flourish the world round, but the great Dublin property crash has yet to come.

For now, the bottom line of property remains exactly that: seashells are a commodity and you have to sell a fair few many if you expect to eat each day – no matter which way the tide is flowing.

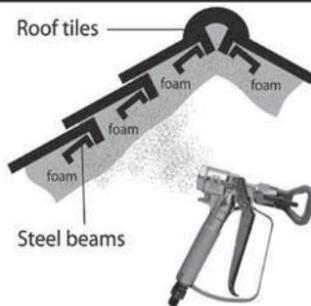
Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through [www.c9hotelworks.com](http://www.c9hotelworks.com).

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## In brief...

### Supalai standing firm on expansion

PROPERTY firm Supalai expects presales of 17 billion baht and revenue of 13 billion baht this year, up 15 per cent from last year, from the launch of 16 residential projects worth 20 billion baht, managing director Atip Bichanond says.

Currently, the company has residential projects in four provinces: Phuket, Khon Kaen, Chiang Mai, and Hat Yai district in Songkhla province. They provided about 10 per cent of the company's income last year, and the proportion is expected to be 12 per cent this year, *The Nation* reports.

The company also has budgeted 4.5 billion baht to purchase undeveloped land this year for developments in 2012 and 2013.

The company believes that residential prices will increase at least 10 per cent this year after rising about five per cent last year.

Supalai is expanding its portfolio upcountry, especially in Chiang Mai, where it launched its first detached-house project worth 800 million baht in the last quarter of last year and has achieved sales of 150 million baht.

### On the lookout for Legoland plot

WITH Malaysia already fast-tracking development of a Legoland theme park just across the border from Singapore, a UK-based operator is looking for a site in Bangkok.

Reports suggest Merlin Entertainments Thailand, who recently opened Madame Tussauds at Siam Discovery Center, are on the lookout for a suitable location in the capital.

### Jessop opts for Langham

FORMER general manager of the Sheraton Grande Laguna Phuket, Andrew Jessop, has been promoted to Worldwide Vice President of Development for the Langham Hospitality Group.

Former VP Helmut Knipp has relocated back to the United States and is continuing in a North American role for the group.

Do you have any breaking news about Phuket property? Email [property@phuketgazette.net](mailto:property@phuketgazette.net)

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# Cyan Resorts rises in Kamala

By Samaporn Janyanon

RISING within a one minute walk from Kamala Beach is the five-story, twin-tower Cyan Resorts – the latest project by well-known Phuket developer Ron Amos.

Mr Amos has built a solid reputation for quality projects, with his extensive list of high-end past projects through his Phuket-based Plan Investments & Development Company (PIDC).

Among its list of references, PIDC boasts work with Laemson Villas and Sai Taan residential estates as well as structural and architectural work with Novotel Siam Square, Hyatt Erawan and JW Marriott among others.

Drawing on his extensive technical experience in construction, Mr Amos has instilled in Cyan Resorts' masterplan overall concepts of a child-safe environment, energy-efficient design and high-quality construction.

Cyan Resorts comprises only 18 units: 16 two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartments starting at 105 square meters; and two three-bedroom, three-bathroom penthouses each at 277sqm.

The 18 units come with recessed sliding door sills and frames, internal habitable floor levels the same as the patio and stainless-steel trench grating between external and internal common areas to eliminate any level change requirements and create trip-free paths of access for the elderly, handicapped and children.

To conserve energy, the entire complex is cooled by high-efficiency electronics: air-conditioning units, dimmable LED Lighting,

variable speed water pump systems, a backup generator, elevator systems – right down to energy-efficient kitchen appliances.

The concrete slab walls between units are 200mm thick, acting as fire containment structures and acoustic barriers to preserve residents' peace and quiet.

Adding flair to the high technical standard is internationally-recognized Australian architect Angelo Pernazza, famed for his classic designs that have won praise on Australia's Gold Coast.

Among the facilities at the complex are a large central pool, external family lounge and food preparation facilities, gym, wine bar, recreation and dining pavilion, and serviced amenities.

Cyan Resorts has combined these features into a modern, free-flowing plan that blends lifestyle with design, altogether targeting high demand in the tourist holiday market.

"Kamala has proved very popular for investing in holiday homes and a favorite island spot for permanent expat living," says Mr Amos.

"Merging the fundamental design principles of orientation, aspect and livability, the two-and-three bedroom Cyan Resort apartments are a modern expression of simple cosmopolitan style and practical coastal design," explains Mr Amos.

"Apartments benefit from the comfort of natural light and cross-ventilated ocean breezes," he adds.

Pre-launch prices start from 8.9 million baht. Construction scheduled for completion in August.



ON THE RISE: Cyan Resorts' two towers will be completed in August. Photos: Cyan Resorts



Construction of the towers is ongoing.



An artist's impression of the interior.

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## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

GARDENS set amid the eastern foothills of Phuket's Nakkerd Hill have many natural advantages. Well off the beaten track, these expansive plots have natural slopes and enjoy mostly uninterrupted sun during the dry season. Perched high above Chao Fa West Road, many also have stunning sea views.

All these advantages are apparent at one Chalong estate the *Phuket Gazette* recently visited. This is a mature garden, lovingly tended over a period of five years or so, a fact to which its many substantial trees bear testimony.

The garden has been designed and developed on a plot of almost two and a half rai – enormous by Phuket standards, and a paradise for the three dogs that share life here with the owners.

Most of the garden consists of manicured lawns with fine-leaved grass. These lawns slope down from a house at the high end of the plot and down to its perimeter.

Views from both the house and garden offer an uninterrupted tropical vista, which stretches to the horizon and its ultramarine seas.

There are specimen trees everywhere, mostly planted in neat circular beds cut into the lawn. A mature forest tree – resident when the owners arrived – dominates one patch of the grassy area, and a flame tree (*Delonix Regia*) another.

There is also a weeping fig (*Ficus Benjamina*), and a fine jackfruit tree (*Artocarpus*), which may produce its enormous fruits soon.

However, the over-riding impression is one of graceful palms. Many of these are royal palms (*Roystonea*), elegant trees with beautiful smooth grey trunks and dark green foliage.

Other varieties include foxtail palms (*Wodyetia Bifurca*), which possess fronds from which feath-



NICE AND EASY: Palm trees, flowering bushes and neat lawns line pathways in this Chalong garden. Photo: Patrick Campbell

ery leaflets radiate from all sides. There is even a lipstick palm (*Cyrtostachys*), complete with its characteristic red sheaths.

Smaller plants such as deep blue thunbergias and gardenias are also given individual beds.

Providing a natural border at the bottom of the garden are a range of shrubs in full flower, including bougainvilleas, and an impressive array of orange ixoras.

A row of recently planted telegraph pole trees is making rapid progress, and, like the nearby bamboo, they are in the process of forming an impressive screen.

The hedge fronting the access road is currently ablaze with scarlet peacock blossoms (*Caesalpinia Pulcherrima*), and with the yellow and apricot trumpets of Yellow Oleander (*Thevetia Peruviana*).

All these are good choices for

a sun-bathed plot, as the small trees come into their own in hot, dry conditions.

Near the main gate in an area where the metal fencing is still visible, a climbing vine such as Yellow Bells (*Allamanda Cathartica*) would make a good addition.

What is self-evident is that everything has been selected with optimal locations and conditions in mind. For example, while most of the shrubs here are sun-lovers, a fine clump of red gingers in full flower is positioned near the house, where the plants can escape some of the sun's searing heat.

There is also, surprisingly, a white torch ginger. This is an exotic plant: it not only produces massive canes and leaves from underground rhizomes, but singular waxy bracts arranged around many small flowers.

These bracts resemble a torch; hence its name. Rightly prized as a cut flower, it is not often found growing in Phuket gardens.

On the west and shady side of

the house is a well-stocked kitchen garden with three different varieties of banana (*Musa*), papayas, mangoes, limes and even a pineapple or two.

Most things grow abundantly

in Phuket, so why not grow fresh herbs and fruits to eat at home?

If you have a garden that you would like to be featured on this page, please email: [pcampbell45@gmail.com](mailto:pcampbell45@gmail.com)

## Tip of the week

### Pesky pests still a problem?

WHILE you can usually detect caterpillars, slugs and snails, some insect pests are less visible. Various beetles, sawflies, thrips and leaf miners also enjoy devouring foliage.

The damage, usually more evident than the culprits, shows in the form of holes, tunnelling lines, silvering, or skeletonized leaves.

Recently, a whole gomphrena plant of mine was reduced to bare bones by what must have been either a leaf miner or thrip attack.

Less obvious is the damage caused by sucking insects such

as aphids, who excrete a sweet substance on which a sooty mold often develops.

Varying in color from green to white and even black, they cause wilting and discoloration. They may also carry viral diseases. Also watch out for mealy bugs, which look like tiny bits of cotton wool, and for limpet-like scale insects.

If you attack with a specific insecticide, read the instructions carefully before applying. Remember: chemical sprays will also kill good guys like ladybirds.

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Near Phuket FantaSea. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, with kitchen. Price: 2.9 million baht. Tel: 081-719 1041.

### LOFT SEAVIEW VILLA



2 bedrooms beachfront, panoramic view. All facilities, including fitness clubhouse. Price: 37 million baht. Tel: 084-837 4429. www.chokechaiproperty.com

### 3-BEDROOM HOUSE



3-bedroom house (53 sq wah) near the Two Heroines Monument. 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, telephone & internet, curtains, kitchen and full landscape. Price: 2.95 million baht (negotiable). Contact owner. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: pakapoms@yahoo.com

### PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

At Ao Makhm. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. Tel: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

### LAND AT PA KHLOK

1 rai 13.6sq wah with Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd. 11 km from Heroines Monument, near Mission Hill. Price: 3.9 million baht. Tel: 089-4729118.

### PATONG LAND

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1-bedroom unit with swimming pool for 2.2 million baht. In Saiyuan, Rawai. Tel: 085-788 5214.

## IDYLLIC LIVING NEAR CHIANG MAI

Situated on 7 rai near Chiang Mai, high-end estate with 3 houses, lovely landscaped grounds, free-range fowl and much more. Selling at well below market price at 9.5 million baht. Further details and pictures on request. Tel: 053-448181, 081-724 9155 (English & Thai), 080-790 5506 (English). Fax: 053-448181. Email: chaibob@gmail.com

## SONGKHLA, YO ISLAND

Best location, 4 rai, 212 sq wah. Former restaurant, villa, house. View lake, town, bridge. Tel: 054-223039, 084-608 3240 (English), 089-997 6606 (English & Thai). Fax: 054-323217. Email: gemballa\_baldu@yahoo.com

## 3-BEDROOM HOUSE

for sale in Chuan Chuen Lagoon Koh Kaew. Very close to British school. Fully furnished, with 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, 2 living areas. Includes washing machine. 65sq wah. Price: 3.95 million baht. Contact Scott. Tel: 081-866 8716.

## LOVELY HOUSE



At Manik. The Valley project 2.2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Price: 2.7 million baht. Tel: 085-095 0599.

## KAMALA BEACH HOUSE

Very nice. 2 bedrooms, 2 aircons. Price: 2.55 million baht. With garden and carpark. Call Simon. Tel: 084-852 8457.

## POOL VILLA RAWAI

3 bedrooms, with private pool. Price: 5.7 million baht. Financing up to 60%. Tel: 087-893 8747.

## SEAVIEW VILLA FOR SALE

Seaview Villa in Rawai with IT company for sale. Tel: 082-812 2018 (English). Email: david@phuketutopia.com For further details, please see our website at [www.phuket-muay-thai.com/fisherman/fishermanway](http://www.phuket-muay-thai.com/fisherman/fishermanway)

## NEW LUXURY POOL VILLA



for sale. 500m to Rawai beach. 2-3 bedrooms, furnished. Living room, dining area, Western-style kitchen, private pool, sala, tropical garden. Free leasehold. Asking price: 7.9 million baht. Call Kris. Tel: 081-691 3029. Email: kris\_silanachai@yahoo.com

## VERY LOW PRICE: 9.9 MILLION

In Chiang Mai, 181sq wah, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms. The interior is spacious, bright, impeccably maintained. Urgent sale below its real value only 9.9 million baht (Ref. HS1173). Tel: 081-806 3946 (English & Thai). Email: pinginformation@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at [www.ping-property.com](http://www.ping-property.com)

## KATHU LAND

Hillside lake view 1.2 rai. Beautiful aspect for quality villa. Price: 8.5 million baht. Directly from owner. Tel: 081-984 1562. Email: lozt@vic.chariot.net.au

## 1 RAI LAND PLOT

Located at Mission Heights Estate development with underground electricity and security. On Highway 4027, only 500 meters from golf course. Ready to build. Sale directly from owner. Price: 3 million baht only. Tel: 081-343 0777.

## BANG TAO VILLA SALE

2-4 bedrooms, fully furnished, with big swimming pool, automatic gate, and Chanote title. 300-600sqm from 3 million baht. Tel: 084-851 6121, 085-674 6786.



Price: 4,900,000.-

This house is located in a nice community only 5 minutes from Chalong Circle. The house is owned through a limited Thai company and very easy to take over. This house really must be seen! NEW HOT BARGAIN PRICE! Original price: 6.5 million baht, now only 4.9 million baht.



Price: 10,000,000.-

This 3 bedroom, high quality pool villa is located in the lovely Soi Naya area - very close to the famous Nai Harn Beach. The villa comes fully furnished! SPECIAL PROMOTION! The price has just been reduced by 1.9 million baht. New HOT bargain price: 10 million baht.



Price: 19,900,000.-

This very spacious 4 bedroom pool villa is located in the very quiet Nai Harn area. This villa is only 2 minutes from the beach. The villa comes fully furnished. Right now the price is a real bargain. The original asking price was 24 million baht - now the price has gone down to just 19.9 million baht.



28/46, Moo 1, BZENTER, T. Rawai, A. Muang 83130, Thailand (Next to DaVinci on the road to Nai Harn) Telephone: +66 (0) 76 289 576 Email: info@kb-realestate.com

[www.kb-realestate.com](http://www.kb-realestate.com)

## NICE AND SPACIOUS HOUSE



In Heritage project, Kathu. 2 floors, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 1 maidroom. 234sq wah. 18 million baht. Tel: 081-8920190 (Warit), 089-6464823 (Rattana). Email: prayoon\_jp@hotmail.com

## VILLA WITH ROOM RENTALS

Thai style villa including three one bedroom rentals and pool. Good rental return. European quality. Only 13.9 million baht. Tel: 084-838 7801 (English). Email: kjartan.haraldsen@gmail.com

## 2 BANGLA ROAD CONDOS

Two condos - exclusive listing at the hottest property address in Patong. 58 and 73sqm. Prices 9.5 and 14.5 million baht. Great R.O.I. Call. Frank for more information. Tel: 076-345238, 084-078 2753 (Thai). Email: info.realpro@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at [www.realproreal-estatephuket.com](http://www.realproreal-estatephuket.com)

## GREAT LIVING HOME



Single house for sale or rent located at Phanason 3 (Thalang). Land area 63.3 sq wah, 3 bed, 2 bath, large living area, furnished, ADSL, tel, landscaped garden and 24hr security. Sale price: 2.85 million baht. For more info, call Phing. Tel: 087-278 0067. Email: sweetpinkylive@live.co.uk

## BANG JO LAND FOR SALE

Four rai, Chanote title at Bang Jo. Nice plot, direct from owner. Price: 15 million baht. Tel: 081-956 0527 (English & Thai). Email: tuenjai1@hotmail.com

## 2 BED HOUSE IN PATONG

For sale or long-term rent. Price: 5.8 million baht. Rent: 30,000 baht per month. In quiet soi off Nanai. Call owner. Tel: 081-370 0054.

## NICE HOUSE 88 SQ WAH



4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons, sofa, cable TV. Near Jomthong Village on Khwang Rd. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 086-774 2034. Email: hataimata@hotmail.com

## NICE PLOT



Urgent sale. Behind Layan Hill Estate (Manik-Bangjo Area). 1,364sqm. Original price: 7.2 million baht. Now: 6.9 million baht. Tel: 080-520 2989.

## SALE APARTMENT PATONG

New condo, with a pool and security. 46sqm. Furnished. Freehold. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: cvelon@yahoo.com

## LAND FOR SALE

1 rai with Chanote title. 5 minutes to Rawai Beach in secure area. Contact owner directly. Tel: 089-472 9870. Email: d\_chaibut@yahoo.com

## PHUKET VILLA CONDO PATONG



New condo. 1km to beach, near Bangla Rd and Jungceylon, 1bed, 1 bath, fully furnished. 3.9 million baht for 42sqm and 3.8 million baht for 44.5sqm Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

## SPECIALS FOR BARGAIN HUNTER



in Kata Phuket. Stunning 3-bedroom villa, with big kitchen, living room, office room, pool garden and parking. Freehold and free transfer. Original price: 19 million baht. Now: 14.5 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280. No pictures; well worth a visit.

## ON THE BEACH

2-bedroom apartment in north Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, swimming pools. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-276 5117. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

## SURIN BEACH

Land on Soi Haad Surin 2 for sale. 2.2 rai, 5 mins walk to Surin Beach. Email: costello@hotmail.net.au

## PATONG APT

2-bedroom apartment for rent or sale. 87sqm unit on the 5th floor with seaview. Fully furnished. Tel: 081-891 6502. Email: andrea.capucci@gmail.com

## Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads  
at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)



# Property Classifieds

## Property Services

**ISS PEST CONTROL**  
Complete pest control solutions for residential, retail and industrial properties. Tel: 081-958 6879 (Eng), 083-505 6667 (Thai). Email: scott.d@th.issworld.com

## Property Wanted

**POOL VILLA WANTED**  
We are looking for investors from Sweden for pool villas with 2-3 bedrooms in Rawai. Price: from 5 to 10 million baht. Please send email to offers. Email: sales@chokechaipro perty.com

**DOG WITH FAMILY**  
Looking for a walled house for rent, near Kata beach. For 1 year. Not more than 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-282 9280.

**HOUSE IN RAWAI / NAI HARN**  
Looking for a house/villa in this area on plot of 400+ sqm, ideally 600. Paying up to 7.5 million baht. If it needs renovation, that is okay, depending on size and location. Needs to be close to a concrete road. Email: patrick@mancity.net

**50-100 RAI, 50 YEAR LEASE**  
For horse business, Phuket, Krabi, Phang Nga. Qualifies under the new zoning restrictions as recreation and/or agriculture. Bi-annual payment ONLY. Commercial 50 year lease. Developers: Add Incentive with first class horse riding facility. Tel: 084-842 4581. Email: christyKSweet@gmail.com

## Accommodation Available

**CONDO FOR SALE/ RENT RAWAI**  
Very good price for low season long term lease. Quiet and clean. Tel: 080-078 0931 (English), 086-112 1477 (Thai). Email: rawaireservation@yahoo.com

**PATONG LUXURY**  
At a very quiet place. 60sqm apartment with jacuzzi. Daily rent from 2,500 baht. Monthly rent: 35,000 baht. 4 minutes' walk to beach, 2 minutes to entertainment venues. Tel: 081-8948446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com See: www.banglasuites.com

**HOUSE FOR RENT 8,500 BAHT**  
Furnished 2 bedroom house with living room, kitchen, garden, car park, internet. Price for rent: 8,500 baht/month, and 3 bedroom at 12,000 baht/month. Tel: 080-521 9888 (English & Thai). Email: sormin\_s@yahoo.com

**SHARE RENTAL 2-STOREY HOUSE**  
Very secure home, pool, covered parking, all utilities included 10,000 baht monthly. Tel: 085-578 2114. Email: barglen@hotmail.com

**KATA LUXURY VILLA RENTAL**  
3-bedroom villa located on the southern headland of Kata Beach. Built up area, 3400sqft, with spectacular Andaman sea views. 6x15 meter infinity pool situated on the edge of rocks overlooking sea. The villa is surrounded by dense foliage, has spacious balconies, outdoor showers in natural settings and is very private. Thai, Japanese, & Balinese design influences. Excellent Thai cook provided. Email: seavest@signet.com.sg

**APARTMENT & ROOM IN PATONG**  
Apartment for long term rent. 8,000-20,000 baht per month. Room from 600-1,500 baht per night. Tel: 076-512151, 089-290 9567. Email: info@brommathaihouse.com For further details, please see our website at www.brommathaihouse.com

**PATONG SEAVIEW**  
With kitchen and DVD/cable. Rent: 800 baht per day, or 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-532 7708.

**LOFT STYLE - KATHU**  
Suitable for a home or office, secure, 11,500 baht/month. Tel: 086-664 5575. Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

**PATONG TOWNHOUSE**  
Nanai Road 9 hillside. 2 bedrooms fully furnished with WiFi and cable TV. Price: 20,000 baht/month long term. Tel: 081-270 5374 (English & Thai). Email: alex@alexmalcolm.com

**HOUSE NEAR CHALONG**  
Fully furnished house with 2-bed, 2 bath. Long-term rent (min 1 year): 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-026 1362. Email: cjitsomboon@hotmail.com

**LUXURY KATA APARTMENT**  
Central location, pool, Internet, etc. One bedroom. For rent weekly or monthly. Tel: 084-063 9223, 086-941 7733 (English). Email: eburneday@gmail.com

**APPARTMENT LONG TERM**  
apartment for French speaking people. 60 square meters, big garden, swimming pool, very quiet, near Jungceylon. 16,000 baht per month for long term. Tel: 076-296312, 080-880 5086 (English). Email: bialaspatrik@yahoo.com

**PATONG CONDO**  
Fully furnished - 700 meters from Patong Beach. Email: wintin2007@yahoo.com

**4-BEDROOM VILLA WITH LARG POOL**  
in Land & Houses Park available for long or short-term resident, or for daily holiday rental. Email: william.amonoo@gmail.com

**APARTMENT PATONG**  
140sqm, fully furnished. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, plus storage room. Spacious living/ dining area with full western kitchen and large balcony. Full aircon. Includes free WiFi. UBC ready. Tel: 084-185 8536.

**ROOMS IN KATHU: 6,000 BAHT**  
Large modern rooms with their own bathroom, satellite TV and Internet connection. At a great location with mountain views, near Loch Palm Golf Club. Email: cssmyth@hotmail.com

**FREEDOM APARTMENT**  
Small kitchen, fridge, cooker, fully furnished, aircon, high-speed internet, cable TV, bathroom with hot and cold water. 400 baht per day. Tel: 084-845 0541.

**KARON CONDO FOR SALE OR RENT**  
2 bedroom, 2 bath condo overlooking Karon Beach. Short or long term. Condo also for sale. Reasonable rent to mature persons. Email: rj1111@yahoo.com

**HOUSE NEAR CHALONG**  
Fully furnished house with 2-bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Long-term rent (min 1 year): 15,000 baht per month. Email: cjitsomboon@hotmail.com

**LUXURY APARTMENT IN PATONG**  
Room for rent with swimming pool. Daily and monthly. Email: mori@phuket.ksc.co.th Website: www.nanaivilla.com

## Accommodation Wanted

**ACCOMODATION IN PATONG**  
I am looking for either a 1 bedroom apartment, villa or condo in Patong for the months of August and September 2011. This is low season so we are looking for the best price. Email: dianz\_p@hotmail.com

**1 BED VILLA, HOUSE, CONDO**  
We're looking to rent some accommodation next month, preferably a 1 bedroom villa, house, or condo with private pool. Email: leprechaun27@hotmail.co.uk

**VILLA WITH POOL WANTED**  
Looking to rent a villa or a house with a pool for 1 month in the Phuket area. Email us for further details. Email: leprechaun27@hotmail.co.uk

**AO YON OR NEARBY**  
Looking for long term rent of a modern, furnished 2 BR house with western kitchen and AC, ADSL and UBC. Minimum of 12 months, starting end of April or later as per agreement. Please email photo/info. Email: homeinphuket@live.com

**PHUKET CITY OR NEARBY**  
I will be studying with my partner at ECC in Muang, Phuket City, and I am looking for a comfortable apartment/house that is close by or commutable. Dates: May 7- June 7 2011. For more details, please send email: patrickoldfield@yahoo.co.uk

**1 OR 2 BEDROOM HOUSE / APARTMENT**  
Looking for a 1 or 2 bedroom house or apartment. Need the following: Internet, aircon, kitchen. Long-term rental. Price about 15,000 baht a month. Email: khun.ab@hotmail.com

## Household Items

**CHEAP LAMPS & COFFEE TABLES**  
We have the lamps and coffee tables in the picture as shown. The lamp is 6,500 baht and the coffee table is the same price. Buy them together for 11,000 baht. Call for details. Tel: 087-881 8075 (English & Thai). Email: harrison@windowslive.com

**IT ALL MUST GO - MOVING SALE!**  
Open house sale in Nai Harn - everything must go on 2-3 April from 10am to 7pm! Furniture, appliances... even a motorbike and car. For more info. Email: fishytravel@gmail.com For prices, details, photos and directions, please see the following webpage: <http://pyim.free.fr/home/sale.htm>

**TWO-DOOR REFRIGERATOR**  
Samsung RT22 two-door refrigerator with real freezer. Has air filtration system and separate controls for each section. 6,000 baht. Tel: 089-896 5609. Email: elliot@saenyim.com

**DINING TABLE & CHAIRS**  
Attractive dining table & 4 chairs, 90cm x 90cm, dark wood & black colour. 4,000 baht for quick sale. Buyer to collect. Tel: 087-897 3497, 089-646 8144. Email: catch22phuket@gmail.com

**DOUBLE BED FRAME**  
Leather look, king size double bed frame. New, from England. Not needed. 7,000 baht. Tel: 083-833 9950. Or send email: diving.dreams@hotmail.com

**WALL MIRRORS**  
Two rattan-framed, black mirrors, 140cm x 100cm in good condition. Photo available on request. Price: 2,000 baht each. Tel: 089-150 2909. Email: artandpaula@gmail.com

**SELLING FURNITURE**  
Moving sale of complete furniture set. Please contact for photos and details. Tel: 087-270 2334.

**MOVING SALE**  
Selling everything order list. Tel: 080-718 1686. Email: maxphuket@hotmail.de

## Household Services

**DWF HOME SERVICES**  
Built-in bars, counters, pools, kitchens, ponds, etc. Tel: 081-606 5746. Email: DWF\_homeservices@hotmail.com

**Classified Advertisements**

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement. Then hand it to any of our agents.

\_\_\_\_\_ (heading)

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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad. All advertising must be paid for in advance.

**Deadline for April 16 issue is on Thursday 7 April before 3pm.**  
**Deadline for April 23 issue is on Tuesday 12 April before 6pm.**

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- Lagoon 440 (2005)**
  - Easy boarding
  - Large tender for shore access
  - Large living spaces
  - Genset and Air conditioning
  - 3 cabin version
  - Twin Volvo 55hp engines
  - Electric Winch
  - Water maker and 4 x solar panels
- Leopard 42 Cat (2003)** \$475,000 USD
- Dehler 38 CWS (1999)** \$90,000 USD
- Sea Ray Sundancer 375 (2005)** \$250,000 USD
- (2006) (2005)** INCL AIRBERTH 3,750,000 THB

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Brokerage Office: The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket  
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Pattaya Office: Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach

**65-FOOT VINTAGE CRUISER**  
Owned by Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort, the historic Margaret Lee was built in 1935 by the British Royal Air Force as a rescue and backup vessel. She came to Phuket in 1970 as a sea-mining vessel. Fitted with two NISSAN PE6 engines with a ISUZU C240 generator. Pleasant and efficient cruising speed of 12-15 knots, perfect craft for a day trip around the island, to outlying islands, or a sunset cocktail cruise. Air-conditioned and fully equipped galley and bar. Undergoes maintenance and sea-worthy inspections annually. Current condition requires major repairs. Tel: 076-370100, 089-723 4303 (English & Thai). Email: kittikorn.poolsin@emeridien.com

**BAYLINER SPEEDBOAT**  
  
18.5ft, 130Hp, in/out board. New price: 1.1 million baht. Now: 595,000 baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

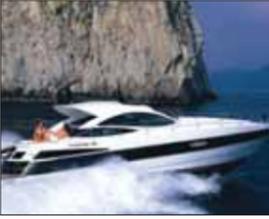
**LIVEABOARD**  
Liveaboard 6x20 meter. 8 private cabins. Renovated October 2010. Price: 2.8 million baht. Email: info@aidcdive.com For further details, please see our website at: www.aidcdive.com

**VAN DE STADT 38' YACHT**  
Ashore at Langkawi Port, due for inspection in March. Photos and spec on request. Price: US\$ 45,000. Tel: +60-125-531 4030 (English). Email: brianralph.goodwin@yahoo.com

**ANGLER 2,600 CC SPORTFISHING**  
Nice 26ft American sportfishing boat 2x225 4-stroke outboards. Tel: 085-691 1837 (English). Email: mangelsson@hotmail.com

**6M SPEEDBOAT**  
85hp and 15hp engines. Includes mooring, trailer and fish-finder/plotter. Only 365,000 baht. Tel: 087-466 1943. Email: frankricharddevans@yahoo.com

**BARGAIN CUDDY**  
2007 built 25ft cuddy cruiser with 175 Suzuki o'brd (approx 200 hours only). Forward berth with toilet and sink. Ideal for day trips and occasional overnight. This boat will not be bettered for price and includes a Thai built trailer. Price: 650,000 baht. Tel: 076-621200, 080-141 8292 (English), 085-789 5092 (English & Thai). Email: dvestacey16@hotmail.com

**THE INCREDIBLE PERSHING 46**  
  
Price: 28 million baht. Tel: 081-958 4421. Email: pkislandbroker@hotmail.com

**YAMAHA JET SKI**  
Cruiser VX. Safe and new, with only 14 months of use. Has warranty. In excellent condition: only owner has used it. 90 hours reels. Price: 350,000 baht. Tel: 089-819 9650. Email: pierrekofjer@yahoo.fr

**SAILING KAYAK**  
Hobby Adventure Island. New hull and crossbeams. In mint condition with many new spares. Price: 100,000 baht. Call Philip. Tel: 087-886 7854.

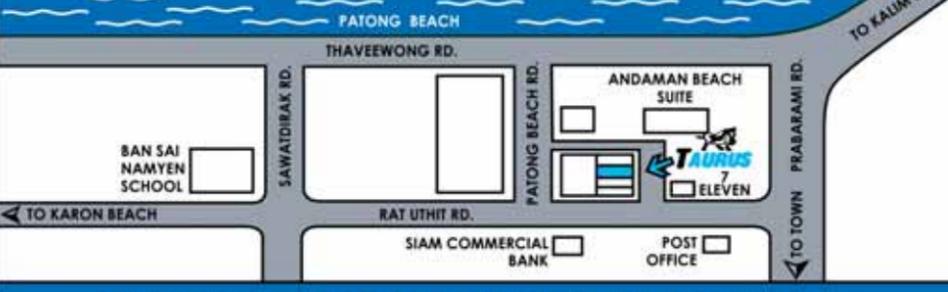
**50% BOATSHARE**  
Riviera 48 and 34 ft speed boat, both fully equipped for fishing and diving. Approx Investment: US\$ 275,000. FULL MANAGEMENT AND FULLY CREWED.



Tel: 081-895 1724 or Email: smuldersos@hotmail.com

**5.8 RIGID INFLATABLE BOAT**  
  
For sale. 10-month old, 5.8m long. Cholamark RIB power by 2x60hp Evinrude engines (operating hours). Includes bimini, raymarine 57D chartplotter/depth sounder, 170 liter stainless steel fuel tank, and bilge pump. Asking price: 975,000 baht or o.n.o. (Original price: 1.3 million baht, in April 2010). Tel: 089-770 3234. Email: jeremy.ayre@awrlloyd.com

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**SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES**

**COFFEE break**

**Crossword puzzle:**

1	O	C	T	A	D	6	S	A	G	O	10	C	A	T	13		
14	M	A	R	G	E	15	E	C	O	L	16	O	L	A	Y		
17	A	R	I	E	L	18	P	R	O	D	19	L	A	W	N		
20	R	E	G	R	E	T	T	I	N	G	22	L	E	S	E		
						23	T	I	E	D	24	L	O	O			
26	U	P	S	W	E	P	T	30	N	O	N	P	L	U	S		
34	N	O	T	E	D	35	H	O	R	A	36	O	T	E			
37	A	W	E	D	38	S	E	A	M	Y	40	S	A	I	D		
41	P	E	N	U	T	A	H	43	I	S	T	L	E				
44	T	R	O	U	S	E	R	46	P	A	N	T	H	E	R		
						48	V	A	L	49	S	O	R	T			
50	T	H	R	U	52	L	U	C	I	F	55	F	E	R	O	U	S
58	W	A	I	L	60	A	N	O	N	61	N	O	R	G	E		
62	A	L	G	A	63	T	I	N	T	64	S	M	E	L	L		
65	S	T	A	R	66	E	X	E	S	67	E	A	S	Y	A		

**Quiz answers:**

- Mars
- James Brown
- Eldrick
- Stars
- Gulf War
- Cricket
- 12
- Canada
- Type O
- Polynesia
- Dreamt
- Starbuck' s
- Fear of the number 13
14. 3
- collects stamps

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Embark on a truly unique career with the Conrad Koh Samui, the newest luxury hotel to join the Hilton family in Thailand. We're looking for team members who want to express, improve and challenge themselves on every level while delivering an exacting level of service distinguished by genuine hospitality.

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### CHIANG MAI

6th & 7th April  
dusitD2 Hotel  
9:00am - 5:00pm

### PHUKET

8th & 9th April  
Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa  
9:00am - 5:00pm

Now accepting applications for:

#### Front Office

- Night Manager
- Supervisor
- Butler
- Reception
- Bellman
- Call Centre
- Driver
- Airport Representative

#### Housekeeping

- Assistant Executive Housekeeper
- Laundry Manager
- Floor Supervisor
- Florist
- Room Attendant
- Public Area Attendant

#### Food & Beverage

- Assistant Food & Beverage Manager
- Sommelier
- Outlet Manager
- Outlet Supervisor
- Server

#### Kitchen

- Sous Chef/Chef De Cuisine
- Chef De Partie
- Baker
- Kitchen Artist
- Butcher
- Commis I, II, III
- Steward

#### Engineering

- Supervisor
- Technician

#### Security

- Chief of Security

#### Spa & Fitness

- Pool Attendant
- Life Guards
- Gym Instructor
- Kids Club Attendant

#### Sales

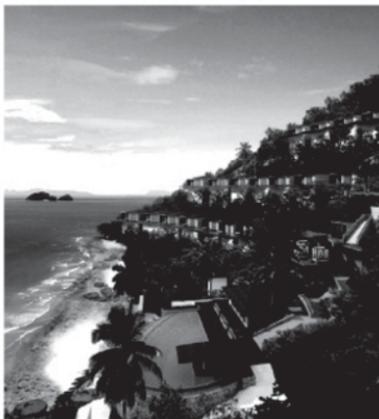
- Sales Manager
- Revenue Manager
- Public Relations Manager
- E-Commerce Manager
- Reservation Manager
- Reservation Agent
- Graphic Designer

#### Human Resources

- Training Manager
- Hygiene Manager

#### Finance

- Chief Accountant
- Purchasing Manager
- General Cashier
- Credit Supervisor
- Accounts Receivable Clerk
- Accounts Payable Clerk
- Income Auditor
- Cost Controller
- Store man
- Receiving Clerk



## Phuket Gazette

In connection with a major expansion in its **Classified Advertising** business due to the launch of the newspaper's Nationwide Edition, the *Phuket Gazette* seeks to add three **Classified Advertising Administrators** to its existing team of five.

#### Qualified candidates will be:

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged at least 26
- ▶ Service-minded with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Able to work well with large numbers of advertisers, both foreign and Thai

#### and should have:

- ▶ A Bachelors Degree from a recognizable university
- ▶ A good sense of organization and respect for details
- ▶ Knowledge of basic office software

Knowledge of InDesign, Pagemaker or Quark Express would be a plus.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Tassanee Suwannarat, Classifieds Manager, at [Nee@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:Nee@PhuketGazette.Net)

#### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasatri Rd, Koh Kaew  
A. Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-273555, ext 205 Fax: 076-615240

## THE PRIVILEGE RESIDENCES • PATONG

The Privilege At BayCliff Co Ltd is an exclusive real estate company located at Prabaramee Road. We are urgently looking for professional and qualified candidates to join our team in Phuket. Must have the following qualifications:

### Sales Manager

- . Preferably 30-40 years old
- . Minimum 2-3 years experience in sales or/marketing
- . Good negotiation and English Communication skills
- . Self-motivated and dynamic, service-minded and result-oriented
- . Pro-active and well organized
- . Pleasant personality
- . Computer literate
- . Car driving license with own car will be an advantage

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Must speak English. Female Thai national. At least 1 year experience working for a private residential villa. Tel: 089-195 0578. Email: [manager@villa-changrajang.com](mailto:manager@villa-changrajang.com)

### MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Wanted for an educational organization. Must be a Thai national. Duties include developing and executing marketing plan. Proficiency in English required. Basic salary, plus commission. Tel: 076-522292, 087-454 8820.

### TELEPHONE SERVICE

We are seeking to hire a Thai woman for our phone customer service. High salary. Send resume to [vorike3@gmail.com](mailto:vorike3@gmail.com)

### 1 COOK / MAID

Must speak English. Female Thai national. At least 1 year experience working for a private residential villa. Tel: 089-195 0578. Email: [manager@villa-changrajang.com](mailto:manager@villa-changrajang.com)

### OFFICE SECRETARY

We are seeking an energetic and proactive full time office secretary/administrative assistant. Candidates must have good English and computer skills. Tel: 086-004 3008. Email: [angius@villasuksan.com](mailto:angius@villasuksan.com)

### RUSSIAN SPEAKER WANTED

Food supply company is looking for a Thai national with good Russian language skills to be manager. Tel: 089-054 4176.

### MAID / COOK

Need two (2) staff for Patong Holiday Villa. One maid and one maid who can also cook Thai food and some easy farang food. Full time job. Room available. Thai national only. Must speak English. Tel: 080-699 2436. Email: [kokakat@gmail.com](mailto:kokakat@gmail.com)

### CUSTOMER SUPPORT WANTED

We are the leading travel agency in Phuket. We currently want to fill 2 positions for customer support. Starting salary ranging from 12,000-15,000 baht. Tel: 076-367120, 086-950 6945, 089-469 2173 (Thai). Fax: 076-367212. Email: [korphong@hotmail.com](mailto:korphong@hotmail.com)

### HOTEL STAFF

Receptionist/bar staff (Thai) wanted for a new hotel in Patong. Good salary. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-349655, 088-444 7840. Email: [kim\\_patanen@hotmail.com](mailto:kim_patanen@hotmail.com)

### OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR WANTED

Needs good admin & secretarial skills to run a small international business. Good English & ability to communicate. Some book-keeping & cash reports knowledge is helpful to the position. Attractive salary & benefits to the right person. Tel: 076-513370. Fax: 076-513370. Send your CV to [safety-services.sms23@yahoo.com](mailto:safety-services.sms23@yahoo.com)

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 Send your resume with recent photo, references and salary expectations to:

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 Soi Bell, Kamala, Kathu, Phuket 83150 Web: [www.TheBellPhuket.com](http://www.TheBellPhuket.com)

## Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

#### SUB-EDITOR

- ▶ Fluent in English
- ▶ Able to work to strict deadlines
- ▶ A team player
- ▶ Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- ▶ Newspaper experience and/or layout skills, especially in PageMaker or InDesign, required.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to [editor@phuketgazette.net](mailto:editor@phuketgazette.net)

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd  
 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew  
 A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
 Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

#### ADMIN STAFF WANTED

Admin staff required by real estate agent in the Laguna area. Must be Thai national, female and have some experience in admin and accounts. Must also live locally. Good salary and immediate start. Tel: 076-271315, 081-8956267 (English). Email: [info@phuket-landandhomes.com](mailto:info@phuket-landandhomes.com)

#### SALE EXECUTIVE NEEDED

Sale Executive needed urgently in Phuket Town. Qualifications: Aged between 25-45 years, male or female. Good command of English in writing and speaking skills. Minimum 2 years of experience as sales officer, any construction experience will be considered favorably. Salary: 8,500-12,000 baht not including commission. Tel: 0878153777 or [phuketimperial@yahoo.com](mailto:phuketimperial@yahoo.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.phuket-stainless-service.com](http://www.phuket-stainless-service.com)

### Employment Wanted

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for full-time employment. Developing and maintaining websites, SEO, e-marketing. Send email: [claudstrey@gmail.com](mailto:claudstrey@gmail.com)

#### EXPAT ENGINEER (MECHANICAL)

searching for employment or partnership in a company – 25 yrs experience. Email: [job-phuket@hotmail.com](mailto:job-phuket@hotmail.com)

#### ENTERTAINER - CABARET SHOW

Salary 2,000 baht per show. Must have experience performing in a cabaret show and be an English-speaking Thai national with knowledge of all music types. Must be able to entertain guests for a 15-minute show. Tel: 076-333222. Email: [sales@ccbloomshotel.com](mailto:sales@ccbloomshotel.com)

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International school is looking for a homeroom teacher for grade 1 (6 to 7-year-olds). Only native English speakers with appropriate degree should apply. Please send application to [phuketprimary@mail.com](mailto:phuketprimary@mail.com)

#### WEB DEVELOPER HELP NEEDED

Looking for a person who can do PHP, MySQL, CSS3, SEO, Googlemap API v3, HTML5, Web optimization (size, on both images and code, caching for fast loading speeds). Tel: 076-239820. Email: [noi nah@latitude1maritime.com](mailto:noi nah@latitude1maritime.com)

#### GENERAL HANDYMAN REQUIRED

Thai national, live-in position if needed. Must have experience, Surin area. Call Apple. Please contact for more information. Tel: 085-789 8443. Email: [info@villachangrajang.com](mailto:info@villachangrajang.com)

#### CAFE STAFF WANTED

Thai staff for a gourmet cafe in Rawai. Good personality, some English. Day work. Please contact Sandy. Tel: 080-695 3380. Or please send email: [sanduquin@gmail.com](mailto:sanduquin@gmail.com)

#### YACHT SALES EXECUTIVE

Requirements: Experience in sales & brokerage of luxury yachts, knowledge of boats, and technical issues, fluent in English and excellent computer and internet skills. Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: [vrit@boatlagoon-yachting.co.th](mailto:vrit@boatlagoon-yachting.co.th)

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#### SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

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### 2005 BMW 323I

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### 2005 MITSUBISHI EVO 9 MR



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- Tel: 086-282 6241 (English). Email: HLRaum@aol.com

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# Sport

## Japanese star chips in for Oilfield Classic

JAPANESE Professional golfer Mina Nakayama is being flown in for the 2011 Phuket Oilfield Classic (POC) being held from April 14 to 17 at Blue Canyon and Red Mountain golf clubs.

From Osaka, Ms Nakayama will represent a Japan-based charity to raise funds for victims of the disaster stricken areas of her home country.

An added incentive to take part in this year's event will be the Hole in One prize of a car or US\$20,000 prize purse.

Organizers of the POC nominate a different charity from Phuket each year of the event. This year's event will raise money for the Phuket Has Been Good To Us foundation. The event began in 2009 with over 100 international guests taking part. This year, organizers hope to double that number and welcome local Phuket golfers to take part.

Organizer, Mark Cameron highlighted the importance of such an event to Phuket.

"Our aim for 2011 onwards is to have more than 200 people visit the island, and with the backing of local businesses we should achieve our goal. This is an ideal opportunity for local companies to tap into a market segment [oil and gas executives] not really catered for in Phuket," he said.

"We would like to thank all of our sponsors who have helped us raise nearly 1 million baht for local charities so far."

Last year's event featured Black Mountain resident professional golfer Simon Yates, who managed to break the course record at Loch Palm with an astounding gross score of 63.

For more information, see [W:phuketoilfieldclassic.com](http://W:phuketoilfieldclassic.com) - Neil Quail



Mina Nakayama

# Phuket golfers off to world finals in Africa

IN CONDITIONS normally associated with northern European links golf courses, Team Inzentive from Phuket won first place in the 2011 World Corporate Golf Challenge Thailand at Thana City Golf and Sports Club in Bangkok earlier this month.

Phuket Blue Canyon Golf Course members Kenth Fredin and Michael Weinstein (Team Inzentive) braved the rain and saw off stiff competition from 63 teams to secure their place representing Thailand at the World Finals at the Jack Nicklaus designed Simola Golf Course in South Africa. The finals will be played from May 3 to 8 this year.

"It was a great experience. We are delighted to have won and look forward to representing Thailand in South Africa," Mr Weinstein said.

"Conditions were unusual for this time of year and suited golfers used to playing through inclement weather," he said.

"My game hasn't been the best recently, but we went out and played to the best of our abilities...which worked for us."

"I'm delighted for Kenth. He posted the 'best nett score' and



PHUKET CHAMPS: Kenth Fredin (left) and Michael Weinstein (2<sup>nd</sup> right) of Team Inzentive with Nounwaruji Silaparat, customer relations manager of Jet Privilege and Jet Airways, and David Pettigrew, director of golf, Diethelm Travel.

the 'best Stableford points score' for the men's section and of course we won the overall team title - all on his birthday," Mr Weinstein said.

"Playing in South Africa will be a dream come true. My friend Wilson Morton [Scottish golf instructor], who has played at Simola, highly recommends the course. This has further added to

my anticipation of the trip," he added.

Mr Fredin is also eager to play Simola later this year, but is intent on having fun as well as competing.

"Michael and I play well together. If we go out aggressively we can shoot low scores, but the main objective is to have fun and enjoy our golf."

- Neil Quail



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## Footy stars expected at the Bangkok Masters

THE countdown is on to the 2011 Tesco Lotus Bangkok Masters Football Tournament, kicking off at the Patana British International School from June 3 to 5.

The event, that in previous years attracted all star teams that included ex-professionals Ian Rush, John Barnes, Lee Sharpe and Steve McMahon, is being organized by the British Chamber of Commerce Thailand.

Over 40 teams are expected to take part in the internationally acclaimed seven-a-side amateur competition.

Players and spectators will also have the privilege of getting to meet some of football's greatest players in the flesh, both on the pitch and at a gala dinner scheduled for the Saturday night.

– Neil Quail

As more information becomes available, see the British Chamber of Commerce website [bccthai.com](http://bccthai.com), or visit [PhuketGazette.net](http://PhuketGazette.net)

# Island Regatta blows in

By Neil Quail

THE inaugural Phuket Island Trophy Regatta rode out the worst of last weekend's wild weather at Ao Yon with a near full schedule of racing.

A total of 34 entrants from four sailing clubs took part in the event, supported by the Phuket Sports Association. Held over two days, The Koh Samui Yacht Club and Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron (PYSS) took the lion's share of sailing honors up for grabs.

On day one of racing, the Open Dinghy Class completed all four races with Trirat Manthong (Sailing for Phuket and Songkla) taking first place. However, the Optimist Class racing had to be suspended after three races due to the onslaught of heavy rain and dying wind.

On day two, as torrential rain and strong wind blanketed the rest of Phuket, conditions at Ao Yon were surprisingly calm. By the end of the race, sailors from the Koh Samui Yacht Club had claimed first, second and third places.

Stephanie Bjork took first place while her club mates Nattakarn Panyawan and Thanva Grigorev came second and third respectively.



SHOW OF SAILING: The inaugural Phuket Island Trophy Regatta was held last weekend at Ao Yon.

In the Under-10s section, Thanva Grigorev (Samui) came in first, followed by Philip Bjork (Samui) in second and Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron's Cartoon Juladej in third.

The Division B Fleet was dominated by PYSS, clinching first, second and third places. Young sailing star Cartoon,9, came in

first place ahead of nine other competitors, while fellow PYSS sailors Nattapol Yuangngam scooped second and Salawutt Kullaatt finished third.

Spectators and representatives from Tamarind Villa Phuket, Coral Seekers, Topper Sail Phuket and Image Asia braved the elements aboard the Andaman Cabriolet

Spectator Boat

"It's great to have the opportunity to support local sailing for young people," said Grenville Fordham of Image Asia.

Capt Pornpoj Varrasart of the Third Naval Command and Supab Pubsing, representing the Phuket Sports Association, were on hand to present prizes.

## Final night of Futsal League an action-packed affair

THE Adult Futsal League reached its finale last Thursday at Thanypura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC), with three teams vying for the top spot.

All games played on the night had pivotal implications in the final league standings.

The first match that kicked off was between second place Phuket Morning Star (PMS) and third place Siam Guardian Services (SGS).

A win for PMS would have given them the title, while a win with a high goal difference would have clinched the title for SGS.

However, a draw would have handed the title to top of the league Portrait FC who finished their league fixtures a week prior.

A cagey start to the first half gave an indication of both teams' respect for one another, but a spark of individual brilliance

broke the deadlock and gave PMS the lead. Three more goals from PMS had SGS with an uphill struggle while still in the early stages of the match.

A defiant SGS mustered a challenge to claw back two goals before the end of the half, which saw PMS taking a 4-2 lead going into the break.

After half time, SGS notched up two more goals to level the scoreline with five minutes left to play.

In the dying minutes, PMS called a "time out" and immediately capitalized with two goals in quick succession. At the final whistle, PMS emerged as League Champions, albeit from a closely fought match with SGS.

On the pitch next was the battle for mid-table

positions. Fourth place All Stars took on Shakers in fifth position.

Although it was only fourth place up for grabs, the teams battled it out as if it were the final.

Some strong defending earned the All Stars a 7-3 victory – and fourth place overall.

The final match of the evening was to determine the league's last place team. Island Boys needed to win or they would finish last without a single victory for the entire season.

Their opponents, Thalang Tigers, took a two goal advantage into the second half and with the score at 3-1, drove the advantage home.

Island boys could not compete with the Tigers' clinical finishing, and went on to lose 6-2.

– Neil Quail

If you would like to find out more about the Adult Futsal League, then contact Martin Hill at T:076-336000

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# Fair Play League out on a high – bring on 2012

By Neil Quail

THE 2011 Fair Play League (FPL) reached its conclusion last Saturday with two end-of-season games played at the Youth Football Home (YFH) ground in Thalang.

Organized by Brazilian Soccer Schools, YFH teams took on selected All Star teams at Under-13 and Under-16 levels.

The Under-13s were first to play. An early goal from the All Stars unsettled the YFH boys, but they held their nerve and scored twice in response. Inspired goalkeeping and defending from the All Stars managed to keep the score at 2-1 for YFH at the break.

Motivated by their half-time chat, YFH grabbed two quick goals early in the second half, but the All Stars came back strongly to score a second.

Superior fitness became apparent as YFH scored two goals in the last 10 minutes, sealing a 6-2 victory for the Under-13 team.

In the eagerly anticipated Under-16s match, again, it was the All Stars who struck first with a penalty early in the first half. YFH dug deep and combined accurate passing with fluid movement which matched the All Stars for skills. An exciting first half ended with both teams scoring three goals each.

The second half began tentatively as both teams wanted to secure possession. Two goals within five minutes knocked the wind out of the All Stars as fitness again began to play a part.

Not used to playing on a larger pitch, both teams reached for their energy reserves. A fatigued All Stars team bowed to the pressure and YFH drove the advantage home, eventually running out as 8-3 winners.

The teams then gathered for a presentation where each player received a medal for their efforts. Medals were also awarded to the top three teams in both divisions. Players with the most goals from the two divisions were also given a presentation.

Head Coach of Brazilian Soccer Schools, Martin Hill, said FPL 2011 was a “very rewarding experience”, and went on to thank sponsors Tawan Sea Adventures, The Yorkshire Inn, Lemongrass, the Youth Football Home and British International School.

“Preparations are under way for next year’s FPL and we are looking at introducing a younger age group to compete in this prestigious league.”

For more information on the FPL, contact Martin Hill at T:076-336000.



FAIR PLAY LEAGUE: The boys from Argentina and Spain teams shake hands after their last game of the season. Top: The FPL team.

## FINAL COUNTDOWN

# Roll up, roll up, for Six Senses charters

THE Six Senses Phuket Raceweek organizers have announced July 20 to 24 as the dates for this year’s regatta.

Now in its eighth year, the event attracts a host of yachts with a range of competitive standards across six or seven classes.

Image Asia are organizers of the competition and Managing Director Grenville Fordham hopes this year to encourage more charter boat entries.

“Six Senses Phuket Raceweek offers a genuine opportunity for non-boat owners, as well as those who keep their yachts elsewhere, to join one of Asia’s best-loved regattas by entering a chartered boat. For families, friends, corporate groups, competitive overseas yacht club members or those just looking for a sailing holiday with a difference – Raceweek offers a superb combination of fun, festivities and challenges,” Mr Fordham said.

“We’d like to see our charter boat entries grow, especially with visitors from overseas, as it’s a rare opportunity for people interested in boating, but you don’t have to own a yacht in Phuket to experience the magic of an Asian regatta,” he added.

Phuket has many yacht charter companies which can tailor packages to suit, while the regatta’s host venue, the five-star Evason Phuket, is offering attractive regatta rates for non-competing group members for the regatta.

“The Andaman Sea’s ideal southwest monsoon sailing conditions make it perfect for chartering a boat. Add in the professional management, four days of exhilarating racing, the natural camaraderie that surrounds the boating fraternity and attending the legendary Raceweek parties each night – the temptation to gather a group of friends together to ‘give it a go’ is irresistible,” Mr Fordham said.

“Anyone can charter a yacht to race. The thing is that there are enough variations of both boat and charter packages on offer to make it competitive and enjoyable for everyone, from experienced yacht racers whose own boat is on the other side of the world to the most inexperienced novice,” he added.

Registration is now open for the regatta.

– Neil Quail

See [W:phuketraceweek.com](http://W:phuketraceweek.com) for more information.

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# Glide to the top

Team	P	Pts
Phuket	5	11
BBCU	5	11
BUFC	5	10
CCFC	5	10
Buriram	5	9
Saraburi	5	9
Rajapracha	5	9

By Stephen Fein

GOING into this weekend's play, FC Phuket sat atop Thai League Football Division 1 following a hard-fought 2-0 victory over RBAC FC in rainy conditions at Surakul Stadium last Sunday night.

A goal well into the second half by Kone Adama secured the victory for FC Phuket over a scrappy RBAC side that has yet to gain a single point in Division 1 after five weeks of play.

Former table leaders Big

Bang Chulalongkorn University (BBCU) failed to rock the universe the same night, playing to a scoreless draw at home with struggling JW Rangsit FC.

Both FC Phuket and BBCU sit tied with 11 points at the top of the 18-team division, with FC Phuket ranked ahead on goal difference (+6).

Like the week before, the Surakul Stadium pitch was waterlogged.

FC Phuket took the lead at 28 minutes with a stunning strike from about 15 yards out by Kornprom Jaroonpong. The

game went into halftime 1-0.

Following a narrow miss from RBAC left-back Suchart Chaiyai at 58 minutes, FC Phuket made a defensive substitution, replacing Thawil Butrsombat with Watcharapong Jun-gnam.

FC Phuket narrowly missed netting a second goal a few minutes later, when Niran Phanthong set up teammate Kornprom Jaroonpong for a header on goal, only to be denied by the RBAC goalkeeper Thanakorn Thong-in.

The second goal finally came

at 73 minutes, when FC Phuket striker Kone Adama pounced on a mistake made by the RBAC defense and deftly slotted the ball into the right corner. Adama, later named man of the match, celebrated the goal with a head-first belly slide that sent him some 15 yards across the waterlogged pitch.

Any hopes for an RBAC comeback faded when play resumed and RBAC's Maouseng Sal picked up his second yellow card of the night and was sent off.

After three consecutive home games, FC Phuket will have their

road mettle tested when they take on Bangkok United at the Bangkok University Field in Rangsit on Saturday. A road win against the third-place side would likely set FC Phuket as oddsmaker's favorites for promotion to the Thai Premier League next season.

Phuket Provincial Organization President Paiboon Upatising said all gate proceeds from last weekend's match went to the provincial collection of funds to help Japanese survivors of the earthquake and tsunami catastrophe.

POWER SLIDE:  
Striker Kone Adama  
celebrates his goal

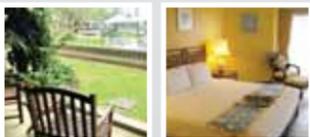
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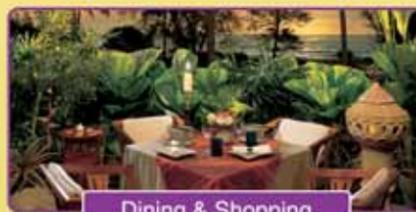
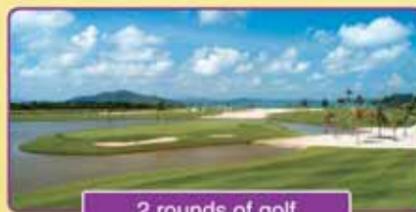
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