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FACE-OFF: But who will win?

ELECTION SPECIAL

PHUKET voters go to the polls this weekend for the general election on Sunday, July 3.

A reminder to our readers that election law requires that no alcohol be sold from 6pm on Saturday through midnight Sunday night. Sorry, Patong.

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Kamala hills target site for new reservoir

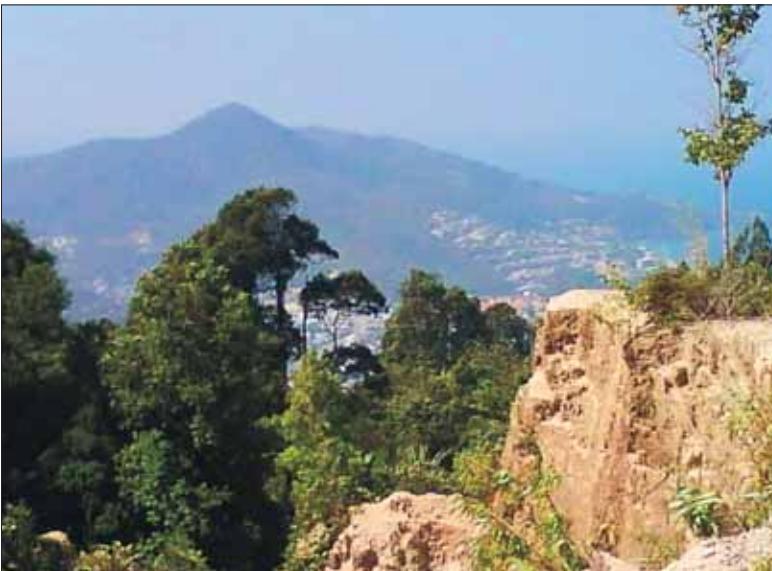
By Atchaa Khamlo
and Somaporn Janyanon

THE local authority in Kamala is taking steps to spend an estimated 450 million baht on developing a 1,000-rai eco-tourist attraction in the Khao Ket Ni hills.

"The project will cover more than 1,000 rai and the area is more than 360 meters above sea level. It's chilly with 360-degree panoramas of Surin Beach in Cherng Talay and as far south as Patong Beach in Kathu," said Santi Atthasap, Vice-President of Kamala Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*).

"There will also be a beautiful waterfall and a huge dam on the hill," he added.

First point of business for Kamala *OrBorTor* engineers on Monday morning after the July 3 election is to set out the terms of reference (TOR) for developing 300 rai at the site into a nature reserve and water catchment area.



The project site is expected to be a natural drawcard for tourists.

The new reservoir is being built to serve the growing population along Phuket's northern west coast.

The reservoir will be created by combining three old tin mine quarries, said Somporn Onthong, a

end of 2009. It involves developing a water source for residents [in Kamala]," he said.

The TOR state that during water shortages, villages Moo 1 through Moo 6 in Kamala have to be supplied with water from outside sources.

The project's objectives are to remedy these shortages and return a level of natural splendor to the barren mine, redeveloping the landscape to create an eco-tourist attraction.

Also among the long-term goals listed in the TOR being drafted is that the natural redevelopment plans will be modeled on the activities Plant Genetic Conservation Project, an initiative of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

However, the top priority is completing the catchment, said Mr Somporn.

"That [landscape development] is a long-term plan that may happen far in the future," he said.

Aussie family doubt suicide claim

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE family of Australian tourist Marc Gerard Hoy, 34, who fell to his death from the sixth floor of a Patong hotel last weekend, have expressed doubts that he committed suicide.

"His relatives in Australia are finding it difficult to believe that he jumped off the building, but I told them that I have CCTV footage as evidence and invited them to come and view it," said Patong Police Duty Officer Pattapee Srichay.

"I'm not sure when his relatives will come to see me. Right now I'm waiting for the Australian Embassy to reply," he said.

Mr Hoy had worried staff at the Bel Air Resort Phuket by behaving strangely when he checked in at 3am last Sunday morning.

A hotel receptionist, who asked not to be named, told the *Gazette* that she discovered Mr Hoy sitting silently in the hotel reception in the early hours.

"I tried talking to him, but he just stared fixedly at our security guard," she said.

Eventually, Mr Hoy replied and asked to check in. As he filled in the guest form, the hotel security guard, who also asked not to be named, noticed the handle of a small knife poking out at his waist.

Not long after Mr Hoy checked in, the security guard went to check on him as he was afraid something bad might occur.

"I saw him dancing on the balcony so I asked him to go back into the room," said the guard.

Around 5:30am, a Chinese tour guide staying in the hotel came down to tell the

receptionist that he had seen a lot of blood on the sixth floor.

Staff were said to have immediately called Patong Police, who came to the hotel together with Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation workers and officers from Patong Municipality's Department of Disaster Protection and Mitigation (DDPM).

Mr Hoy, who was covered in blood, reportedly began throwing his bloody possessions off the balcony, including his passport and a key from another hotel where he had checked in the previous day.

He climbed over the railing and crept along the balcony to the corner of the building while clinging to the bars.

Police attempted to persuade Mr Hoy to climb back inside, but he refused.

DDPM officials placed a large inflatable



The sixth-floor balcony from which Mr Hoy fell to his death. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

cushion on the ground below.

After about three minutes, Mr Hoy jumped. On the way down his body hit the tin roof of a building below before hitting the cement ground, missing the cushion.

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This Week

Young voters speak out



Students voting in their first election identify their issues. **Page 5**

Economics



The *Gazette* outlines the parties' economic policies. **Page 10**

Day in the life



Ride-along with the Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation. **Page 14-15**

Food



Chef Flavio is stirring up a revolution of flavor at Le Meridien. **Page 16**

History

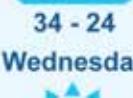


Read the epic tale that may have been Phuket-inspired. **Page 18**

Sport



Pride of Phuket: Lomas rugby team return from the UK. **Page 42**



By Yodsak Jarana

PHUKET drug dealers passing through previously toothless police checkpoints now have something to worry about, following the first confirmed drug bust made by a drug-sniffing dog.

A police checkpoint set up on Chao Fa East Road, at the entrance to Suan Luang Park, last Saturday was intended to provide extra security over the weekend in the run-up to advance voting in the general election on Sunday.

In the late afternoon, while the park was crowded with city residents who flock there to exercise, police visually inspected cars, motorbikes and other vehicles.

One of the cars, a black sedan with a custom sound system, was occupied by two men.

Thinking them suspicious, police first did a visual inspection – but to no avail. To human senses, the Phuket-registered car appeared clean.

Then the decision was made to let Bebe, a six-year-old beagle new to the unit, give the car a sniff.

In her first-ever assignment, it took Bebe just minutes to lead police to a stash of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) and a



Bebe the beagle took less than five minutes to sniff out the drug stash.

number of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills hidden under the cushion in the back seating area.

Police immediately arrested the pair: Suwit Chaikhaothong, 30, from Krabi; and Suphachai Jumnongrit, 28, from Phuket.

The pair claimed the drugs were for their own personal use, but officers were doubtful given the amount of *ya ice* seized.

Phuket City Police duty officer Nucharee Longkaew confirmed that 44 *ya bah* pills were seized, along with .41 grams of *ya ice* and

drug-taking paraphernalia.

"Bebe did a great job on Sunday...the two suspects have been charged with possession with intent to sell and are in custody in a Phuket Provincial Court jail cell," she told the *Gazette* on Monday.

Bebe is one of two drug-sniffing dogs owned by Muang District Chief Suphachai Pochnukul and trained at the Phuket International Dog School on Koh Sireh.

"Her first assignment was at Suan Luang...it took her less than five minutes to find drugs," he said.

Tourist Police volunteers branch out



DAY ONE: A Tourist Police volunteer at the new center helps sort out a collision between a pickup and a motorbike at Chalong Circle.

arises," said Tourist Police Assistant Garry Halpin.

Seven volunteers living in Chalong are on the staffing roster, but about 40 have signed up to assist.

The on-call volunteers hail from countries including France, Israel, Norway, Belgium, Jordan, Russia, the UK and the US.

The volunteers also include a contingent of local Thais.

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HOLIDAY INN PHUKET MAI KHAO BEACH RESORT



Task force to target tourist cheats

PHUKET Vice Governor Nivit Aroonrat on Tuesday formed four sub-committees that are to tackle a variety of tourist rip-offs.

The move follows Interior Ministry Deputy Permanent Secretary Pranai Suwannarat in May calling on all relevant authorities in Phuket to study various ways tourists are cheated and develop prevention plans.

Four sub-committees, comprising government and private-sector representatives, were given 15 days to list problems in: 1) Public transport, such as illegal taxis and overpriced tuk-tuk fares; 2) Threatening and deceptive sales tactics, such as those used by some time-share operators; 3) Illegal guides and other unfair practices by tour operators; 4) Environmental issues.

"The sub-committees must report to the provincial committee. Setting up these committees can help because everyone recognizes the seriousness of the issues," Vice Governor Nivit said.

"If problems cannot be solved due to legal impediments, the provincial committee will report these issues to the Interior Ministry, which will help get the necessary changes made," he added.

School van crash

Police to pursue charges against pickup driver

THE driver of the speeding pickup that crashed into a school van Tuesday morning last week, killing two and leaving many others injured, will face charges, police have told the *Gazette*.

The driver, 41-year-old Nikom Kaewmanee, told officers he was driving at about 100kmh when he tried to overtake the van, which had 15 occupants, said Thalang Police.

The speed limit on the stretch of road where the accident took place is 60kmh, according to the Highways Department.

Mr Nikom told Thalang Police he was in the passing lane when his vehicle was hit by the van. The impact forced his pickup onto the median strip, causing his vehicle to overturn.

However, police say that physical evidence from the scene make this version of events doubtful.

- Atchaa Khamlo

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Rolling stones hit resort

By Atchaa Khamlo

BOULDERS from a road construction project in the hills of Patong tumbled into a luxury resort, crashing into villas, pummeling pool furniture and frightening guests last Saturday.

Wassana Yukhunthon, public relations manager at the luxury L'Orchid e Residences off Phra Barami Road Soi 4 at the north end of Patong, told the *Gazette* that a maid cleaning one of the 27 pool villas heard the boulders crash into the unit next door at about 2pm.

She went to check the house and found a big boulder, some smaller ones and dirt had fallen down the hillside into the resort.

"She called us to come see what had happened. As we examined the damage, we heard what sounded like a bomb as another boulder crashed into a nearby villa," Ms Wassana said.

"Rushing to see what happened, we found a two-tonne boulder had rolled down the hillside and into the resort, coming to rest next to a pool," she added.

As it rolled down, the boulder caused extensive damage to everything in its path: a balcony, cement staircase and floor, sun loungers and a parasol.

"Some of the wood shattered



L'Orchid e Residences managing director Jean Jacques Gramond shows where the boulders came crashing into the resort villa project.

by the boulder splintered off and flew like darts toward the road about 10 meters below the house," she said.

"Think what would have happened had people been walking or driving past at the time. They would have been seriously injured," said managing director Jean Jacques Gramond.

It didn't take long for the resort management to pinpoint the source of the rock slide.

"Our one workers went up to the hill via the soi next to Family

Mart and PA Cable TV Patong on Phra Baramee Road, about a kilometer away. He found a construction project underway. It looked like they were building a road up the hill," Ms Wassana said.

"He got the construction workers' numbers, so we called them down to our resort to show them the damage. Police were present when we called [the workers]. Then we all went to the police station to file a report," she said.

According to the report, Prasert "O-pal" Auksornprom-

marat hired the excavators that were responsible for the damage. Several more dislodged boulders remained uphill, precariously held in place by tree trunks.

Mr Prasert agreed to pay all damages by restoring the villas to their original condition and cleaning up the debris.

"We were hired by Khun O-pal to operate the backhoes to help build a shrine to the [Chinese] goddess Guanyin," explained Thanachart Pibuncharoenpol.

"Construction started about five months ago, and it will take a long time to finish," he said.

Mr Thanachart accepted his own responsibility for the damage.

"The day the rocks rolled down we had a new backhoe operator from Phang Nga who did not realize there were houses down below. I didn't tell him about that, so he pushed the rocks down," he said.

He downplayed the risks posed by the dislodged rock still upslope from the resort.

"The rocks that remain supported by trees are small, not above knee height. We have been doing this construction for five months and this is the first incident like this we have had, even though it has rained heavily many times," he said.

No change in work permits – for now

NEW requirements affecting work permit applications are not in force in Phuket – yet.

"Phuket is still waiting for the new work permit application forms to be sent. It takes time to proceed when new regulations are announced," said Somkiat Baiadul of the Phuket Labour Office.

"I have yet to hear of any changes and I have not received any official orders or new forms from Bangkok, so at least for now the process in Phuket will remain the same," he said.

This is usual when announcements are made from Bangkok, Mr Somkiat said.

Among the changes are that current medical certificates are required for every application for new work permits and renewals.

If we do receive official notification of any such changes, we will make an announcement then," he added.

According to a Thaivisa news report, the labor department's central office in Bangkok as of June 22 began implementing the new requirements in Bangkok.

The medical certificate will also need to indicate the applicant's blood type.



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Old-timer ends age-old jealousy

YOU'RE never too old to fall in love – or to take violent revenge on your cheating wife and treacherous neighbor, as events in Loei recently showed.

On June 22, police received reports that two people had been shot at a house in Thali sub-district. At the scene, they found villagers gathered around Wan Soisan, 86, lying on the ground after fainting.

Minutes earlier, Mr Wan had reportedly used a homemade shotgun to blast his 84-year-old wife, In, as she sat in the house peeling mangoes. Mrs In, shot in the left shoulder and thigh, was rushed to hospital.

After shooting his wife of 50 years, Mr Wan went next door and shot Pak Khamsuk, 91, as he lay on a bamboo bench. From there he walked to his own backyard – and promptly fainted.

Mr Wan and Mrs In had three children together and shared the house with their eldest daughter, Bunthian Mijinda, 47.

Relatives told police the old

QUEER news

couple had recently started arguing regularly because Mr Wan had become jealous of his wife's closeness with Mr Pak.

Indeed, Mr Wan had gone as far as to build a shack in the couple's garden in order to observe how intimate the relationship had become.

Mrs In recently covered the windows of the shack with cloth, ostensibly to block out the sun.

But Mr Wan thought his wife had put up the cloth so he couldn't see her with his neighbor.

A furious argument ensued, with Mr Wan accusing his wife of having an affair with Mr Pak.

Tensions rose until the morning of June 22, when Mr Wan decided to exact his revenge.

– *Kom Chad Luek*

Thai ladies warned of foreign scammers

CUSTOMS officials at Phuket International Airport have issued a warning for Thai ladies not to be deceived by foreigners asking for money to help pay for import or customs duties.

"Customs have received many complaints from victims explaining that the 'thieves' are foreigners they made friends with on the internet," said Customs officer Monthira Cherdchu.

"For awhile, they send the victims presents, but then they phone or email the victims asking that they transfer money to their accounts to pay for VAT [value-added tax] or import taxes at the airport," she added.

Ms Monthira explained that one foreigner asked a Thai woman to send him money because he said he was being held at Phuket Airport by Thai Customs for trying to bring into the country too much foreign currency.

"Instead, the lady contacted Customs officers here at Phuket



ANYTHING TO DECLARE? Customs officials at the Phuket Airport are warning Thai ladies to beware foreigners appealing for cash assistance.

Airport. The officers checked but then told the lady that no foreigner with the name she gave was being held at the airport. The officers suggested she report the problem to the police," she said.

Mrs Monthira urged anyone who receives similar pleas for help to contact the Customs Office at Phuket Airport by calling 076-327435.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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Thief caught after B100mn factory haul

PHUKET City Police have arrested a man they believe is part of a gang which stole equipment with a reported value of almost 100 million baht from a tuna cold storage facility in Rassada.

The management of the company Siam Tuna informed police that the company's new facility had been broken into repeatedly and equipment worth almost 100 million baht stolen.

Siam Tuna, the Thai branch of an international conglomerate, had earlier met with Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha about their plans to build the plant as part of the company's efforts to establish Phuket as a regional hub for tuna export.

An intensive investigation by police was launched after the plant was broken into several times and nearly everything of value was stolen.

A break in the case finally came at about 9:30pm last Thursday, when a sharp-eyed apprentice mechanic informed police that the thief had entered the plant once again – and was still inside.

Police raced to the facility, where they found 39-year-old Nakhon Sukprasert busily engaged in stripping what was left of the machinery and its copper wiring.

His bid to evade arrest was foiled by police surrounding the building.

After his arrest he was escorted to his home in the nearby Kan Keha public housing estate where police found tools, refrigeration equipment, coils of copper wiring and a variety of drug-taking paraphernalia.

Mr Nakhon confessed to all charges, including theft by breaking and entering at night.



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Students voice election needs

By Janpen Upatising

STUDENTS at Phuket Vocational College rate job security and sustainable development of Phuket's tourism industry among their top criteria in selecting which candidate to vote for in Thailand's general election on Sunday.

About 300 students from the college attended a rally last Thursday at Saphan Hin, where the three candidates contesting Phuket Constituency 1 urged the youngsters to exercise their right to vote.

For most of the youngsters, this is the first general election they are eligible to vote in.

"Some students don't watch the news on TV or pay attention to politics, but the speeches today highlighted how politics and the election affect their lives and the advancement of our country," said 19-year-old Prayong Manokwanhathai.

He identified traffic and job security as his top concerns.

"Traffic in Phuket has become a severe problem that needs fixing. For jobs, students have high hopes jobs will be available for them after they graduate," he said.

"I also want the government to focus on education because it is a very important issue for the younger generation, including me," he added.

First-time voter Noppong Petpong, also 19, named illegal foreign tour guides as an ongoing problem that needs to be dealt with.

"When I did an internship, I learned there are a lot of 'sitting guides' in the tourism industry. This problem should be fixed," he told the *Gazette*.

"Sitting guides" is the name commonly given to registered Thai tour guides who are relegated by tour companies to do no more than literally sit on tour buses while illegal foreign guides interact with tour group members in their native tongue.

"I am currently studying tourism management, so I want the government to help tourism. I want to see steps taken to develop sustainable tourism," Mr Noppong said.

"Phuket is a tourist destination. There should be a policy to conserve and recover the natural resources that we have been



Young women voters were among the many students at the rally being urged to vote. Photo: Janpen Upatising

heavily relying on," he added.

Both excited at the prospect of voting in their first election, they suggested some likely shifts in young voter behavior.

"This is my first time to vote, and this election is important to me. In the past two to three years,

I have seen a lot of changes in Thailand's politics," said Mr Prayong.

He follows the policies put forward by each party and candidate and pays close attention to news reports and televised debates, he said.

"I also search the internet for information about proposed policies and the past achievements of each party.

"Finding out which party has the strongest points helps me to decide which to vote for," Mr Prayong explained.

Poor turnout at 'absentee' polls

MORE than 40,000 people took the time to pre-register to cast "absentee ballots" for the July 3 election, but only half that number actually turned up at polling stations in Phuket last Sunday.

"A total of 20,874 people cast 'absentee votes', which is 51% of the 40,630 people who registered to do so," said Phuket Election Commission Director Kitipong Thiengkunakrit.

The one-week registration period ended on June 17.

Despite this, the number of people who turned up at Phuket Community Hall to vote for candidates in their home provinces was still more than enough to cause traffic problems on Narisorn Road in Phuket Town.



Election officials seal the ballot box.

people who registered to vote early in the polls for Phuket 2 constituency, 642 (95.96%) voters cast ballots.

"The absentee and early voting went well, as planned," Mr Kitipong said.

Of the tens of thousands of registered voters, only one man who claimed to have registered was not on the list, he said.

Another issue causing confusion among absentee voters was the new constituency boundaries, leaving some voters unaware of which constituency they were supposed to vote in.

"After checking we found their names on the lists and they were able to vote," Mr Kitipong said.

- Chutharat Plerin



At "Into the Sea", the signature restaurant at the Evasion Phuket & Bon Island, chef Thomas Jakobi's Modern Logical Cuisine showcases his latest innovations in the form of new, creative interpretations of a cuisine that has both visual and textural appeal. The taste and focus on fresh, wholesome and local ingredients are paramount.

The wine program, created by our sommelier, Harry Haan, has been granted the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence for the second year in a row.



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Heading to the polls

Candidates for Phuket 1 constituency



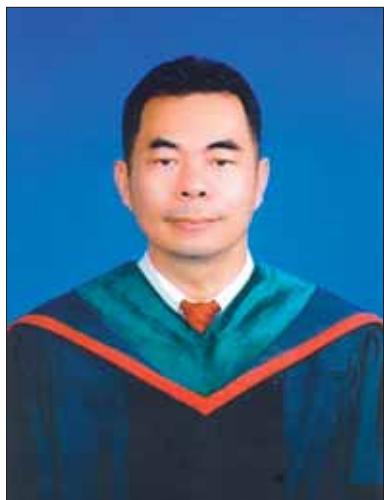
Wisit Jai-arj
Pheu Thai Party

Age: 45
Education: MBA
Occupation: Businessman
Platform: Operator of a sea transport company. Says he will use his problem solving skills and work with local officials, businesses and the public to solve Phuket's problems, naming traffic and lack of infrastructure as two key areas of focus.

He also supports developing a tunnel between Kathu and Patong.

Pheu Thai view Phuket as a strategic province in Southern Thailand, acknowledging that its economic significance extends beyond the national level and can be a world tourist destination.

Pheu Thai party leaders have expressed confidence in Wisit's background, strengths, knowledge and experience to guide and shape their local and regional policies. Wisit says choosing both him and his party would have the maximum benefit for Phuket.



Jatupong Lertsiljirada
Chart Pattana Puea Pandin Party

Age: 52
Education: Master's degree
Occupation: Businessman
Platform: Runs real estate business in Phuket. Says he decided to accept nomination and represent his party, Chart Pattana Puea Pandin (literally "develop the nation for the land") and contest a seat anyway, despite knowing the historical voting behavior of Phuket residents.

He thinks Phuket needs more competition and character in its elections and is happy to offer one more choice to voters.

He strongly agrees with his party's policy to make Thailand a tourism hub in Asia by setting the goal to raise tourism arrivals, currently at about 16 million, up to 25 million. Jatupong says this objective is realistic, ideal and will definitely benefit Phuket.

He has also said his party wants to solve the ongoing conflict in the Deep South.



Anchalee Vanich Thepabutr
Democrat Party

Age: 50
Education: Master's degree
Occupation: Bureaucrat/ Politician
Platform: Incumbent candidate. Says Democrats will continue to develop Phuket as a tourism hub and solve the island's infrastructure and traffic problems with projects already in place, in progress and projects on the drawing board soon to be approved.

To ensure continued progress in development, she is committed to completion of the International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC) as a center to hold MICE (meetings, incentives, conventions, exhibitions) events and to promote "quality tourism".

Pledges to expand roads and develop light rail project. Has highlighted the Democrat's social welfare policies to ensure elderly and retirement pensions, and to fund loans for 250,000 low-income students annually.



Weerasak Woranetiwong
Thaen Khun Phaendin Party

Age: 54
Education: 9th grade
Occupation: "Hired Hand"
Platform: Says he is pushing to make Phuket a special economic zone and will push to repair and improve all of Phuket's roads.

Other than Thaen Khun Phaendin Party's political base, Weerasak's followers include friends and family who were unsatisfied with candidacy selection on offer and wanted an alternative. Thaen Khun Phaendin ("Represent Your Land") is pledging social welfare policies such as 5,000 baht pension for elderly and disabled, free healthcare and education up through college.

An advocate of His Majesty the King's "sufficient economy" philosophy, his party proposes to hold nationwide seminars to teach the philosophy's principles and to award 10,000 baht to each person who completes the five-day training unit.

After the elections have gone

By Steven Layne

AFTER the polling stations in Phuket close at 3pm on July 3, the ballots will be amassed by the Phuket Election Commission and sent to Nakhon Sri Thammarat, the regional headquarters for gathering votes from all polling stations in Southern Thailand.

From there, they will be sent to the Election Commission of Thailand's head office in Bangkok, where they will be tallied and the official results announced.

The next stage is for complaints of alleged polling fraud to be filed, and investigated.

Once the 500 seats in parliament are officially ratified – which could take months – negotiations and attempts to form the new government will finally proceed, which could take even more months.

No matter which party or coalition gets to form the new government, more rallies are ex-



Kanit Na Nakorn, chairman of Thailand's Truth and National Reconciliation Committee.

pected to crowd the streets after the election.

Political cynics are predicting that protests protesting protests will continue to add more fuel to the sociopolitical fire that has burned bright for the past eight decades.

As the unforgiving point their fingers at each other, others have long been ready to move forward.

Nearly a year ago to date, an independent body led by jurist Kanit Na Nakorn was established in order to seek reconciliation once and for all.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Thailand (TRCT) – partially adapted from the South African version – aims to seek the truth related to political violence between April and May last year, to recommend measures for restoration, lessening social divisions and preventing a repeat of violence.

Unfortunately, reports made in the TRCT's first year of a two-year term have largely been ignored and downplayed by both the Democrat caretaker government and the main opposition, Pheu Thai, with both seeming more concerned with validating their version of the truth.

It can only be hoped that the new government will take advantage of the impartial work done by TRCT and finally move on.

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for Election Thailand 2011

Candidates for Phuket 2 constituency



Saman Keb sap
Pheu Thai Party

Age: 46
Education: Junior High School
Occupation: Businessman
Platform: A real estate developer, Saman says Pheu Thai will improve Phuket's tourism industry by developing infrastructure through projects to expand the road network, mass transit and waterworks.

He is also a supporter of making Phuket a special administrative zone and is in favor of his party's policy proposal to offer tax relief for local tourist businesses and extending "duty-free" concept to apply to all tourist-related business, which together are aimed at stimulating the market.

In addition to developing mass transit and refining Phuket's internal road network, Pheu Thai propose to upgrade Highway 4 through Chumphon, Ranong, Phang Nga and Krabi to four lanes to further develop the Andaman coastal region.



Raewat Areerob
Democrat Party

Age: 45
Education: MBA
Occupation: Politician
Platform: Incumbent representative for Phuket 2 constituency. Raewat's business profile includes shrimp farming, local product merchanting and real estate.

Says the Democrats' infrastructure investments over the past four years in government speak for themselves.

As examples, he cites the necessity to expand the airport, which was exceeding its capacity; highlighting the progress of the ICEC and expansion of government hospitals in Phuket.

Backed by a long list of Phuket community accomplishments, he says the Democrats will ensure continued progress.

He has identified public health and education as the two critical areas that should be focused on as the foundation for Phuket's future development.



Jirayus Songyos
Bhumjaithai Party

Age: 40
Education: Bachelor's degree
Occupation: Merchant
Platform: An adviser to Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) President Paiboon Upatising, Jirayus is also a real estate developer, community leader and a manager of Phuket's semi-pro football club, FC Phuket.

His party, Bhumjaithai ("Proud [to be] Thai"), propose a tourism and sports policy of allocating 100 million baht toward the development of each province's tourism industry and for local officials to manage the budget at will.

Jirayus has expressed the relative significance of Phuket's contribution to national tourism revenue and says Phuket would be entitled to more than other provinces.

He also supports making Phuket a special administration zone.

Ready to swing?

By Steven Layne

MEDIA reports in the run-up to the July 3 election have led many to believe that this election is a two-party race between the Democrats, Thailand's oldest political party, and Pheu Thai, the country's most popular political faction as measured from most recent polling figures.

Many foreigners may be surprised to learn there are 40 parties contesting the 500 seats in parliament: 375 constituency seats and 125 party-list seats.

While no poll or analysis shows doubt that Pheu Thai will come out on top with the most seats, few experts seem to think the party – a reincarnation of the disbanded People's Power Party (PPP) and the Thai Rak Thai (TRT) before that – will sweep the house like its predecessors managed to in the previous three elections.

Pheu Thai would have to win more than 250 seats to be granted the right to form the government without forming a coalition. While Thaksin Shinawatra has been quoted in some news reports as saying he thinks Pheu Thai could sweep the house with 270 seats, an analysis conducted by *The Nation* projects the party will win no more than 220 seats.

In that scenario of a split house with Pheu Thai on top, the Democrats are expected to win up to 160 seats, which would leave at least 120 seats won by the smaller parties. Of these, ana-

lists believe that a maximum of only six parties stand a chance of sitting in parliament.

If such projections prove accurate, in-house negotiations for support from small parties will prove crucial in enabling either of the two major parties to form a coalition government.

The "swing party" on everybody's watch list is Bhumjaithai, which is expected to be crucial in tipping the scales of power.

Former TRT and PPP leader Newin Chidchob formed the party in 2008, when PPP was disbanded. The party's swing vote power was said to tip the scales to put the Democrats in power that same year.

Though ruled ineligible for taking part in politics for five years, Mr Newin is the President of the Thai Premier League's top-ranked football club, FC Buriram PEA, and enjoys a swelling support group across the nation.

By the above projections, Bhumjaithai could win as many as 60 seats. It is not certain whether it will side with the Democrats again in a coalition, but it is doubtful it will reconcile with Pheu Thai considering the dividing circumstances of the 2008 PPP disbandment.

Other parties with Swing power include Chart Thai Pattana, Chart Pattana Puea Pandin, Palang Chon, Matubhum and Rak Thailand, all of which could win collectively more than 60 seats and prove crucial to any coalition.



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Time for a little political maturity

As voters go to the polls on Sunday, there is widespread unease that the results – regardless of which camp forms the government – will trigger yet another series of extra-political events that will once again stand in the way of national progress, if not plunge us into yet more turmoil.

The only real way forward is to collectively develop a more mature outlook towards the democratic process.

We live in an age when attempts to control the flow of information are increasingly futile, but as this latest campaigning has proved, our political maturity has failed to develop at anything near the rate of advances in information technology.

Whether disseminated by megaphones on the back of trucks or Facebook, the message is the same: populist promises that insult the intelligence of informed voters and astonish economists for their lack of grounding in fiscal reality.

Some campaigns are even using the same messages – Clear your debt! Free computers! Money for college! – one would expect to see glued onto power poles by loan sharks or left unsolicited at household gates.

The defunct Thai Rak Thai Party deserved some credit for grafting a populist agenda onto a political scene once dominated by vote buying. But now one has to wonder if all the major parties are just using this same tactic to the same end. After all, it is cheaper to promise something in return for a vote (and not deliver) than to buy votes outright.

Challenges faced by the next government will be hard enough without having to deliver on promises that in fact will do little to address the real problems this country faces.

In 2015, a new era of regional competitiveness begins with the introduction of the measures of the Asean Economic Community. For Thailand to prosper in such an environment, increasing productivity will be key.

Rather than promising to clear voters' debts, we should be encouraging fiscal responsibility. Rather than promising free tablet PCs to children addicted to video games, we should be teaching them discipline. Rather than promising 15 years of free education, we should be guaranteeing them 12 years of quality schooling.

So many other important issues have been left addressed: the need for police restructuring, military overspending, the brain drain from the state healthcare system, lack of a land inheritance tax – the list is endless.

The first step to political maturity, however, comes with respect for the process. This means those on the losing side should respect the results, whatever they may be, and continue working for change in Parliament, not on the streets of Bangkok.

– *The Editor*

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Move over, Mr Salaeng

Letters

to the Editor

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

tourism, but foreigners are not the biggest threat to it.

Dave Williams
Gazette forum

What sign are you?

Re: Gazette online, Sunday Opinion: Phuket declares support for roadside trash in national elections, June 26

Roadside election signs create a mess everywhere. What they've attempted to do in Las Vegas there is require the candidate to remove all his or her signs within a week of the election.

Any signs still there are removed by the authorities and the candidate is sent a bill. This has seemed to work with any sign that has a specific candidate's name.

Vegas Bigfoot
Gazette forum

Election bar none

Re: Gazette online, Phuket caught in nationwide alcohol ban this weekend, June 24

Once again, this shows a ridiculous ruling which will only annoy tourists and cause financial damage to the bar owners and staff. Who does it help? The Thais who drink during bans do not use the bars anyway.

I was arrested 18 months ago for buying a box of beer in a shop. I had arrived that day and had no idea of the ban. I was filmed, kept at the police station for two hours and made to give the police the beer.

Amazing Thailand!

Joe
Kamala

Youngsters should dive into real issues

Re: Gazette online, Phuket's young voters want job security and stronger tourism policies, June 25

Why redirect the blame on foreigners (illegal guides) when there are so many really important and much more pressing issues? Wouldn't encroachment, poaching, illegal fishing, trash, transportation mafia and safety standards be more important?

It looks like students are being fed culturally biased information. I am very glad that they are concerned about

Make mine Thai

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Tourist Police volunteers branch out, June 25

I am sure they are useful to tourists in some ways. If nothing else, at least as a buffer between tourists and Thai officers.

However, I saw them in Kata the other day stopping people with no helmets. Kind of irked me, to tell the truth. You do not need a *farang* volunteer to hand out tickets for no helmets. It takes the "Thainess" out of living here.

Personally, as an expat resident, rather than a tourist, I would rather deal with the Thai police than a *farang*.

Capealava
Gazette forum

Somchai Huasaikul
Kuku

Vote 'Yes' if you care about your country

FIRST PERSON

THE "vote no" box was introduced on ballots because of low voter turnout in previous elections. One year only 30 per cent of eligible voters in Bangkok actually voted. In cases like that, it seems the winning representative does not actually represent the people's popular choice or opinion.

This prompted government officials to find a way to bring more voters to the polls. At first, they campaigned to promote voting, but that didn't work.

Then they highlighted that the 1997 Thai Constitution states that voting is mandatory.

However, that raised questions regarding Thais who did not want to choose any of the candidates running for election, so officials added a "none of the above" box to ballots as an alternative.

The first time the "vote no" box appeared was in the 2001 general election. It was expected that only a few people would actually "vote no" and that most would choose their most-loved or least-hated candidate.

Those who disagreed with the election were expected to use the new choice. However, some people expressed their distaste by writing messily on ballots, making holes or even tearing the ballot in front of other people.

These actions are illegal, but people did it to express their intention to "vote no".



Panadda Sapsamarn, 52, is head of the Public Administration Program at Phuket Rajabhat University (PRU). A law graduate from Ramkhamhaeng University with a master's degree in public administration from the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA), she has been teaching at PRU since 1984. Here she talks about how the "vote no" ballot choice will affect Thailand's politics.



Want to voice your opinion? Then vote, says Ms Pannada.

Back to the question about how this will affect Thai politics. The belief that election results will be nullified if over half of eligible voters choose "none of the above" is a misconception. The election will go on and candidates who receive the majority of votes will get seats in Parliament.

However, a "vote no" majority will send a warning to candidates that they do not truly represent the choice of the people. They won't take pride in their victory. So it is expected that politicians will pay more attention to voters, because

otherwise they may reconsider and choose to "vote no" instead.

I think this will help develop Thai politics. It tells political parties that if they do not nominate suitable candidates, people will not vote for them.

Choosing "none of the above" is not the same as not voting at all. With the "vote no" option you are still exercising your right as a voter, but by spoiling your ballot you are ignoring it.

If you do not vote for any reason, you are also giving up your right to protest against a government or even to register as a candidate. For example, the famous Thai tennis player Paradorn Srichaphan was unable to register for this election because he didn't vote in the last one or give a reason for doing so.

Last, I would like eligible voters to seek out the most qualified candidate to be their representative, rather than selecting their relatives, someone they know personally or a candidate that gives them money. This is for the long-term development of our country.



Local kids on ATVs in Thalang.

tirement visa. You are welcome to come to the immigration office to see what other types may be available to you.

We issue "visas" on a case-by-case basis and you probably do not need to have 8 00,000 baht in your bank account to remain in the country.

Quad bikes allowed on Mai Khao Beach?

Is it legal to hire and/or use quad bikes on any beach in Phuket?

I've just seen an article on the internet about quad bikes being driven along Mai Khao Beach and it would be such a shame to see this kind of activity in such a rare and beautiful location.

I've visited the beach several times and there seems to be no regulations regarding hotels and other unsightly buildings.

Is this area part of the Sirinat National Park? If so, why are there no park rangers to control the area?

There is also a large amount of rubbish along the beach which seems to have been around for many months. Why is it never cleaned?

*Concerned tourist
Internet*

Saravoot Seesakukam, president of the Mai Khao Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), replies:

There are regulations regarding construction according to the Building Control Act of Thailand, which states that buildings must be approved by the Phuket Pro-



Players of Sim City know that more roads simply means more traffic.

Sim time, game on

Island View

By Ao Moragoat

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

system, but the sooner people are off the roads and onto trains, the better off everyone and the environment will be. Not only does traffic, city maintenance fees and air pollution decrease, but train-transit eventually pays for itself from the revenue it generates.

Officials trying to solve Phuket's trash problem could also use some game time. If you build an incinerator next to a residential zone in Sim City, your popularity rating plummets as do the surrounding land values. Pollution continues to rise and the incinerator eventually reaches capacity and a new solution is required. Sound familiar? Think Saphan Hin.

One solution to this in the game is land-reclamation landfills. This solves the trash problem while providing new land for development. Many people in Phuket already throw their trash in the sea, so it's not like it would be anything new.

Issues & Answers...

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

Retirement visa hangs in the balance

As a recently married man and a retiree, how much money do I need to have in my bank account when I renew my retirement visa each year?

I married my Thai wife in December 2010, but when I renewed my visa in February 2011, I had to show that I had 8 00,000 baht in my Thai bank account.

Which is correct: 8 00,000 baht or 400,000 baht?

Confused, married Phuket

Phuket Immigration Superintendent Panuwat Ruamrak replies:

Foreigners applying for a [permit to stay based on a] retirement visa are required to present a bank statement showing that they have 8 00,000 baht in a bank account in Thailand.

However, there are other "visas" available for foreigners who do not meet the criteria for a re-

vincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment.

Rubbish is collected on the beach within our area of responsibility after 6pm every day and clean up days are organized a few times a year. Hotels take care of their waste through outsourced private companies.

Riding ATVs on the beach is illegal, especially on Mai Khao as it is a nesting ground for sea turtles.

Nontawit Jaturabundit, Chief of Sirinat National Park, replies:

I have received several reports of ATVs being ridden on Mai Khao Beach and have assigned officers to observe the area.

We found that some tourists ride ATVs in public areas, which are the responsibility of Mai Khao *OrBorTor*. They have also been seen riding on the beaches in front of hotels but not in the areas within Sirinat National Park.

We have asked the hotels to stop ATVs from accessing the beach, but we only have authority over the parts of Mai Khao Beach that are included in the

Sirinat National Park.

One problem is that land boundaries are not clearly marked on the beach itself.

There are six or seven park rangers in each team taking care of park areas between Tah Chat Chai and Mai Khao Beach as well as Nai Thon Beach and Layan Beach.

Phuripat Teerakulpisut, chief of Phuket Marine Office 5, replies:

I have received no reports about this issue. However, quad bikes are not allowed to ride on the beach. Even though they are small, no type of vehicle is allowed on beaches.

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

Submit your issue at
**www.PhuketGazette.net/
IssuesAnswers**

Election face-off over economy

Two parties, two very different views on the way forward for business in the Kingdom

By Steven Layne

SOME alarmists are predicting that there are only two post-election outcomes businesses should be preparing for: bad and worse.

Considering the polarity of opinion in the run-up to the balloting, many analysts fear the economy is destined for a downward spiral no matter who takes the helm of any future government.

If we are on the cusp of a brave, new Thai economy ready to integrate with its Asean neighbor in 2015 as planned, you wouldn't know it from a review of pundits' reports in the mass media.

To be certain, the political marketing war witnessed in recent weeks has had no shortage of economic promises, but these have hardly been backed up with sound explanations of how all these initiatives would be funded – a fact not lost on the business community at-large.

GRASS ROOTS

Campaign efforts have largely focused on voters in the low-income bracket, especially those in the agricultural sector, who still make up the voting majority. The incumbent Democrat Party pitch highlights their "guaranteed farmer income" scheme in which the government pays a set price for surplus crops, promising a 25 per cent increase in returns to farmers and the same per cent increase for minimum wages earners. Arch rival Pheu Thai endorse a similar scheme, though one exclusive to rice farmers. Originally implemented during the Thaksin era and later adapted by the Democrats, the "rice mortgaging" package promises to double the wholesale rate the government currently pays for rice and proposes a flat daily minimum wage of 300 baht nationwide. Phuket currently



ARCH RIVALS ACT: Yingluck Shinawatra and incumbent Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva stand divided over policies to help boost Thailand's economic growth. Photo: Christian Mouchet and AFP

boasts the highest minimum wage in the country, 226 per baht per day. The lowest rate, 151 baht per day, is paid to laborers in Payao, Pichit, Phrae and Mae Hong Son provinces.

INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

Minimum wage hikes would mean Thailand's comparative advantage would decrease against other labor markets in the region. To offset this, Pheu Thai promises to lower the corporate income tax rate to just 20 per cent. The current rate, 30 per cent, is currently higher than that of both Malaysia and Singapore. The party reasons that such a tax relief would boost competitiveness of domestic firms, especially Small and Medium Enterprises (SME).

One of the Democrat's strategies to increase the productivity

of domestic operations is to promote "vertical integration", shifting higher the ratio of agricultural output from raw materials to processed products. Although the world's largest producer of natural rubber, Thailand currently exports about 90 per cent as a raw material, so such a shift could drive economic growth. Both of the parties foresee strong economic growth right around the corner if they are given the reins of the economy: the Democrats project growth to average 4.5 per cent over the first two years while Pheu Thai have projected a 7 per cent per annum increase over the same period.

DEALS FOR SKILLS

With the Asean Economic Community (AEC) rapidly approaching, much of the campaigning has

focused on increased competition and the need for skills development. To ensure new graduates are competent and competitive for new markets, parties have proposed massive budgets for SME start-up training and education loans.

A popular-yet-questionable scheme of Pheu Thai could make eight million students nationwide the owners of a PC tablet. If approved, this policy would require up to 170 billion baht to fund.

The party also promises 15,000 baht minimum salary for bachelor degree grads, while the Democrats cap their education scheme to 15 years of free schooling.

As for the direction of ICT, the Democrats have proposed installing 3G networks across every village, while Pheu Thai is slightly more grounded with their free WiFi nationwide gimmick.

TOURISM

The Democrats have been the only party to specifically include Phuket and the Andaman region in its tourism development policy. Having already touted Phuket as the future "ASEAN capital of tourism", it aims to further develop the entire southern region for tourism. Every year it will allocate 10 billion baht to rehabilitate and revitalize the country's major tourist destinations and set aside one billion baht to train 150,000 personnel. By increasing per head spending from 35,000 to 50,000 per visit, it projects the annual income generated from this sector to hit the one trillion baht mark, up from 600 million baht currently.

The country's "third" party, Bhumjaithai, pushed forward some numbers, proposing a budget to allocate 100 million for each province to spend as local leaders see fit.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Handouts may woo voters, but economists question whether such "economic charity" will be able to sustain momentum without sufficient infrastructure.

This is where expensive mega-projects that will require substantial private-sector investment enter the equation. 3G or Wifi telecommunications concessions will not be the only hi-speed links contested. Pheu Thai say they will push to link the Eastern Seaboard to Chiang Mai via Korat by high-speed rail link, as well as extend Bangkok's Airport Link to Pattaya.

The Democrats would rather link Bangkok with Laem Chabang deep sea port in Rayong, extending the route as far east as Trat and westward to the Tovoy deep sea port being developed in neighboring Myanmar. Instead of Chiang Mai, the Democrats are backing links between Kunming, China and Malaysia via Nong Kai.

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HeadStart makes the cut with Cambridge

THAILAND'S Ministry of Education (MoE) recently issued HeadStart International School its license to teach secondary levels.

Ratified by Phuket's Education Office on June 8, HeadStart is now one of two international schools on Phuket offering fully licensed curriculums for both primary and secondary levels.

HeadStart is also one of Cambridge University's fully certified international examination centers at both learning levels.

HeadStart International School will now offer a range of internationally accepted qualifications including Cambridge's Information and Communications

Technology (ICT) Starters, Cambridge International Primary Programme (CIPP) and IGCSEs.

Ann Puntis, Chief Executive of University of Cambridge International Examinations, said: "We are delighted that HeadStart has become a registered center and look forward to a long and productive relationship which will be of great benefit to students in Phuket."

Cambridge and Thailand's MoE will send out inspectors twice a year to ensure that standards are met.

"HeadStart International School is proud to be associated with Cambridge," the school's founder, Jason Edouard said.

— Eric Haeg

In brief...

THAI to start direct flights to Brussels

THAI Airways International will start three weekly flights to Brussels on November 17, becoming the only Southeast Asian carrier to fly directly to the Belgian capital.

The new Brussels route is expected to generate strong traffic from business and leisure travelers as the city is the center of several organizations and close to major cities in the Netherlands, Luxembourg and France.

Brussels is THAI's 72nd destination. THAI will use a Boeing 777-200ER aircraft, which can carry 292 passengers.

Kasikorn in for single-day Aussie transfers

KASIKORN Bank has launched a new money-transfer service to Australia.

Executive vice president Songpol Chevapanyaroj said the new service guaranteed single-day transfers. Fees will be returned if the promise can't be kept.

"The bank expects this service to increase money transfers to Australia by 20 per cent," Mr Songpol said.

Noble piles B1.5bn in debentures

NOBLE Development put 1.5 billion baht in debentures on the market through Bank of Ayudhya's network recently.

The three-year debentures offer step-up interest rates, 5.25 per cent in the first year, 5.75 per cent in the second year and 6.20 per cent in third year, for a minimum investment of 500,000 baht.

The proceeds will be used to expand its business and/or refinance existing debt.

Citi named best bank, again

CITI Thailand has been named the country's Best Foreign Commercial Bank for 2011 by *FinanceAsia* magazine.

This marks the ninth consecutive year that the bank has won the award. Citi country officer Peter Eliot said this was a strong affirmation of Citi Thailand's ability and commitment to serve its customers with standards of excellence.

We are extremely proud to receive this award again and it is a testament to our employees, whose passion, dedication and innovation are integral to our ability to win these awards," he said.

FinanceAsia's editorial team said Citi continue to have the most diversified business among its foreign peers.

- *The Nation*

Hotel room high

By Anand Singh

THE NUMBER of hotel rooms in Phuket rose by 10.1 per cent year-on-year based on figures for Quarter 1 (Q1), according to a report from CB Richard Ellis.

The report also noted that Phuket's "luxury room" market (more than 10,000 baht per night) experienced a decline of 1.9 per cent in average daily rates (ADRs) in Q1, compared to the same period last year.

But "first-class rooms" (4,000 to 10,000 baht per night), which make up about 43 per cent of the Phuket market, saw ADRs rise slightly by 1.6 per cent in Q1, compared to last year.

"Mid-range rooms" (2,000 to 4,000) also saw ADRs increase by 2.4 per cent over the period. Mid-range hotels make up about 51 per cent of the market share in Phuket.

Meanwhile the report noted that average occupancy rates rose from 65.7 per cent in Q4 last year to 79.8 per cent in Q1 this year. But looking at figures from the same period last year, average occupancy rates remain largely unchanged.

Most of the island's hotels are still concentrated on the west coast where demand is strongest, with Patong and Karon leading the way in terms of hotel rooms with a 43 per cent combined share.

Statistics from Airports of Thailand show international arrivals at Phuket International Airport in Q1 this year soared to 649,000 passengers, a record-breaking tally and a 26 per cent jump on the same period last year.

But despite impressive arrival figures, hotel occupancy rates and ADRs are not in sync with the apparent surge. Some believe this is due to the ever-increas-

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ROOM BOOM: Phuket's hotel room supply is expected to increase 47 per cent by 2014, according to a recent report. Photo: Gazette file

ing supply of new hotel rooms on the island.

According to CBRE's report, investment in new hotels continues to rise.

Currently on Phuket, about 5,700

new hotel rooms are being built.

By the end of 2014, the number of hotel rooms in Phuket is expected to increase by a whopping 47 per cent, according to the report.

Watsons on major push

THAILAND has been designated a strategic market for Hong Kong-based Watsons, which is now the country's number one health and beauty retail chain. As a result, about 30 new stores will open in Thailand every year.

The company also hopes to double its card membership to 1.4 million by 2013, said Toby Anderson, managing director of Central Watsons. The company currently operates 182 Watsons stores in 50 provinces, of which 80 are in Greater Bangkok.

"We have already opened 10 new stores and another 10 refurbished outlets so far this year," he said. The company also plans to open an additional 20 new stores and 10 refurbished outlets by the end of the year.

"We will open at least 30 new Watsons stores every year. The expansion hopefully will be more dependent on locations and opportunities," he said.

According to market analyst firm AC Nielsen, the company has been able to expand its share more quickly than the overall market.

- *The Nation*

the sixth phuket

The First Lifestyle Shophouse
in a PRIME LOCATION in PATONG



"The Sixth Phuket" is the first lifestyle shophouse in Patong, the most vibrant retail location in Phuket. It is designed in a Chino-Portuguese style which is part of Phuket's unique architectural heritage.

It is located on the best corner of Bangla Road, Patong, in a 3-storey L-shaped building with 42 units rental space and 90 car parking lots. The Sixth Phuket is a highly promising commercial property ideal for café, restaurant, spa, salon, service office, bank and etc.



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True working out system kinks

Developments True are using to speed up Internet in Phuket are innovative and exciting.



SHOCKWAVES: Cisco DPR 2325 is the "modem" provided with True's new Ultra Hi-Speed Internet. It requires a coax cable, just like the one used for cable TV.

IN LAST week's column we looked at True's new Cable TV-technology internet connections. This week, True's plans are becoming more clear, and the results are interesting – even exciting – if True ever gets the kinks worked out of its system.

True is running cable (probably fiber) to various places on the island. The cable is attached to black box switches on top of telephone poles called Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer (DSLAMs) and coax cable comes out of the switches. A picture of one of the cables was featured in last week's Live Wire.

True then feeds the coax cable to houses, precisely the same way a cable TV company would feed its cable. The end of the coax cable goes into a router called a "cable modem gateway".

If you ask for WiFi, True apparently supplies a Motorola-branded Cisco ECP/DPR 2325, which is an older-generation cable TV box.

As best I can tell, the DPR 2325 uses a technique known as DOCSIS (data over cable service interface specification), as opposed to ADSL (asymmetric digital subscriber line), to deliver internet signals to your house. I've seen reference to VDSL2 (very high-bit-rate digital subscriber line),



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

but I think True's system is, in fact, DOCSIS. If you know more, please drop me a line!

The practical point is that you can't put your own router on the end of the line, as you might be tempted to do with an ordinary ADSL line. The cable TV coax that's pulled into your house plugs directly into the back of the DPR 2325. From the DPR 2325 you get four regular LAN ports and a WiFi antenna. This, by the way, doesn't work with the latest 802.11n WiFi equipment.

So far, the international download speeds we've seen posted for this new True service on phuketinternetspeed.com have been excellent. The nominal 10 Mbps line currently runs 1.9 to 7.7 Mbps on international downloads, which makes it almost as fast as the TOT Fiber to the Home (FTTH) service.

The 20 Mbps line has been clocked between 2.2 and 21 Mbps, which is very impressive. But there have also been several tales of broken connections: the lines stay up most of the time, but they can kick out. If it's any help, the situation seems to be getting better.

Just as impressive as the speed is the price. A nominal 10 Mbps/ 1 Mbps line runs just 699 baht per month. That's an amazing bargain. The nominal 20

Mbps/ 2 Mbps line costs 1,299 baht. True says they have lines in Patong, and I'm trying to get one now. They definitely have lines in Land & House, Chalong, and in Rawai. The best way to get a line is to ask at the True office in downtown Phuket, next to Robinson.

For more information, there's an ongoing discussion about this new True DOCSIS system – which has appeared in many cit-



Calling all iPhone and iPad users

Join Sitthichai "Mr X" Laoveerakul, director of PhuketSchool.com, for a wide-ranging discussion of iOS 5, the next version of iPhone and iPad operating system software. Apple promises you'll be able to install iOS 5 on your iPhone 4 or iPad 2. But do you want it? What will it do? Can your current system handle it? Should you wait to buy an iPhone 5 or iPad 3, just for the software?

Mr X will hold the free seminar, in English, on Saturday, July 9, from 10am to noon at Sandwich Shoppe Laguna (near the entrance to the Laguna complex). Seating is limited, and by reservation only. Reserve a seat by emailing Siththichai@exbiz.com. The seminar is sponsored by Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes, the Phuket Gazette, and PhuketSchool.com.

Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Woody is Senior Contributing Editor at InfoWorld and Senior Editor at Windows Secrets Newsletter. He's written more than forty computer books including, most recently, *Windows 7 All-In-One For Dummies*. Photo: Lloyd Asato

ies all over Thailand – on Thaivisa.com. To access this discussion, simply type the following into your web browser's address bar: is.gd/PJvVxe

To see what Woody's up to in the international press, and to keep on top of the latest patches and problems with Windows and Office, drop by AskWoody.com. Follow Woody on Twitter: @PhuketPC.

Funds that are not for the faint-hearted

IQS funds can add a nice kick to your portfolio, but are a roller-coaster ride

CONSERVATIVE investing and capital protection are general recommendations, but there are many individuals who have an appetite for risky funds, so it wouldn't be

fair to neglect them entirely. IQS is quite volatile and not something that one should commit a large chunk of their net worth to, as this type of fund

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

holds a much higher risk of blowup than normal. For those of you who can stomach such risk, this is one fund which has so far delivered amazing returns.

There's a lot to be said of alternative funds, especially commodity trading advisor (CTA) funds. Despite what the name implies, CTA funds are not limited to commodities. They often trade across the entire spectrum of financial markets, including everything from stock market indices to foreign exchange markets and interest rates. An entire universe of trading styles and risk profiles is found in this class of funds.

IQS is a high-risk fund that trades across 14 select markets. It has achieved a total return of over 4,500 per cent since 2003, averaging 28 per cent per annum. It has had several periods when it

has surpassed 100 per cent in 12 months or less.

Committing more than 10 per cent of your investment portfolio into this fund is however, not advisable. This fund has had a maximum drawdown of over 70 per cent, meaning if you had invested at the wrong time you would have seen your investment go down by that much before turning around and heading back up.

If you take a quick look at the historical performance chart of this fund, you can see the kind of roller-coaster ride it takes its investors on. Having too big a stake in this fund, or money that one could not afford to lose, is the thing heart attacks are made of.

The best way to avoid a nervous breakdown while still participating in a fund such as this is to wait patiently for the fund to draw down a certain amount, such as half of its previous worst drawdown.

As this newspaper went to print, IQS was down about 28 per cent from its recent high, mean-

ing it is quite close to an area where buying in has historically limited the amount of red one needs to see before the fund jumps back up for its next run. There is no guarantee this time will mimic the past though, but why not put the odds in your favor as much as you can?

There was probably never a more important time to remind people that past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

Please treat a fund like this with the caution it deserves, understand the roller-coaster type of experience you need to be able to stomach to successfully invest in a fund like this, and make sure that your portfolio can handle a blow-up if it ever happens.

David Mayes MBA lives in Phuket and provides wealth management services to international expatriates living through South East Asia and worldwide, specializing in UK pension transfers. He can be reached at david.m@faramond.com

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Daily News - Phuket Tuesday, May 31, 2011 Phuket time: 9:51 AM

Fans fury forces FC Phuket coach to quit

PHUKET: Three men, comprising three generations of a fishing family, were rescued from their capsized boat 17 nautical miles off Phuket's east coast yesterday thanks to a

Phuket '3G fishermen' saved by call from the wild Monday, May 30, 2011

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NIGHT OWLS: The Baan Cherng Talay team at their hangout. The team is one of three units of the Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation, Thalang.



Rescue volunteer Thawit "Wit" Vinupdullar with his son "Mee".



ROAD REGULARS: The team arrives at the scene of another road accident last week.



YOUNG APPRENTICE: Little "Mee" seems content to hang out with the Baan Cherng Talay team on their night shift.



SIRENS ON: The team arrives at the scene of a motorcycle accident close to the Heroines Monument last week. Luckily, there are no serious injuries.

The Night Watchmen

Volunteer rescue workers with the Phuket Kusoldharm Foundation are always on call, but it's in the small hours of the night when drunk drivers roam the roads that they are at their busiest. The *Phuket Gazette* meets the team...

By Michael DesPortes

SPEEDING and swerving, the truck is overloaded with workers as the driver tailgates the car in front. The man at the wheel has a cigarette pursed between two fingers in one hand, while the other holds a mobile phone to his ear.

Shifting gears and revving the engine, the car in front pulls into the left lane. The truck driver accelerates and is out of sight in a few seconds.

In less than a minute, the truck driver and his passengers will be dead or dying, their bodies mangled and bloodied, lying scattered over the busy intersection.

When the Phuket Kusoldharm Thalang rescue volunteers arrive at the scene, one of them kneels down to check the driver's faint pulse. Shaking his head, he shoots his fellow volunteers a knowing look and says, "Mao". It is the Thai word for drunk.

Scenes like these unfold all too often on Phuket, and when they do it is time for volunteer rescue workers to spring into action.

Some nights rescue teams get as many as six calls for traffic accidents involving drunk drivers. Then there are the frequent fistfights and other assaults – again, mostly alcohol-related.

But what would life as a rescue volunteer be like if Phuket was dry of alcohol for a day? Last weekend's ban on alcohol sales due to early and absentee voting in the run-up to the July 3 national elections provided the perfect opportunity to see how much safer Phuket's roads could be without so many drunk drivers.

NIGHT ON CALL: ALCOHOL BAN IN EFFECT Saturday, May 25, 8pm

Thawit "Wit" Vinupdullar, 39, sits with his two young children in the rudimentary Kusoldharm booth next to the police box near the Heroines' Monument. A number of radios hang from the wall behind the trio, but so far they are silent.

"Last night we were up late helping direct traffic for Chuan Leakpai's convoy. My team should be here in a little while," Wit tells the *Gazette*.

Wit outlines the team's duties while on call.

Kusoldharm volunteers are a "First Response" unit, trained to administer basic

medical care and to assist in recovery operations at accident or crime scenes.

"We also respond to requests for assistance from police or drivers on the road," he says.

Kusoldharm in Thalang is divided into three units: "Baan Nai Khlam", "Baan Cherng Talay" and "Baan Kho Aen". Each has about 30 volunteers who work on rotation. There are no definite boundaries to their areas, the closest team usually responds, calling for help from the others as necessary.

Wit has 20 years' experience as a rescue volunteer. He started out with the Phuket Ruam Jai Rescue Foundation in the south of the island before joining Kusoldharm four years ago.

It was not too long ago that Kusoldharm did not accept volunteers in Thalang, but increasing traffic in Phuket's north created a void and forced a change to foundation policies.

As the night wears on, more and more members of the team arrive. They all have day jobs. Kritsana Kumpuang is a 30-year-old primary school health and physical education teacher. Sittikleang Tottan, 26, delivers chickens to local vendors. Wit works at The Surin hotel.

Banter and conversations begin, ranging from FC Phuket's match earlier in the day to Kritsana's quips at Wit's 14-year-old daughter, "Min", about the constant alerts coming from her BlackBerry.

The radios are still silent, a rarity at this point in the team's evening shift.

"No wonder it is so quiet – no alcohol," Kritsana says, looking towards shops and commercial buildings nearby.

Thawit Na-saban, the 50-year-old supervisor of the Thalang volunteers, announces that he is going to visit the "Baan Cherng Talay" team. Wit, his children, Kritsana and the *Gazette* join him in his car.

During the drive, conversation turns to a more macabre subject. The team had responded to a particularly memorable accident earlier this year.

"She [a young female motorcyclist] was coming [from Cherng Talay towards the Two Heroine's Monument] when a Mercedes driving in the other direction swerved into her lane and hit her motorcycle," Wit explains.

Kritsana – who was among the first response team at that crash – said the woman's leg was crushed and doctors had



ROAD READY: Nitat Thothip, a rescue volunteer with Kusoldharm Foundation's Baan Nai Khlam team.
Photos: Michael DesPortes



to amputate her foot just above the ankle. Kritsana said he learned later that the young woman didn't normally ride a motorcycle and usually drove using her company car. But on that fateful night, she took her motorcycle to visit a friend.

"Someone was drunk," Wit adds, not going into detail.

Arriving at the Cherring Talay team's hangout – a few concrete tables and chairs in a small parking lot just after the right turn towards Laguna Phuket – the "Baan Nai Khlam" unit members mingle and chat.

"Pern", the Cherring Talay supervisor with four years' experience, describes how varied their work can be from one night to the next.

"It is ongoing. Sometimes there are incidents, sometimes not. Recently there have been more accidents happening after 3am. A lot of fatal accidents have been

after that time. Usually it is people driving home from nightclubs who are involved in *wor* 40s [radio code for automobile accident]," he explains.

With not much happening at the Cherring Talay base, the Baan Nai Khlam team head back to their hangout.

Back at their booth, Sittikleang lies snoring in front of the television as others watch a movie on a free-to-air channel. Midnight passes without any calls, but each time the radio crackles, everyone stops what they are doing and listens.

Kritsana enters at 1:30am.

"I'm going home, it doesn't look like anything is happening tonight," he says.

For the rest of evening, the team's radios lay silent. Not one call on a Saturday night shift in Phuket. Such a thing is virtually unheard of on a night when bars are free to serve alcohol.

BOOZE IS BACK – SO ARE THE CALLS Monday, June 27, 8pm

The *Gazette* is back with the Thalang team for another night on call. This time there is no alcohol ban, and the team expect to be busy.

Minutes after the team's 9pm meeting, a rescue volunteer runs from inside the booth clutching a radio in-hand and shouting instructions to the team. There's been a crash nearby.

The team mobilize, scramble into their vehicles and head out into the night.

Nitat Thothip, 33, a rescue volunteer for the past 14 years, is driving while 28-year-old Winai Wan-Ae operates the siren. He alternates between different sounds to alert traffic at a u-turn as they double back to head north of the Heroines' Monument.

Nitat revs through each gear, but slows significantly and is alert and cautious at intersections and heading into heavy traffic.

Arriving at the scene, it is quickly ascertained that the situation has settled since the call came in.

A downed motorcycle in the middle of the road has superficial damage. The bumper of a parked Toyota sedan a few meters away has a large vertical dent in it.

The male motorcycle driver has a small wound to the back of his head, but is standing and coherent. Nitat and his team extract their first-aid kit from the flatbed and have the man kneel a few feet away from the accident site.

A man who was in the car explains that they were parked on the shoulder with the lights on when the motorcycle hit them hard from behind.

He furrows his brow and utters a final word as he turns to walk back towards the gathered group of volunteers, passengers and policemen.

"Mao".



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Flavio stirs up a 'flavolution'

There's a revolution of flavors going on at Le Meridien

By Alexandra Andersson

CHEF Flavio Manzoni is cooking up a flavorful revolution at Le Meridien in Patong.

To compliment the ongoing revamp of the 24-year-old resort, Chef Flavio has been recruited to design a new menu at their signature restaurant Porto Fino.

The restaurant's new menu will relaunch in September with a "contemporary Italian" flavor.

But Chef Flavio is "not a lasagna kind of guy" he tells the *Gazette*.

This is evident as he serves a platter of seafood tid-bits with splashes of reduction sauce assembled on the plate with such creativity the dish resembles a Baroque painter's pallet.

Each bite is bursting with flavor and texture to match the avant-garde presentation of his dish.

"This is simple stuff really," Chef Flavio says.

Perhaps, for a chef with Flavio's rich culinary experience.

Originally from Lake Como, Italy, he studied the culinary arts in America for 15 years before arriving in Asia back in 2007.



MASTERPIECE: Presentation will be part of the experience at Porto Fino.

the flamboyant Flavio has in store for the menu at Porto Fino.

"My menu is not too big. I am going to make a short menu and have one special every day using fresh items. When you go to a restaurant and you open a menu with lots of items you know they are not made fresh – they freeze them."

But freshness, quality and fine dining is guaranteed when Chef



MASTER CLASS: Chef Flavio at Le Meridien's Porto Fino restaurant.

Flavio is involved. The specials he will conjure up daily will add a dash of dynamism to the new menu when it debuts later this year.

"I get inspired by what is available. That is the chef's life. With experience you can put anything together," he says.

"Presentation-wise it is not like a formula you just have to be cre-

ative so customers don't get bored, they see the same things all the time. But the most important thing is still the taste, the creativity comes after," he adds.

This quaint little Italian eatery by the pool and overlooking the Le Meridien's private beach is the perfect place to join the "flavolution" Chef Flavio is pioneering.



Healthy on the inside out.

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CELEBRITY Chef Su-Mei Yu, a Chinese-Thai national who has lived and worked in the United States, recently returned to Thailand to share her health and beauty secrets with an interested audience at Mom Tri's Villa Royale.

She has published popular cook books and writes about Thai food and culture for a variety of lifestyle magazines.

In Phuket, she shared her simple secrets to maintain a beautiful face and shining hair.

Her formula consists mainly of using fruits and yogurt to make facials and even using the leftover skins to put in warm water to bathe tired feet.

"When I'm going to have a shower, I put coconut in a blender and put the paste on my hair.

"A lime scrub leaves the hair shiny. For the face, a combination of apple, banana yogurt and honey blended together will remove old skin and leave a refreshing glow."

– Bruce Stanley



KITCHEN DOCTOR: Chef Su-Mei Yu knows what food can do.

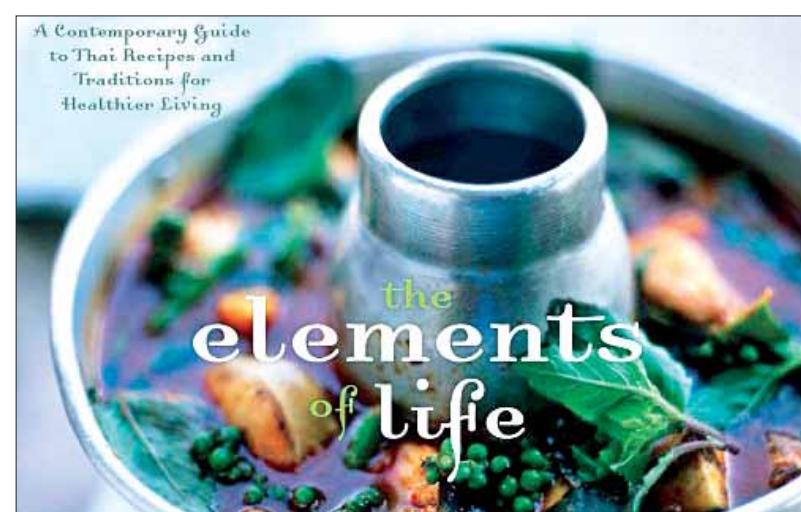
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BEST SELLER: Su-Mei Yu has authored many cookbooks.

Polemicist tells life story

CHRISTOPHER Hitchens was born in 1949, in time for the clamorous 1960s leftist ferment in Oxford, where the best novelist of his generation Martin Amis and the best poet James Fenton would count among his friends.

The young International Socialist dutifully traipsed off to cut sugar cane in Cuba and star in anti-Vietnam war demonstrations. There was no question that he would graduate into left-wing journalism and an eminent TV debater.

El Salvador, Nicaragua, Romania, Northern Ireland, China, Vietnam, Cyprus, South Africa, the Philippines, Uganda, Bosnia, Venezuela, Iran, Iraq, Israel and Gaza – Hitchens has followed the action for any number of British newspapers and magazines.

He has regular columns in *Slate* and *Vanity Fair*. I'm a fan because he is an ardent controversialist and a master of abuse. Rather unimaginatively, his new memoir is entitled *Hitch-22* (Atlantic Books, London, 2011, 435pp).

There's little mention of his wives or children. The emphasis is on his continuing political education. After all, he makes a living by writing 1,000-word screeds.

He dates the start of his vocation as a crusading journalist to reading the novel about Welsh coal mines, *How Green Was My Valley*, when he was nine. He reread it again and again.

"In the next few years I inhaled and imbibed it dozens of times and could have sat for an examination on its major and minor themes.

The world and experience of its boy narrator Huw Morgan, became more real to me than my own. It was an earthquake, an climacteric, a revelation...Now I realized that, just of the other side of the Bristol Channel from the lovely moors an uplands of my upbringing, there was a world as remote from my own as the moon, or as Joseph Conrad's Congo."

His first disillusionment with the Left happened in Cuba in 1968 where Fidel Castro supported the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia.

There would be many disillusionments to come, culminating in his absolute heresy: support for George W Bush's invasion of Iraq. He had his reasons. He had seen firsthand the genocide of the Iraqi Kurds and hated Saddam Hussein.

But his admiring portraits of Paul

Wolfowitz and Ahmad Chalabi – two devious instigators of that war – strike my ear with a ring of tin.

It is not, however, Hitchens' political progress that interests me most. It is the fresh exuberance of his hatreds and his towering invective. He has no time for Bill Clinton, for example. "During the 1992 election I concluded as early as my first visit to New Hampshire that Bill Clinton was hateful in his attitude toward women, pathological as a liar, and deeply suspect when it came to money in politics."

Top on his lists of hatreds is Henry Kissinger but he also demolishes the reputations of such left-wing icons as Edward Said and Noam Chomsky.

He eventually became an American citizen, based in Washington, and sprang to America's defense after September 11. "I had another motive that is perhaps plainer to me now than it was then. I could not bear the idea that anything I had written or said myself had contributed to this mood of cynicism and defeatism, not to mention moral imbecility, on the Left."

But this is perhaps not far from the truth.

On Cuba in 1968, he is decidedly negative: "It is difficult to remember today, when Havana itself is run by a wrinkled oligarchy

of old Communist gargoyles, but in the 1960s there was a dramatic contrast between the waxworks in the Kremlin and the young, informal, spontaneous, and even somewhat sexy leadership in Havana."

Similarly, his reflections on the siege of Sarajevo are not entirely upbeat: "An ancient and civilized town...was being coldly reduced to shards by drunken gunmen on the surrounding hills who sniggeringly represented the primeval hatred of the peasant for the city and the illiterate for the educated."

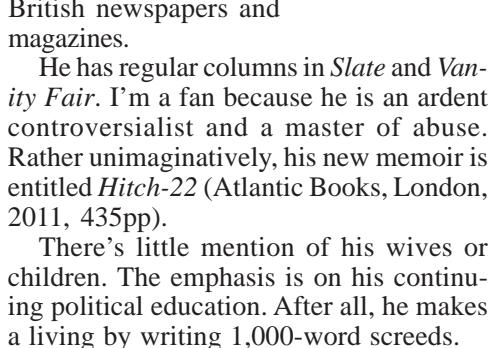
And finally there are his views on old age and his falling away from many old comrades on the Left.

"I sometimes feel that I should carry around some sort of rectal thermometer, with which to test the rate at which I have become an old fart."

But despite the somewhat pessimistic tone of his ramblings, he remains anything but an old fart. In fact, a more entertaining and educational screed is hard to come by these days.



Christopher Hitchens



Somtam recipes with a French accent

FRENCH chefs give Thailand's favorite salad a fusion makeover – somtam macaroon anyone?

If you like somtam, you may be interested in knowing that Thailand's national dish has been reborn and Westernized with alterations that are likely to take any somtam connoisseur by surprise.

Ever tried somtam macaroons, somtam choucroute, or terrine of somtam in jelly?

You will find these and other somtam variations at the Le Cordon Bleu Dusit Culinary School, which celebrated its second birthday in Bangkok with the launch of a new book, *Somtam: A Meeting of Flavours, Tastes & Culture*.

This handy little tome features recipes for Thai-French somtam fusions dreamt up and tried by the cooking school's top chefs.

Recently launched at the Dusit Thani Bangkok, *Somtam* celebrates this fusion dish's adaptability, indispensability in Thai life and its future in the culinary world while helping to raise its international profile.

"This is not a book about somtam recipes, but about its history and origin. Through this book, we want to increase awareness and knowledge of different types of somtam in Thailand. Through its ingredients, we have created 23 fusion recipes of somtam using core somtam ingre-

dients. It's a fusion of Thai and French ideas," says Gary Cromie, Le Cordon Bleu Dusit director.

The book has two parts. The first explores the dish's origins, history, evolution and health benefits. The book reveals that papaya and chilli, indigenous plants of North, Central and South America, arrived on Siam's shores about 600 years ago, mainly through Portuguese explorers and traders. Both become popular in the late

Ayutthaya period (1350-1767)

The second half features 23 recipes of mostly classic French or fusion dishes including appetizers, main courses, desserts pastries and breads.

Gazpacho with green papaya salad and cherry tomato confit, somtam in a verrine and green papaya sherbet, crispy somtam rolls with citrus dip, somtam and foie gras tartlet chiboust style, lobster salad flavored with citrus fruits

and somtam, roasted rice crispy tile biscuit, somtam cake, somtam florentins, somtam tart fraicheur chocolate, verre somtam khao niew mamuang (mango sticky-rice) and somtam bread are but a few of the delightful creations.

The book has a first print-run of 1,000 copies. These are not for sale, but Le Cordon Bleu Dusit plans to publish a second edition, which will be sold at bookstores.

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Monster myth a tall tale?

A journey back in time to when the Andaman region was overrun by demons, giants and sea creatures



SEA CREATURE: Nang Phisua-Samut was a terrifying female sea giant.

By Anand Singh

SUNTHORN Phu is considered one of Thailand's greatest classical poets. He was born in 1786, when Siam faced grave threats from invasion. Those threats subsided towards the beginning of King Rama II's reign, and a period of relative peace and prosperity followed which allowed for a Siamese renaissance.

Many of Siam's works of art and cultural heritage were destroyed when the Burmese sacked Ayutthaya in 1767. During the reign of King Rama II (1809-1824), Siamese arts began to flourish again, much of it under royal pa-

tronage. Sunthorn Phu began his career as a poet in the king's court during this period. He went on to write numerous literary classics that Thai people are familiar with to this day, and one of his most famous stories is an epic tale, titled *Phra Aphaimani*.

Phra Aphaimani is the story of a prince who was kidnapped by a female giant, known in Thai as Nang Phisua-Samut. She disguised herself as a beautiful maid and tricked Aphaimani into marrying her. As time passed, they had a son together. But one day, Aphaimani found out that the beautiful lady he married was in fact a vicious giant in disguise.

A FISHY TALE: A monument of Phra Aphaimani and his mermaid lover is located in Koh Samet, Rayong Province.

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

With the help of some mermaids, he fled with his son to a small island called Kaewpissadarn, where a hermit agreed to protect them from the giant.

Aphaimani lived on the island until one day he spotted a passing ship. On board was King Silarat of Phleuk, who was on his way to Lanka with his daughter. King Silarat had promised the hand of his daughter to Prince Usaren of Lanka. The unwilling princess was forced to comply.

Aphaimani saw this as his only chance to leave the island and he begged the king to let him come along. King Silarat agreed. On the way to Lanka, Phisua-Samut attacked and wrecked their ship. King Silarat was killed, but Aphaimani and the princess escaped to a nearby shore where Aphaimani played his magic flute, which killed the female giant.

Aphaimani and the princess returned to Phleuk, where the widowed queen asked him to become the island's new king. Later Prince Urasen of Lanka searched for his betrothed, only to find her unwilling to return with him to Lanka. The enraged prince vowed vengeance for this dishonor.

True to his word, Prince Urasen returned to Phleuk with a large army. The first Lankan attack was thwarted and Prince Urasen's father was killed in the fighting. Heartbroken by the loss of his father, the prince died not long after.

The Prince's sister inherited the throne of Lanka swearing her intent to sack Phleuk and promised her hand in marriage to whoever killed Aphaimani and destroyed Phleuk.

The war that followed saw nine different armies descend on Phleuk, bent on destroying the island kingdom. The epic struggle finally ended when a hermit intervened and urged reconciliation.

Although the story of Aphaimani is fiction, the islands of Lanka and Phleuk may have been inspired by actual islands in the Andaman Sea.

Lanka also appears in another famous Thai epic, *Ramakien*. In *Ramakien*, Lanka is a kingdom of giants and demons, ruled by King Totsakan and most probably refers to Sri Lanka. However, the location of Phleuk Island is quite

mysterious and interesting. Although it is never confirmed in Sunthorn Phu's story, several descriptions of Phleuk in the poem support the claim that the fictitious island may be Phuket.

From the story, Phleuk is described as a large island, constantly thrashed by strong waves. It was situated north-east of Kaewpissadarn Island and right across the ocean from Lanka. Kaewpissadarn Island was the residence of the esteemed hermit whose intervention saved Phleuk, and was said to have been situated north of Sumatra. There is a small island, just south of Phuket, which is known today as Kaew-Yai Island.

Although Sunthorn Phu himself never traveled to Phuket, one of his students, a writer named Mee, did visit Phuket during his lifetime. Mee wrote an extensive account of the location and geographic nature of the island. It may well have been Mee's accounts of Phuket which inspired the creation of Phleuk.

The Burmese invasion of Phuket in 1785 could also have influenced the story. During the war that followed, the townspeople of Thalang bravely defended their island against a far superior enemy.

Sunthorn Phu's story, tells of nine armies which attempted to invade Phleuk Island. During the 1785 invasion, the Burmese divided into nine armies and attacked different parts of Siam, but were defeated.

The Burmese, perceived as evil invaders by the Siamese, may have been likened to the Lankans, who were seen as evil foreigners from the land of giants. Their attempted invasion of Phleuk, as with the Burmese, was soundly defeated in the end.

Sunthorn Phu's epic, like so many great works of fiction, offers interesting parallels to actual geographical locations and local historical accounts.



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Shahe Donabedian

SHAHE Donabedian is President of The Palace of Art, a magnificent showroom of Asian arts and crafts on the road from the Heroines Monument to Chong Talay. He has 350 square meters under roof, with additional space for statuary and artifacts spread about the outdoor gardens.

Shahe has been supplying his rich interior arts to luxury villas and resorts since the early 1990s.

"I had my own interior design company in the West End of London and was also developing a resort on the coast of Spain in the 1980s.

"I first came to Phuket in 1990 to source Asian artifacts for my projects in Europe, but got involved in a local antiquities business, Chan's Antiques, where I learned a lot about finding and restoring historical items. I found this so interesting that I eventually moved to Phuket."

Shahe has had an enterprising career in the design business spanning North America, Europe and Asia. He was born in the Middle East but his family migrated to the Boston area while he was still in school. After he finished his secondary education, he was more interested in racing cars than in attending university.

He moved to London to race his Chevrolet Camaro Z 28, but his career was interrupted when he was in a major accident that left him with numerous broken bones. While he was recovering and regaining his health,

EXPAT gallery

By Bruce Stanley

he studied design at the London Polytechnic and set up SD Graphics in 1976. His work encompassed everything from graphics for racing cars to creating rich interiors for homes in London's West End.

"In 1981, I returned home to Boston and established another graphic design business, The Designers, which is still operating, but after a while I wanted to get back to Europe. The following year I moved to Madrid and began renovating properties for resale. It was during the time when there was a lot of interest in holiday homes in Spain."

Shahe then spent three years as the site supervisor for a coastal resort at Alicante. When that project was completed, he came to Phuket for a holiday and to look for Thai-style furniture for which there was increasing demand. After his time with Chan's Antiques he decided to go out on his own and opened Thai Style on the airport road.

"Business was very good in the 1990s as there was a lot of interest in religious sculpture, statuary and decorative items. I made numerous trips

to Burma and Laos to find items for my clients. But by 1997, I was ready to move back to Europe and found a buyer for my business. Then, just as we were closing the sale, the Asian financial crisis struck and the baht dropped to 50 to the US dollar.

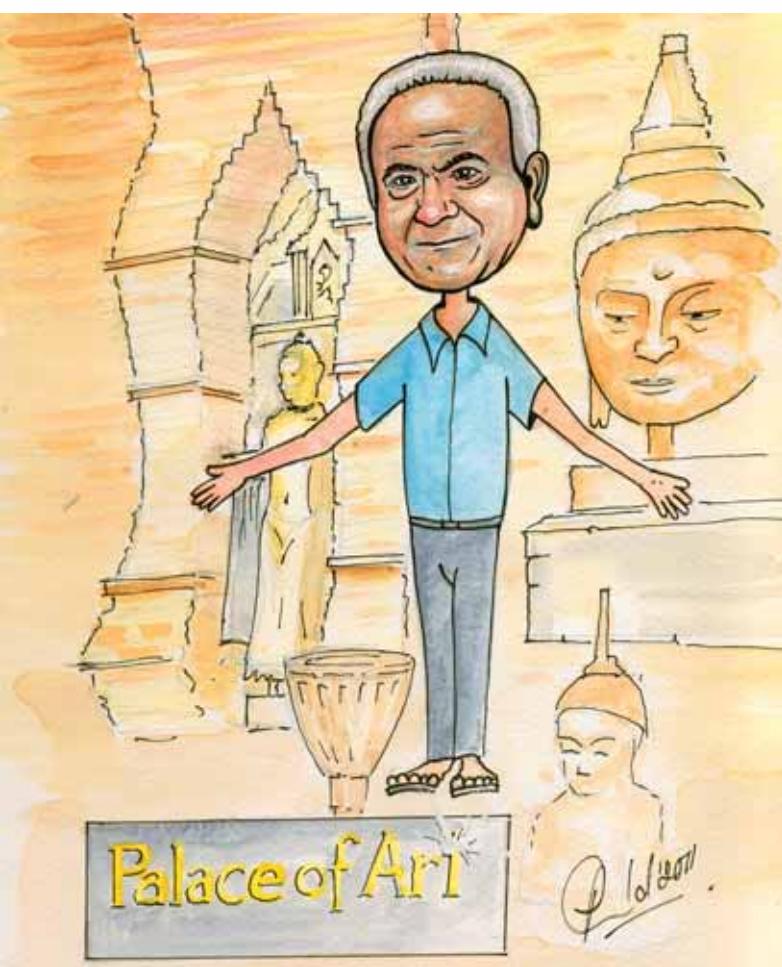
I then had only about half of the money from the sale, so rather than leaving I opened another Thai Style shop in Phuket Town off Vichit Songkram Road, which I operated until 2000."

Shahe then followed the strong interest in luxury villa development on the island and decided to build Palace of Art, a one stop gallery and showroom offering the most beautiful and desirable collection of Buddhas, historical wood carvings, mythical figures and temple art in the region.

"Some of what I've collected dates back 500 years. We are registered with the Fine Arts Department to ensure all our historical pieces can be sold and exported legally."

Shahe is not a man to sit around in his shop. In 2007, he set up Ararat Design Construction and has been the project manager for an extensive estate in Chiang Rai province where he trained his workers to build a huge Ayutthaya style teak wood mansion set on 45 rai.

He has also returned to his early interest in race cars. He owns a new Chevrolet Corvette and travels twice a year to Boston for racing.



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, ah, 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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THEME:

ONE FUTURE DAY...



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- ◆ This contest is open to all Thai students aged 14-18 years
- ◆ All entries must be in English
- ◆ Essays must be written by the student and should not be edited by others
- ◆ The submission must be 800-1,200 words long
- ◆ Submissions will be accepted from June 1, 2011 until August 15, 2011
- ◆ The names of the winners will be announced at the Awards Presentation Ceremony on September 1 in Phuket and the authors will be asked to read their submission

*Write your name/surname in Thai and English, age, school name, class, e-mail address and contact number at the top of your entry

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- 1 The Winning Author in each region will earn 10,000 baht and there are two Merit Awards per region of 5,000 baht each.
- 2 The Overall National Winner will receive 50,000 baht in cash.

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JUDGING PANEL FOR SOUTHERN REGION

- ◆ Fraser Morton, Features Editor of the Phuket Gazette
- ◆ Nanthapa Pengkasem, Columnist for the Phuket Gazette
- ◆ Narong Promjitta, Director of BMS Events Organizer

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THE NATION

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

July 2. American Independence Day Picnic

From 10am to 7pm at HeadStart International School Phuket (across from Macro). Free admission, American beer, food, rides, games and a band. Sponsored by the Navy League of Phuket. Contact David Rucker at T:08 7-2667514 E: rucker4012@gmail.com or visit W:navyleaguephuket.org.

July 3-30. Sports & Adventure Summer Camp at BIS

From 7.30am to 10pm, join BIS Phuket's fantastic Sports & Adventure Camp and see for yourself why it has been one of the most popular in South East Asia for the past five years. Over 70 young people from over 16 different countries are joined every year by a core of dedicated BIS camp staff who all enjoy the unique, multi-cultural and friendly atmosphere! Don't get bored this summer – Join us for sports, adventure, exciting three-day trips, and much more. It's the experience of a lifetime! For ages 8 -16, from July 3-30. Weekly rates available. Contact Chris at T:076-238 711-20 E:summer@bisphuket.ac.th or visit W: bisphuket.ac.th.

July 3-30. English Summer School at BIS

From 7.30am to 10pm, join the British International School Phuket's renowned English Summer Camp this July and improve your English like never before. Small class sizes and different ability groups with experienced ESL teachers guarantee appropriate English tuition for any level. This will run simultaneously with the very popular Sports & Adventure Camp from July 3-30. The camp is for all who want to have fun, learn English and get a feel for life at BIS Phuket. For ages 8 -16. Weekly rates and Day Camp options available. Contact Chris at T:076-238 711 E:summer@bisphuket.ac.th or visit W: bisphuket.ac.th.

July 9. Nok Air Smile Concert Phuket



tee

appropriate English tuition for any level. This will run simultaneously with the very popular Sports & Adventure Camp from July 3-30. The camp is for all who want to have fun, learn English and get a feel for life at BIS Phuket. For ages 8 -16. Weekly rates and Day Camp options available. Contact Chris at T:076-238 711 E:summer@bisphuket.ac.th or visit W: bisphuket.ac.th.

July 3. Phuket Youth Sailing Squadron – Beach Cat Race Day

From 8 am to 5pm. Beach Cat Racing is exhilarating, safe, easy and

fun. Come and join us for racing on Sunday, July 3. Help develop Beach Cat Racing on Phuket. Contact us if you have your own boat or are interested in crewing. Contact Katy Gooch at T:08 5-215918 5 E:phuketyouthsailing@gmail.com or visit W: phuketyouthsailing.org.

July 4. Celebration BBQ Buffet

From 6pm to 11:30pm at Friendship Beach. Featuring fireworks, live music, award-winning barbecue ribs, salmon, chicken and more. Special buffet prices: Adults 450 baht; kids under 12 years 290 baht. Contact Charlie at T:08 9-728 5304 E:chef@friendshipbeach.com or visit W: friendshipbeach.com.

July 7. Litigation Funding Seminar

From 6.30pm to 8 .30pm at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket. Non-market correlated investments returning 12 per cent per annum, 100 per cent capital guaranteed. Too good to be true or an opportunity not to be missed? For your free invitation, please contact Barry or Richard now and judge for yourself T:08 2-7299903 E:info@easyqrops.com or visit W:easyqrops.com.

list and directions will be sent by email one week before the auction.

July 11-15. Lifeguard Surf Lifesaving Training

From 8 am to 6pm, Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort hosts a five-day basic Lifeguard Surf Lifesaving Training. Training sessions are conducted and supervised by David Field, a renowned water safety expert from Australia. He has more than 20 years' experience in lifesaving and is an assessor for Surf Life Saving Australia. This is coupled with 11 years' experience training Thai lifeguards to Australian standards in Thai conditions. The fee is 5,000 baht per participant. An Advanced Programme and re-certification for previously certified Bronze and Gold medallion holders is also being offered. Contact Ms. Benyathip Pattaraworawisit at T: 076-370100 E:Benyathip.Pattara worawisit@lemeridien.com or visit W:lemeridien.com/ phuket beachresort.

July 13-16. Grapes and Grazing

From 6.30pm to 10pm. Four nights, four winemakers, four luxurious resorts. Winemakers from New Zealand, Australia and Italy will converge on Mai Khao Beach's sophisticated resorts from July 13-16. Enjoy great food paired with exquisite wines, while each winemaker personally tells you the history of their vineyard and their wine varieties. This is an opportunity to taste wines from four distinguished vineyards, paired with the cuisine of the north of Phuket's most creative chefs. Four-course dinners with wine pairing is 2,200 baht nett per person. Tickets are available at each resort in Mai Khao Beach. A dinner reception begins the evening at 6.30pm. Contact at T:076-363999 E:events@northphuket.com or visit W:northphuket-resort.testerproject.com.

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For more info contact Woody at T:076-290468

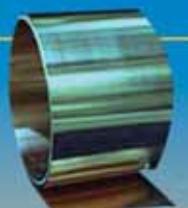
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Four years of giving

Phuket Sunshine Village celebrated four years of charity work last weekend.

The charity provides shelter and other services for more than 115 children whose families were devastated by the 2004 tsunami or who come from homes in the surrounding region where their families are unable to provide for their basic needs.

"Our aim is to provide an environment for the children as close as possible to a normal family life. We strive to give the children a good education to enable them to have a better future as they move into adulthood," said Nuttisa Taebankoon, Administrative Director of Phuket Sunshine Village.

Fun Fly: Getting high



CANON PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS
Noodam (2nd place – above) ; Pad...



DESPITE strong winds and rain threatening to put a dampener on the Phuket Fun Fly 2011 at Nai Harn Beach last weekend, the event was billed a high-flying success by event organizers.

A total of 51 paragliders from countries including Japan, Germany, France, Malaysia, Sweden, Indonesia and Iran were in Phuket to battle it out in the skies above Nai Harn Beach over four days.

Domestic entrants came from all regions of Thailand, with contingents from Lampang, Rayong, Bangkok and Chon Buri provinces.

As part of their preparation for the 2011 Southeast Asian Games in Indonesia, Sarayut Chinpongson of the Thai National Paragliding Team, took part in the Fun Fly with six of his team-

mates. It will be the first time paragliding is included in the games.

A major lure for the attendees at the Fun Fly was the Canon Photo Contest.

A bevy of professional and amateur photographers took part, but it was Apinun Saithong who soared higher than the rest, with his stunning shot (see above).

Phuket resident Reza Shahverdy, of Iran, said this was his first time taking part in Fun Fly.

"I have been living in Phuket for six years. This place is perfect for gliding this time of year and has a perfect area for spot landing," he told the Gazette.

Phuket Fun Fly is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV.

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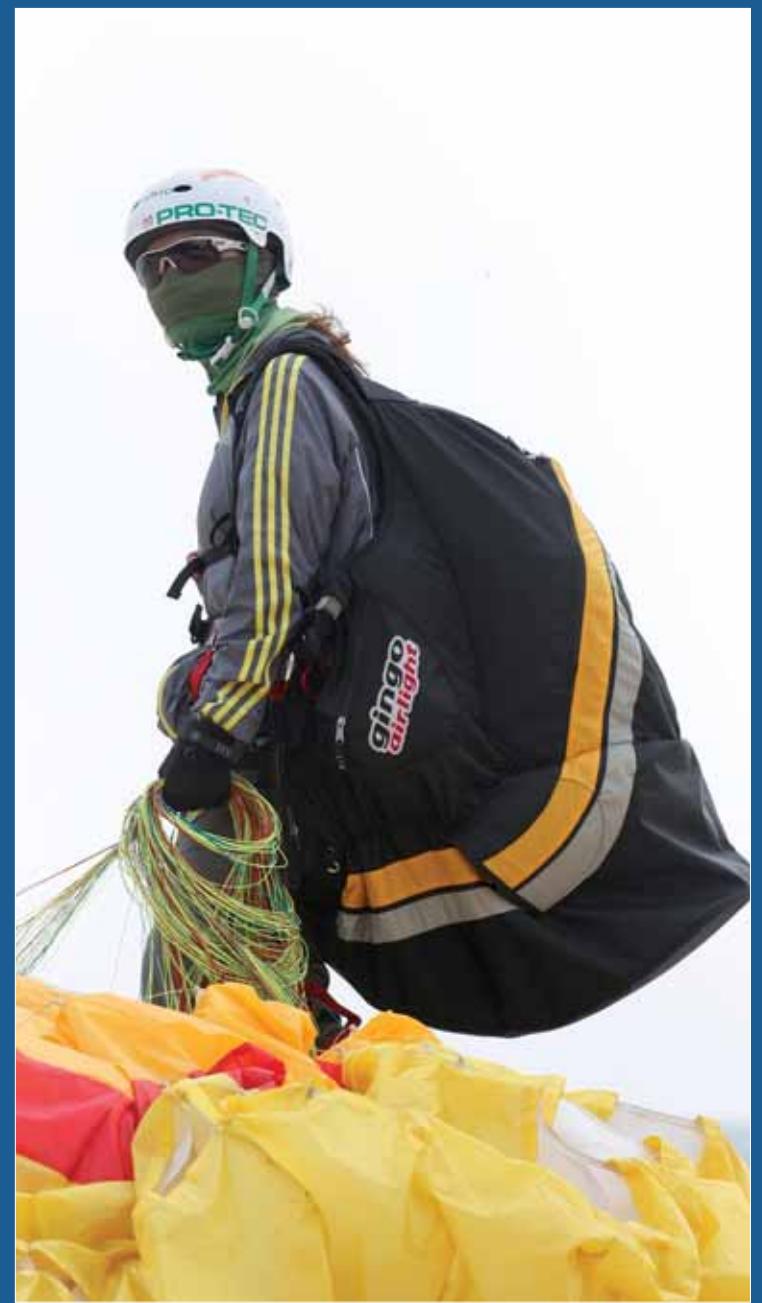
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Credit: Apinun Saithong (1st place – left) ; Phubhed Sungsak Suporn (3rd place – right) .



Additional photography by Suchart Changate, Christian Mouchet and Alexandra Andersson

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88

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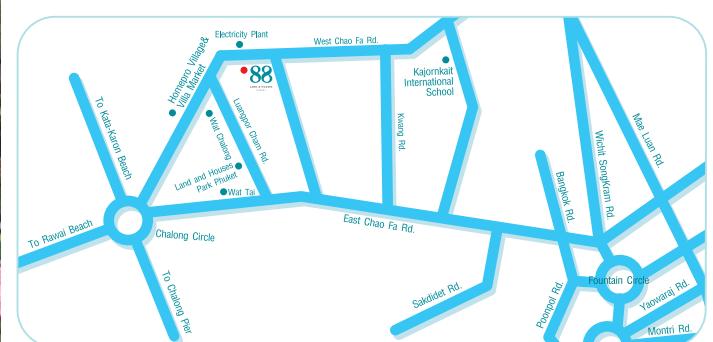


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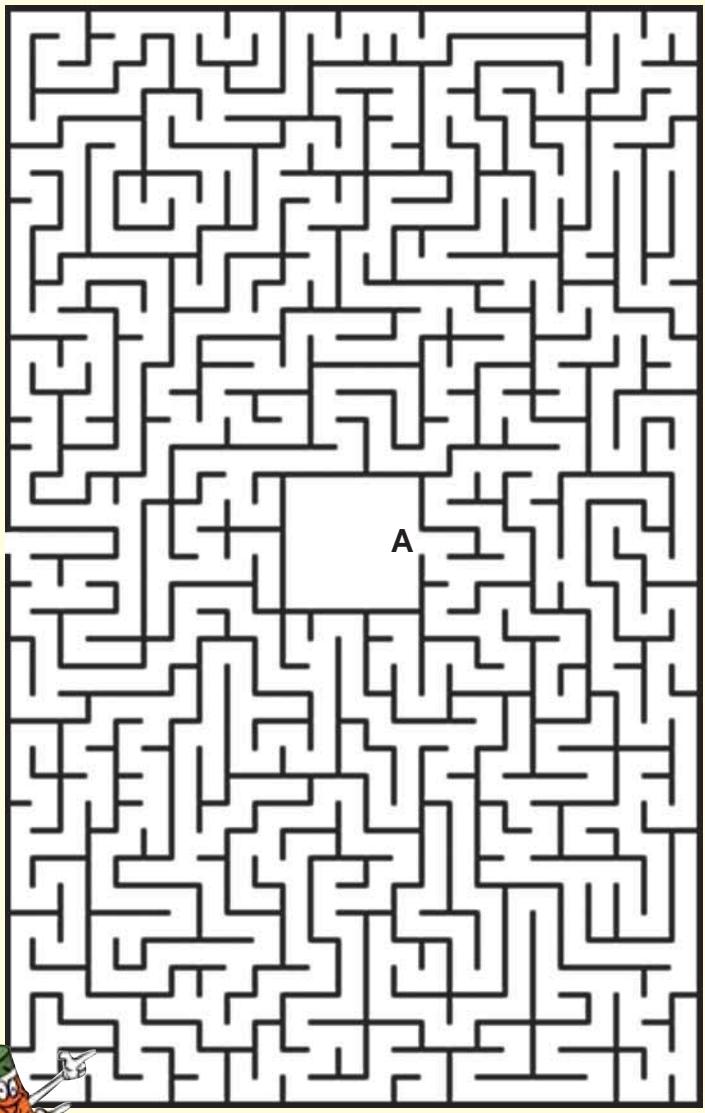
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TROPICAL SERENITY





A Gazette staff member completed this maze in 30 seconds. Can you beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.

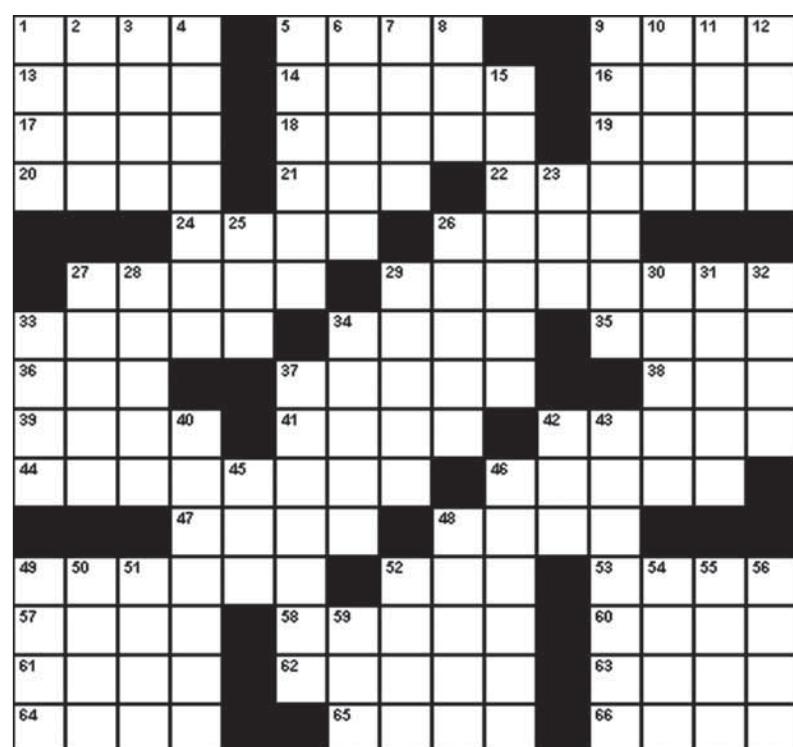


Across

1. Assist, often in a criminal act
5. Estimator's phrase
9. Intro to physics?
13. Scorch
14. Hawks
16. Take _ _ from me
17. Delhi wrap
18. Commerce
19. I could _ _ horse!
20. "Chicken of the sea"
21. Legal science
22. Landlord
24. Bingo call
26. Annoyance
27. Freud contemporary
29. Resonating with sound
33. Rocky debris
34. Taylor of "Mystic Pizza"
35. Horrors!
36. Elton's john
37. Paroxysmal pain
38. Small batteries
39. Little devils
41. Building wings
42. Earth
44. Very skillful
46. Fantasize
47. Jazz singer Anita
48. Equipment
49. Flowering
52. Chat room chuckle
53. Swenson of "Benson"
57. For one
58. Grenoble's river
60. Ages and ages
61. Clinton's birthplace
62. A trainee in a profession
63. Hit with an open hand
64. Bird feed
65. Alley
66. Makes lace

Down

1. Kind of prof.
2. Boyfriend
3. Acquire through merit
4. Subject to court proceedings
5. Stableman
6. Aired again
7. Deli side
8. Advanced in years
9. Conductor
10. Greek letters
11. Bandleader Puente
12. On _ _ with
15. Containing element 34
23. That, in Tijuana
25. Driver's aid
26. Ancient Greek city-state
27. Pueblo Indian village
28. Falls
29. Absurd
30. Butler's love



COFFEE break

31. Render weaponless
32. Slammin' Sammy
33. Meager
34. Hard candy
37. Clay products
40. Bent forward
42. Song syllable
43. Most strange
45. Conductor de Waart
46. Erase
48. Bridge expert Charles
49. Exclamations of relief
50. Lodge letters
51. Easy stride
52. Moon of Jupiter
54. Vincent Lopez's theme song
55. Midge
56. Cairo cobras
59. Gal of song

*Provided by BestCrosswords.com.
Used with permission.*

Puzzle solutions on page 39

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Cancerians are forecast to be in tune with the lighter side of life during July. Financial worries should be alleviated by positive news this week, but the stars suggest that you develop a more realistic attitude towards debts and loans. Those with a birthday in the coming days can expect to get more than they deserve in the year ahead.

LEO (July 24-August 22):

Leos should come close to achieving perfection in July. The stars are on your side regarding new business endeavors and finances. Expenses will be high, but money is forecast to flow towards you more than it has done in recent months. Romance with an air sign becomes sweet and sour, but a water sign proves that you have enough in common for a happy relationship.

VIRGO (August 23-September 22):

Virgoans will have plenty of power in their hands during the month of July. Take advantage of these supportive astral conditions to reach out for what you really want. On a personal level, an air sign appears to have got the wrong

impression about you – Monday is an auspicious day to set this matter straight. Romance with another earth sign has the green light, but an affair with an air sign becomes complicated.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23):

Librans' natural charm is forecast to work wonders during July. Where business is concerned, your ideas and propositions will be well received. New collaborations should be agreed by the middle of this month. Your romantic outlook also improves when you find the right words to say at the right time. The stars support your attempts to simplify family responsibilities this week. The number two brings good luck this weekend.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):

As July progresses, Scorpions will be more in control of their lives. Business affairs will be easier to put into a nutshell and streamlining will be a major keyword. Those who have been working on a way to approach a difficult fire sign will receive helpful hints this week. Where your personal life is concerned, it would be wise to listen to a close friend's opinions with an open mind this weekend.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):

Delay of a deadline should come as good news to stressed Sagittarians this week. The stars suggest that you should use the extra time to fine tune the project concerned. Put relaxation at the top of your agenda this weekend. Single Sagittarians who have been enjoying their freedom could have a change of heart when they meet an earth sign.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):

Too much rushing around at the end of June could mean that Capricorns are starting July with low energy. The stars recommend that you offload some responsibilities this week – it will be easier than you think. It would be wise to double-check important correspondence before sending it as mistakes are highlighted early next week. In the realm of romance, a water sign is becoming more interested in what makes you tick.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):

A turning point in your life is forecast to make July an important month for Aquarians. Those who have been waiting for clarification in an employment issue should be satisfied with what they learn this week. In the realm of romance another air sign thinks you are as cool as a cucumber. If you are already committed, your partner should have reason for celebration this weekend.

PISCES (February 20-March 20):

Pisceans who were feeling left out in the cold where work is concerned should enjoy more success during July. A fire sign is predicted to warm to your suggestions and this liaison could spark off a lasting partnership. Where romance is concerned, the stars suggest that a potential earth sign partner could be giving misleading impressions. The stars advise you to take a reality check this week.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

The stars advise that mixing work with pleasure should be done with caution during July. Arians are advised not to get caught up in gossip this week as

this is sure to result in regret. In the realm of romance, making a lasting impression on another fire sign is hard work, but an earth sign is keen to get up, close and personal with you. Your lucky number this week is seven.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

Your senses are finely tuned as July commences and Taureans will find it difficult to put a foot wrong. The only downside this week could be on Tuesday or Wednesday when a water sign is determined to prove a point. The stars recommend that allowing this person to have the last word will be worth it to keep the peace. The number six brings good luck this weekend.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Geminis are advised to keep a closer eye on the family budget during July. There are signs that a big spender could cause a dent in joint finances while your attention is on other matters. Sunday is the best day to have serious discussions. Those who are single make more of an impression on a fire sign than they are aware of this weekend. Your lucky number is eight.

PROPERTY Gazette

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Market on the mend: Colliers

Financial crisis still lingers in market today

PHUKET'S property market has yet to fully recover from the global financial crisis though foreign investors are returning, according to a new report from a well-known Thai real-estate firm.

The report by Colliers International Thailand, the Thai branch of global firm Colliers International, said that throughout 2010 and into the first five months of this year, the island's market was still recovering from the effects of the crisis.

The report divides Phuket property into two types: non-coastal, which accounts for most property on the island; and coastal, which is higher in value.

Patima Jeerapaet, the company's managing director, said foreigners are more interested in

Phuket than resorts in Pattaya and Hua Hin.

"Most Thai millionaires choose to buy second homes in resorts near Bangkok because of travel convenience," he said.

"Because of this, the target group for Phuket's coastal property is foreigners. This makes it more sensitive to the state of the global economy than other places.

Last year saw about 1,020 condominium units come onto the market. In May 2011, 200 units came onto the market, most of which were inland.

The high-end coastal property market has yet to return to its levels of excitement prior to financial crisis, but the success of many projects shows the market is recovering, the report said.



NEW HEIGHTS: The Phuket property market is still feeling the effects of the world financial crisis. Photo: Jim Welch

"The state of the market nowadays can be compared to a glass of water that's half-full or half-empty," said Antony Picon, associate director of research at Colliers International Thailand.

"It depends on whether you compare it to 2006-2007 or to 2009."

Mr Picon pointed to the recent success of the Andara project at Kamala Beach as evidence that Phuket remained at the top of the luxury property market.

"People with buying power come from many different countries," he said.

"It's not just Europe, but Hong Kong, Russia and the Middle East have also become important buyers in today's market."

Mr Picon said property development companies were adjusting

their marketing strategies to fit the profiles of the new buyers.

"The Kamala Falls project has been sold as a Halal property, as it has a swimming pool for women in order to attract Muslim buyers," he said.

Indeed, Kamala and the northwest coast of Phuket is experiencing a boom in high-end projects. "Millionaire's Mile" still has a lot of land suitable for luxury properties.

Another interesting opportunity is Phuket's future as a base for superyachts. Asia is also rivaling the Caribbean and the Mediterranean as a destination for cruises, as its seas are less crowded.

Mrs Patima said Asian millionaires were an important market for superyachts. Phuket's status as a yachting destination with quality

marinas and beautiful scenery could only improve as the high-end property market grew, she said.

The area surrounding Phuket, such as Phang Nga and Krabi, could be developed into a world-class yachting destination in the future, with Phuket as its center. "Phuket is a symbol of luxury," said Mrs Patima.

Another positive factor for Phuket is the increasing number of direct flights to the island, which is a consequence of the expansion of low-cost airlines.

Mr Picon said that this was increasing the number of tourists visiting the island and that these tourists often eventually become property buyers.

— *Phuket Gazette*

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Opening up the bay



BAY OF BROKEN PROMISES: Phang Nga Bay could maximize its scenic advantage and expand tourism with better transport links. Photo: Vyacheslav Argenberg

THERE'S a line in the classic Brando movie *On the Waterfront* which describes the Phang Nga Bay of today to a tee. The lines "I could have been a contender, I could have been somebody" tragically reflects how all Phang Nga Bay's promise has gone unfulfilled.

Usher in the conundrum of the huge body of water just off Phuket's East Coast, encompassed by vast shorelines of three provinces and offering some of the most spectacular scenery this side of heaven.

Over the years, tourism's footprint has grown mostly on Koh

Phi Phi and, to a much smaller scale, on Koh Lanta, Koh Racha, Kho Yao Noi and Koh Nakha Yai.

Just striking up the magical letter "K" on my bruised and battered keyboard conjures up images of sailboats moving with the breeze, or a hammock under some coconut tree.

Of course getting there is no easy feat as all manner of motorized beasts have been used to transport resort guests to their own castaway dreamlands. As Phuket's own highways and byways are get-

ting as clogged as a heart attack patient's arteries, more than a few visitors want a holiday that is more laid back and natural than can be had here.

Door to door travel time remains a key factor for many

travelers and the prospect of an overnight flight from Europe can be mind-numbing in itself, not to mention taking to the seas immediately afterwards.

Coming back from a recent trip to Sri Lanka, where luxury hotels in the south have tapped into a

growing air-taxi industry, was enlightening. For anyone who has been to the Maldives and seen the Maldivian Air Taxi operation, the ease with which resorts transfer passengers from international flights to smaller aircraft is part and parcel of the holiday experience.

The operation has now expanded into Sri Lanka and has company, as national carrier Sri Lankan has its own "air-taxi" outfit. Speaking to some at the luxury hotels on the coast, many say that 30-40 per cent of their guests come via small plane.

Meanwhile back in Phuket, Phang Nga Bay's newest international resorts have struggled in comparison to the wider market, as most industry watchers are aware. Occupancy levels remain unimpressive and in many cases properties are running a tightrope balancing act between the red and black line.

Many readers will remember the ill-fated Destination Air operation that started, sputtered and stopped over financial and logistical issues. It was a good idea, but perhaps too early in the game. If you roll the calendar forward and compare Phang Nga Bay with similar destinations around the world, you have to scratch your head when asking why transport infrastructure remains so far behind the curve.

Other benefits like sightseeing trips and private charters would appear to be viable add-ons to the model.

While some may argue that the current stable of speedboats can do the job, in reality the operating performance at various island resorts points to a serious need for alternatives.

While eco-tourism remains a key objective in the area, the fact is that a large inventory of properties in Koh Lanta and, to some degree, other islands already exists. Leveling the playing field with connecting air service makes sense.

For Phang Nga Bay to continue on the road to sustainable development, keeping one eye open to the dangers of overbuilding is critical. But in the here and now, resorts have already been completed, so improving access should be a no-brainer.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through www.c9hotelworks.com.

In brief...

Colliers opening Hua Hin office, Phuket next

LEADING internationally-affiliated property agency Colliers Thailand will open an agency office in Hua Hin this year. Managing Director Patima Jeerapaet said offices in Phuket and Koh Samui will follow. They are currently scouting locations on Phuket.

More Boathouse revamp news

THE Three Dolphin's group who own and operate the luxury Trisara resort have unveiled more detailed plans of the Boathouse's upgrade.

Acquired earlier this year, renovation will see the property and outlets closed from June until October. Plans call for a new beachfront bar, conversion of a number of rooms to have direct beachfront access and a collection of larger family suites.

An upscale penthouse will also be added to the mix.

The signature restaurant redo will include an open-kitchen concept.

Bangkok hit by Krabi development

NEW Krabi development The Pelican has taken Bangkok by storm with a high-profile media, advertising and sales campaign.

From full-page advertisements in newspapers, to interviews in the national press and a six-day showcase at the upscale Siam Paragon Mall, the brand is everywhere.

The development is advertising entry prices from 5 million baht and free trips to the site, and is clearly taking aim at the domestic property sector.

Developers say the project, which launched in March, has already experienced 30 per cent unit sales so far, which averages over seven sales a month. Thai buyers accounted for 60 per cent of the transactions.

Phuket could do well with some similar upscale promotion for its real estate inventory.

Ozo off to Hong Kong

EXPANDING Thailand hospitality group Onyx are taking their new Ozo brand on the road.

A management agreement has been signed for a 250-room conversion of the Wesley Hotel in Admiralty, Hong Kong. An opening, set for the end of next year, will feature self-check-in pods and innovative info pads.

Another Ozo is currently under development in Koh Samui.

Do you have any breaking news about Phuket property? Email property@phuketgazette.net



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Kai Fak deals: Worth the risk?

IN THAILAND, as in any other jurisdiction, creditors require security for fulfillment of obligations such as the repayment of a loan.

A widely used means of providing such security is a mortgage registered against immovable property such as land or buildings.

Another lesser-known method of securing an obligation in Thailand is called *Kai Fak*.

Kai Fak arrangements are similar to what is known under Western jurisdictions as sale with right of redemption (SRR). Although there are similarities between *Kai Fak* and SRR, there are also differences.

Kai Fak arrangements are usually set up when a borrower does not meet the requirements of commercial banks when applying for a loan. In such case, land or property owners requiring a loan sometimes approach private lenders who offer loans secured through a *Kai Fak* arrangement.

In general, such *Kai Fak* arrangements require the owner of the land or property to transfer title to his land or property to a lender who in exchange agrees to grant

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a loan. If the borrower fully repays the loan to the lender within the agreed time period, title to the land or property will revert to the borrower. However, if the borrower is unable to repay the loan within the agreed time period, ownership of the land or property will remain with the lender and the loan is deemed repaid.

The specifics of the *Kai Fak* arrangement outlined above make this method of securing a loan an extremely effective, but also risky, undertaking. *Kai Fak* is effectively in the lender's favor as it makes enforcement through a court redundant.

Final ownership of the land or property remains with the lender in case the borrower is unable to repay the loan within the agreed time period, and that is that. This, conversely, is quite risky for the borrower.

In certain cases, *Kai Fak* arrangements may be an alternative

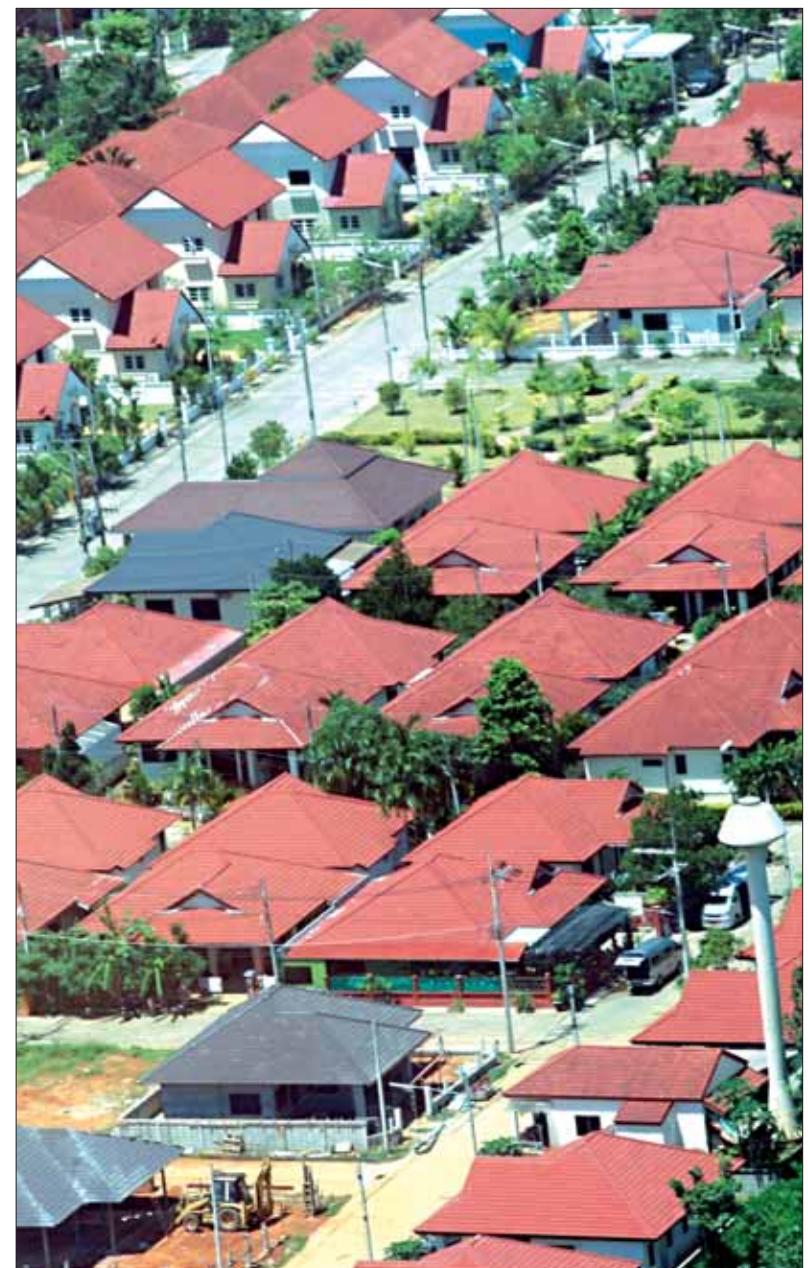
to other more conventional methods of securing fulfillment of loan obligations in favor of a lender, particularly if a borrower does not qualify for financing through a commercial bank.

However, it is important that a borrower under a *Kai Fak* arrangement understands that full payment of the borrowed amount within the agreed time period is required to redeem the land or property. Otherwise, upon expiry of the agreed period, final ownership of the lender occurs.

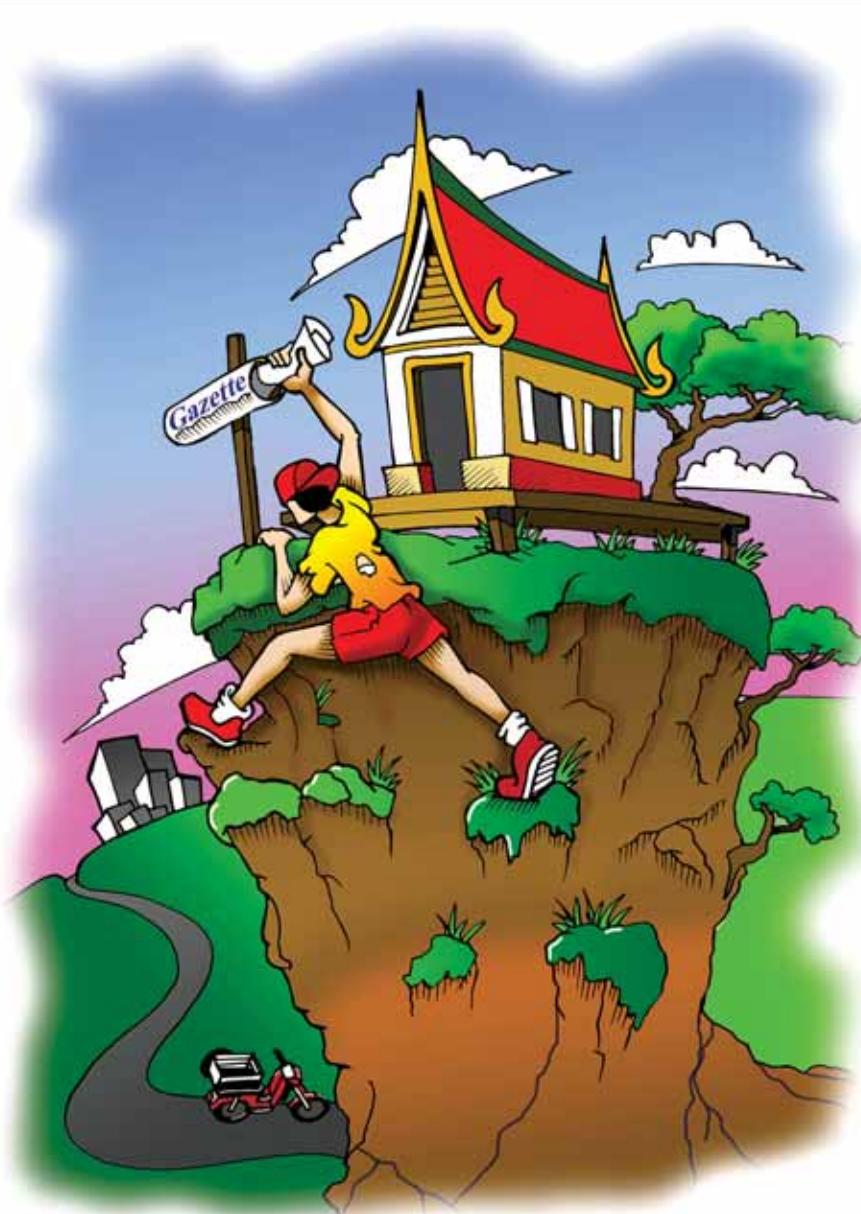
Furthermore, it should be considered that a large amount of taxes and fees may be payable to the relevant government agency in connection with *Kai Fak* arrangements.

All things considered, it is advisable to seek professional legal and tax advice before entering into a *Kai Fak* arrangement.

This article has been written by International Law Office Patong Beach Co Ltd. Contact Michael Greth, Consultant E:michael@ilo-phuket.com or T:076-2221915 for more information.



SEALING THE DEAL: Always consult with a legal advisor when entering into a *Kai Fak* property or land agreement. Photo: Gazette file



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Help with growing pains

It's no easy feat maintaining a lush and bountiful garden in the tropics, but help is close at hand...

LAST week we looked at some general issues gardeners face in Thailand. Today, let's consider some more specific things.

Take garden centers in Phuket for instance. Like the curate's egg, they are good in parts. Some suffer from neglect, others are overpriced, especially those nearest to the fashionable west coast resorts. The centers that supply plants to hotels are likely to offer the best value.

This gardener recently acquired a *calliandra*, the botanical name meaning "beautiful stamens" and the common name being powder-puff.

It is grown for its dense heads of pink, white or scarlet stamens which appear on short stalks along the upper sides of the branches.

They are silky soft to the touch, but in appearance they look like colorful teazles.



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

Anyway, I found a large plant about six-feet tall and in full flower in a corner of one of those aforementioned neglected nurseries. It must have been there for years, since it was imprisoned in a small plastic pot that was far too small for its burgeoning roots. And here came my mistake.

Chatting to the owner, I paid

no attention to how it was removed from its resting place, and only later was the discovery made that the main tap root, the root responsible for supplying the bulk of the plant's moisture and nutrients, had been carelessly cut off just below the base of the pot. In this case the tap root

Watch the way in which established plants are dug up, even when they are already in a container.



ROADSIDE BLOOMERS: Garden centers are dotted all over Phuket, but can vary in price and product quality.

was probably at least a foot long.

Once home, the *calliandra* was repotted in a container six times the size of the original one. However, the damage had been done, and within days most of the shrub had died back.

After drastic pruning, and the application of fertilizer, it has now started to recover.

The moral of this tale? Watch the way in which established plants are dug up, even when they are already in a container.

Of course most gaffes in the tropical garden are born of ignorance, but gardeners tend to be quick learners.

For example, we quickly learn to differentiate between shrubs that need full sun and those that require partial or even full shade. Garden centers are helpful here, since all their shade-loving plants are literally kept under wraps, cosseted beneath green netting, or some other kind of roofing. And here you will find all those plants you tried to cultivate as house plants back home. Even outdoors, they do far better here on account of the much higher



The *calliandra* can be found at many garden centers. Photo: Mauro Guanandi

humidity and constant high temperatures.

They are after all, mostly understorey plants in the rainforest, used to lots of moist air, a layer of natural leaf mulch and relatively little direct sunlight. So don't put them in your new garden unless you already have areas of shade, and soil with a high organic content.

In this category you would have to include soft-stemmed

plants such as *dieffenbachia*, *aglaonema*, *spathiphyllum*, *calathea*, *caladium*, the whole family of *bromeliads*, and the even larger family of *philodendrons*. These are all excellent foliage plants that will give an exotic look to your garden, but they need the right conditions.

One other plant to add to the list of hardy sun-lovers is the *calliandra* or powder puff. Since it comes from equatorial America, it will handle the high temperatures here, and will even put up with dry spells.

Its flowers start as cones of tightly packed buds, but soon turn into the soft, globular heads that are such a distinctive feature of this plant. And the red cultivar is particularly appealing.

Oh, and by the way, readers, do let me know about your favorite garden center.

Tip of the week

Dealing with Dracaenas

DRACAENAS are plants that produce colorful, typically red or – in the case of reflexa – variegated leaves.

They are grown primarily for their foliage in tropical gardens. But some varieties do have a tendency to lose their lower leaves and to bolt; that is to say, the bare stems get longer and longer, and the crown of leaves at the top looks out of proportion with

the rest of the plant.

This is particularly liable to happen when the dracaena is deprived of sufficient sunlight. The drastic solution is to cut the stem six inches from its base and leave it to sprout again.

The remaining stem should be cut into short lengths and repotted. So too the leafy top. Then you should soon have as many as half a dozen new plants.

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New villa at Cherng talay for sale, near Laguna. Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, on 500sqm land with Chanote title, freehold or leasehold. Price: 12.9 million baht. Directly from owner. Tel: 080-698 3028. Email: suchada_villas@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

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LAND FOR SALE

At Pasak Soi 8, Cherng Talay. Land plot is in front of villa project and hotel. 135sq wah with Chanote title. Price: 3.5 million baht. Call owner. Tel: 080-698 3028.

EVERYTHING GOES

Land plots on eastern side of Phuket. Some have seaview. Price: 500,000 baht and above. Reasonable offers are considered. Financing is possible. Contact Chris. Tel: 086-942 1930. Email: chrisfisherii@gmail.com

BRAND-NEW CONDO



Mid Town, Royal Place Project, 2nd floor, 37sqm. Studio condo, fully furnished, reasonable price. Tel: 086-476 9612.

BEACH RESORT LOTS

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KATA SHOP HOUSE



For sale in Kata Beach center. 3 floors, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 4 aircons, 3 kitchens, 1 living room. Price: 7.3 million baht. Tel: 084-850 6722.

BEACHFRONT CONDO

2bedrooms on top floor. Freehold. North Patong. Price: 9.7 million baht. Also available for rent. Tel: 086-276 5117. For photos please email to jihshand@gmail.com

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

390sq wah, nice flat land, quiet area, Chanote. In Pasak Soi 5 near Laguna Home. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118, 086-709 2933.

HOUSE & FURNITURE

Single house, 60sqm. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms and 3 toilets. In Chaiyapruek Village at Land & House, Chalong. Good location and entrance from bypass road. Built 2 years ago. Tel: 084-627 7001.

30 RAI IN TOWN

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LAND FOR SALE

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2 RAI OF FRUIT PLANTATION



Near Chalong Temple. Price: 7.5 million baht per rai, with Chanote title. Situated among nice villas in tranquil area. Has road and electricity. Good size for housing projects. Tel: 080-520 2989.

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Close to Phuket International Airport. 4 rai, Chanote title. 3.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-868 7676. Email: phuketann@gmail.com

URGENT SALE!



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LAND FOR SALE

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KOH YAO YAI LAND FOR SALE

A small plot of land for sale: 3 rai and 22sq wah (4,888sqm) near Klong Son Beach. Asking Price: 4.5 million baht. Nor Sor 3 Gor access document included. Tel: 087-887 7133, 084-848 7474. Email: kasina_navamachiti@yahoo.com

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LAND FOR SALE

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GOLF VIEW LAND IN KATHU

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SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE

In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Keaw. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Price: 2.4 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

SALE NAI HARN RESORT

21 small villas, 8x4m pool jacuzzi, sauna. 3 bedrooms, owner's house. Up to 2 million baht return per year. Prime location. Set on 2 rai. Price: 27.5 million baht. Financing is possible. Contact Vincent. Tel: 087-892 6204.

LAND 700SQM KAMALA 3.9 MB

Nice area, Chanote title, road, electricity, water, 900 meters from Kamala Beach. Tel: 080-528 1536 (English & Thai). Email: nc.residence@gmail.com

PATONG TOWER FOR SALE

Modern, 1-bedroom 70sqm condo, refitted and furnished. Price: 4.95 million baht. Tel: 081-088 8099.

HOUSE IN THALANG

House for sale or rent in Thalang (Baan Suan Yau Charoen 3). 1-storey, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 5 aircons, 1 kitchen in Thai and European style. Includes garage and tropical garden on 140.70sq wah. Contact Khun Somsak. Tel: 081-895 2355.

3 RAI LAND IN TRANG

For sale. 3 rai in Baan Po, Muang, Trang. Very good location for business, suitable for house projects. Electricity, access road. Sale by owner. With Chanote. Price: 9 million baht ono. No agents please! Tel: 075-210646, 087-270 9093.

4.45 MILLION BAHT LAGUNA HOUSE

2-story, 3-bedroom house with 2 showers, 1 toilet, 40"/32" TVs, a sofa, wooden blinds, western kitchen, comes fully furnished and has a garden. Located in Phuket Grand Ville, Soi Pasak 8. Price: 4.45 million baht. Tel: 089-866 7193. Email: kasina_navamachiti@yahoo.com

POOL VILLA FOR SALE

In Bang Tao area. 1,2,3,4 bedrooms, fully furnished. Price: from 3 million baht. Tel: 084-851 6121.

LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION

Beautiful lake side plot at Loch Palm Golf Course. Price: 15 million baht. Tel: 081-273 6959 (English). Email: bobyapp@mac.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

Executive family pool villa near British International School. Tel: 084-185 4746. Email: idwian@hotmail.com

RAWAI SAIYUAN FOR SALE

2-storey villa, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, open-living swimming pool. Land 516sq wah, 2 years old. Original price: 13 million baht. Now: 7.5 million baht. Needs work. Tel: 089-731 0283. Email: namjai.land@csloxinfo.com

CHALONG LAND & HOUSE

for sale. Seewalee 1. Land and House Park Phuket, 82sq wah, 2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Price: 4.3 million baht. Near Chalong Circle, Villa Market. Tel: 087-907 4004. Email: vasuthida@hotmail.com

PENTHOUSE 7 MILLION BAHT

Two entire floors in a very private setting with the best view in Patong. Great location. 9 million baht invested. Tel: 084-848 4876. www.condosales.asia

SEAVIEW LAND KATA 3 MILLION BAHT

Very quiet and beautiful place with seaview. Located in the popular hillside of Kata, Patak Soi 10. 160sqm. 5 minutes drive to the beach. Tel: 081-968 5904. (English & Thai). Email: sujira_sk@yahoo.com

KATHU PHUKET

Exclusive, modern, European-style house near golf course. Completed in 2008. 3 bedrooms, large living room and pool. In a very quiet area. Price: 12.8 million baht. Tel: 089-413 6921. Email: leosteinemann@gmail.com

1 RAI OF LAND IN PAKLOK

Well located in a quiet area of the island. Marinas, golf courses and an International School all nearby. Asking price 4.3 million baht ono. Tel: 085-148 2621 (English & Thai). Email: jase.shanahan@virgin.net

SEAVIEW LAND BANG TAO, SURIN

Amazing views, private upscale community, underground utilities, 3-phase electricity. Ready to build. Plots starting at 4 million baht. Tel: 086-267 0157. Fax: 076-325294. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

TRADE-IN-OFFER

Want to sell my villa in Kata. From 19 million baht. Now only 14.5 million baht or trade for.

Trade-in options:

- (1) 2 engines motor yacht between 9 and 11 meter (25 and 30ft)
- (2) Recent luxury car, such as Porsche, Audi or Mercedes
- (3) 2-bedroom apartment with sea view
- (4) You can get 75% mortgage/ financing

FOR THIS VILLA

With 3-bedroom, 1 office room, large American-kitchen, pool, jacuzzi, garden and parking. Freehold chanote and free transfer. Tel: 081-788 8280. Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

Live in Chalong Talay?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
Chaba Supermarket



Simply write out your ad, pay for it and leave it with Khun Na. Tel: 076-325586 or 081-3977307.

GAZETTE CLASSADS – they work because they're PAID!
Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and FREE in the Gazette Online!
The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Island Job Mart

Phuket Gazette

As part of its continued expansion, the Phuket Gazette seeks two advertising sales representatives.

Advertising Sales

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

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to Anna@PhuketGazette.Net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasatri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

SALES EXECUTIVE PMI CONSULTANT

PHUKET BRANCH

Key Responsibilities:

- To agree individual and team sales targets with Southern Regional Manager.
- Follow up leads from telemarketing and in house leads.
- To convert leads to sale in accordance with Thai insurance sales legislation and in accordance with the company's rules.
- Ensure that all sales activity and sales are recorded on the prospect database.
- Liaise with Assistant Branch Manager about the process with the policy administration, underwriting and accounts departments to ensure that all applications and payments are processed correctly before the policy is issued.
- Produce daily and weekly team sales reports.
- To carry out any other duties which may be required from time to time.

Key Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree with at least 3 years experience on sales.
- Able to use Microsoft office and databases.
- On-track behavior and Can Do attitude.
- Well organized and good interpersonal skills.
- Passionate about people, customer and result.
- Good command of English.

The Human Resources Manager,
Bupa Health Insurance (Thailand) Ltd.
38 Q House Convent Building, 9th Floor,
Convent road, Silom, Bangkok, Bangkok 10500
Tel: 02-234 7755 Ext. 508, 715
www.bupa.co.th, Email: hr@bupa.co.th



Chief Accountant (1 position)

for Restaurant Group (4 venues), based in Kathu, Phuket

Duties and responsibilities

- Manage day-to-day accounting, bookkeeping
- Manage intercompany transactions (4 restaurants)
- Maintain fixed assets registration and depreciation
- All taxes, VAT, withholding tax, social security, etc...
- General ledger, P&L, Balance Sheet
- HR tasks for employees, company

Skills & background

- Accounting bachelor's degree or MBA
- Minimum 5 years experience as senior accountant
- Computer literate and fluent English is necessary
- Positive thinking and flexible attitude

Position available immediately.
Please email resume and application letter to
jean@willsee.com

STAFF AND SALES REPS NEEDED

1. Thai staff member needed. Ability to speak English is a must. Basic salary + commission.
 2. Sales staffers needed. English skills are required. Basic salary + commission.
- Tel: 081-270 1370.

RECEP, HANDYMAN, NIGHT MANAGER

New hotel seeks experienced staff. Call for interview. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English), 086-902 8566 (Thai). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

ACCOUNTANT AND ASSISTANT

IntercallService Co Ltd is seeking an accountant and assistant. Successful candidates must have a good command of spoken and written English, be independent and conduct specific tasks that involve contact with the government. They need to be qualified, fast learning, reliable and have good interpersonal skills. Interested persons send your CV to IntercallService. Tel: 084-842 6202 (English & Thai). Email: bee@intercallservice.com

GENERAL MANAGER

Needed for 33-room guesthouse in the center of Patong. Must be fluent in English, have a good level of experience and charisma. Please send CV to us. Email: dtslimited@gmail.com

ACCOUNTANT

For long established trading company in Kamala. We are looking for an accountant (1 person) also responsible for everyday office operations. Salary starts at 20,000 baht per month. Requires good English and office experience. Tel: 076-385221, 086-773 4538 (English). Fax: 076-279340. Email: skgf@skgf.asia

MAID

Maid to work mainly in Kamala. Need own motorbike. Tel: 083-634 5772. Email: info@husiphuket.se

PART TIME FOREIGNER

Part time, computer literate, native English language speaker sought for hotel in Patong. Email: patonghotel@yahoo.com

ARCHITECT WANTED

Must speak English. To work on a new mixed use development in Phuket. Tel: 076-384731, 081-693 9372. Please send CV to Daniel via email: mainstreetdevelopment@hotmail.com

MAID WANTED

Good pay for Thai woman to give daily massage to 70-year-old American and take care of house in Chalong. Please email information about yourself. Email: ltnesneq@aol.com

HOTEL STAFF REQUIRED

Thai nationals required in a Patong condominium project for the following positions: Reception, bookings & electrician. Email: solitude001@aol.com

LOOKING FOR NANNY 8,000 BAHT

Young couple with an 11-month-old baby boy is looking for a live out nanny in Kathu, Phuket. Nanny should be Thai, between 20 and 40 years old and with previous experience in taking care of young children. Some English skills would be great but not necessary. Working hours are 6 days a week from 8am to 5pm. Main work is to take care of our baby boy. Only some light house cleaning work. Salary is 8,000 baht. Please call Khun Nadia. Tel: 087-474 1037 (English & Thai). Email: bernd42@hotmail.com

wine connection

In the frame of rapid growth,
we are looking for candidates for the following position

Retail Area Manager

- Thai National
- Minimum 3 years in managing of retail store/operation
- Sales, detail and results-oriented with systematic reports
- Ability to demonstrate business skills, especially good administrative management
- Excellent English and computer literature

Please send the resume to assisthrmgrphuket@wineconnection.co.th
or call 076-282411#13 for further information



DESIGNED BY WOULFE
BESPOKE INTERIOR DESIGN

We are looking for candidates for the following roles

- Architect
- Interior Designer/Interior Architect
- Secretary/Admin

- Monday-Friday, based in Phuket
- Salary based on experience
- Good written and spoken English required
- Able to work in a team
- Fluent use of Microsoft Office
- Autocad, 3D Max and Sketch-Up are an advantage

Interested candidates should submit their resume in English and salary expectations to hr@designedbywoulfe.com

TIMESHARE SALES & MARKETING

Our new project is opening in Patong very soon. It's a well-funded, secure, and great product with a great location. We're looking for admin, sales and marketing people who want to work in a positive, progressive and professional work culture. If you have experience that's a plus, but not a pre-requisite. This is an amazing opportunity to join a world-class team. Tel: 083-105 5001 (English). Email: pypconnect@gmail.com

PRIVATE VILLA ATTENDANT

Mom Tri's Villa Royale is set atop the headland of Kata Bay between two of the most beautiful sandy beaches on Phuket: Kata Noi and Kata Yai. We are currently seeking energetic and dynamic people to join our team. Three villa attendants required for the 'ocean wing' of our private 5-bedroom villa. Candidates should preferably be young, male & dynamic. Apply in writing with full CV stating present and expected salaries, enclosed with a recent photo. Tel: 076-333568. Fax: 076-333001. Email: hr@villaroyalephuket.com For further details, please see our website at www.villaroyalephuket.com

**Looking for a job?
Looking for a better candidate?
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [www.PhuketGazette.Net!](http://www.PhuketGazette.Net)**

Island Job Mart



Anantara Si Kao Resort & Spa, Trang



If you enjoy being the best, delivering the highest of standards and are a technical expert in your area then you may want to come and be part of the Anantara Story.....We are looking for the following professionals to join us.

Front Office

- Assistant FO Manager
- Guest Relations Supervisor
- Senior GRA / Shift Leader x 2
- Guest Relations Attendant x 2
- Bell Man

Food & Beverage

- Beverage/Bar Manager
- F&B Supervisor x 2
- Bar Supervisor x 3
- Bartender x 3
- F&B Service Attendant x 5

Kitchen

- Sous Chef (Western)
- Chef De Partie (Western)
- Chef De Partie (Bakery)
- Commis II x 7
- Commis III (Western) x 3
- Commis III (Thai Kitchen) x 4
- Steward x 7

We enjoy a 5.5 day work week (average 44 hours per week), free Accommodation and free van to Trang Town 2 times a week.

As part of our recruitment process you will be assessed on your level of English – this is a key skill for all of our team.

Please email your CV with covering letter stating the position you are applying to

recruit_sikao@anantara.com

Contact Human Resources Department, Anantara Si Kao Resort & Spa

Phone + 66 (0) 75 205888 | Fax + 66 (0) 75 205899

Good Luck with your application!

EXPERIENCED PROGRAMMER

Bachelor's Degree or similar in computer science, experience in web development, at least 2 years of PHP development, experience with Linux servers, high level of spoken and written English, Thai nationals only. Email: jobphuket@globekey.com

EVENT MANAGER

Part-time PR and event organizer required for a well-established event held in Phuket every December. Excellent English skills and a desire to learn are required. Email: gordon@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

NEED STAFF

Need Thai sales person for a shop in Bang Tao area – the shopping Plaza near the Dalar Resort. Good conditions. Tel: 080-7171900 (English). Email: iriyad@mail.ru

ENGINEER SUPERVISOR

Engineer - salary 11,000 - 12,000 baht per month plus service charge - available now - shift 8am to 7pm - work 6 day shifts - skilled in electrical & plumbing systems, wood work and swimming pool - Thai national, fluent in English. Tel: 076-333222, 086-604 1333 (English). Email: sales@ccblooks hotel.com

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

ELT is looking for a qualified, enthusiastic and experienced kindergarten teacher to start at Ban Maireab school ASAP. We offer 38,000-40,000 baht per month plus benefits. Email: amydavies13@hotmail.com

NEED ASSISTANT MANAGER

Looking for assistant manager (female) for international restaurant in Jungceylon, Patong. Good experience in F&B needed. Please contact Alain 084-758 7468 (English). Email: alain@cafe101.co.th

ASSISTANT REQUIRED
Fast-growing Internet-based company is looking to hire a full time staff member to do all general online marketing tasks. We require that you speak basic English. Tel: 087-387 4771 (English & Thai). Email: dada@phukettours.org

GRAPHIC DESIGNER REQUIRED

Fast-growing Internet-based company is looking to hire a full time graphic designer to do the following tasks: website mock ups, logo design, book cover design and banner advertising design. We require that you speak basic English. Tel: 087-387 4771 (English & Thai). Email: dada@phukettours.org

OFFICE MANAGER

Thai national. Excellent written and spoken English, smart appearance, good organizational skills. Experience in property rentals. Tel: 080-052 8082. Email: solitude001@aol.com

WEB DEVELOPER REQUIRED

Fast-growing Internet-based company is looking to hire a full time website programmer to do the following tasks: wordpress HTML coding, PHP coding, server administration, simple application development, business process automation. We require that you speak basic English. Tel: 087-387 4771 (English & Thai). Email: dada@phukettours.org

LOOKING FOR A PROGRAMMER

We are looking for a programmer with good experience in PH, Javascript/Ajax, CSS3, HTML5 and MySQL for our web project. Good experience of Google maps v3 appreciated. You can work in our office at Boat Lagoon, Phuket, or from home and meet once a week for achievements and planning. You should be self-motivated, reliable and deadline-oriented. We are building modules for the functionality in our site for easy future upgrade by anyone from our team. Contact Khun Bee. Tel: 076-239820, 089-473 9019. Email: bee@latitude1 maritime.com

Italasia Groups the leading importer in Thailand of Italian F&B products is inviting candidates for the following positions:

- Sales Executive illy Coffee and Gruppo illy products
- Sales Executive imported food products
- Sales Executive Wines & Spirits

Qualifications:

Age 28-45 years, resident in Phuket. Minimum 3 years of relevant working experience in sale of F&B goods. EXCELLENT command of English (Written, Spoken and Translation). Proven experience in food and beverage and passion for imported food and beverage products. Self motivated, independent and organized to handle presentations, tastings with key F&B clients. Own car.

Job Description:

Sales and marketing of top FOOD PRODUCTS, COFFEE, WINE AND SPIRITS imported brands to new potential clients in Phuket, Krabi, Khao Lak areas.

If you want to be part of Italasia Group submit your resume with cover letter in English and photo to: italasiaphuket@me.com

HOTEL GROUP IN PHUKET WHICH HAS TWO FOUR STAR RESORTS, ONE IN PATONG AND ONE IN KARON HAS THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES:

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO CEO / GENERAL MANAGER

- Prior experience and good English language skills essential
- Salary 30,000 to 40,000 baht ** Plus service charge

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO CEO / GENERAL MANAGER

- Good English language skills essential
- Salary 20,000 to 30,000 baht ** Plus service charge

SALES MANAGER (THAILAND)

- Prior experience and good English language skill essential
- Salary 30,000 to 40,000 baht ** Plus service charge

ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER (THAILAND)

- Prior experience and good English language skills essential
- Salary 20,000 to 30,000 baht ** Plus service charge

REVENUE MANAGER

- Prior experience and good English language skills essential
- Salary negotiable based on experience

Single accommodation will be provided for suitable candidate.

*****If you are confident, please send your full details with recent photograph to
Email: jps@loxinfo.co.th**

PR, OPC AND SALES POSITIONS

PR, OPC and sales people wanted. Must speak English. Very good pay. Tel: 076-325195, 080-145 2854 (English). Email: opc_simon@yahoo.com

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Thai National Office Administrator required. Excellent written and spoken English, smart appearance, good organizational skills are essential. Tel: 082-277 9490.

HOUSE MAID RAWAI

To look after pool villas. For more details. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: Rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

LOOKING FOR A LAWYER

Paralegal and accountant work. Requirements: fluent in English, both written and spoken; good attitude; ability to work well under pressure. Tel: 081-893 3212, 081-968 0230. Email: Rodriguez.l@scplawassistance.com

TEACHERS NEEDED

Earth Language Training Centre requires native English speakers with teaching experience. Tel: 076-232398. Email: siripanyaschool@yahoo.co.uk

WEB DESIGNER

Experienced web designer required in Ao Nang, Krabi. Thai national only. Tel: 081-077 5698. Please send email to: rbysouth@hotmail.com

SALES CONSULTANTS REQUIRED

Club Asia Fitness requires Sales Consultants. Thai national – English speaking an advantage. Eam 20,000 baht++. Tel: 076-354027, 087-275 3614 (English). Email: info@clubasiaphuket.com Website: www.clubasia-phuket.com

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

General Classifieds

Articles For Sale

SWEDISH CANDY SALE LAST DAY

Stock clearance. Gott & Blandat, Bilar, Djungelvral, Snoren, etc. Tel: 076-246427, 087-274 6602 (English), 085-885 6798. Fax: 076-246180. Email: info@scansnax.nu For further details, please see our website at www.scansnax.nu

MOVING SALE

Last few items! 5-piece Root furniture set, canoes, bed frame, TV stand, washing machine, speakers, flower pots, Peen reel w/ rod. Tel: 087-282 5008. Email: katafrog@hotmail.com

MOVING SALE

CAT CDMA Internet Device – 1500 baht, Oven (H: 32cm / W: 53cm / D: 32cm) – 1,000 baht, Office Chair - 800 baht, Shelves - 600 baht each or 1,000 baht for both. Tel: 084-629 3471 (English). Email: daoulasc@gmail.com

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE 2

30 glass shelves, brackets, scrub, bed, cashier table, nail table, 2 massage chairs, auto machine, electric paraffin machine, many other items for massage and beauty parlor. Tel: 086-281 8883.

IPAD1 WIFI 32GB

Good condition. Only 10,000 baht. Tel: 087-026 1362. Email: chumapkt@gmail.com

JACUZZI FOR SALE

Mobile spa in good condition, used only for 1 year. Price: 70,000 baht. Tel: 081-667 1637 (English & Thai).

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

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

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

PATONG

- Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza)
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza)
- Deli Supermarket (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd)

Tel: 076-344521-2
Tel: 076-290468
Tel: 076-342275

PHUKET CITY

- Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd)
- Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd)

Tel: 076-232398
Tel: 076-258369

CHERNG TALAY

- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (main entrance road to Laguna Phuket)
- Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: 076-324313
Tel: 076-325586

RAWAI

- The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: 076-613173

KARON

- EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

Tel: 076-396911

MOVING! ITEMS FOR SALE

- Electrolux coffee machine, auto-drip coffee (includes filters): 500 baht
 - Hanabashi electric stovetop cooker: 500 baht
 - Royal Phuket Marina Health Club one month membership: 6,000 baht value, open to any offers!
- Tel: 082-804 5506. Email: brettsouth@gmail.com

PEPPER SPRAY

Large (60g) 600 baht. Lipstick size 400 baht. Tel: 089-896 5600. Email: enquiry@saenyim.com

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Stainless-steel water filter, 35 liters. Nano 750-liter water tank. Samsung security system with 4 cameras. 22-inch monitor, 24-inch Sanyo TV, 3.1 clinch fridge and many other items. Tel: 086-281 8883.

CAKE MIXER

Tomex TM-951 cake mixer with dough hooks. Converts to hand held for mixing sauces or drinks. Two high-quality cake pans (heart shaped). 1,950 baht. Tel: 089-896 5600. Email: enquiry@saenyim.com

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

Bulletins

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

For Phuket info (English) call 081-8912895, 081-8954763 or email: phuketaa@yahoo.com
English Speaking Meetings
Mission Hospital – Phuket City Wed and Sun 7 PM
Bangkok Hospital – Phuket City Fri 7 PM
Patong Hospital – Patong Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 7 PM
Green Man Restaurant - Chalong Tue 1 PM
Stereo Lab Restaurant - Surin Beachfront Mon and Thur 9:30 AM
Scandinavian Meeting - Karon Tue and Sat 7 PM (Nov-April)
Tel: 086-9440460 Swe, 085-4647450 Swe

For info on other Thailand AA meetings inquire @ 02-23118300 (for Thai language press 3) www.aathailand.org or email: info@aathailand.org

SPONSOR A CHILD

The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors – small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Please call K. Carol (Tel: 087-417 8860) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-277 6948). Or email: info@phuketiwc.com

CAFE SHOP ITEMS

For sale. Tables, chairs, counter, meat slicer machine, Thai cooking gas stove, working table, glasses. Contact for details. Email: maxi-phuket@hotmail.com

Business Opportunities

KATA RESTAURANT

Newly renovated, fully equipped, with TV, DVD player, UBC etc. Large kitchen, bedroom, store room area. Bargain reduced price: 450,000 baht. Only 8,000 baht per month. No yearly payment. 3+3 years contracts. Tel: 081-891 9461.

DIVING CO. FOR SALE

Includes: 2 work permits, office equipment and cheap rent rate (6,000/month). For sale at 150,000 baht. Tel: 084-8383158. Email: talal@bwdiving.com

PATONG BEACH BAR

Apple bar is located on the beach side of the beach road in Patong. Big long bar, great location. Price: 900,000 baht. Tel: 088-178 4759. Email: iankershaw57@yahoo.com

BAR POOL HOTEL/ RAWAI BEACH



5-year lease: 3 million baht (\$100,000) or 800,000 baht yearly rent. No key money. Bar, pool, hotel, 9 bedrooms, 9 bathrooms, WiFi, cable TV. 60 meters from the beach. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com

GUESTHOUSE-BAR- RESTAURANT

Good location in Thaina Rd. 5 minutes to beach. All aircon/TV/WiFi. 10 rooms. Newly renovated for takeover. Leaving because of illness. Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 087-387 0677 (English). Email: erec-buchanan@msn.com

SALE OR RENT KATA

8-room guesthouse with WiFi and restaurant 5 minutes' walk from beach. With Chanote title. One of the busiest guesthouses in Phuket the last three years. 80% occupancy even low season. For further info, please call. Tel: 081-894 8446. Email: sfrkata@hotmail.com

BIG BILL AND IRA LOOKING FOR

Former RockHard managers looking for partner in new food venture. Tel: 081-086 2772 (English). Email: bigbillsdeli@gmail.com

BAR IN BANGLA

Urgent! Big bar for sale under Seduction Disco. Price: 1.6 million baht, payable over 2 years. Tel: 083-391 2695 (English & Thai). Email: holgione2004@yahoo.de

BAR FOR SALE

Under boxing stadium. Fully furnished; fridge, TV and staff included. A good investment. Email: fasa6075@hotmail.fr

Available For Rent Offices / Showrooms

40/80-160 sq. meter ground floor units

PLAZA DEL MAR Entrance to Laguna Phuket



Please contact Khun Nong for more details
m : 087 266 8400 e : plazadelmar@gmail.com

**Would you like to keep up on what's happening
in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre?
Let us share it with you - every week!**

TO: The Phuket Co Ltd, 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd
T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE
for a full year - **52 issues!**

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa / Mastercard

- Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)
- Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)
- Thai Baht 9,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand)

Surname (as appears on card) _____ Given name(s) (as on card) _____

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Issuing Bank: _____ Country: _____

Last 3 digits
on back of card

Signature: _____ Date: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please Deliver To:

Street address _____

City _____ State or Province _____ Zip Code _____

Country: _____



General Classifieds

**RAWAI/ POOL
GUESTHOUSE**


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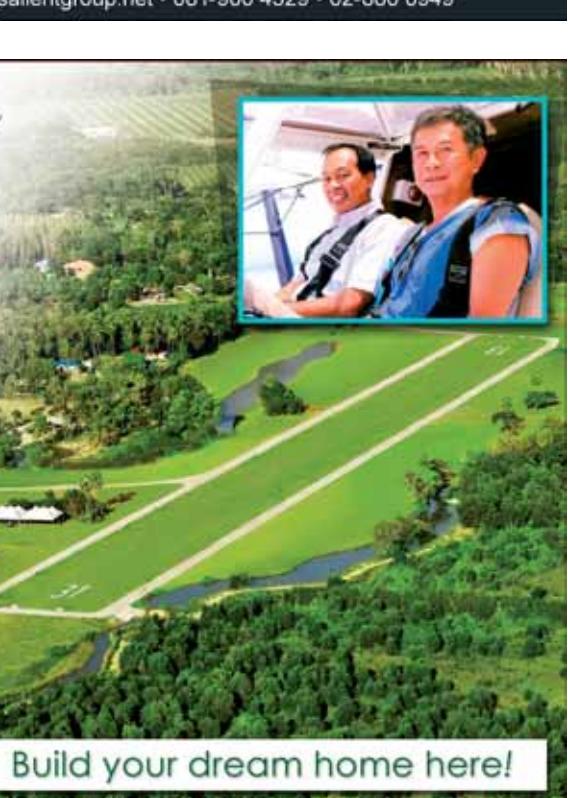
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One-on-one with stars

The Lowe-down on marathon running

By Neil Quail

RECORDS tumbled at this year's Laguna Phuket International Marathon (LPIM). One less publicized, but astonishing nonetheless, was Phuket-resident Moira Lowe's.

Experienced marathon runners presented memorable moments at the 2011 event. Russian dynamo Vsevolod Khudyakov broke the LPIM course record after bunking on the beach for the night, while Australian Julia Thorn completed her 115th marathon, the LPIM being her 5th in as many weekends.

Moira's incredible achievement of competing in her first ever full marathon and finishing second (women's category) in a field of world class athletes, may not have the Guinness Book of Records clamoring for an interview, but certainly piqued the interest of the *Phuket Gazette*.

Very kindly taking time from her 43rd birthday celebrations on Monday, Moira talked to the *Gazette* about her inspirational marathon experience.

Where are you from originally?

I was born in Sussex but have also lived and worked at various other locations in the United Kingdom and overseas, including Estonia, Colombia and Indonesia.

Where do you work?

I work at the British International School (BIS) here in Phuket as the Upper Key Stage Two Coordinator for year five and year six at primary level.

What influenced your participation in the Laguna Marathon?

I started competing in some of the local road races last year. I have done a few half marathons now and have done well in them, so I thought I'd give myself a new challenge of completing a marathon, just to see if I could do it. I entered the half marathon at Laguna last year, but tore my calf muscle a month before and had to pull out.

This was your first full marathon. Apart from the half marathon have you had any other distance event experience?

I competed in the Laguna triathlon and Ironman last December as part of a team. We finished 8th in the triathlon and 5th in the Ironman.

How long did you train for the LPIM?

I trained using a plan for three months.

Did you include any specific training or dietary regimes?

Hill runs and speed trials around Koh Kaew. I tried to make sure I had plenty of protein in my diet, but other than that I just kept eating healthily as usual.

Did you have any expectation of finishing in the top three, top five or even top 10?

No, not at all. Friends had said I would, but I had no idea. Really, I was just hoping to complete it without stopping!



DISTANCE NO OBJECT: Phuket's Moira Lowe with her trophy for second place at LPIM.

How did the heat affect your training and the race?

There wasn't much effect. I'm used to training in the heat here. When I last ran in the UK I couldn't believe how fast I was and thought my monitor was faulty. The weather on LPIM race day was perfect though, with cloud cover and a slight breeze.

At what point in the LPIM did you realize you were running well?

Once I'd done the turn-around people were giving me the thumbs up and saying "first woman!" I had to check they were talking to me! I couldn't believe it.

I noticed you were wearing slightly unorthodox leg-wear. Care to explain?

A week before the race I strained my right calf muscle so I spent every evening icing my leg and hoping it would be alright for the race. A friend lent me her flight support stockings to run in to help. They worked!

Will you compete in marathons more regularly?

Yes, it's certainly given me the motivation to continue. I've already signed up for the River Kwai half marathon in September. The best thing about it is that I really enjoy seeing what my body can do.

Your time (03:39:07) is only 10 minutes off the LPIM record – do you think you could improve enough to win and set a new record?

Hopefully. I still can't quite believe I did so well – life really does begin at 40. I was 43 on Monday. Looks like I need to get training again!

Finally, any advice for people considering running a marathon or thinking of running next year's LPIM?

Go for it! But follow a training plan, that way you'll have learned to push yourself and will be able to enjoy competing. You never know what you can do until you try. When I first arrived in Phuket I was over 10kgs heavier than I am now and have dropped three dress sizes. Get out there, have fun and feel great about yourself!

Snooker Cup champ gets his big break

By Neil Quail

IN ONE of the biggest games of his career so far, Thepchaiya Uh-nooh faced world number 17 Stuart Bingham in the final of Phuket's Sangsom Snooker Cup, and won.

As a result of that victory, Thepchaiya, 26, from Nakhon Nayok in central Thailand, has been selected to partner Passakorn Sunwannawat, and will represent Thailand B at the PTT-EGAT Snooker World Cup. The tournament will be held from July 11 to 17 at the Centara Hotel in Bangkok.

Two games will see Thepchaiya challenge three of world's top 10 ranked players: John Higgins (SCO), Neil Robertson (AUS) and Stephen Maguire (SCO).

The snooker star took time from his preparations on the baize to speak with the *Phuket Gazette* this week.

When did you start playing snooker and why?

I started to play snooker when I was 13 years old. Once I finished my homework I would watch my brother playing snooker near our home. After a while it became like a hobby to play when I finished my studies.

Who is your inspiration or hero?

Not so much a hero or inspiration, but I do appreciate the style of Ronnie O'Sullivan. He was born to play snooker.

What are your goals?

My goal is to achieve enough so I can ensure my parents are comfortable for the rest of their lives.

How do you feel about your progress and development as a snooker player?

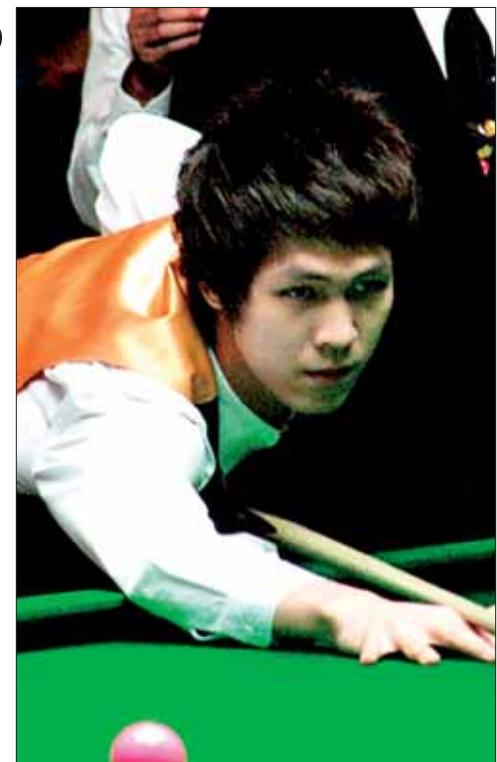
I haven't achieved much in the past three years. Between 2002 and 2009 was a great period for me. I won eight tournaments including the World Amateur Championship.

How would you compare snooker in Thailand with overseas?

If you talk about atmosphere, I do enjoy playing overseas. Obviously, I feel much more warmth when I play in Thailand.

What part of the competition is most stressful?

The stress for me mainly comes in training and preparing. When playing, I don't put



CUE THE WORLD CUP: Thepchaiya Uh-nooh prepares for his biggest tournament yet.

pressure on myself to win. Like the last game in Phuket. Really, I didn't think that I would win against Stuart Bingham, so I was relaxed and played well.

What do you enjoy most about snooker?

I enjoy the social side, wearing a smart suit and getting to work inside a nice air-conditioned room.

Are you nervous about playing in the PTT-EGAT Snooker World Cup 2011?

In a word, yes. This is one tournament that brings a lot of pressure. It's a really big event with big names and also a big cash prize.

What are your expectations for the World Cup?

I have no idea, but in one respect I'm relieved to be on the Thailand B team. If I was on the Thailand A team (James Wattana and Dechawat Poomjaeng), I would be even more stressed than I am now.

What do you do between games?

Relax, listen to music and keep up to date with Facebook – I couldn't miss that.

Will you return to defend your title?

Of course. I played in Phuket in 2010 also, but didn't do so well. I would like to visit for a holiday when I have time.

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Lomas make Phuket proud in rugby final

By Neil Quail

PHUKET youth rugby shone on the international stage last week when the Lomas took on teams from around the world and reached the final of Touraid's UK tournament held in Manchester.

Ten young men from Baan Sai Nam Yen school arrived back in Phuket on Monday following a week-long tour.

The Lomas lived with appointed host families and during their stay they enjoyed academic and leisure activities at Wright Robinson Sports College and met with celebrities such as Chester Williams, the South African rugby world cup winner.

Soaking up a bit of culture was a great experience for the touring party, but the Lomas had come to England to play rugby.

And play they did. After three days of anticipation the Lomas arrived at Eastlands Stadium like Derby winners under starter's orders, eager to get on the pitch and test their skills honed in the heat of Thailand.

Eight teams were divided into two

groups of four with the Lomas drawn in Group B. Creative Technical Academy were first to challenge the boys from Phuket in typical British summer conditions – cold and wet.

Napat "Book" Supreechawutti-pong and Sirirat "Fai" Tipjarune led the Lomas charge with superb support play from Songwoot "Night" Intanon and Sombat "Nick" Phoehiran. At the final whistle, two first-half tries from Sirirat and a second-half score by Napat helped the Lomas secure their first international victory.

With nerves settled and their engine running well, the Lomas moved up a gear against an East Midlands team who had lost their first game against Trinidad and Tobago, conceding five tries to the Caribbean side.

Srirat and Napat again showed their hunger for crossing the try line with Srirat adding four more tries to his tournament tally and Napat boosting his with two more scores. Sombat ended the game as a contest with a brilliant individual effort before East Midlands showed their spirit to score



THE HAKA THAI-STYLE: Phuket Lomas rugby team show their Muay Thai skills to Manchester's Lord Mayor (center, black suit) and Chester Williams (right, white shirt).

in the last minute. A 7-1 result moved the Lomas into their last group game against Trinidad and Tobago.

This game was to decide who would meet the Kulcutu Institute of Sport from India in the final, but the Lomas were faced with a much larger and stronger side than they had ever encountered.

It was going to be a bruising battle and the Trinidad and Tobago team used their strength and size to batter the Lomas line. Siwakorn "Meeh" Settha set the standard with a try saving tackle that proved inspirational to Phuket's defense.

Banthon "Pluem" Homruen followed Siwakorn's example and put his body in harms way to save a certain score. But it was a costly sacrifice. The heroic tackle caused an injury to Banthon's arm which forced him to leave the field, his tournament over.

Trinidad and Tobago's focus seemed to fade after the restart, and the Lomas made for their opponent's line. With his pack driving from behind, Napat was pushed over for the opening score, late in the second half. The Caribbean boys threw everything they had at the nine-man Lomas side, but Phuket's disciplined defense held firm.

With two minutes remaining, Lomas turned over possession and fed the ball to their captain, Nanthawat, who raced away to touch down and seal their place in the final.

Getting to the final proved that bridge too far for the Lomas. A man down and others battle-scarred provided a well-drilled Kulcutu side with opportunities not usually afforded by Phuket. The Lomas spirit was not dampened and their Herculean effort was acknowledged and appreciated by spectators and players alike, but in the end Kulcutu ran in four tries to take the title.

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CENTRAL WINE CELLAR



TASAR CHAMPIONS: Ian Coulson and Leslie Hand on G-String.

G-string pulls off first Tasar victory

STRONG winds buffeted the inaugural Siam Surveyors Thailand Tasar Championship on June 26 and 27 off Ao Chalong, Phuket.

Organized by the Phuket Yacht Club, four Tasars competed in a series of 10 races scheduled over two days.

After day one it was clear there were two competitions taking place on the water. The battle for first and second would be played out between Andrew de Bruin and Donna Stephens, sailing *Slipstream* and *G-String*, sailed by Ian Coulson and Leslie Hand.

Third place beckoned for either *Lady Pie*, crewed by Jim Poulsen and Marcus Overman or *Dragon Fly*, sailed by Mick and Liam Kealy.

An exciting second day eventually came down to the very last race. Both *Slipstream* and *G-String* had an opportunity to win the series, while third place was also up for grabs.

In the end *G-String* crossed the line to become the first Thailand Tasar Champion. *Slipstream* followed in second place, possibly rueing a capsize in their first race.

Dragon Fly won the last race, but *Lady Pie* took third place overall based on points over two days.

Tasar series results:

- G-String** - 10
- Slipstream** - 12
- Lady Pie** - 26
- Dragon Fly** - 27

Sport

Songkhla's league hopes steered off course by Phuket

A scoreless draw dents Songkhla's promotion hopes as League Division One reaches its half-way point.

By Nejl Quajil

SURAKUL Stadium hosted the first round of League Division One's southern derby last Saturday with over 4,500 fans hoping FC Phuket's regional rivalry against Songkhla would bring action, drama and goals.

Two out of three wasn't bad as the game delivered plenty of excitement, but goals for, and against Phuket are increasingly becoming a rare commodity.

Sticking a finger in their leaky defensive dyke has been a positive for Phuket, and three games ago it seemed they had found a well of goals to draw from, but it too appears to have been plugged

Phuket's intentions to take the game to Songkhla were made clear from the start. In the second minute Sarach Yooyen crossed from the left, putting Songkhla's goalkeeper, Prasit Nuamsala, under pressure to clear the danger.

New signing for FC Phuket

FC Phuket G Ahsin Arammeter signed on Saturday

His miss-timed punch created more defensive distress, but the ball was eventually cleared before it could be poached by Kone Adama.

Phuket are also with another Istriker current Swiss second

Sarah Yooyen sent in another dangerous delivery on 23 minutes, and again Prasit struggled to field the ball cleanly. Abdoul Coulibaly couldn't get his head to the cross and the crowd's exasperation was audible throughout the stadium.

In the 40th minute Korrakot tried to find his range once more, but his volley thundered narrowly over the crossbar.

Before the first half drew to a close, Voravet Januthai of Songkhla and Nene Bi Tre

Sylvestre of Phuket both received yellow cards for poor conduct.

Phuket started the second half in similar fashion to the first. On 49 minutes Leuchar launched a goal kick which was deflected on to Watcharapong Jun-ngam, and his first touch put him one-on-one with Prasit. With the goal at his mercy and Prasit on the deck, Watcharapong sliced the ball off the outside of his right boot and sent it closer to the corner flag than to the goal.

Six minutes later, Voravet's 30-yard set-piece attempt careered off Phuket's left post, signaling Songkhla's dominance for the next 20 minutes.

Panai Kongkaphan fired over the crossbar in the 69th minute and Songkhla should have scored in the 73rd minute. Nithirot Sok-uma read Panai's pass and cleared the ball before it could reach an unmarked Vorayot.

The last real opportunity literally fell to the visitors when Leuchar imitated Prasitsak's first-half failed clearance, but Panai could only head the gift back to Leuchar. The game ended on an anti-climactic 0-0 scoreline moments later.

point from the league's fourth placed team, Phuket's coach Sompong Wattana was justifiably pleased with his team's performance.

"I am satisfied with a draw, but it is a shame we missed opportunities to score. Our players played to the best of their ability. We have to continue to change and improve to achieve our ultimate goal, which is to play in the SponsorThai Premier League," he said.

Phuket's next league match is on July 10 against Suphanburi FC at Surakul Stadium. The "Warriors" are in 13th place with 17 points after 17 games. Kick-off is at 6pm.

Team	P	Pts
Buriram	17	42
BBCU	17	42
BUFC	17	34
Songkhla	17	33
PTT Rayong	17	30
Chainat	17	30
Rajapracha	17	27
Saraburi	17	25
Phuket	17	24
AFUTD	17	21



ADAMA SOARS: Phuket's Kone Adama shows his prowess in the air and fends off the attention of a Songkhla defender. Photo: Apinun Saithong

An advertisement for Palm House Primary School. At the top left, five children with their arms raised are shown against a yellow and black striped background. To the right is the school's crest featuring a shield with 'P' and 'H' at the top, 'S' at the bottom, and a banner below it reading 'HONOR VIRTUTIS PRAEMIUM'. Below the crest is the school name 'PALM HOUSE Primary School' in large gold letters. To the left of the main title is a green box containing the 'IPC' logo and the text 'INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY CURRICULUM'. Below the title is a yellow box with the word 'OPENING' in large letters and the date '12th September 2011'. To the right of the opening text is a photograph of a two-story white building with a balcony, set in a green lawn. Below the building is the text 'Ages: 5 to 11'. To the right of the building is a map of Phuket roads showing 'PATAK ROAD', 'SAI YUAN', 'VISEI ROAD', 'PIER ROAD', 'TO CHALONG CIRCLE approx 4.3 km', 'TO NAI HARN', 'RAWAI HARDWARE', 'SOI SALIKA', 'TO RAWAI SEA FRONT approx 1 km', and 'TRAFFIC LIGHTS'. A small inset map shows the location of the school relative to Chalong Bay. At the bottom left, there is contact information: 'For more information: Telephone: 076 288630 email: info@palmhouseprimaryschool.com'. At the bottom right, the website 'please visit our website: www.palmhouseprimaryschool.com' is listed.

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