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Phuket Gazette

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HUNDREDS COULD BE TRAPPED INSIDE, BUT RESCUERS COULD DO NOTHING

Super inferno

SuperCheap megastore ravaged by ferocious blaze

By **Saran Mitrarat**

FLAMES continued to ravage Phuket's renowned SuperCheap megastore on Thursday morning, stifling any efforts to search for victims caught in the inferno that broke out at the huge shopping facility the previous night.

Fresh reinforcements of firefighters arrived to relieve those who battled the flames throughout the night. Plumes of smoke continued to rise into the morning sky.

"Firefighters are doing their best, but parts of the building are still burning," Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa told the *Gazette*.

Two firefighters were injured during the night.

"They were cut by sharp objects while fighting the fire, but thankfully their injuries were not serious," Vice Governor Sommai said.

The area surrounding the building remained sealed off, while investigators from the Phuket Forensics Police attended a briefing to prepare themselves for entering the facility.

The number of people possibly trapped by the fire could reach into the hundreds, though Phuket City Police chief Sermphan Sirikong was reluctant to estimate how many people…

Continued on ***Page 2***

Firefighters desperately attempt to prevent the fire from spreading, as explosions continue inside. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

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This Week

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RPM makes a move into the lucrative rentals business. **Page 14**

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Famous American clothing brand arrives in Phuket. **Page 17**

Food
Discover the off-the-beaten-track face of Phuket food. **Page 34**

Explore
You're never too old to get on a bicycle in Phuket. **Page 36**

In Focus
Ancient rituals come alive for the Vegetarian Festival. **Page 40-41**

Sport
Phuket counting down to FIVB tournament excitement. **Page 51**

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SuperCheap blaze

Flames ravaged everything.

Firefighters at the scene.

The fires continued into Thursday.

Mrs Anong fears her daughter was lost in the blaze. Photos: Isaac Simonelli

From Page 1

…may have died in the blaze.

"We are co-ordinating our efforts with forensic police officers who will soon enter and search the building," Col Sermphan said.

The Phuket Social Security Office confirmed that 2,736 Thais and 700 Myanmar nationals are registered as employed by the store.

Throughout the night only one missing person report was formally filed at the incident center set up in front of the shopping center.

"After 2am, security guard Jongdee Chinthai was reported missing, but he was reported found alive by 8am today," Vice Governor Sommai confirmed.

Anong Khunpetthongrat, however, fears the worst for her 18-year-old daughter Siriporn Khunpetthongrat, a cashier at SuperCheap.

"I have been waiting all night to hear any news of her. I got here at about 9:30pm, as soon as I found out about the fire," Ms Anong said.

"I have very little hope that she is still alive. I am preparing myself for the worst," she tearfully told the *Gazette*.

Vice Governor Sommai said the fire had damaged at least six houses in the vicinity.

Rassada Mayor Phudit Raksarat ordered his officers to conduct a door-by-door check to confirm how much damage local houses have sustained and to determine whether any local residents need assistance.

"We have about 200 police officers at the scene and about 300 rescue workers from Phuket and Phang Nga standing by," Vice Governor Sommai said.

"We're doing the best we can," she added.

Patong business owners threaten shutdown if Yingluck doesn't cut government corruption

By Saran Mitrarat

PATONG business owners have delivered an ultimatum to the Office of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra – fix the rampant corruption within the ranks of police and government officials in Phuket, or face the consequences.

The warning, delivered by Patong Entertainment Business Association (PEBA) president Weerawit Kureasombut on Tuesday, came with a deadline of October 31: Halloween.

"If steps aren't taken by then, bar owners in Patong may stage a general strike and shut down for one or even two nights," he told the *Gazette*.

If the seriousness of the message isn't heard – or fully appreciated – by the Prime Minister, then many bar and nightclub owners will be forced to close down permanently, as they cannot afford to keep making these corruption payoffs, Mr Weerawit explained.

"The entertainment business owners are in trouble. We filed a complaint in February to the Phuket Governor, but so far nothing has happened," Mr Weerawit said on Tuesday.

The complaint to the governor alleged that venue owners in Patong are required to pay an estimated total of 50 million baht a month to corrupt Phuket officials so that bars and nightclubs may trade outside of legal operating hours.

Phuket businessman and adviser to the Thailand Trade Organization Chart Chindapol said on Tuesday that he had now filed the same complaint with the Prime Minister's Office.

"I handed the complaint personally to Suranand Vejjajiva, the Secretary General to the Prime Minister of Thailand Yingluck Shinawatra," he said.

"The complaint was received by the Prime Minister's Office on October 7. We will give the government 15 days [until October 31] to take action. If nothing happens, we will do something to let them know that we are in distress," Mr Weerawit said.

Copies of the complaint were also sent to the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, Ministry of Interior, Royal Thai Police and other relevant departments.

Mr Weerawit also urged lawmakers to consider allowing entertainment businesses to trade longer hours in order to stamp out the rampant corruption.

"In the complaint, we explained that we want to extend the closing time for our venues to 4am. The Public Entertainment Place Act BE 2509 currently allows entertainment venues to be open until 1am only – and this is costing us a lot of potential income because our customers do not start coming to the venues until about 11pm.

"If we are allowed to stay open longer…

Continued on **page 8**

Officer stripped of badge over drug den shoot-out

By Orawin Narabal

A PHUKET Tourist Police officer has been kicked off the force as the prosecutor moves forward to charge him with a double-homicide in a drug-den shootout in March.

Former officer Pinchai Piyadilok, 34 at the time of the shooting, lost a leg as a result of wounds sustained in the gun battle that left Saran Chaithum, 26, and Chalermpol Tripuk, 26, dead.

However, the only bullets and casings found at the scene, an apartment littered with kratom leaves near Phuket Rajabhat University, were fired from Mr Pinchai's gun, according to the Phuket Forensics Office.

"We have conducted a fair case, and not protected this officer just because he was on the force. If police break the law, then they too will go through the legal process like everyone else," said Phuket City Police chief Sermphan Sirikong.

"Now the case is out of our hands; I cannot give you any more details," Col Sermphan said

While being treated for gunshot wounds to his stomach and leg at Prince of Songkla University Hospital in Haad Yai, Mr Pinchai's leg was amputated. After being discharged from the hospital he was allowed to return, on bail, to his home in Chumphon.

The body of one of the two men shot dead in the gun battle is carried from the room. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Mr Pinchai denies the charges against him but has declined to give any statement to police, Col Sermphan said.

Natthapong Kaewkuanchum, the only other survivor found in the apartment, has also been discharged from hospital after receiving treatment for three gunshots to the chest. He too refuses to give a statement to police.

"Both parties have the right to remain silent. Anything that needs to be said can be said in court," Col Sermphan said.

Cures for Racha woes gaining ground

A PLETHORA of measurements and proposals are moving forward on Racha Yai Island as tourist safety and environmental concerns loom over the popular tourist destination.

Racha Yai islanders last Saturday urged Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut to tackle tourist safety by supporting a health center as one way to solve the problem of tourist drownings there.

"To save tourists' lives, we need a health center on the island. Right now victims need to be transferred to the mainland for advanced medical help, and it takes too long," said Sarit Jandee, head of the Racha Island Conservation Club.

Mr Sarit asked the governor to provide a doctor and a nurse to staff the medical center, saying that islanders would provide land for the center free of charge, and the Chinese embassy would build the structure.

In response, Krit Sakulpat, the deputy chief of the Phuket Provincial Health Office, said he would analyze the feasibility of a health center.

Several days later, a meeting was called in Phuket Provincial Hall. Though a feasibility study had yet to be conducted for the health center, other issues, such as coral reef damage and wastewater were tabled.

To prevent boat operators from damaging corals by dropping anchor on them, 20 more moorings will be added, though their locations have yet to be determined, said Tanet Munnoy, director of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources Phuket Office.

"We are going to add both big and small moorings. The bigger moorings will be better able to handle the weight of the big boats such as diving and fishing boats, while the smaller ones will be for the speedboats and longtails," Mr Tanet said.

He asked for help from boat operators and local residents in monitoring and taking care of the moorings.

The second major topic, wastewater, will be fully addressed on Monday when officials visit Racha Yai to conduct a Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) test on the wastewater released by the bungalow resort and restaurant Raya Father. BOD is a measure of the degree of water pollution.

Tourist safety, as well as coral reef protection and wastewater issues are being tackled.

– ***Saran Mitrarat and Orawin Narabal***

In brief...

Officer charged with trafficking kicked off force, awaits trial

THE first police officer in Thailand to be charged with human trafficking has been discharged from the Royal Thai Police force.

Weerayuth Feuangfu, formerly with the Phang Nga Police, is free on bail as he awaits his trial in early November on charges of human trafficking, helping a refugee leave a shelter and abusing his position as an officer.

The charges were made after a Rohingya woman reported that she was repeatedly raped by a former employee of Mr Weerayuth after being smuggled out of a refugee shelter in Phang Nga on May 27.

Stiff penalties for restaurants with no grease traps

HEAVY pollution in the waterways throughout Phuket Town has prompted officials to lay down the law against all restaurants that do not install grease traps.

Any restaurants that do not have grease traps installed will not have their permits to operate renewed, Phuket City Deputy Mayor Dr Kosol Tang-Uthai warned last week.

"Too many restaurants do not use grease traps, and this greatly contributes to the wastewater problem polluting our public waterways," Dr Kosol said.

Sights on Patong water gate project

THE Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) will spend over 19 million baht on a water gate to help alleviate flooding in Patong.

The gate will be used during heavy rains when high tides prevent water in the canal from draining into the bay. With the gate closed, the canal water will be pumped into the bay, explained Wassana Sriwilai, Director of PPAO's Engineering Division.

The project is set to be completed in 2015.

Prab swears to play by the rules

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

Prab Keesin vowed to tear down any structures at his family's resort deemed to be encroaching on the beach.

LEADING Patong figure Preechavude "Prab" Keesin on Tuesday publicly announced that he was willing to pull down any structures at his family's Patong Bay Garden Resort that are found to be encroaching on the beach.

The announcement came after an inspection singled out his family's resort on Monday. The inspection was carried out by Department of Special Investigation (DSI) officers led by Tourism and Sports Minister Somsak Pureesrisak.

Mr Prab, whose father is Patong Mayor Pian Keesin, told the press that erosion had led to sea walls being built on the beach in front of the resort.

The resort was built in 1985 and taken over by the Keesin family in 2006, Mr Prab said.

"I noticed the beach in front of the hotel was being eroded by waves, and getting shorter and shorter every year.

"That's why the hotel set up the sandbag-and-stick wall along the beach, to prevent erosion. We were afraid that without that, the waves would eventually erode the hotel structure itself," Mr Prab explained.

"If the investigation finds that the walls we made encroach on the beach area, we will remove them," he said.

Mr Prab invited the officials who inspected the resort on Monday, including Tourism and Sports Minister Somsak, to return and re-examine the resort at any time.

He also offered to show them his land documents.

When asked why he was not present when officers went to the resort on Monday, Mr Prab said that he intentionally chose not to appear.

"I felt the officials were being disrespectful toward me," he said. "Why did they have to come with so many Phuket and Bangkok media? It was as though they had proven me guilty already."

He also questioned why his family's resort had been the only one inspected that day.

"Why did they only inspect our hotel when actually there are many other hotels in Patong that have done the same thing," he mused, adding that he was happy to help officers "as long as they do not have any hidden agendas".

Mr Prab, who runs the Patong Taxi Federation, also took the opportunity to discuss taxis.

"I've talked with Minister Somsak about the taxis in front of Jungceylon. I explained to him that I have organized the taxi queue and made the taxis legal according to the law. If he wants to examine them, I am happy to help," he explained.

Mr Prab concluded by again denying that he is a mafia figure, arguing that he does not deserve to be on the list of Phuket mafia figures issued by the DSI on August 9.

"I believe I behave well," he said. "I participate in Patong and general Phuket community activities. If they say I am mafia simply because I know a lot of people, then the whole thing is really just wrong," he said.

"I do know who is who in Patong and who has done bad things, but I will never name names. I am not a mafia member, I am just an ordinary person. So I will live my life that way," Mr Prab said.

Road upgrades to ease clogged traffic arteries

Gov Maitri looks over a map showing the roads that will be upgraded.

THE local authorities responsible for main roads across Phuket will spend hundreds of millions of baht in road upgrades to make commuting in Phuket safer and faster.

The news was delivered by the chiefs of the Department of Rural Roads Phuket Office and the Phuket Highways Office at a meeting with Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut at Provincial Hall on Monday.

"The projects will use the budgets of fiscal 2014 and 2015," Director Teeraporn Jirarattanakorn explained.

"We will develop five alternative routes with the aim of reducing traffic congestion," he added.

The first route to be upgraded will be the road joining Dowroong School on Chao Fa East Road to the intersection with Chao Fa West Road, Director Teeraporn said.

Other roads to be upgraded are:

• Route 3013, also known as Soi Koh Kaew 33, which runs directly past the *Phuket Gazette* office, from Thepkrasattri Road to the intersection with Soi Han Farang

• Route 3013 to Route 4025, from the Phuket Mining Museum to the Loch Palm Golf Club in Kathu

• Route 3004, from Phuket Baan Charoen Sook to the intersection with Soi Han Farang in Koh Kaew

• Route 3001, which runs behind the Premium Outlet mall on the bypass road

"The total budget required is expected to be hundreds of millions of baht, and we expect the projects to be complete in 2015," he added.

Governor Maitri said he would lead a team to inspect the sites of the proposed road upgrades so he could help expedite the budget required.

"My team and I will inspect the routes so we can see them for ourselves and determine which routes must be fixed urgently," Governor Maitri said.

– Orawin Narabal

AoT sets new taxi rules

Engine size, age, insurance, GPS requirements go into effect in December

By Irfarn Jamdukor

AN OPEN meeting at the Airports of Thailand (AoT) Phuket office on October 11 has resulted in a slew of new measures to be introduced to improve the quality of service of taxis serving Phuket International Airport.

The news follows weeks of controversy over current arrangements.

"What has been agreed on is that each taxi operating to and from the airport must have an engine of at least 1,950cc," announced Phuket Airport Deputy General Manager Visutr Chantana.

"These vehicles must be not more than five years old and must be insured for the car, the driver and passengers," he added.

"All of the taxis will be monitored by GPS from our control room to ensure that no taxis go astray. This will ensure that passengers are not taken on circuitous routes, but are taken directly to their chosen destinations," Mr Visutr said.

Kanputt Mungklasiri, an executive vice president at the airport, recommended that a single counter be dedicated for all taxis so that passengers could easily queue and be issued tickets for taxi service, much like the system used at Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok.

"The tickets would record the taxi number as well as the destination. Set fares for various destinations should be shown at the counter," Mr Kanputt told the *Gazette*.

"We should also have standard uniforms for drivers. This can solve a lot of the 'gray-area' problems we have experienced," he said.

Chukiat Panyawai, a representative of a registered taxi co-operative that serves the airport, noted that any changes should keep the drivers in mind.

"If the AoT wants to terminate the existing taxi group system, they should establish a new system that will benefit us because we have served passengers at the airport for a long time," he said.

Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada, who chaired the meeting, called for AoT to form an independent committee to resolve all the airport's taxi-related problems.

Mr Kanputt, an airport VP, suggested one counter for all taxi ticket sales.

"Such a committee would define an exact and detailed plan to replace the current taxi-group arrangement, which will come to an end after November," V/Gov Chamroen said.

QUEER news

Severed head a laughing matter

Mistaken identity. Photo: Valerie Everett

POLICE in Chonburi had a good laugh on October 9 after villagers reported discovering a human head in the jungle.

Officers rushed to the scene, a patch of jungle behind a shrine in Chonburi where a crowd of villagers were gathered. The head could be seen peeking out from under a pile of concrete blocks.

Officers sealed off the area to make sure no one could disturb the crime scene, and amid high suspense, the cops pushed away the blocks with a stick.

But rather than finding blood or entrails, they realized that the head was not what it seemed. It belonged to a mannequin.

– Sanook

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The search for closure

Captain's family makes heartfelt plea to find lost crew of MV Hope

SPECIAL REPORT

By Chris Husted

Capt Rajib Karmaker pictured with his daughter Ronika and wife Sharbari. Photo: Courtesy of the Karmaker family

THE family of Captain Rajib Chandra Karmaker, master of the Bangladeshi cargo ship MV *Hope*, has launched a public appeal for any information that may lead to the recovery of the missing captain's body and those of his lost shipmates.

The *Hope*, laden with ball clay, was struck broadside by large waves and listed heavily in stormy seas south of Phuket while en route from Malaysia to Bangladesh on July 4.

Five of the 17-strong crew managed to board a life raft and were later rescued by the passing German container ship *Buxmoon*, but the other 12 were tossed into the sea when the ship heaved violently.

Of those thrown into the sea, four were recovered alive. The bodies of four other sailors from MV *Hope* have since been recovered and identified, leaving four still listed as missing at sea: Capt Rajib, Jr Electrical Officer Sadim Ali, Deck Hand Md Nasir Uddin and Chief Cook Nasir Uddin.

"I want people, and especially hospitals in coastal areas, to recognize whether or not they have found the bodies of these men. If anybody finds any information about them, they should inform us," Capt Rajib's daughter, Ronika, told the *Gazette*.

"My father was wearing his uniform when they abandoned ship. If anyone identifies a body with that shirt, they should inform us," she said.

ACCEPTANCE

Ronika explained that the absence of her father has taken a grave toll on her family.

"Personally, I am still in a state of shock. It is very hard for me and my family to accept this. Life without my father seems unreal. My father was not around much because of his work, so it just feels like he is only gone for some time.

"It feels like he will be back from work, and everything will go back to normal. I miss him every day," she said.

DIRE STRAITS

The shipping community in Bangladesh and afar has rallied support for the victim's families, understanding their emotional loss and the financial impact of the tragedy.

"We are in a dire financial crisis now," said Ronika. "We were already going through some serious financial difficulties before my dad went off to sail on MV *Hope*. Now that he is missing, there is no source of income in the household. My mother is a housewife, like any other traditional Bengali woman."

Ronika, 22, is a student at the North South University in Dhaka.

"Now my only plan is to graduate from university and get a good job so I can support my family as the elder daughter. I have a younger brother, who's in grade 10 now," she explained.

Twelve sailors were tossed into the sea when the MV Hope was struck broadside by large waves on July 4. Photo: Royal Thai Navy

"The shipping community is trying to help us, and the Singapore Mariners Community has offered to fund my education. Their support has been a blessing for me," Ronika said.

LAW OF THE SEA

Meanwhile, efforts by the ship's owner, Trade Breeze Shipping Ltd, to provide assistance remain mired in antiquated maritime law.

"The company avoided contacting us for the first 10 to 12 days after the incident. Then they contacted us and told us that we would be compensated for our loss. But it will be a long, difficult process because the men are 'missing'," Ronika explained.

"The Bangladeshi law for marine accidents – which is 100 years old – states that compensation shall be granted after seven years of the incident to a missing person's family. This is a huge problem because our family is in a dire financial crisis right now," she said.

"My father was the only wage earning member of the family and now we have no source of income. The shipping company is now cooperating with us, and hopefully we will receive compensation soon," Ronika added.

SUPPORT

The other victim's families have been a source of emotional support for Ronika and her family.

"We have been in touch with the families of the other missing crewmen, as all of us are suffering from the same situation.

"Because my father was the Master of MV *Hope*, the other families came to us for help," Ronika explained.

"The missing crew members were the earning members of their families, and losing them affected all of us both emotionally and financially.

"Most of the family members of the crewmen are not well-educated, and are not familiar with official procedures regarding this case. So my mother has helped them in every way possible," she said.

"I believe we will always be connected, because we are facing harsh circumstances together which nobody else would be able to understand.

HOPE

In the saddest of ways, the MV *Hope* tragedy has brought the Karmaker family closer together, explained Ronika

"This has definitely affected my mother and I. It has given us a sense of unity that we are facing the same problems together," she explained.

"The communication between the families is great; in a way it made us all stronger.

"It is the great irony of fate that the ship that destroyed everything was named MV *Hope*. I hope every day that my father returns.

"Hope is all I have now."

MISSING

Capt Rajib Karmaker

"My father is a very brave man. In times of crisis, he does not think about himself. Rather, he goes on to help or save others who are in trouble. That is what he did during the whole incident.

"He apparently had put his life in danger to get other crewmen on the raft. When the German boat *Buxmoon* came to save them, he let go of their rope and pushed the other crewmen ahead.

"He fulfilled his duty as the master of the ship, even when they were in the water. I have heard all these from some of the crewmen. I wish he was more selfish and had thought about himself, but being the honest and brave person he is, he could not refrain himself from doing so. I respect him more now. As a daughter, I am so proud of him." ***– Ronika Karmaker***

Chief Cook Nasir Uddin

Jr Electrical Officer Sadim Ali

Deck Hand Md Nasir Uddin

Anyone with information that may assist the Karmaker family in finding Capt Rajib and his fellow missing crewmen, or their bodies, are urged to contact the Karmaker family at:

Email	Phone
ronika_pritha@hotmail.com	+8801711326041
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Elephant smugglers led to court, arrest of corrupt officials sought

TWO of the men involved in the elephant-smuggling operation blown open in Phuket in August were set to be presented in court on October 17 as the *Gazette* went to print.

Meanwhile, officers leading the investigation will move to have arrest warrants issued for public officials involved in the trafficking ring.

The suspects Surat Termsak and Prasong Bootchaiyaphum have both confessed to conspiring with a Provincial Chief Administrative Officer in Chaiyaphum province, in Northeast Thailand, by filing false elephant registration documents for approval, explained Nithit Kerdsri, an investigator with the Natural Resources and Environmental Crime Suppression Division (NREC).

The illicit registration documents were issued for 69 elephants suspected of being trafficked across the border from Myanmar.

The high-ranking Chaiyaphum official has since retired.

"We are also going to request arrest warrants for the officers involved in the case," Lt Nithit said.

During the raids on seven elephant-trekking camps in Phuket, officers collected blood samples for DNA tests. Work continues on establishing whether or not the elephants were trafficked or poached from the wild, or are offspring stolen from elephants registered in Thailand.

"We are still working on blood and DNA tests," Phuket Livestock Chief Weerasit Putthipairoj said.

"It will take at least one more month," he said.

At this stage, none of the owners of the Phuket elephant camp investigated in raids in August will face legal action.

– Orawin Narabal

Baby elephants are targeted for smuggling.

Search for Thailand's sharks

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

ONE of the largest projects ever designed to document the worrisome trend of declining shark sightings in Thailand was announced last week in Phuket.

In the wake of professional diver testimonials showing a 95 per cent decrease in shark sightings at Thailand's renowned dive destination the Similans, the founders of UK NGO Shark Guardian have moved forward with the Thailand E-Shark Project, which will run from November 1 to April 30.

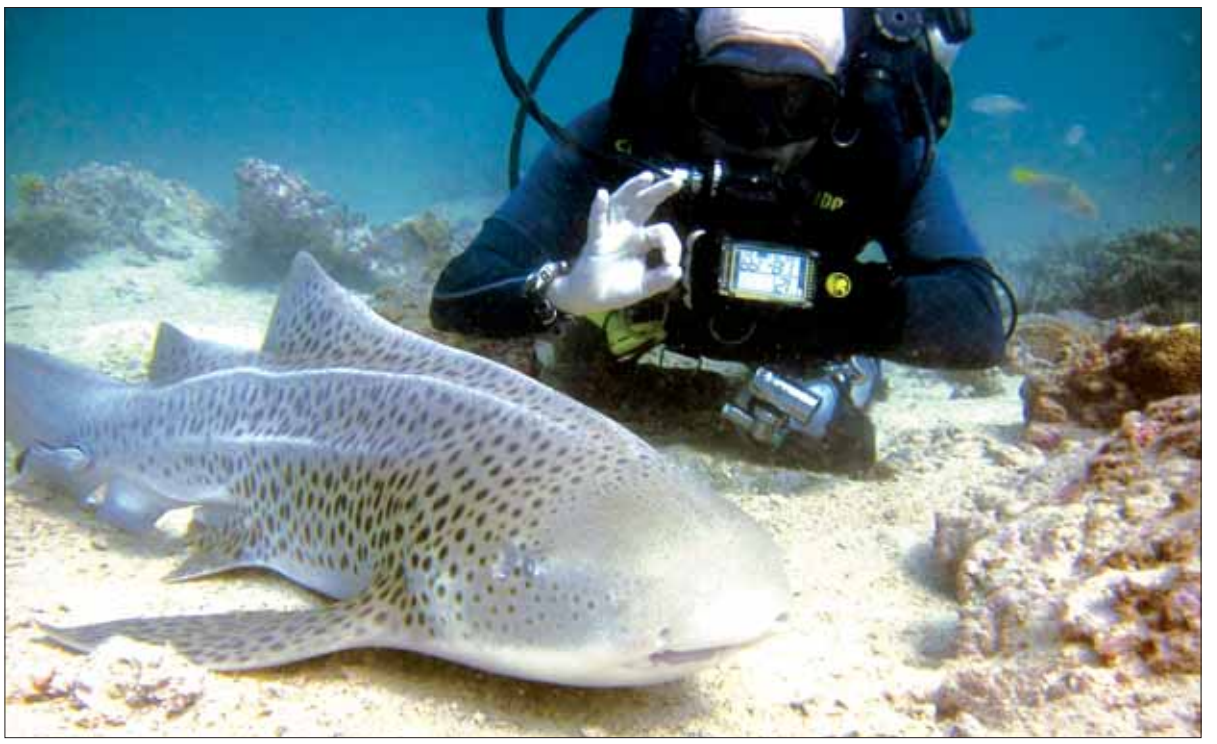
The project is designed to document the number of shark sightings by ocean explorers to provide scientific data to support general observations of a dramatic decrease of shark sightings across the nation.

Brendon Sing and his wife Liz, founders of Shark Guardian, have been working in the dive industry in Thailand for over 10 years.

"Since we started our work, and even until recently, local Thai guides and expats working in the dive industry have continuously reported seeing fewer and fewer sharks," Mr Sing said.

He added that people in the dive industry have reported seeing more and more fishing boats and trawlers in national parks.

"There are just fewer fish and less marine diversity, and it's having a dramatic effect on the industry and their [dive professionals'] livelihoods. However, it's very hard to prove any of that," Mr Sing said.



Seeing multiple sharks on a single dive was once a common occurrence for Phuket divers. Now spotting a single bamboo shark or leopard shark at dive sites such as Shark Point is cause for celebration. Photo: Kiwidiver

Ahead of the launch of the Thailand E-shark Project, local dive industry figures were surveyed to gather testimonials about shark sightings at Koh Tao, Koh Phi Phi, Phuket, Koh Lanta and the Similans.

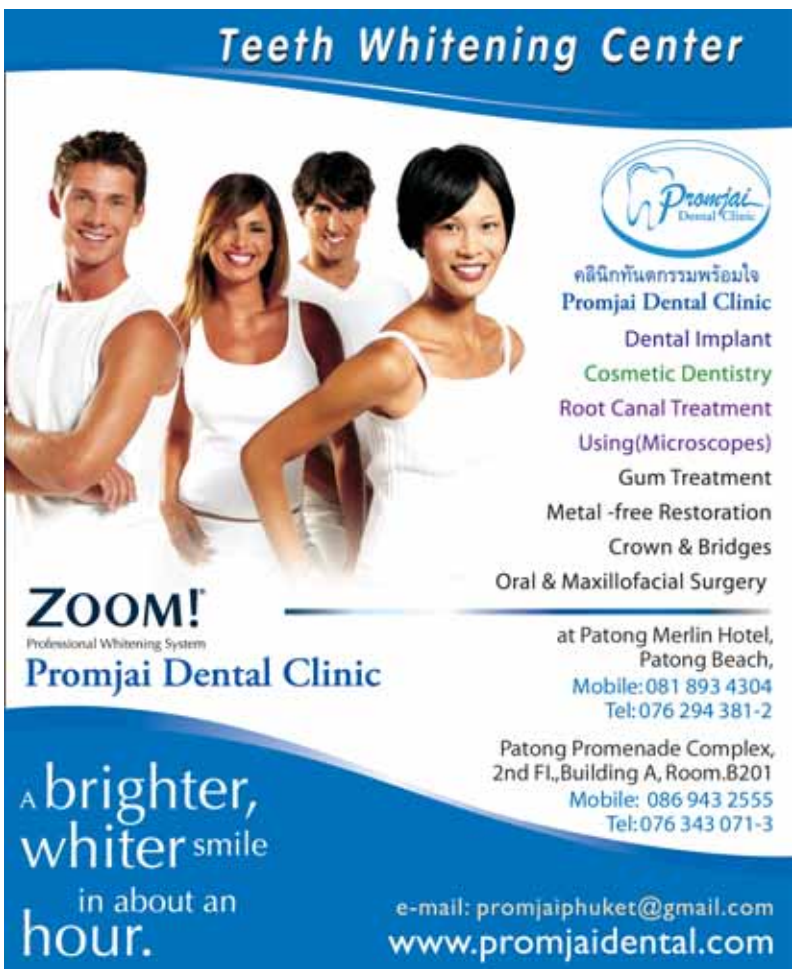
"Shark sightings are massively on the decline in the Similans. It looks like they've dropped by about 95 per cent since 2007," Mr Sing said.

The Thailand E-shark Project, which will collect data from divers, snorkellers, fishermen, boaters, beach walkers and standup paddle boarders, is expected to support these startling claims.

Most recently, data collected by the international organization E-Shark was used to support the introduction of five species of sharks to the Convention of International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) Appendix II in Bangkok earlier this year.

Those logging sightings will be asked to provide the time and exact location of the sighting to allow scientists to identify multiple sightings of the same shark.

Thailand E-Shark was announced at the opening of Phuket's diving high season at Aquamasters in Chalong (see page 44). The announcement was made to the large gathering of dive professionals, who are expected to lead the charge in documenting sightings. However, Mr Sing said everyone was invited to take part in the project.



Ghastly corruption haunts Patong nightlife

From page 1

…we could generate more money, which would mean a lot more tax revenues would be collected by the government," he explained.

Businessman Mr Chart accused local government officers of not taking the issue seriously.

"The highest-ranking government officer on the island just called on the relevant department heads to discuss and inspect the problem, after that he went back to sleep. He is willing to let the problems from the past stay, and instead is focusing only on tackling new problems. The old problems have never been resolved," he said.

Mr Chart repeated his public claims made on August 23 that at least 17 government offices in Phuket are involved in extracting bribes from local businesses to overlook ("not see") closing times and to "protect them".

"At this stage, we have enough evidence to identify the places where police have been collecting money and how they collected it, but I cannot reveal this to the media," he stated.

OFFICIAL VICE: Mr Chart reveals details of the Patong underworld.

However, Mr Chart publicly named a "Sgt Wit" of the Royal Thai Police Phuket Special Branch (*Santibaan*) division as the bagman who collected the illicit payments. "Among the officers, he collects most of the money from Patong business owners, about 4 to 5 million baht per month," Mr Chart said.

"He asks for money from all kinds of businesses, including entertainment venues and businesses involved in land encroachment, and he supports foreign mafia operators in Phuket.

"He claims that the money goes to all the highest-ranking police officers in Phuket," Mr Chart alleged.

Maj Chaisak Sawasri, chief of the Phuket Special Branch division, on Wednesday declined to confirm or deny whether any "Sgt Wit" was among his officers.

Mr Chart also gave the press a breakdown of monthly "standard fees" collected: 3,000 to 5,000 baht from small businesses; 10,000 baht from medium-sized enterprises; and 100,000 baht for big business.

"He collects a cut of the profits made by some of the businesses in addition to the standard fee," he also alleged.

Mr Chart announced that he will set up a center that will bypass Phuket officials and file complaints directly to the appropriate officials in Bangkok.

Anniversary
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Blue Forest
Festival 2013
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9th Anniversary
Celebration An Evening of Festive Fun!
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Celebration together with a
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Saturday November 9th 2013 at 5pm
Special 'Blue Forest' fantasy themed show featuring
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Grand Hall, Level 1, Central Festival Phuket
Sunday November 10th'13 at 5pm
Special Concert
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Khun Krittaya 085-8138312
marketingpf@central.co.th

More appropriate donations for flood victims. Photo: The Nation

Big-hearted meth dealer booked for donation

A DRUG dealer is under arrest in Chonburi after trying to donate 11 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills to flood victims.

Having ingested five *ya bah* pills himself earlier that day, Jakkrit Mukpradap showed up at a center for collecting donations for flood victims in Satthahip District on October 14, *The Nation* reported.

When Mr Jakkrit, 39, tried to donate the pills to a booth in front of Wat Thep Prasart, he was promptly arrested.

A search of his home turned up a homemade gun and some ammunition.

Mr Jakkrit, a former drug convict, said he got the drugs from a Rayong supplier identified only as "Chamlong".

Mr Jakkrit said he had dealt drugs for three years after serving a prison term for his prior offense.

He said he was motivated to aid flood victims after watching a television news report, so he donated the pills believing staff members could sell them for 3,000 baht.

Bangkok protesters unmoved despite 'itchy plant' attack

POLICE on Tuesday tried in vain to convince protesters who have camped out at the Urupong Intersection for days to move to the National Stadium on Rama I Road.

"The relocation will ease road snarls and police can assure improved safety for protesters," Metropolitan Police spokesman Maj-General Adul Narongsak said.

Police had reopened 14 closed roads after assessing a reduced threat from the demonstrators, reported *The Nation*.

Rally leader Nitithorn Lamlua said police had neglected their duty to ensure peace as some people had thrown *ma mui* (itchy plants) into the tent where the protesters were sleeping.

Mr Nitithorn called for the crowds to surge to 10,000 to show retaliation against poor police performance.

Leaders were drafting a petition for a probe into suspected foul play related to the prosecutors' dropping of a terrorism charge against former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, he said.

Protesters gather in Bangkok against the Pheu Thai government. Photo: The Nation

Rally to remember 1973 riots

HUNDREDS of people marched through the streets of Bangkok lsat Sunday to mark the 40th anniversary of the October 14, 1973 uprising, one of the most important events in Thailand's modern history.

The United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD) – better known as the red shirts – were heavily involved in the memorial event, which began at Democracy Monument at 7am, *The Nation* reported.

The organizers gave alms to 40 monks and laid wreaths at the monument before marching to Thammasat University, whose students led the 1973 protests.

They paused at times during the march and stood in silence to remember students killed recently and in the past.

Jaran Dithaapichai, a red-shirt leader who was the chief organizer of the event, said hundreds of thousands of students fought against a military regime 40 years ago, and allowed Thailand to achieve democracy – although this freedom was later disrupted by coups.

The protests were held against the unpopular military regime of Field Marshal Thanom Kittikhachon. Mr Thanom, his deputy Praphas Charusathien and son Col Narong were known as the Three Tyrants.

Hundreds gather to remember the over 100 students killed on October 14, 1973. Photo: The Nation

AROUND THE nation

On October 14, after several days of student activism, the protest reached a climax, with some half a million people gathering on Ratchadamnoen Avenue.

The army was brought in against the protest and opened fire, eventually killing more than 100 people.

The protesters started to disperse following an intervention from HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who went on TV and radio at 7:15pm to announce that Mr Thanom's government had resigned.

However, the protests did not end completely until the next day, when it was announced that the Three Tyrants had gone into exile.

Speaking at last Sunday's event, Education Minister Chaturon Chaisang told the marchers that the students fought 40 years ago against injustice and in the hope of seeing Thailand become a land of justice and freedom.

Mr Chaturon said the wishes of the student activists would be achieved by amending the current charter to make it genuinely democratic.

Quake kills over 100

AROUND THE region

By Julliane Love De Jesus

Rescuers clear debris from buried vehicles in Cebu city, in central Philippines. Photo: Reuters

MORE than 100 people died after a 7.2-magnitude earthquake, the strongest to shake the Philippines in 23 years, devastated Central Visayas on Tuesday; 97 of the victims were from Bohol alone.

As of 8am Wednesday, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said 276 people were injured.

Eleven hospitals were damaged while two were shut down by the quake. Department of Health (DOH) officials noted in a press briefing on Wednesday that six of the 11 affected hospitals were owned by DOH, three were private hospitals while the two were established by the local government units in the Visayas.

The health department confirmed that two hospitals in the quake-hit region were no longer functioning. They said the patients from the damaged medical institutions have already been transferred to other locations.

DOH teams were deployed to Tagbilaran City to augment medical staff there, the Philippine News Agency (PNA) reported.

Health Assistant Secretary Eric Tayag warned hospitals that an influx of patients with injuries ranging from simple lacerations to fatal crushing injuries may continue for days after the tragedy.

He also warned the public to beware dust from collapsed buildings, which he said could clog air passages of trapped survivors and cause severe lung problems or even death. ***– Philippine Daily Inquirer***

In brief...

Myanmar braces for more bombs

THE Myanmar government has tightened security across the country after a series of bomb blasts in Bago and Yangon regions.

The move follows a bomb exploding in a bathroom at the Trader's Hotel in Yangon just before midnight on Monday, injuring an American woman. On October 11, a blast occurred in a guesthouse at Taungoo in Bagon Region, killing a man and a woman. ***– Eleven Media Group***

Laotians top Asean as biggest drinkers

LAOS ranked top of the 10 Asean countries for alcohol consumption, with an average of seven liters consumed per person per year, according to a survey by the World Health Organisation.

The results were revealed at a meeting in Vientiane on October 12 to sum up the Community-based Drug Abuse Control Project.

The survey also found that Lao women drink more than women in neighboring countries.

– Vientiane Times

A Muslim woman prays outside Malaysia's Court of Appeal. Photo: Reuters

Malaysian churches fear fallout over 'Allah' ban

THE Malaysian Court of Appeal on Monday upheld a ruling to ban Catholic weekly publication *The Herald* from using the term "Allah", raising fear among Christians in Malaysia that the ruling may lead to further restriction of the use of the word among Malay-speaking Christians in the country.

Sabah Council of Churches president Bishop Thomas Tsen noted there were 1.6 million *bumiputra* (indigenous Malay) Christians in Sabah and Sarawak who use *Bahasa Malaysia* (Malay language) in their worship in addition to their native languages, and that such Christians make up about two-thirds of the country's Christian population.

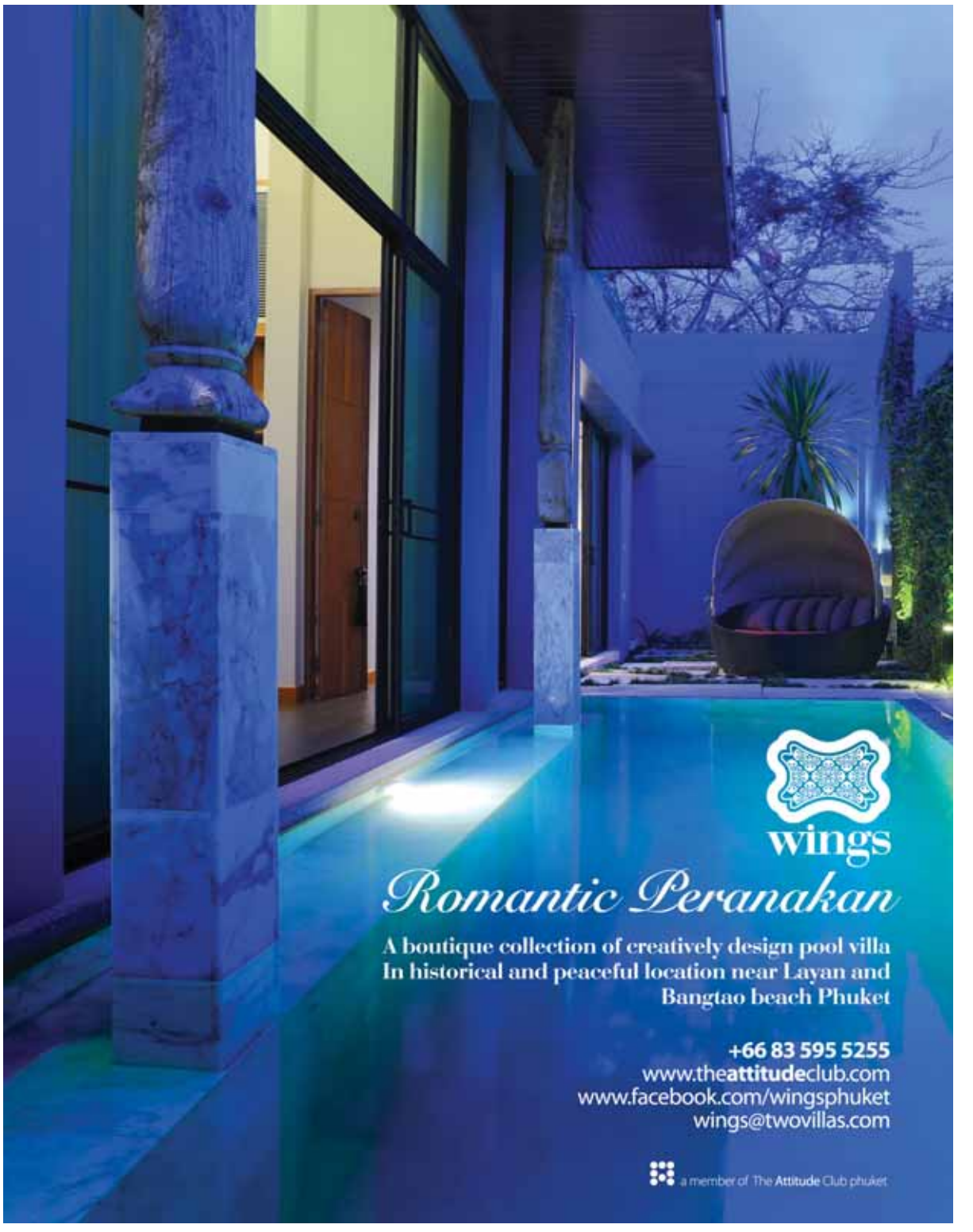
Bishop Tsen said proscribing the use of the word "Allah" would turn the native *bumiputra* into lawbreakers. "The ruling contradicts a common practice of the Church in Sabah and Sarawak for hundreds of years.

"A most serious breach of the pillar pertaining to religious freedom is the assault on the rights of *bumiputra* Bahasa Malaysia-speaking Christians to the use of the *Al-Kitab* (Bible) and the word Allah," he said.

United Pasokmomogun Kadazandusun Murut Organisation (UPKO) president Bernard Dompok, who was instrumental in the establishment of diplomatic ties between Malaysia and the Vatican, said the ruling was a sad day for the natives of Sabah and Sarawak in east Malaysia.

"The use of the word 'Allah' in both states predated the formation of Malaysia. The word is being used by Christian communities in Indonesia and the Arab world. Why should Malaysia be any different?" he asked.

Constitutional law expert Syahredzan Johan said they could now use the decision as a precedent to ban the use of any word under the rationale that it would cause confusion. ***– The Star***



In brief...

Wheelchair-bound bomber's sentence sparks Beijing rage

A CHINESE man in a wheelchair who detonated a home-made bomb in Beijing's airport after trying to draw attention to a nearly decade-long legal battle was sentenced to six years in jail, his lawyer said on Tuesday, sparking widespread sympathy and anger.

A Beijing court found Ji Z hongxing, 34, guilty of intentionally causing an explosion.

Ji detonated the bomb at Beijing airport in July after being prevented from handing out leaflets petitioning for justice for an alleged police beating that left him wheelchair-bound in 2005.

"He only did it because he had no alternative," Z hao Min, a petitioner, said. "Because he couldn't get any resolution through legally petitioning many times."

Typhoon Nari hits Vietnam, 122,000 people evacuated

TYPHOON Nari knocked down trees and damaged hundreds of houses in central Vietnam early on Tuesday, forcing the evacuation of tens of thousands of people, state media said.

More than 122,000 people had been moved to safe ground in several provinces, including Quang Nam and Danang city, by late Monday before the typhoon arrived.

Small plane with at least 14 on board missing in Mexico

A SMALL plane carrying at least 14 people has gone missing in the northern Mexican state of Baja California, emergency services said on Monday, and rough weather from Tropical Storm Octave was hampering search efforts.

Attempts to contact the pilot had failed and the plane, which departed on Monday, only had fuel for a maximum of two and a half hours.

Oil keeps fires burning in Gaddafi aftermath

By Suleiman Al-Khalidi and Patrick Markey

A worker gestures towards pipelines at the port and Zawiya Oil Refinery. Photo: Reuters

AROUND THE world

DEEP in Libya's southern Sahara, tribal sheikhs crowded into a Bedouin tent last month to declare their remote province bordering Algeria would break away from the government in far-off Tripoli.

A thousand miles to the east, armed protesters had seized ports disrupting oil shipments into the Mediterranean in support of local activists who appointed a de facto prime minister.

Prime Minister Ali Z eidan's Libya sounds like a country on the verge of splitting into a jigsaw of rebellious enclaves each with their own government, militias and, importantly, their own share of Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) member Libya's oil.

The recent US military raid to snatch a top suspected al Qaeda operative from Tripoli underscored how Libya's turmoil may make it easier for Islamist militants to find safe haven there.

PM Z eidan himself was kidnapped from a Tripoli hotel on Thursday by gunmen from a former rebel faction calling itself the Operations Room of Libya's Revolutionaries in reprisal for the government's role in the US raid.

Two years after civil war ended the 42-year rule of Muammar Gaddafi, federalist ambitions complicate PM Z eidan's fragile control over former rebels still jostling for more power.

His challenge is clearest in the east, where protesters claiming to protect Libya's oil from corrupt elites have closed ports, dug in and threatened to sell oil independently for their Cyrenaica region, long an anti-Gaddafi stronghold.

There, the main city Benghazi has already set up its own council demanding to run local affairs, and called for state oil company NOC to return to an area that was once Libya's economic heartland.

"The government and congress exploit Libya's wealth and use it to serve their agendas," said Ibrahim al-Jathran, the former head of an oil protection security unit who defected and seized eastern ports as a self-styled federalist chieftain.

Yet as chaotic as Libya appears, it is far from partition or from taking the path of Iraq, where federalism splits oil revenue between Baghdad's Arab-led government and a Kurdish enclave that runs its own administration and armed forces.

Rather than a widespread popular movement, Libya's autonomy protests have grown out of Tripoli's lack of control, tribal loyalties and a series of unresolved local grievances over security, corruption and poor services that have festered since the 2011 revolution.

Independence declarations by Cyrenaica and more recently by the southern Fezzan region change little on the ground politically, analysts say, as they have no mass support for now, and carry no authority under Libya's transitional arrangement.

But the risk is that such demands could drive Libya deeper into chaos, with a weak government paralyzed by inertia and armed militias with little popular support holding Tripoli to ransom by shutting down oil in the name of federalism.

That scenario has already drawn comparisons to Nigeria, where militants with the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) have attacked oil installations, kidnapped foreign workers and siphoned off crude for sale under the banner of fighting for the oppressed people of the region.

Without a clear central government response, Libya may still slowly fragment with competing regions and cities, loyal to rival tribal and ethnic groups, vying for control of local oil and gas resources.

"They are trying to use this power as a bargaining tool with the state. They want to disrupt the current political process and to do so they threaten to break off from Libya," said International Crisis Group's Claudia Gazzini.

"Whether this becomes an armed confrontation that leads to greater autonomy depends very much on how the government responds to these peoples' demands."

– Reuters

Ethnic tensions boil over in Moscow, thousands of migrants rounded up

RUSSIAN police rounded up more than 1,600 migrants on Monday in Moscow after rioting swept through a southern neighborhood over a fatal stabbing of a Russian that many residents blame on a man from the Caucasus region.

Advocacy groups warned migrants from Russia's mainly Muslim Caucasus region and Central Asia of an increased risk of attacks in the worst ethnic disturbance in Moscow in three years. Authorities stepped up police patrols in the capital.

Some 200 residents rallied in the Biryulyovo district on Monday night to call for tougher policing of labor migrants, in a second day of protests over the stabbing death of an ethnic Russian, 25-year-old Yegor Shcherbakov.

Police detained ten people, media reported.

A bigger protest a day earlier had turned to violent riots.

"We are scared to walk the streets at night," blond-haired resident, Alexei Z huravlyov, said. "They [migrants] are always attacking, stealing from and killing people. They don't even abide by basic rules like stopping at a red light."

Migrant labor has played a significant role in Russia's transformation during an oil-fuelled economic boom that took off around the time President Vladimir Putin came to power in 2000.

But many in Moscow are uneasy at the influx of migrants from Russia's heavily Muslim North Caucasus and ex-Soviet states of the Caucasus and Central Asia, although many do low-paying jobs, such as in construction, that few local residents want.

In an apparent attempt to appease residents, police said they rounded up some 1,200 people detained at a wholesale vegetable market that had been stormed on Sunday night.

Another 450 were detained in northeastern Moscow, also near a vegetable market employing migrant workers.

Police said they were all detained to check whether they were involved in any wrongdoing, but they have not been accused of any specific crime. Footage showed detainees standing against walls or lined up in front of camouflage-clad police.

On Sunday, people fought with police, smashed shops, vending stalls and other sites employing migrant workers.

Police arrested at least 380 people as they struggled to quell the violence, which injured several police and shone a spotlight on persistent ethnic tensions in the capital.

"The nationalists are pursuing their political goals. This is clearly very dangerous. We are warning migrants to be careful for now in crowded areas and on public transportation," said Mukhamad Amin, head of the Federation of Migrants of Russia.

Russian police detain migrant workers during a raid in Moscow. Photo: Reuters

– Reuters

ACE condo holds all the cards

Located in the heart of Patong city, Ace condominium will offer fashionable and modern room styles starting at 1.8 million baht. Photos: Supplied

The nine-storey building has a total of 183 rooms, which include studio apartments, as well as one- and two-bedroom units. Photo: Supplied

PROPERTY Gazette

By Kanyawarat Pramprasert

ACE condominium, a nine storey building planned on Pang-meangsai Kor Road in Patong, aims to attract people seeking an independent, fast-paced and fun, urban lifestyle.

Deputy Managing Director of Patong Centre Co Ltd, Ms Alisa Likitittiruks, stated that the company expects to sell as much as 80-90 per cent of the project's units this coming high season. This shouldn't be too difficult considering that about 40 per cent of the units were reserved during a one-month pre-sale period, which ended on September 30.

With a projected completion date of April 2015**,** the condominium will offer fashionable rooms in many sizes and styles – starting at just 1.8 million baht; the project's key selling point is its central location in Patong, on a road with high potential for becoming an important local business center; surrounded by a wide array of entertainment and shopping venues, the residence will be only a 10-minute drive to the beach.

Ms Alisa said: "ACE condominium is the first of our condo projects to be located in the center of Patong, in front of Patong hospital. We offer a great entry level price, which is almost impossible to find in the same area."

"ACE condominium will make your life more convenient.We use high-quality material and modern design, paying great attention to detail through the building process. The feedback during the pre-sale period was very good and I'm convinced that during the high season we will be able to sell as much as 90 per cent of the project's units.

High-quality materials, combined with a modern design have resulted in a stylish finish at ACE Condominium.

"We have a special promotion for foreigners at the moment," she continued, "We are accepting reservation payments of only 30,000 baht. Besides that, the total down payment is only 25% of the purchase price, which is advantageous and quite flexible for foreigners seeking a condo for their residence or just as a great-value investment. The location of our project guarantees long-term profit."

To be built on a plot spanning over 1,600 square meters, the nine-storey building will comprise 183 rooms. Room types include studio apartments (23.5 to 30.8 sqm) one-bedroom (31 to 36 sqm) and two-bedroom (70 sqm) units. There will be a standard size swimming pool on the second floor, 24-hour security, a car park on the first floor, lobby and an all-inclusive fitness gym to help facilitate a healthy and active lifestyle.

Patong Centre Co Ltd is a local development company owned by Mr Sudporn Likitittiruks, who is also Managing Director, and his daughter Ms Alisa Likitittiruks, who is Deputy Managing Director.

This Patong-based, family-run company, has more than 10 years experience in property development Their portfolio includes such projects as ACCA Patong, the Chamre, Patong Hamingway's Hotel, Sansabai Hotel and Sea Cono Boutique Hotel.

For more information contact the sales gallery, located at 27 Saiyuan road, Patong-Kathu, Phuket. Call: 092269119 or 0922501313

Capital sees a flurry of new residential launches

RESIDENTIAL developers in the Thai capital are lining up to give their 2013 sales a final push by launching more projects, according to a survey by The Nation early this week

Namely, Pruksa Real Estate Plc's latest condominium, the 900-million-baht Condolette Pixel at Sathorn; Sammakorn Plc this week is introducing its first condo project, the S9, valued at 1.07 billion baht; Krisdamahanakorn Plc plans to roll out three condo projects worth 2.46 billion baht. The company also plans to rename itself AQ Estate Plc, subject to shareholder approval; Lucky Living Properties Co is marketing the Liv@49 condo project worth 1.5 billion baht at Sukhumvit Soi 49.

Veranda Resort and Spa has unveiled the Verasidence Pattaya and Veranda Resort and Spa Pattaya. About 2 billion baht will be spent to develop 360 condo units, starting at 16 million baht per unit and 1 billion baht to develop the hotel.

Kittipol Pramoj Na Ayudhya, managing director of Sammakorn, said last week that the company decided to launch a condo project when it saw strong demand in this segment, especially for properties in the neighborhood of a mass transit line. He believes that the Asean Economic Community coming up in 2015 will also boost demand for condos.

"Our first project located on Rattanathibeth Road is near Bang Rak Yai Station. We are studying other locations but they have to be close to a mass transit system," he said.

The company also plans at least two townhouse projects with units selling from 2mn to 4mn baht or worth 200mn to 300mn baht in total for next year.

Townhouses

Purchasing power for single family homes has weakened due to the rising cost of land and construction. Demand for townhouses will replace demand for single family homes when the cost to build homes at the same location is higher than for townhouses.

Mass transit is bolstering the real estate sector. Photo: Ilya Plekhanov

The sites for the townhouse projects are in Ramkhamhaeng, Ramindra and Ratchapruek, he added.

Yongyutt Chaipromprasith, CEO of Krisdamahanakorn, said the company intends to kick-off three condo projects worth 2.46 billion baht this quarter to drive its pre-sales yields to 2.3 billion baht this year.

Yongyutt was appointed CEO after Krisdamahanakorn took a major stake in Aquarius Estate Co in the middle of this year.

The company aims to join the top 10 property firms within three years. It also targets pre-sales yields of 3.5 billion baht next year.

– The Nation

RPM taps into rental market

By Anthika Muangrod

ROYAL Phuket Marina (RPM) has plunged into the island's property rental market, releasing scores of luxury apartments for rent since the beginning of this year.

There are almost 100 units in total inside the RPM complex, and of the 40 units opened for rental, only 20 per cent remain vacant.

Formerly RPM was focused on property sales but since early 2013, the development's management began to eye the potentially lucrative rental market. As part of this new strategy, the company now facilitates the rental of privately owned apartments in its complex to third parties. While it is still early days – the rental facilitation service has not been officially announced yet – the response, from both owners and renters, has been very positive.

There are three kinds of rental agreements on offer from RPM; daily, weekly and monthly. And the range of residences to choose from includes two, three and four-bedroom apartments. Sales Director of Royal Phuket Marina Kanittha Prasopsirikul said that the two-bedroom apartments at RPM are very unique: "We have the two-bedroom with pool deck, and the two-bedroom duplex – which is a two-storey apartment with a jacuzzi on the top," she said.

Rates for the two-bedroom apartments range from 8,000 to 15,000 baht per day; depending on the season and period of stay. For three-bedroom apartments, the prices range from 10,000 to 18,000 baht. Monthly rental rates start from 60,000 baht and range up to 250,000 baht. Factored into these rates are the various services provided by RPM such as meals and housekeeping, which customers can choose to utilize.

"Customers can choose to pay for the room only, or the room plus breakfast and cleaning, high speed internet, bed sheet change, and so on. Everything is flexible. It's VIP living, customers can request what they want. Most importantly, RPM will take care of them 24 hours a day," said Ms Kanittha.

Ms Kanittha went on to talk about the various benefits of RPM's central location, which she expects will attract expats seeking convenience coupled with a luxury lifestyle.

ROYAL REALM: Daily rates range from 8,000 to 18,000 baht, while monthly rates are from 60,000 to 250,000 baht.

"The selling point of RPM is our location. We don't have an ocean view but we are in the heart of the island. It takes less than 30 minutes to go anywhere (except during rush hour).

"Our main residents are those who have boating businesses, executives from big hotels and company employees who have their children studying at the nearby British International School.

"In the morning, it takes at least one and a half hours to drive from Rawai to the school or 45 minutes from Laguna. So, living at RPM lets people have more of a city lifestyle – not an island lifestyle.

"Therefore, many people have moved to RPM because it's more convenient for them to drop their children off at school and in the daytime, mothers can go to the fitness center or restaurants. Most customers we have are European, about 80 per cent, but Russians also make up about 10 per cent and about 10 per cent of our customers are Thai as well," said Ms Kanittha.

Ms Kanittha also spoke about the added benefit of its rental services for customers interested in investing in the next phase of RPM.

"The positive results from our property rental service leads into our new project in RPM (Phase Three). This project is especially good for investors who want to buy an apartment to release for rental. We will also be able to help them find customers."

For more information contact Kanittha Prasopsirikul on +6681-8103328, +6676-360811-2 or via email: kanitthap@royalphuketmarina.com

Developers sourcing new capital channels

A NUMBER of leading developers plan to issue property funds worth more than 30 billion baht combined, in order to raise capital to support their business expansion over the remainder of this year and during 2014.

When added to the property funds already issued this year, nearly 100 billion baht worth of such funds will have been issued in total. Raising funds via the capital market has the advantage of reducing developers' financial costs when compared with borrowing from commercial banks or the issuance of debentures, according to a survey by *The Nation* and information from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

This is why some developers have expanded their investment in rental-income businesses such as hotels, office buildings and retail, which are the sources for issuing property funds – to be upgraded to real-estate investment trusts (REITs) next year – with a view to raising capital in the future. For example, CP Land is issuing the 10-billion baht CP Land Growth Leasehold Property Fund by selling three office buildings – Silom, Ratchada and Phayathai – which currently provide rental income for the company and will generate a return for investors in the fund.

"Issuing the property fund will help us to raise low-cost capital to support our business expansion," said CP Land Chief Executive Officer Sonthorn Urunanonchai.

Listed developer Property Perfect, meanwhile, is issuing a property fund worth 500 million baht, with its Uniloft Salaya dormitory being sold to the Uniloft Property Fund as the income generator. The company has been planning such a move since 2010, when it started constructing dormitory projects.

Another listed developer, Bangkok Land, plans to issue an REIT worth between 18 billion and 20 billion baht next year by using its Impact Exhibition Center to generate income for the trust. Home Products Center will issue a 4.06 billion baht property fund this year, using the long lease on Market Village Hua Hin to generate a return for the fund.

– The Nation

Lost in Chiang Mai

Photo: Seashell 2

Property Watch
By Bill Barnett

I'VE always had an aversion to things that go bump in the night, but as our Thai Smile jet ramps up to 33,000 feet, an extended period of turbulence has left my forehead battered, but not bruised. Yes, the flight attendants shock orange uniforms put me into a Halloween mood, yet they move about the cabin like apparitions – not unlike giant mangos.

My mission, which I have duly accepted, is a flying trip to Chiang Mai and there is nothing quite like getting your feet on the ground to see how Thailand's great northern hope is faring these days. Things immediately get off to a good start with the taxi into town weighing in at a paltry 200 baht. A quick check of my pulse and slap in the face ensures this is not a bout of sleepwalking nor a visit to the afterlife.

Making big news in hotel circles lately has been the split between the Mandarin Oriental chain and the posh Dhara Dhevi resort; which is one of the city's top places to stay. Over the next two days of idle chit-chat with various hoteliers runs the typical rumor mill but expectations are that a global luxury flag will be attached to the property once again in the not-to-distant future.

Without a doubt, the highlight of the trip was a stay at the 137 Pillars House. Here the centerpiece of the property is a stunning restored teak house, which had served as the headquarters of the East Borneo Company. This place oozes charm, history and colonial elegance. I've travelled throughout Asia for longer than I can recall and this is one of the loveliest hotels I've come across.

A recent entry to the area is the 16-room boutique hotel Sala Lanna. With its unique riverside location, two restaurants and a rooftop bar overlooking the city, this is a very chic offering indeed. Having opened in April, the property is already gaining a strong reputation, as is the Sala Group, who aside from offerings here in Phuket, Koh Samui and Khao Yai, also recently added a Bangkok entry.

Both the 137 Pillars and Sala Lanna are strong design statements, albeit in very different ways. With the former being created by top Thai interior design firm P49 and the latter having a more modern feel, yet personal at the same time. It's very much a yin and yang proposition and not dissimilar to a fine dining restaurant offering two irresistible specials for the day. Decisions, decision – perhaps I will have both.

As anyone who has not been in a coma for the past year can tell you, the Chinese have embraced Chiang Mai with an irresistible vigor. It's not uncommon to see Chinese on signs, menus or special hotel promo cards at front desks. Despite suffering the woes of the global financial crises, and Thailand's political circus, the destination now clearly has a second life. Walking through the Tapae area, there are echoes of the vibe you get in Luang Prabang or Ubud in Bali. Sure, there are budget travellers, but also a new set of older, well-heeled flash-packers who are looking for a more authentic Thai experience than that offered by the big beach destinations.

Another stop had me in the Manathai Village, which has retained its charm and its strong loyal following. Here, small is better remains the mantra. I had time to catch up with stylist David Shribsole, who continues to tweak the offering two to three times a year and keep things fresh for returning guests. Familiar faces surround me from a previous stay and David says that over the past six years, they have had only one staff member depart due to maternity reasons.

Nearby, in the district where the famed night market takes place, other guest houses and properties are starting to reinvent themselves. A case in point is the bright and funky SoHo which is an upgraded hostel offering, not unlike the new breed seen in Bangkok's Lub-d and others.

Unlike Phuket, Chiang Mai's tourists are taking to the streets in increasing numbers and the pace and rhythm is refreshing. Yes there are worries about an influx of new large shopping malls, traffic and of course the annual air pollution issues which come each burn season, yet the friendliness of the people and laid back feeling is infectious. As I board my Airbus to return to the island, and momentarily color blinded by the flight crew's bold orange-ness, I can't help but wish I could stay on just a little while longer.

Trendy flashpacking offerings such as SoHo are popping up in Chiang Mai.

The interior of the charming East Borneo teak house at 137 Pillars.

Understanding finacial adviser fees

Island Investor

By Don Freeman

LET'S be upfront and say that while no one likes paying fees, there is no such thing as a free lunch, and I, as a financial adviser providing financial advice, along with those on Wall Street who create investment products all need "to eat", so to speak.

That said, there is no reason for you to pay unnecessary or excessive fees for financial advice or investment products once you have a firm understanding of how financial advisers on Main Street earn their money.

Understand how financial advisers get paid

Financial advisers will usually follow one of the following compensation models:

Fee only

Financial advisers who are fee only will typically charge you a percentage of the account value they manage and they will tend to favor individual stocks, bonds and low-cost ETFs, because they cannot accept commissions from financial product sponsors. That's because fee only financial advisers have a "fiduciary responsibility" to choose investments which are in your best interest and not because someone is paying them a commission on an investment product. Just be aware that not all fee only financial advisers are the same, as some charge lower fees because they provide more basic investment management services, while others charge higher fees because they provide full financial planning services (a complete financial plan or roadmap, for example).

Commission only

Financial advisers who don't charge a fee will usually receive commissions from transactions and/or from those who create the investment products they sell.

And while there are commission only financial advisers who provide excellent financial advice, many others are merely good salesmen whose advice tends to be driven more by how they are being paid rather than by doing what's best for you, the client. For that reason, you can expect commission only financial advisers to steer you towards annuities and managed funds that pay them the highest commissions.

Fee based

So-called fee based financial advisers will charge you a fee and receive commissions on the products they sell.

This means they do not have a "fiduciary responsibility" to do what's in your best interest and that may end up costing you more than what a fee only or even a commission only financial adviser would charge.

Hourly rates or retainer

There are also some financial advisers who charge by the hour or a set fee – often to complete a special project that would otherwise be too complex even for a retail investor who is accustomed to managing his or her own money.

There's no such thing as a free lunch. Photo: David Goehring

What arrangement is best for you?

Generally speaking, going for a fee only investment financial adviser who does not take commissions from those who create investment products like annuities or managed funds will end up being a better deal for you over the long term as they will steer you towards low cost investment products rather than those with the highest fees or commissions. Likewise, and even if you are an experienced do-it-yourself investor, there might be times when paying an hourly rate or a retainer will also make sense (a large or complex 401k roll-over for American investors). Just be aware that many fee only, as well as commission based financial advisers, will require a minimum sized account to manage before it makes sense for them to take you on as a full time client. However and even if your account balance is small, don't be afraid to check with a financial adviser to see if some kind of arrangement can be made to assist you if you need help.

Finally, no matter what type of financial adviser you use, make sure you take the time to understand what services he or she is offering for the fees you are being quoted. At the very least, your financial adviser needs to provide you with a detailed service and fee disclosure form.

Fees create a reverse compounding effect and reduce your nest egg over time. The higher the fees, in general, the greater the hit and reduced account size. Call me to discuss ways to reduce your portfolio fees and get your account growing efficiently.

Don Freeman is president of Freeman Capital Management, a Registered Investment adviser with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), based in Phuket, Thailand. He has over 15 years experience and provides personal financial planning and wealth management to expatriates. Specializing in UK and US pension transfers. Call 089-970-5795 or email: freemancapital@gmail.com

Low minimum access to a Wall Street legend

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

I HAVE followed the performance of the Abraham Trading Company for many years but it has always been off limits for use with the vast majority of my clients. As has happened with a lot of high-class money managers recently, a low minimum feeder has been opened that allows access to your average offshore investor. What I like about the track record of this fund the most, is that they manage to have the occasional mammoth up-year and their down-years are very small in comparison.

Salem Abraham started the company in the late eighties, and since 1993 the company has managed to return a compounded average return of about 20% per annum. The monthly volatility is a little higher than some of my other favorite funds, but they have only had five down-years during this time, all but one of which were about 9-10%. The largest draw-down is less than that of the global MSCI index and had a very rapid recovery.

If past performance did accurately predict future performance, which unfortunately it doesn't always do, this would be the number one go-to fund. Luckily you can now hold this fund as part of a diversified portfolio for only US$ 10,000, meaning even a portfolio of $ 100,000 would be able to hold it as a 10% holding. In the past you would have needed millions to hold it in any reasonable proportion.

What also makes this fund a little different from many of its trend following peers is that its best years haven't been stock market crash years. Of course, it still does great in these periods and thus provides a certain amount of protection for a stock based portfolio. It made a whopping 158% in 2003, a rather unremarkable year for most, while making about 41% in the crash of 2008.

The new feeder fund does have an additional layer of management costs (although we can get into without paying any front or back end commission), but I have never had a problem paying up slightly for great managers. There is some truth to the saying that you get what you pay for, even though sometimes in reality you don't actually get what you pay for. With the top traders however, this is the truth and they have the track records to prove it. The only time to consider costs in my opinion is when you are indexing, since there is no alpha, or return above what the stock market gives, being generated. If you only want a market return, get a discount brokerage account to buy ETFs and do it yourself. There is no reason to pay anybody for what you could get by simply buying one global equity ETF.

If you want real alpha (which can be either a similar long term return as the stock market but with less volatility, or similar volatility but a much higher return), Abraham Trading Company has been delivering for 25 years. As with many others in this asset class, the last four years have not been great. This is an indicator that the timing is likely perfect to be getting invested. All previous periods of under performance have been followed by amazing returns. I have a feeling the next few years will likely see some large displacements in the global financial markets, which is the environment in which this fund thrives.

Stock market crash. Photo: zemistor

David Mayes MBA resides in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expats around the globe, focusing on UK pension transfers. He can be reached at david.m@faramond.com or 085-335-8573. Faramond UK is regulated by the FCA and advises on pensions and taxation.

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GAP's new Phuket branch at Robinson Ocean Jungceylon Patong, is the famous American brand's ninth branch in Thailand. Photos: Kanyawara Pranprasert

Casual clothing GAP filled in Phuket

GAP, a popular international clothing brand from the US, has finally opened a shop in Phuket. The grand opening of the new branch at Robinson Ocean Jungceylon took place on October 15. To mark the occasion, GAP is offering a store-wide 20% discount until the end of the month. The current featured collection, "Back to Blue, Fall 2013", has an emphasis on denim – soft color tones for women and dark blue, "fit and slim" designs for men.

Thanamet Pongpornlapak, Robinson's General Manager of operations said that 80% of the new Patong store's revenue is expected to come from tourists, mostly Chinese, Russian and European. "In the future we will import more international brands to our department store. Ultimately, Robinson Ocean Jungceylon will offer the best service and brands to our customers, both domestic and international." he added.

Ms Thananan Vilaijitt Service Operation Manager of Armin Systems Ltd – the franchise license holder for GAP in Thailand – said: "Most of our [target] customers are tourists but we also try to attract Thai customers. GAP's focus is on customers in their 30s but the brand has become more popular among teenagers too. The casual, American style is booming in Thailand as people are looking for more conformable clothes."

"To meet the needs of locals and tourists, the brand's focus is on casual clothing," added Thananan

The new Phuket branch, located in Robinson Ocean Jungceylon, is the brand's 9th branch in Thailand, with most of the other branches located in Bangkok and Pattaya. The company is also thinking of expanding to Haat Yai, Udon Thani and Chiang Mai in the near future. ***– Phuket Gazette***

The American style is booming.

Zero tolerance for 'zero dollar'

In push away from 'mass tourism', local operators losing out on 'mass margins'

By Kanyawarat Pranprasert

THE governments of Thailand and China are working hand-in-hand to limit the number of tourists coming from the latter to the former, especially the "low-quality" ones, the head of Phuket's official tourism office recently announced.

Reinforcing Thailand's efforts to shift focus from quantity to quality tourist markets, the Chinese government since October 1 has been enforcing new regulations affecting its outbound leisure traffic, which will limit the number of its outbound tourists overall, as well as eliminate so-called "Z ero-dollar Tour" packages.

"This is a positive way to help reduce 'low quality' tourists," said Chanchai Duangjit, chief of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office.

As part of the new regulations, Chinese authorities will scrutinize the itineraries of both Thailand and China based tour operators, who will be required to specify exact details of their tour programs. Moreover, the packages must be paid for in China only, and the Chinese tourists will not be allowed to partake in itineraries that are not explicitly stated in the original program. Tour operators deemed in violation of the new regulations will be subject to a 300,000 yuan (1.5 million baht) fine and/or face a revocation of their license.

"Z ero-dollar tour packages have given a negative image to Thailand tourism for a long time," Chanchai insisted.

He explained that such packages aren't necessarily "free" packages but were sold to tourists at cheaper rates, subsidized through deals with commission-paying third party firms – jewelery galleries, souvenir shops and tailors, for example.

The Phi Phi islands are a popular tour itinerary among Chinese tourists.

In other words, tour operators were also acting as commission-based "touts", while tour groups were subjected to additional itineraries that they didn't buy into.

"In the past, there was no strict regulation to address this problem and there were many bad tour guides who deceived Chinese tourists," Chanchai said.

The local tourism chief went on to underline other issues associated with mass tourism, namely the lack of knowledgeable or qualified tour guides; shortage of transportation; congestion and strain on infrastructure as well as declining profits for tourism operators and other local businesses.

"I think the new regulation will decrease the number of low-budget tourists coming to Thailand and I believe that Thailand will in turn see increased profits from quality tourists. I don't see any negative effects for the Thai tourism industry," he concluded.

Some tour agents in Phuket disagree, however.

One Phuket-based operator who deals with inbound Chinese tour groups, told the *Gazette* that the number of bookings from this segment had decreased immediately following the announcement of the new regulations.

"Compared to years past, the number of travellers these days is higher, especially during the Chinese holiday periods. Chinese zero-dollar [packages] was an effective strategy to bring more Chinese tourists to Thailand and increase locals' income," said the operator, who insisted that both tour guides and companies have been greatly impacted, and will continue to be impacted by the new regulation.

The operator, who asked not to be named, explained that many local tour companies and related businesses enjoyed considerable profits by offering supplemental activities to Chinese tourists – hiring of speed boat trips, visits to jewelry showrooms, other shopping venues and so forth.

"Tour agents could enjoy profits of about 10,000-20,000 baht per tourist, while tour guides could get 30,000-40,000 baht per group tour," the operator revealed.

"Now, tour companies [serving Chinese tourists directly in China] will increase their tour package prices and reap all the profits from the sale of [supplemental] programs to tourists, while tour guides will end up earning only 1,500 baht per day. Nonetheless, we will try to find other solutions to increase our profits when Chinese tourists decline," he said.

Indeed, the days of cheap mass tourism seem to be numbered, at least if the will of Thai and Chinese authorities is fully realized. Although many local tour agencies and their affiliate companies will immediately lose out on "mass margins", with every threat arises a new opportunity – to find new solutions for the greater good of all local businesses. But only time will tell how Thailand's mass tourism saga pans out.

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Fiery culture

CREDIT must be given where it is clearly due: to the authorities who arrested more than 20 people for the illegal use or sale of dangerous fireworks during the recently concluded Vegetarian Festival (see page xx).

The Phuket Provincial Police have sent out somewhat mixed signals in recent years with regard to what level of fireworks usage would be allowed during traditional cultural festivities, many of which are connected to the island's heritage and deep links to China.

In general, the message over the past decade has been that traditional firecrackers in strips would be acceptable, while anything larger or with more explosive power would not.

Any Phuket resident who has observed these firework-centric traditions can testify that the enforcement of regulations on the island has been mostly nonexistent – until now. In past years at this time there were reports of victims, many of them young children, who lost an eye, finger or ear drum due to these dangerous explosives.

A simple 'cost-benefit' analysis on the use of fireworks needs to be performed. Let's look at the benefits first. There is the belief that these pyrotechnics might be useful at warding off evil spirits. And we are told that firecrackers and fireworks in general are an important part of the cultural and religious traditions of China. By association, they are an important way for Phuket's Chinese population to express their reverence for and identification with such traditions.

Yet ancestor worship is another vital Chinese tradition, and one that extends much further back than firecrackers. Surely Chinese culture and tradition is much older and more grand than is warranted by association with noisy, toxic explosives.

On the 'cost' side, there is not enough space here to even begin an accurate accounting. Apart from all the people who have been maimed or even killed, the Chinese fireworks industry is almost completely unregulated and a well-known source of not only noise pollution, but also a producer of toxic fumes from a variety of elements that include strontium, dioxins, aluminum and other particulates – hardly substances that the well-intended spirit of any ancestor would want to see their descendants ingest.

And in this age of global warming and "sufficiency economy" any discussion of the costs also has to take into account the preposterousness of the mass production, shipping and sale of a product which has as its sole purpose the creation of noise for very short-term excitement.

There is no denying the importance of Chinese traditions in the development of Phuket's own culture. However, despite the Vegetarian Festival being an important event that relies heavily on the use of explosives, the use of fireworks during this and similar events needs to be more tightly controlled for the benefit of all island residents.

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Bring murder suspect back to trial

Re: Gazette online, DOG DAYS: Phuket murder fugitive 'Mick the Pom' living openly in sunny Philippines, October 11

The Thai Authorities should act on this information quickly and put him back behind bars, where he belongs. He is laughing at them.

If I were to stab someone through the heart in a drunken or jealous fit, I would hope and pray that my government's legal system was as inept as the Thai system seems to be.

Then I too would probably be living in the Philippines, drinking beer and bragging about outwitting Thai justice.

Amy Nguyen
Gazette forum

Letters to the Editor

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

Cops are prioritizing gear over good

Re: Gazette online, Phuket to sport armed patrol cars for night duty, October 12

Will they patrol during night hours as before, driving slowly with flashing lights? They are not exactly stealthy.

The local police are so focused on new gear and equipment that enforcing laws has taken second priority.

Phil
Gazette forum

Bugs belong in yard, not on plate

Re: Gazette online, Phuket In Focus: The bug buffet, October 12

I'm not arguing with these findings, but my many Thai friends in Isarn all say the same thing: they only eat insects and larvae because they can not afford pork or beef.

Having tasted some of the insects and larvae, I can only say, 'yuck'. The sauces and spices are really needed. One reason why Isarn folk use a lot of chili.

DSI Watcher
Gazette forum

Users of elephants as much to blame

Re: Gazette online, Phuket elephant smugglers head to court, arrest of officials sought, October 12

"This is not the fault of the elephant camp owners".

As they are the end users I find this hard to believe. If they didn't need the elephants the market would not exist.

Mister Ree
Gazette forum

It's a police duty to stop bad parkers…

Re: Gazette online, Thalang traffic police to crack down on convenience store parking violators, October 10

"They need to come out of the store and tell them to move their cars."

What a terribly false expectation by the good deputy superintendent.

What on earth would ever cause a local store manager to leave his shop and turn away business?

No, Col Sarawut, that is, as you know, a police responsibility, so please get with it!

Nandoor
Gazette forum

...but permits are at root of parking issue

Re: Gazette online, Thalang traffic police to crack down on convenience store parking violators, October 10

The source of the problem is allowing convenience stores such as 7-Eleven and SuperCheap to open without any proper parking, especially on corners. Why are they given permits to operate in the first place?

Earmuffs
Gazette forum

Singapore traffic, a good road model

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Signs of Chaos, October 13

Road signs, road rules and road orderliness in general are lacking, but why? I think part of it is ignorance of the standard that is expected and is achieved in other parts of the world.

I suggest the "czar" of roadworks be sent to Singapore for a few months to see how his counterparts handle the matter.

Dave
Gazette forum

Serving or scaring?

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Airport taxis face overhaul, upgrade, October 12

"...they should establish a new system that will benefit us because we have served passengers at the airport for a long time...."

Huh? Many people feel they have been ripping off the public, not serving them.

I pray for some professional people – not the rag tag group that has been terrorizing the tourists.

Jacgem
Gazette forum

Myanmar hon consul

Re: Gazette online, Phuket aircon technician survives three-storey fall, October 12

This man was not properly dressed for the dangerous job he was doing. Myanmar nationals need an honorary consul in Phuket to fight for their rights and safety.

Gip
Thalang

Making Art known

FIRST PERSON

Anucha Deeviset, 35, is a freelance photographer and member of B&W Photo Phuket Club. A Chaiyaphum native, Mr Anucha has a photography degree from Rangsit University and spent 13 years working in production companies in Bangkok and Phuket before becoming a freelancer.

Here, he talks about why more people don't know about Phuket's art scene and how the government can help.

PHUKET does not lack the arts. I've been living here for five years and I have met many skillful artists.

However, I recognize that the art scene here is not widely known, by locals or visitors. I think this is because it is promoted only within a small group of people – those who are directly connected with it.

What we really need is help from the local government to publicize art events.

Let me give you an example of what tends to happen. Let's say one of the photography clubs wants to hold an exhibition. They will only advertise it on their own Facebook page or website, or maybe on another photography club's website. So the word will get out, but only within a small group and among friends of that group. Others have no way of knowing about it.

Even at the municipality level there's a problem with promoting art events, because when they stage an art activity or exhibition, they ask us to publicize it for them! We do our best, but we don't have the resources to advertise widely, so the same thing happens: word doesn't spread.

Mr Anucha's photo won the 2012 Delicious Baba Food Photo Contest.

Imagine how much better it would be if the municipality helped to promote art.

The fact is that Phuket Town itself – the architecture of our old buildings – is art, but sometimes people forget it, don't appreciate it or are not aware of it. I bet there are a lot of people who don't know that the old Standard Chartered Bank building in town is also the Phuket Peranakan Museum.

A few years ago, the photography clubs held an exhibition at the bank building. We invited famous artists from Bangkok to be our guest speakers. A lot of people joined the opening ceremony on the first day of the exhibition, but later, only a few of them came.

It's difficult to know whether lack of attendance is due to poor advertising or lack of interest.

Our cultural unawareness has widespread implications, and can even affect the economy of Phuket. When we invite tourists to visit, we are likely to focus on sea, sand and sun – and forget about other features, like architecture and culture.

If the municipalities or local government organizations could help promote the art activities and exhibitions more, even more tourists would visit Phuket.

One thing the government should do to support the arts is put up signs along the roads and in tourist areas when we have exhibitions. Another thing is to promote more events here. We promote the Vegetarian Festival, why don't we promote the Baba Yaya wedding ceremony? It's a unique traditional ceremony that Phuketians are proud of.

However, it's not only the government that needs to do more, it's local people too.

A friend of mine came to Phuket and was walking around the old town. He took his camera out to take pictures of the buildings and a house owner asked him to stop in an unfriendly way. I totally understand the privacy issue, but in my opinion, taking pictures just for pleasure should not be a problem. Pictures will capture good memories for visitors and might help promote the area to other people too.

I love Phuket even though I am not a Phuketian. I see Phuket as an interesting place that still has a lot of beautiful and hidden arts and culture to discover. Let's make Phuket famous as a place where old arts and culture mix together with a modern lifestyle.

Real life differs from news reports. Photo: US Navy, Benjamin D Glass

Warding off bad luck with a smile

Island View

By Maciek Klimowicz

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

SCAMS, robberies, thieves, taxi mafia... this place is evil, one might think. Especially if he gets his information from the internet, from online discussion forums and so on. Scary!

Yet, in some mysterious way most of these evil things seem to happen to other people and almost never to me personally. Sure, visas are an everlasting struggle and I had some stuff stolen from me once, but except for that, nothing.

In fact, quite the opposite. Since I moved to Thailand almost three years ago, I keep encountering honest, friendly people on an everyday basis – taxi drivers included! Like the one who took the time to drive halfway across Bangkok (and that's quite a journey) to return my wallet which I had absentmindedly left on the seat of his Toyota. When I offered him 500 baht to show my gratitude, he kindly refused.

And how about the waitress in one of Patong's ever-crowded streetside restaurants who returned the laptop which I had forgotten (here we go again…) three hours earlier after a bowl of delicious *Ba Mee Haeng*?

Or the staff of Tesco Lotus who spent an hour going through their CCTV tapes to locate the purse my girlfriend misplaced during our weekly shopping trip. And then delivered it to our house with the contents intact when they found it a few days later.

In my three years in Thailand, I have never been cheated, never overcharged in a taxi – and never had to pay a single *satang* to the ones who couldn't find their way. I even managed to establish a civil relationship with the tuk-tuk drivers. I remember one who wanted 200 baht to take me from Khao San Road to the nearest BTS station. When I refused he waved over one of his friends who took me where I wanted for less than a 100.

Sure, there were the few who tried to convince me that "The palace not open today," but a smile usually sufficed to end the conversation.

And that's the thing. I'm sure there's nasty stuff going on here like anywhere else in the world, but in most cases, if you smile in the land of smiles, it will smile back at you.

Issues & Answers… …asking the questions that affect you…

Turning yuan into baht at local ATMs

Can I use my Chinese bank card at ATMs in Thailand? Do the money machines there have the Chinese "UnionPay" logo on them?

Metoyou Beijing

An officer at Krung Thai Bank (KTB) Call Center replies:

Yes, you can make cash withdrawals from ATMs in Thailand. Any UnionPay card with a card number starting with "62" that also has the UnionPay logo on the card can be used at eight different Thai banks, namely: Krung Thai Bank (KTB), KasikornBank (KBank), Bangkok Bank, Thai Military Bank (TMB), Thanachart Bank, United Overseas Bank (UOB), Siam Commercial Bank (SCB) and the Government Savings Bank.

The local ATMs that have UnionPay logos appear on machines at many locations across the country including airports, 7-Eleven convenience stores, major shopping malls and tourist destinations.

The service fee for the use of the ATM depends on the bank you use, so pay attention to the charge message shown on the ATM screen.

Also be aware that banks have withdrawal limits.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Are stores required to provide parking?

I live in the Keha housing estate in Thalang, and at the entrance to the estate on Thepkrasattri Road there is a 7-Eleven with very limited parking. This leads shoppers to park along the road. Buses for hotel staff also stop at the 7-Eleven, as do long-distance buses.

All these vehicles have made it dangerous to turn into Keha, as they pull out suddenly, and motorcyclists dart out between them to exit the 7-Eleven parking lot.

Compounding the problem, a new SuperCheap is about to open on the other side of the Keha entrance, also with limited parking.

Are there any legal regulations that require a new building, especially a retail outlet, to supply parking spaces?

Grumpy, Baan Porn

Nuchjaree Muangsri, an officer at the Phuket Office of Public Works and Town and Country Planning, replies:

There are no legal regulations requiring small convenience stores to provide parking spaces. Only bigger establishments such as shopping centers are required to provide parking.

Small convenience stores are generally built along the street because that is where they are most convenient for customers looking to make quick and simple purchases. But if the parking around the store becomes clearly dangerous, I suggest you report the problem to the police or local government organization in your area. They would then take action to address the problem.

If you need more information, please feel free to contact us at 076-216927.

THE IDEAL: parking at a Japanese 7-Eleven. Photo: Kuha

YOUR Phuket

VEGETARIAN FESTIVAL BY CENTRAL FESTIVAL PHUKET

Central Festival Phuket showed its support to this year's veg fest by making generous donations to each of the sacred Chinese shrines in Phuket Town.

PHUKET PROPERTY SHOW

All the best in one place – this is the battle-cry of a large new property exhibition on the bypass road that will be open from October 10-30. Tourists and residents are welcome.

WELCOME NEWS ANCHOR MCOT, CHANNEL 9

Dechanont Wangthong (1st left), executive assistant manager of Centara Grand West Sands Resort & Villas Phuket and his team welcomed Teerawat Puengthong (2nd right), MCOT news anchor on Channel 9, who stayed at the resort for a holiday.

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* The Gazette is the top-ranked Website for Phuket. *(Google Analytics)*

PROPERTY of the week

See page 22

JOB of the week

NIKKI BEACH Phuket

See page 27

WHEELS & MORTORS of the week

HONDA CRV 2.0 MODEL 2002

See page 30

BOAT of the week

See page 31

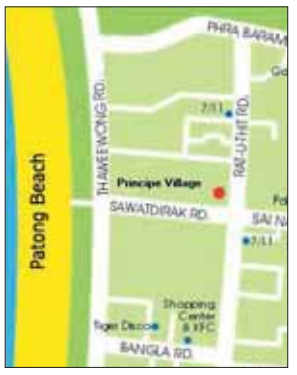
All Property, Boat and Business Ads are PAID!

– your assurance that whatever's advertised here is seriously for sale.

Gazette Classifieds – they work! Because they're REAL.

Properties For Sale

PRIME LOCATION



In the heart of Patong, square land 240sq wah. 33m width on Rat-U-Thit Road, 16m maximum building height. 250m from beach, 400m from Bangla Road. Contact Owner directly. Tel: 091-076 7137.

SEA VIEW 3 BED VILLA, 6.5MB

Roof top pool villa, 210 sqm, garage, garden, great views. Tel: 084-844 6476 (English). Email: richardphuket@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at http://propertyforsalephuket.co.uk/

FREEHOLD NAI HARN BEACH

Nice 125sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large swimming pool, 24hr security. 8.5 million baht. Please contact by email: phbouvier14@yahoo.fr

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

1 ngan, nice flat land, quiet area, Chanote. In Pasak Soi 5. Price: 2 million baht. For more information, please call 089-472 9118.

HOUSE IN KAMALA SALE

Near Phuket FantaSea, 90sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, kitchen, living room, garden and car park. Tel: 089-973 2688. Email: art_ta99@hotmail.com

3-BED DUPLEX HOUSE 2.39 MILLION BAHT

Great value. 3-bed Duplex House. Open-plan kitchen, living and dining room. Furnished. Tel: 085-796 3354 (English), 087-193 7825 (Thai). Email: jasmeek666@hotmail.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

URGENT SALE / RENT

Patong. Newly built 40sq wah, 2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Near Sea Pearl Project Patong. Tel: 086-476 9612.

LOCH PALM VILLA - REDUCED

Largest courtyard villa within LP and Red Mountain golf courses offers 4-5 bedrooms surrounding lush garden with 12m pool. Reduced from 18.8m to 12.8m, furnished. Tel: +65-98-535538. Email ianawal@yahoo.com for details.

MAI KHAO DREAM LAND

20 rai of land + 5 rai of concrete factory with Chanote title. Rent or sale. Located on Thepkrasattri Road (main road). 12km from airport. Call 081-738 7099 (Thai), 084-889 3300 (English&Russian).

CONDO AT RATCHAPORN PLACE

In Kathu for sale or rent. Near Phuket Country Club Golf Course. 36sqm furnished, aircon. 1 bedroom. Sale: 1.75 million baht. Rent: 13,000 baht per month with 1-year contract. Common area included. Tel: 089-472 9118.

LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS

Pa Khlok. 2 rai 32sq wah, 60m wide. Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd. 11 km from Heroines' Monument. Price: 7.8 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@hotmail.com

NEW CONDO: URGENT SALE/RENT

Special price, modern style, 30sqm, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, 1 pantry. In Kathu, 3km to Patong. Full set of built-in furniture. Ready to move in! Contact Ya. Tel: 081-797 5138.

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

At Ao Makham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. Please call 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

LAND FOR SALE

1 rai of flat land for sale in quiet area of Pa Khlok with Chanote title. 3,350,000 baht ono. Email: jase.shanahan@virgin.net

HOT DEAL - CONDO AT THE POINT

Opposite Big C, 1 bedroom with nice view, includes furniture. 55sqm. Price: 3.2 million baht. Negotiable. Also available as rental. Tel: 082-276 1817, 081-614 5372.

SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE/ RENT

In Thanapa Park View Village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Sale: 2.25 million baht. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Contact owner directly. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

HABITOWN, KOH KAEW

115sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, includes built-in furniture, 2 floors. Resale down 130,000 baht. Tel: 089-772 7012. Email: gyb_giff@yahoo.com

PATONG TOWER SEA VIEW

Corner unit, high floor, freehold, 2 bedrooms, 78sqm, all windows, fantastic sea views, Jacuzzi, newly refurbished. 12.5 million baht. Tel: 081-273 4212. Email: phuketcondo1@gmail.com

LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

Great location, road access, 5 minutes to Kata Beach and main road, 1,450sqm with title deed. Contact Lychee. Tel: 081-891 3048 (English & German).

HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

Phuket Town. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 47sq wah. Tel: 089-909 2771.

LAND FOR SALE

Near Thalang, nearly 1 rai, Chanote title. 2.8 million baht. Tel: 081-859 5194 (English), 081-326 5659 (English & Thai), 087-282 7227 (Thai).

CHALONG BEACHFRONT POOL VILLA

For sale or rent. 1 rai, 3 bedrooms. Contact Siriporn. Tel: 089-649 9939. Email: siri_phuket@changrunner.com

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE, CHEAP PRICE

2-storey twin house in Palm Villa, Pa Khlok, 5km from the Heroines Momument. Price: 2.2 million baht. 35.2sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, car park for 2 cars. Cheaper than the developer's. Ready to move in October 2013. Contact owner. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

Live in Cherng Talay?
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or (081-3977307)

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All classifieds in these pages are

PAID!

– your assurance that whatever's advertised here is seriously for sale.

Gazette Classads - they work!
....because they're real.

Property Classifieds

QUALITY 3-BEDROOM POOL VILLAS

7.9 million baht. Rental yield above 8% easily achievable. One left! Tel: 081-077 1765. Email: kez_turn@hotmail.com

HOTEL & RESTAURANT

Small 10-room Italian and Thai restaurant. All new equipment and coffee shop. Tel: 032-470344, 089-008 6562, 089-504 7253. Email: jpgermi@yahoo.com

LOVELY POOL VILLA

Quiet hillside, 3 big bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, office, 15m pool, quality furniture, like new, 1,050sqm land, security. Tel: 076-388236, 089-727 5407 (English). Email: cosmocampbell@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.villa-sale-phuket.com

CONDO IN SUPALAI PARK

For sale. Near Sengho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio, 30sqm, floor 15, sea view, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.55 million baht. Ready to move in. For more info call 089-472 9118.

NAI HARN CONDO

2-bed condo at The Sands, just reduced to 6.7 million baht by highly motivated seller. 4th-floor, 150sqm unit. Fully furnished, great view from balcony, large common pool, 24-hr security and only 3 mins walk to popular Nai Harn Beach. This is the best-value unit in the project. Don't miss this opportunity! Tel: 089-652 1951 (English & Thai). Email: phuket.pn@gmail.com

6.5 RAI OCEAN VIEW

For sale. Flat, waterfront land. Chanote title. Email: Pktthai1@gmail.com

HOUSE IN PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR SALE

46sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, furnished, car park. Only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-787 7675.

HABITIA KOH KAEW

Modern style, Sino-Portuguese, area: 36.50sq wah with 118sqm living space approx. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car park. Sale down payment 500,000 baht. Tel: 087-270 9093.

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE

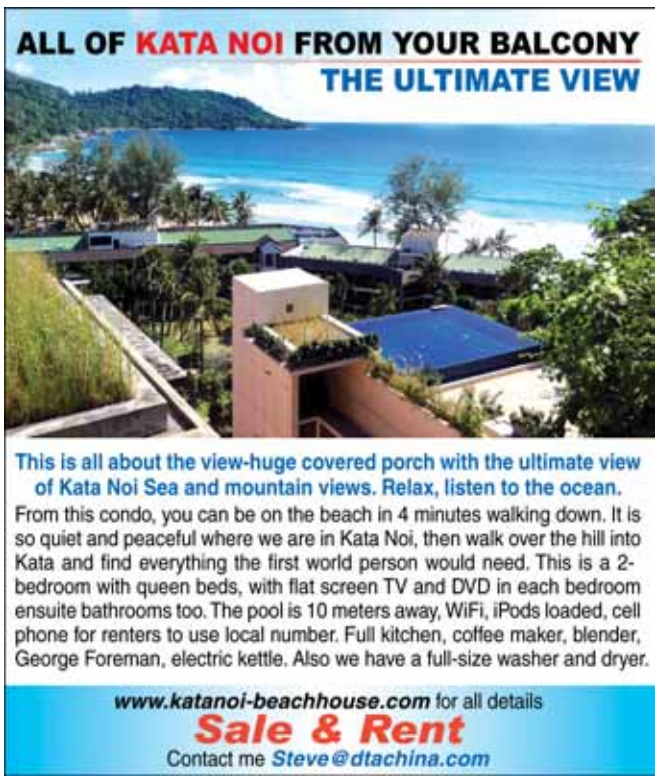
Condo at Royal Place Project, Bypass Road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2 floors, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished, 2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable, 24hr security with key card etc). Please call for more details. Tel: 086-476 9612. Email: annanoi1@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL LAND FOR SALE

7 and a half rai on Soi Suksan near Chalong Circle. 59 million baht. Tel: 088-760 6083. Email: theeighthcat@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL PENTHOUSE KARON

Rare opportunity to buy an amazing penthouse with fantastic views. Private sale, no agents. Elegant, fully furnished penthouse: 4 bedrooms split into 2 floors, 3 bathrooms, spacious and light living area with the most beautiful ocean view ever. Jacuzzi on the terrace, facing Karon Bay. Surrounded by nature, at 800 meters from the beach. With many bars, restaurants and shopping within walking distance. 24 million baht. Tel: 087-466 3486 (English). Email: jamesderek77@gmail.com



HOUSE FOR SALE

Villa Dowroong, 2 bedrooms, living room, kitchen and bathroom. Price: 1.5 million baht. Tel: 081-859 5194 (English), 081-326 5659 (English & Thai), 087-282 7227 (Thai).

PATONG TOWER SEAVIEW CONDO

1 bedroom, lounge, dining and kitchen, 69sqm area, foreign freehold, 50m to beach. 6.9 million baht. Tel: 089-290 8939. Email: stevebell247@hotmail.com

LAND & HOUSES PARK, CHALONG

Villa for sale. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished and equipped, garden, 240sqm. Price: 6.8 million baht. Tel: 083-394 4536 (English), 084-443 5389 (English & Thai).

CAPE YAMU SEAVIEW

5 million baht. Tel: 091-034 1911. Email: pas.phuket@gmail.com

LUXURY CHIANG DAO ESTATE

Exquisite 7 rai, 3 home Chiang Dao Estate with B&B/boutique nature resort potential for sale well below market value. Tel: 053-448181, 081-724 9155 (English & Thai), 080-790 5506 (English). Email: mychiangmaiproperty@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at http://mychiangmaiproperty.com

30 RAI IN TOWN

Flat land near Dowroong School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

2.5 floors, 5 mins to town, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. A good place to stay! 2.85 million baht. Tel: 083-506 9155. Email: sumitra.saetan@gmail.com

D CONDO 1, KATHU

-29.94sqm, mountain view, price 1,278,000 baht.

-29.70sqm, mountain view, price 1,280,000 baht.

-29.79sqm, pool view, price 1,330,000 baht.

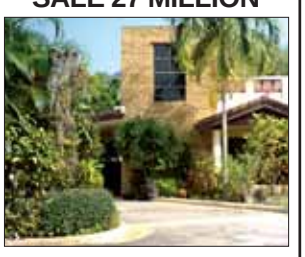
-29.70sqm, pool view, price 1,365,000 baht.

Contact Vutdy. Tel: 081-892 3709.

BEAUTIFUL PLOT

1 rai in Soi Samakki, Nai Harn. "Perfect" for 1 or 2 quality villas. Chanote title. 8.7 million baht, or a half rai 4.7 million baht. You will make decision after seeing the land. Contact Kay. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: nigelburt51@gmail.com

THIDA HOUSE SALE 27 MILLION



Thai-style modern townhouse with land. Size: 10.50m x 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining room, kitchen and car park. Single house on land size: 15m by 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining area/kitchen, terrace and car park. Soi Mountain View Kathu Waterfall. Tel: 081-535 7585, 084-119 4262, 081-356 9754. Email: peecho74@hotmail.com

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE

For sale. Price 4.5 million baht. No agents, no furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long-term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-270 9093.

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement. Then hand it to any of our agents.

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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 140 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.
Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Property Classifieds

Properties For Rent

CONDO FOR RENT IN TOWN
Condo with aircon, WiFi, TV, fridge, gym & pool. 8,500 baht per month (3 month contract), or sale at 1.4 million baht. Tel: 081-978 1558. Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

PATONG 2 BEDROOM CONDO
Nicely furnished in quiet location. Maid, WiFi, cable, pool & parking. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English). Email: phkrealestate@aol.com

APARTMENT PATONG
1 bedroom, 54sqm, fully equipped, quiet location with pool. Tel: 081-892 1621.

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE

For sale. Price: 4.2 million baht. No agents! Not furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long-term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT/ SALE

In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Sale: 2.25 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

LOVELY APARTMENTS FOR RENT
http://pukeyomefc2.web.fc2.com/phuketcondorent.htm Email: chrispalmer56@gmail.com

SHOPHOUSE FOR LEASE
Prime location. 2 shophouses for cheap rent. 2nd floor, fully furnished apartment with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and kitchen. Owner moving and wants quick lease. Tel: 089-816 8293 (English & Thai). Email: janum0012@hotmail.com

HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE

Near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, aircon, 3 bedrooms, cable TV, kitchen. 25,000 baht per month with 30,000 baht deposit. Tel: 086-607 7493.

CONDO AT RATCHAPORN PLACE

In Kathu for rent or sale. Near Phuket Country Club Golf Course. 36sqm, furnished, aircon. 1 bedroom. Rent: 13,000 baht per month with 1-year contract and common area included. Sale: 1.75 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

HOUSE

Near BIS, Koh Kaew. Detached house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, garden & car park. For long-term rent: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-894 9042, 081-970 1499.

WALK TO KATA BEACH
New gorgeous furnished quiet 2 bedrooms, 3bathrooms home. 30,000 baht per month. 25,000 baht for 2 months. Tel: 081-472 1010 (English & Thai). Email: kahunadan@hotmail.com

POOL VILLA IN CHALONG
2 bedrooms, fully furnished, shared pool, landscaped gardens, aircon, WiFi, cable TV, water included. 12-month contract, available December. Sorry, no pets or kids. Email: gar.inman@me.com

KATA OCEAN VIEW CONDO
Fully furnished, seaview and non-seaview apartments, available for long-term rental. From 19,000 to 40,000 baht per month. Located on Kata Hill. Tel: 076-330641. For further details, please see our website at www.oceanic-global.com

B.L. APARTMENT
At Kathu, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, swimming pool, garden and car park. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

PATONG POOLSIDE STUDIOS
54sqm, maid, WiFi, cable, from 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

CONDO @ PHUKET MARINA
2-bedroom pool villa in Royal Phuket Marina,195sqm, fully furnished, WiFi. 85,000 baht/month. Tel: 076-296029, 089-185 5318 (English & Thai), 089-203 9270 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-296029. Email: aood16@hotmail.com

COZY HOUSE NEAR NAI HARN

A high-grade built house, furnished and conveniently located minutes from Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. 2 spacious bedrooms with en suite bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. Aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage removal service. 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-383 0936 (Khun Nui). Email: hunt17@hotmail.com

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE
1-3 bedrooms, Chalong area + Panwa area. Start from 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311, http://palaigreen.weebly.com

SUPER LUXURY VILLA
4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, this huge 900sqm property offers the finest sea views in Phuket, state of the art games room, home cinema, etc. Cape Yamu. 300,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-420 3270.

PALAI BEACH
We have a house with two apartments for long term rent. Some seaview, private area, fully furnished. Each apartment is 75 sqm. with 2 bedrooms, living room, and kitchen. Rent: 27,000 baht per month. Tel: +46-070-688 4995, 080-147 1400. Email: tomas@tmsengineering.se

NEWLY MODERN TOWNHOUSE
18,000 baht/month. Fully furnished 3bed, kitchen, aircon, fridge, bedding, sofa, hot water. Available now. Tel: 085-055 9576, 089-892 6174. Email: intira.boonsith@gmail.com

KATA OCEAN VIEW CONDO
Fully furnished, quiet, seaview, Kata Hill. Tel: 086-281 9311. Email: bao200@gmail.com

KAMALA CONDO FOR RENT
1 bedroom at Trees Residence, fully furnished, TV, internet available. 2 swimming pools, 2 gyms, tennis court, squash court, sauna, shuttle bus, resturant, 24hr security. Tel: 076-592 9082, 086-280 3118 (English). Email: paulajlaydon@hotmail.com

KATA NOI HOLIDAY RENT CONDO
Superb 2-bed, 2½ bathrooms, large terrace, sea view, beach 2 minutes walk. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

CONDO IN KATHU FOR RENT

Short or long-term rent, fully furnished, swimming pool, fitness center, quiet and secure. 12,000 baht per month. Please call. Tel: 093-742 6801. Email: thaidoodee1@gmail.com

Property Classifieds

Property Services

PURIMAS PHUKET PROPERTY
Buy-Sale-Rent-Build with us. Various properties in Phuket. For further details, please see our website at www. purimas property.com

HOTEL/CONDO MANAGEMENT
Asset management + pre-opening services by experienced hoteliers. Email: resort gm@gmail.com

HOME RENOVATION
We provide services: home and pool renovation, sauna and stream room construction. Tel: 084-191 1288. For further details, please see our website at www.homere novationphuket.com

HOSPITALITY MGR. AVAILABLE
Hospitality GM for all types of pre-openings from A-Z, also management of resorts, estates, condos, marketing, interim management, feasibility studies. Email: resortgm@ gmail.com

PDS PHUKET DRAIN SPECIALIST
At Phuket drain specialists, we can guarantee that you will receive a quick and efficient service for everything from blocked drains to drain repaires to pipe replacement, our team of highly qualified staff have a wealth of experience in dealing with blocked drains, we operate a 24hr emergency service and ensure a quick response time when you ever have a blocked drain you will know who to call. Phuket drain specialists we guarantee we will beat any quote. Tel: 081-090 9516 (English), 085-224 6685 (Thai). Email: kjoshea@hotmail.co.uk

Property Services Wanted

ELECTRICIAN
Electrician needed to check and determine property power, need to install generator and hook up. Tel: 087-884 8972.

Property Wanted

VILLAS, CONDOS AT KATA, KARON
Successful property and rental management company seeks additional villas/condos. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

OFFICE/RETAIL SPACE WANTED
Office/Retail space wanted asap. Approx 20sqm. In Kamala/Surin area. Tel: 082-521 7745 (English). Email: mr craigwhite@hotmail.co.uk

WANTED VILLA FOR LONG-TERM
Looking for a villa for long-term lease ~ 50,000 per month. Preferences are: Hillside location, Security, Kamala to Bang Tao, Pool, Single story. Tel: 080-319 9255 (English). Email: 425 zeds@gmail.com

APARTMENT / HOUSE NEEDED
Our customers need urgently apartment rentals up to 25,000 baht per month, and house rentals up to 40,000 baht per month. For long and short-term contracts. Only Kata, Karon, Rawai, Nai Harn, Chalong. Tel: 082-420 7052. Please call or visit our website at www.stay onphuket.com

Accommodation Available

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS
Serviced apartment. Studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, rooftop pool, free WiFi. Tel: 076-203208, 081-892 0038. For further details, please see our website at www.orchid kathuheights-phuket.com

NAI HARN BUNGALOW
Nice bungalow for long-term rent, quiet location, fully furnished, 2 beds, 2 baths, aircon/fans, cable TV, WiFi internet. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-891 7408, 087-292 5309 (English & Thai). Email: gillies18567@hotmail. com

DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDO
2 bedrooms, also 1 bedroom, kitchen, lounge. The Point, near Central Festival, many facilities. Tel: 081-892 0038.

BEAUTIFUL 4 BEDROOM HOUSE
4-bedrooms, 4-bathrooms, seaview house in Kuku. For rent at 35,000 baht per month. Sale at 8.7 million baht. Tel: 081-787 2201 (English & Thai). Email: phuket8@hotmail. com

4-BEDROOM ROCK HOUSE, SAI YUAN
4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, big garden, fully furnished. Long-term rent: 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-787 2201. Email: phuket8@hotmail. com

BEACH APARTMENT
Nice beach studio for rent long-term. Please email for further info. Tel: +41-79-337 8631 (English). Email: mde feo@gmx.net

DELUXE TOP-FLOOR 1 BED
The Trees Residence, Kamala. 1 year min: 23,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-130 3234 (English).

POOL VILLA FOR RENT
2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garden, swimming pool, in a very peaceful and secure compound. Long-term rental only. 45,000 baht per month. This price includes Internet, maid once a week, pool service every 2 weeks, and gardening once a month. Email: aom.phongpan @gmail.com

KATA BEACH
5 minutes walk from the beach. Southern Fried Rice Guesthouse (Trip Advisor Winner 2013). Offers big rooms from 600 baht (low season) including continental breakfast. 1,200 baht (high season) includes airport pickup. 5-night stay, WiFi, water and beach towels provided. See comments on Trip Advisor. Tel: 081-894 8446. Email: sfrkata37@gmail.com www.southernfriedrice.com

PATONG SEA VIEW HOUSE / APT
Stunning new furnished Patong seaview house (or apartment) for long lease. Three en-suite bedrooms. Huge lounge and balconies. Gloss white fitted kitchen. On Andaman Mountain. House only 45,000 baht a month. Apartment only 18,000 baht a month. Tel : +44-788-548 8091(English). Contact Ron Crane at craneprop@hot mail.co.uk

Accommodation Wanted

VILLA WITH PRIVATE POOL
We are looking for a 2-bedroom villa with private pool from 12 December to 12 January 2014 on Phuket Island. Southwest preferred. +41-79-651 3602 (English). Email: orca_67 @hispeed.ch

POOL VILLA WANTED
Wanted in Rawai/Nai Harn area: 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, secure villa with Western kitchen and pool. Must be in a quiet area. 40,000-50,000 baht per month, 1 month bond, 2 year contract. Tel: 088-760 5003 (English). Email: collettegaleano@gmail.com

Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

LUXURY VILLA RENTALS PHUKET
Save up to 20% on your booking cost. Book direct from villa owners. Tel: 076-510111. Email: darrel@awesomevillas. com

RAWAI-NAI HARN HOLIDAY
Beautiful private pool villa, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, WiFi, safety box, maid. 3,500 baht per day. Tel 085-787 3046 . Email: patrickmeo @gmail.com

DISCOUNT SEAVIEW 3-4 BEDROOMS
October and November end of low season price. Tel: 085-237 1007. Email: patrickf oconnor@outlook.com

HOUSES 1 OR 2-BEDROOMS
Fully furnished, WiFi, cable TV, pool. From 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-475 1200 (English & Thai). Email: info@welcome-inn. com

NAI HARN 2-BED BEACH CONDOS
Terrace, 2-bed and 2-bath, shared pool, garden, free WiFi, beach 3 minutes walk. Email: resort gm@gmail.com

Household Items

FOR SALE
Large 2 door fridge+freezer, Electrolux. Good condition. 7,000 baht. Tel: 087-276 1353.

HITACHI FRIDGE
R-W691FMSX. 180x80x 75cm. Jan 2012, 4 doors, external water dispenser, internal ice maker, perfect condition. Sale: 25,000 baht (new: 39,900 baht). Tel: 081-720 4334.

Household Services

PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE
Renovations, house repairs, painters, tilers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, built-in construction. Fluent English-speaking boss. Free quotes given. Tel: 084-193 5124. Email: phukethomemaintenance@yahoo.com

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement. Then hand it to any of our agents.

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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 140 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.
Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

MARKETING MANAGER
Thai only. Min 2 years experience at vacation or holiday club, or similar field. Salary + bonus + com. Tel: 076-376186, 088-450 1833. Email: george@davidvacationclub.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT WANTED
To aid in graphic design and administrative work.Thai national, able to communicate clearly in English. Computer skills required. Marketing and design skills preferred. Willingness to learn. Basic administrative skills (email, Word, Excel) Please send your resume to info@apr-pfleiderer.com

WAITRESS WANTED
Thai national, waitress in restaurant. Good salary + benefits! Email: info@phuketfit.com

PROPERTY RENTAL AGENT
Tropical Properties is looking for a Thai national to join our company as rental agent. Good command of English, written and spoken, is a must. Experience preferred. Good salary + commissions for the right person. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-real estate.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER
- Thai national (able to read, write, speak fluent Thai)
- Ability to communicate clearly in English
- Clear thinking in order to identify what makes a good news story
- Initiative and enthusiasm to track down a story
- Photography skills
- Able to manage own time effectively
- Knowledge of Burmese an advantage
- Driver's license

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to Um@PhuketGazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Ext.402 Fax: 076-615240

HORIZON GROUP

A HOTEL GROUP IN PHUKET HAS TWO FOUR-STAR RESORTS,SET IN PATONG AND IN KARON, WITH THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES:

ADMINISTRATION
- Executive Sales Manager
- Assistant Sales Manager
- Assistant Operations Manager

FOOD & BEVERGE
- Restaurant Manager
- Restaurant Captain
- Hostess

RESERVATION
- Reservation Officer

FRONT OFFICE
- Assistant Front Office Manager
- Receptionist Supervisor
- Receptionist
- Night Supervisor
- Assistant Night Manager

HUMAN RESOURCES
- Training Manager

ENGINEERING
- Chief Engineering

HOUSEKEEPING
- Assistant Executive Housekeeper

WELFARE: SALARY, SERVICE CHARGE, LIFE INSURANCE STAFF APARTMENT, TRANSPORTATION, UNIFORM, MEALS, SOCIAL SECURITY, BIRTHDAY PARTY, STAFF PARTY, STAFF PICNIC, ETC.

If you are confident, please send your full details with recent photograph to HR of Horizon at E-mail: **apply@horizonbeach.com**
Tel: **076-292526-30, 076-284555**

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

WEB PROGRAMMER
- Degree in Computer engineering, Computer Science or IT related field
- Minimum of 2 years experience in web programming and web development
- Experience in: PHP, asp, asp.net, OOP, Java Script, HTML5, CSS, JSON, AJAX, JQuery
- Expert in use of database tools and in SQL command (MS-SQL, MySql)
- Experience in php frameworks would be a plus
- Ability in spoken and written English
- Ability to work with team
- Ability to work under pressure and time constraints

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to big@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Ext. 303 Fax: 076-615240

OAK MEADOW INTL SCHOOL
We have the following positions available: 1) a Qualified Thai teacher, and 2) a bus driver. Tel: 076-521550, 084-847 0732. Please email your CV with a photo to info@oakmadowphuket.com

STAFF WANTED
New Beach Club in Surin Beach is seeking for positions; Manager, Supervisor, Waiter & Waitress, Beach boy, Chef. Fluent spoken English and helpful with team work. Please contact by sending CV to Catherine or Jariya at info@morel-catherine.com or call. Tel: 081-367 7965, 081-271 5415.

BAR / RECEPTION
Thai female for Hotel Nanai Road, speak English and use computer, good wages and commission paid, holidays. Please call for details. Tel: 088-444 7801.

COOK WANTED
For Bar & Restaurant in Karon. Basic food. Training provided. 085-655 9008.

MARKETING MANAGER
Thai national only. Experience required. English speaking. Salary, bonus, commission. Email: hr@dvcproperty.com

RECEPTION WORK
Thai female for hotel, Nanai Road, English and computer skills required, good wage and commission paid, holidays. Call for more details. Tel: 088-444 7801.

FOREIGNER SECRETARY WANTED
Looking for a foreign national secretary who has a driver's licence and can speak very good English. Email: web@bayshoreprojects.com

SALESPERSON WANTED
Must live permanently in Thailand and organise own residency status. Must speak fluent Thai and English. Must have experience selling food/alchohol to executive chefs and purchasing managers. Experienced in food service. Must have own car. Only people meeting all above criteria need apply. Please send resume to george_d@jagota.com

BAR / BREAKFAST ATTENDANT
Resort looking for 1 bartender + 1 breakfast attendant. Salary 11,000 baht. 1 day off per week. Tel: 076-398422, 080-698 8335 (English).

MARKETING STAFF
Motivated, English speaking. Thai national only. Salary, commission, bonus. 4 staff + leader. Tel: 076-376186, 088-450 1833 (English). Email: hr@dvcproperty.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT
Thai national, female, 25-40 years old, self-motivated and attention to details, enthusiasm for learning new things, good communication skills in English and good computer literacy (Microsoft office). Tel: 076-613680, 087-267 3747 (English). Fax: 076-613680. Send CV to helena@phuketabc.com

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG
- **Julapan Stationery** (Chaofa East Rd) Tel: **076-282254**
- **KL Mart** (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle) Tel: **076-280400**
- **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd) Tel: **076-282403**

PATONG
- **Taurus Travel** (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: **076-344521-2**
- **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: **076-290468**
- **Deli Supermarket** (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) Tel: **076-342275**

PHUKET CITY
- **Earth Language Training Centre School** (Phang Nga Rd) Tel: **076-232398**
- **Sin & Lee** (Thalang Rd) Tel: **076-258369**
- **iTree complete printing service** (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) **bank zone** Tel: **076-255425**

CHERNG TALAY
- **Chaba Supermarket** (at the Laguna gateway) Tel: **076-325586**

RAWAI
- **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: **076-613173**

KARON
- **EuroStyle Tailors** (Luang Por Chuan Rd) Tel: **076-396911**

Live in Patong? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel

Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Kai: (076-344321-2)**

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

ADVERTISING SALES WANTED
Salary 20,000 baht plus commission and gasoline. Working on Monday-Saturday from 8:30am - 5:30pm. Tel: 089-474 4704. Please call or send email to info@theguidephuket.com

TEACHER WANTED
Chalermprakiat is looking for a native English speaker to teach English. A degree and TEFL are required. Tel: 085-781 9162. Contact Clarke by phone or send your CV to swpk_mlp @yahoo.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT
For property and car rental. Required: good English, driving license, work independent, flexible, Thai national. Office at Boat Lagoon. Send CV to Claudio at claudstrey @gmail.com

JOB OPPORTUNITY PHUKET
RMC Client Services are seeking to employ appointment makers / telesales staff in Phuket. The job roll will be to arrange appointments for one of our consultants and market the companies services. OTE 80,000 baht per month plus bonuses. Spoken English must perfect. Email: kevin.hodges @rmc-client services.com

PROPERTY RENTAL COMPANY
We are looking for Property Rental Manager-1 position. Property Rental Assistant Manager-1 position. Temporary Admins-2 positions. Properties rental with experience, written and spoken English is a must. Good salary and commissions for the right person. Must be able to start very soon. Tel: 081-958 8747. Thai nationals only. Send CV to booking@phuketplanner. com

SHOP MANAGER
Urgent need shop manager for boutique shop in Surin, fluent in English. Send CV to bliss@online.com.kh

OFFICE MANAGER
Thai male wanted, in Patong, know English and have computer skills. Tel: 081-088 1451

LISTING REPRESENTATIVE
Tropical Properties is expanding its business and is urgently requires a listing representative. Candidates must have good knowledge of English, written and spoken. Must also be able to work with computer (Microsoft Office) and have own transportation. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

PROPERTY RENTAL ASSISTANT
Tropical Properties is hiring a rental assistant with experience. English, written and spoken, is a must. Good salary and commissions for the right person. Must be able to start very soon. Thai nationals only. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
Tropical Properties real estate is urgently looking for Personal Assistant/Office Manager. Must have very good knowledge of spoken and written English, and basic accounting and good computer skills are essential. Must be able to organize and work independently and be in a position to start work almost immediately. Thai national only! Tel: 087-882 2856. Email: luc@phuket- tropical-realestate.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

SUB-EDITOR
- Fluent in English
- Able to work to strict deadlines
- A team player
- Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- Newspaper experience and/or layout skills, especially in PageMaker or InDesign, required.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to editor@phuketgazette.net

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

PROPERTY MANAGER
Thai national. Must speak & write English. Good attitude. Salary + commission. Send CV. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English & Thai). Email:phkrealestate@aol.com

CLEANER WANTED
Located on Surin Beach. Fluent spoken English, cleaning and helping in the villa. Contact Jariya. Tel: 081-367 7965 (English & Thai). Email: may phu@hotmail.com

CALL CENTER.
Want native English speakers only for call center (U.S. bus hrs.) sales positions and tel reception pos avail. Full and part time. Call for details. Tel: 093-779-5224 (English). Email: steve.8888.johnson@gmail.com

THAI NURSE
Thai nurse. Will be trained in detox. must speak English. Thai national. Good salary! Email: info@phuketfit.com

PHUKET DIGEST MAGAZINE
We need Sales and Marketing staff, Thai national, good English skills, good benefits. Send CV to PhuketDigest@gmail.com

FITNESS TRAINER WANTED
Experience required. Please send CV to be considered at info@phuketfit.com Check out our website: www. phuketfit.com

DETOX / CLEANSE CONSULTANT
Experience working in detox, cleanse or spa. Must speak English. Thai national only. Good salary. Email: info@phuketfit.com Check out PhuketFit website for more: www.phuketfit.com

FRONT OFFICE / ADMIN
Thai national office manager. Must speak & write English. Good salary + benefits. Send CV. Email: info@phuketfit.com

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Senior Arts/Creative/Graphics designer Experience with Adobe CS Suite, Photoshop, Illustrator, Dreamweaver required. Fluency in English required. Tel: 093-779-5224 (English). Email: steve.8888.johnson@gmail.com

NIKKI BEACH Phuket

The world-famous global luxury lifestyle brand Nikki Beach is looking for hard-working people with outgoing personalities to join the Nikki Beach Phuket team. As a brand most known for its five-star service, upscale and pristine venues, gourmet cuisine, exceptional cocktails, elaborate event productions, innovative marketing tactics, and celebrity clientele, chosen applicants are sure to be exposed to a high energy, fast-paced, world-class experience. The following positions are available:

- Hostesses
- Bartenders
- Servers
- Busboys
- Beach boys/beach servers
- Cleaners
- Line cooks
- Pastry chef
- Dishwashers
- PR team
- Barbacks
- Cashiers
- Food runners
- Bathroom attendants
- Sous chef
- Prep cooks
- Baker
- Cleaners
- Entertainers: Dancers, DJs, musicians, acrobats, circus acts, etc.

Casting calls for the above positions will take place on 12-14 and 19-21 October at **Nikki Beach (Thailand) Ltd.** in Phuket Boat Lagoon, No 20/73 Soi 8/1 Marine Plaza. Walk-in interviews run from 9am–5pm.

For more information, please call **080-6978299**
e-mail: *phuket@nikkibeachthailand.com*

About Nikki Beach

Nikki Beach will expand its presence in Thailand with the upcoming opening of Nikki Beach Phuket. The signature world-renowned bar and restaurant will be located along the breathtaking shores of Layan Beach and will be the luxury lifestyle & hospitality brand's second location in Thailand. Since its conception in 1998, Nikki Beach has successfully established the brand as a powerhouse for those seeking opulence and excellent service in a relaxed, chic atmosphere around the globe in countries such as the United States of America, France, Spain, French West Indies, Morocco and Mexico. It was in 2009 when Nikki Beach expanded its concept to Thailand with the opening of a Nikki Beach on the luxury island of Koh Samui. In 2010, the brand expanded its Koh Samui location with the opening of Nikki Beach Resort Koh Samui, the brand's first resort in the world, located adjacent to the beach club.

THAI TEACHER NEEDED
Qualified Thai teacher wanted for small Kindergarten. Email: millingtonjackie@hotmail.com

NEED LADY DRIVERS
Three experienced motorbike and car drivers, based in Patong, go all around Phuket. Tel: 093-768 4939.

CUSTOMER RELATIONS REP
Must speak and write English. Thai national. Good Salary. Email: info@phuketfit.com

PIZZERIA STAFF WANTED
Pizzaiolo Patong Beach. cooks, waitress, bartender. speak English, Thai national only, good salary. Contact Mathias. Tel: 084-322 4816.

2 WAITRESSES WANTED
Good salary. Speak English. Thai national only. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

MAID / HOUSEKEEPER
Expat (American) requires an experienced housekeeper/ maid with good English and Thai- speaking ability. Cooking experience a plus and can be live in or live out. Experience letters and recommendations from previous employers are a must. Top notch salary will be paid for the right person! Contact Robert. Tel: 089-765 3126.

SECONDARY EP VACANCY
ELT Phuket is looking to appoint a qualified, enthusiastic and experienced teacher of English (M1-4) to start at PPAO Ban Taladnua School, as soon as possible. Applicants must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree plus a recognised teaching certificate (TEFL). Please email a letter of application and CV. Email: bantaladnuaep@gmail.com

Looking for a JOB?
Looking for a better candidate?
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at *WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!*

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

COLD ROOM FOR SALE
Ready to work. Maintained every 3 months. For more information, please call 080-538 4735 (English & Thai). Email: momo_f@hotmail.com

COFFEE & GELATO
2 group coffee machine and grinder, 7 gelato showcases and 16 pans, 2 gelato makers / pastuerisers, 2 kitchen cabinets, all in new condition, only 12 months old. Tel: 087-894 1384 (English & Thai). Email: milnelaur2@aol.com

Bulletins

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. Contact Carol. Please call 087-417 8860 or contact Sue. Tel: 087-277 6948. Email us at info@phuketiwc.com

Business Opportunities

BAR FOR RENT SOI TIGER 1

Soi re-opening soon, opposite Tiger live band. Bars for rent, good business opportunities in the best location in Bangla Road, Patong. Tel: 083-640 4400. Email: asiaubin@hotmail.com

BEACH FRONT RESTAURANT
Freehold absolute beach front restaurant for sale. Outstanding location. Currently under construction. Please call 089-839 8255 (English & Thai). Email: info@lantaestate.net

BEACH FRONT HOTEL / APARTMENT
15-room (60sqm) hotel and apartment, off plan building for sale. Excellent sea views. Swimming pool. 10 year payment plan! Tel: 089-839 8255 (English & Thai). Email: info@lantaestate.net

FREE-BIRD BAR IN NAI HARN FOR SALE
Great location, 3 TVs, 2 pool tables, seating 60 pax, includes fully equipped Beauty Salon, parking: 10 vehicles, 8 years left on lease. Sale: 1.8 million baht. Negotiable! Tel: 087-884 8972, 087-892 6204, 087-244 1322 (Thai).

BAR FOR SALE OTOP MARKET
Good location, low rent, owner is going home. Price: 950,000 baht. Tel: 087-893 1753.

RAWAI BEACH HOTEL PAY-IN 15YEARS
Sell for 16.4 million baht in 180 monthly payments of 80,000 baht, Down payment 2 million baht, 700sqm land, 10 rooms + bar + shop. 100m to Rawai Beach pier. For more information, please call 084-842 6146. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

HOTEL + LAND FOR SALE
31-room hotel with 1.5 rai land in Nanai 2. Special offer 72 million baht. Please call 087-886 5360.

RESTAURANT FOR RENT

Fully furnished restaurant for rent. Professionally equipped kitchen. 30-35 seats. Tel: 076-290402, 089-593 0307. Fax: 076-290401. Email: info@siampalmresidence.com

HOTELS IN PHUKET FOR SALE
Contact: realestate.luxuryphuketholidays.com

A REALLY COOL BUSINESS
After many proposals, we found a fun business in a huge international industry. Be open minded enough to have a look. That costs you nothing and you may change your financial future as we are doing. Contact us to arrange a short presentation. Tel: 081-895 7727 (English). Email: jmlphuket@gmail.com

INCREDIBLE PROJECT INVESTMENT
Luxury project for sale. 50% process done. Only 5 million baht. Tel: 080-891 1611. Email: aopoproject@gmail.com

GUESTHOUSE CENTER OF PATONG
15 rooms guesthouse for sale in center of Patong. 5 minutes walk from beach, 15 minutes walk from nightlife. Have 1 apartment with 1 bedroom, kitchen and living room for accommodation, also 2 shops for rent at the ground floor. Very good opportunity. Tel: 076-290496, 083-526 4485 (English). Email: yohan_n@hotmail.com

HOTEL BEACHFRONT PATONG - RENT

For rent or sale. 20m from the beach, well-furnished, 38 rooms, swimming pool, restaurant, parking, fully operational with very good occupacy rates. Opportunity. Long-term contract. Contact Mark.Tel: 080-141 6040.

KATA NIGHT PLAZA
Southern Fried Rice, the popular guesthouse with 40-seat restaurant and 8 rooms, 5 minutes from Kata Beach. For sale or rent. Trip Advisor Winner 2013. Please call 081-894 8446. Email: sfrkata37@gmail.com, www.southernfriedrice.com

RESORT FOR LEASE

In the heart of Patong. 20 rooms well furnished, fully operational with very good occupancy rates. 6-year lease for 6 million baht + rental fee 150,000 baht per month. Tel: 088-765 0165.

CHALONG GUESTHOUSE
22 beds, pool, with parking on 1.5 rai of Chanote land. Call for photo/info. Tel: 089-729 8365. Email: sudaves2002@yahoo.com

VERY POPULAR RESTAURANT
Top restaurant in Kamala Beach for sale. Please search by Google for "Grill Bill Kamala". Tel: 081-089 0543 (English) or send email to iii_sunny_iii@yahoo.com

BOUTIQUE MASSAGE SHOP FOR SALE
Patong. Located Nanai Road. 7 beds. Fully stocked. Equipped with high end furniture. Well presented. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Reluctant sale: 400,000 baht. Please call 087-073 4233 or send email for more information to judgedread73@hotmail.com

DISTRIBUTOR
Wanted: A driven distributor for a very popular line of Danish alcohol products. Tel: 089-026 3688 (English). Email: Rchrdhearne@yahoo.co.uk

PROFITABLE BAR FOR SALE
Beautiful, newly renovated bar in the heart of Karon (Patak Road). Yearly turnover 3.5 - 4 million baht. Tel: 086-283 7020 (English). Email: brian-christensen@mail.com

BEAUTY SALON QUICK SALE
Fully furnished beauty salon, 75sqm. 300,000 baht. Foreign clients. Busy area. Tel: 090-154 6115. Email: aselia8989@mail.ru

HOTEL + RESTAURANT FOR SALE IN PATONG
Chanote title, central position, new building, 4 years old, 20 rooms, reception and restaurant fully furnished, lift. 32 million baht negotiable. Contact Stefano. Tel: 086-279 8175 (English/Italian). Contact Ning. Tel: 084-840 1566 (Thai).

RAWAI BEACH RESTAURANT
Just-renovated beach restaurant for sale in popular location at Sea Gypsy Village. 2.5 million baht. For more information, please call 086-110 4155 (English & Thai). Email: heysmatthew@hotmail.com

INVESTOR NEEDED: MOBILE APP
Zom Ammara, a famous Thai celebrity, is raising 6 million baht from investors to promote and monetize on lady safety mobile app project called " GuardMe" . We will gain US$ 4 million profit within 3 years with celebrity marketing strategy. Please contact 02-673 9280, 081-381 5111.

BANGLA BAR CHEAP!
Absolute stunner, cheap aircon, 2 floors, 160 sqm. Only 1.8 million baht, full fitout. Good rent option. Bargain! Please call 087-881 7600. Email: cocodirster@gmail.com

HOUSE + BUSINESS ON 24 RAI

For sale. Tired of the traffic and high prices of Phuket? Or just want a weekend getaway? I have built in Farang spec and style, a beautiful retreat, a main house with 2 big garages, a guesthouse with garage, a bungalow and a 900sqm exercise gym. It all rests on 24 rai and is currently a working shrimp farm, but could be used for many purposes, located 2 hours north of the island. 12 million baht, this price will not last long, the houses are worth more than 12 million baht. Tel: 081-728 8269 or email to jrp@loxinfo.co.th

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: _____ (Last 3 digits on back of card)

Issuing Bank: _____ Country: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please Deliver To:

Street address

City State or Province Zip Code

Country:

General Aviation

Business Products & Services

HOTEL BOOKING LIST SERVICE

Hotel registration and monitoring on AGODA, Sawadee and Booking.com Tel: 083-394 5863. Email: tperke@googlemail.com

BUDS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

Phuket's oldest international child care facility. High-quality, time-proven schedule and curriculum. Now in brand-new purpose-built school. Experienced native English teachers to teach ages 1.5-10. Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. Bus service available from Patong, Karon, Kata, Phuket, Rawai and Chalong. Tel: 076-384638, 080-624 7060 (English), 087-278 5511 (Thai), www.budsphuket.com

STRESSED OVER PARTIES?

Plan your party for all your supplies at Party Always. We are located at Wana Park Cherngtalay. For more information, please call 076-620 166. Email: karen_leongsk@yahoo.com.sg

SLUSH MACHINE

Our two-tank slush machines are great value for the money. We offer you the cheapest rate in Thailand for both the machine and the mix. A fantastic product which will give you an even better return. Inquire now or call us 087-139 9225. Email: info@funfoodthailand.com

FREE ITALIAN ESPRESSO MACHINE

Coffee capsules machine on loan, good organic Italian coffee, fair prices, 6 blends available, direct import into Phuket. Please call 076-374760, 088-768 1260 (English & Thai). Email: fepigada@yahoo.it

Club Memberships Available

BALI KUTA GOLF MEMBERSHIP

1 share ACC x 3 golf courses. Life swap / Phuket golf course. Phuket Country / Laguna / Blue Canyon. Please call 085-994 0364.

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Family lifetime membership, transfer fee and this year's subscription. Price: 570,000 baht. Tel: 076-283 288, 081-273 7326. Fax: 076-283288. Email: keithmarshall747@gmail.com

BAND IS LOOKING FOR MUSICIAN

We are looking for a guitarist, drummer and keyboard player. This is a band for high quality/big events. Genre: pop, rock, motown, little bit jazz/blues. Available for 2 practice sessions per week, for 6 weeks, to prepare a show in a unique venue for every Thursday. Besides that we will be booked for big events, festivals and weddings. We also have a recording studio to produce/record our own music. Keywords: serious about practice; open to all music styles, dedicated, team spirit, fun, humor, enthusiastic, energetic. Our motto: It is not about what you perform but how you perform it. If you are interested, please contact Brigitta. Tel: 082-257 7102.

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Family membership for 550,000 baht. Includes 2013 annual dues and transfer fee. Please call 089-908 2454. Email: evan.burford@gmail.com

BLUE CANYON MEMBERSHIP

Blue Canyon life membership available. Contact Pete For more information, please call 084-349 2325. Email: peter@lifecartoons.com

Dive Gear

DIVE GEAR FOR SALE

ScubaPro Mark 10 with G250, pressure / depth gages. Decor BCD, with Air 2. Make offer. Tel: 081-091 4335 (English). Email: ray_vaillancourt@yahoo.com

Education

ENGLISH FOR ASEAN

Professional, qualified tutor available. Business; conversation, college level and children's classes. Contact Hein. Tel: 080-382 2630.

TEACHER FOR TUITION

Mathematic Senior Classes. Please call 089-729 8852 or send email to mamoonbutt44@yahoo.com

TEACHER LOOKING FOR JOB

American native English speaker looking for long-term employment in international school - Bachelor's degree & TEFL & Lifeguard Instructor. Private lessons available: Young children or business professionals. Tel: 092-371 4898 (English & Thai). Email: mayfieldlm@gmail.com

Miscellaneous For Sale

MINI LATHE

35,000 baht. Tel: 080-718 1686. Email: maxphuket@hotmail.de

SOLAR PANELS

Good condition. Used, 30 baht per watt. Assorted from 900 baht. Email: catcha123@gmail.com

Musical Instrument

MUSIC INSTRUMENT

Electric Brazillian guitar acoustic: 12,000 baht. Amplifier 1,200W and soundcraft Gigrac: 22,000 baht. Tel: 087-471 3407.

Personal Services

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR

Experienced licensed (US), mental health counseling for children, adolescents and adults now available in Phuket. Email: parwgk@aol.com

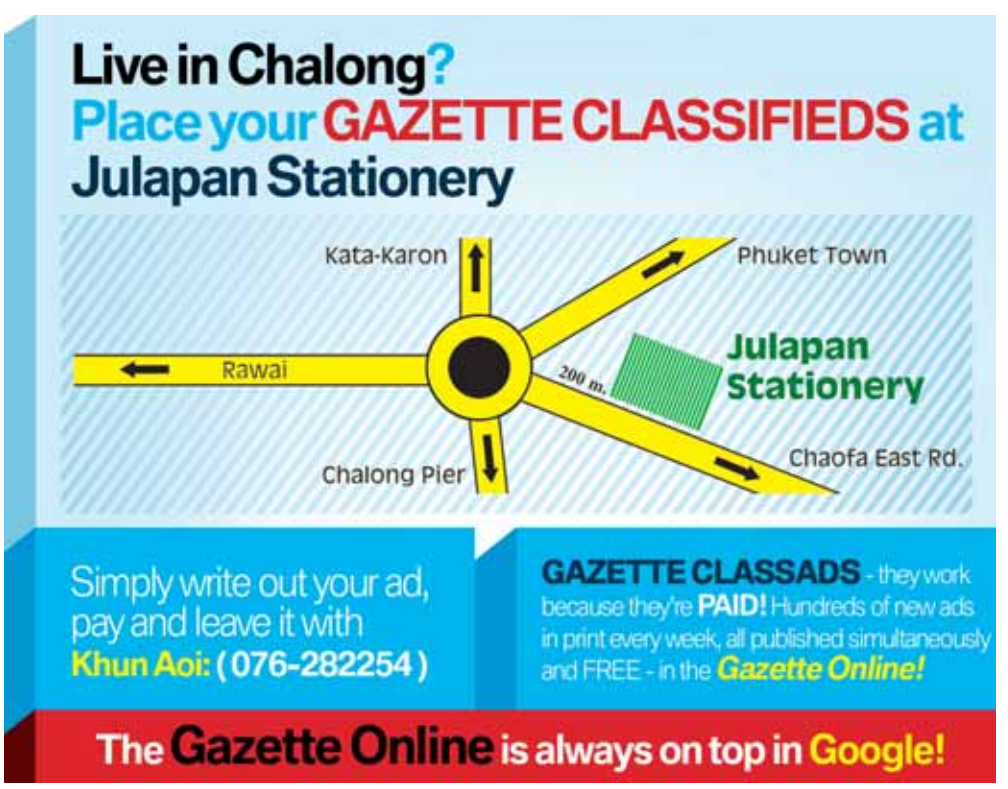
Personals

BACKGAMMON

Players wanted. For more details, please call 081-577 8443. Email: phuketconnection@yahoo.com

CARE GIVER FOR AN ELDER

Urgently looking for person to take care of a foreign elder 24hr. Must speak English. Tel: 081-085 0801.



Saloon Cars

HONDA CRV 2.0 MODEL 2002

Full service history at Honda Service Center. 45,000km, V-Tec engine, excellent condition. Sale: 350,000 baht. Please call 090-864 8726. Email: kip.macgregor@gmail.com

2010 MAZDA 2 HATCHBACK

Red, 1 owner, 33,000km, automatic transmission, air bags, ABS, iPod input, power windows/door locks with remote, extra loud horn and more. I invite your inspection. 445,000 baht. Please call 081-085 4754 (English). Email: stephpkt@gmail.com

SALE FORD ESCAPE 495,000

Ford Escape 3.0 XLT. Year 2004. 40,000km. 495,000 baht. Tel: 089-589 5453. Email: sopasalon@hotmail.com

RELIABLE CAR FOR SALE

Older model car with full insurance available for sale. Please call 089-645 2576 or email for details at jayneymac@yahoo.com.au

TOYOTA ALTIS 2011

1.6G. 29,000km, loaded, full service guaranteed by Toyota. Sale: 600,000 baht. Tel: 083-648 9695.

TOYOTA AVANZA

For sale. Model 2008, 7 seats, 1.5L, excellent condition. Price: 485,000 baht. For more information, please call 087-270 9093.

HONDA CITY

For sale. Model 2004, 1.5L, excellent condition. Price: 345,000 baht. Tel: 087-270 9093.

NISSAN TEANA 250 XV V6

For sale, 3 years old, 56,000 km, excellent condition, one owner, no accident, Blue book. Tel: 032-826152, 087-162 2951 (English). Email: roscha4347@gmail.com

TOYOTA AVANZA

Automatic. 6 years old (2007). Sale: 320,000 baht. Tel: 083-391 6554. For more pictures, please see our website at http://goo.gl/Dh1XpQ

Pick-ups

D-MAX 2010 4 DOOR LOW MILEAGE

Super Platinum 3lt. Automatic. Excellent condition. Touch screen satellite / navigator, BT / DVD / Ipod and rear camera. only 24,200km. Always dealer serviced. Electric rear cover. Original owner. Blue book. Sale: 575,000 baht. Tel: 081-918 6386. Email: burkie2@gmail.com

TOYOTA VIGO B 3.0 D 2011

White Carry Boy fiber cargo box CBL 1970. Power windows, film, alarm, 17,100 km, GPS track. Volume: 7.3m3. Load dimensions: 2.37mx1.68mx1.85m. Max load: 1.5 ton. New: 700,000 baht. Sale now: 500,000 baht. Tel: 085-060 0033 (English). Email: robert@mystorageasia.com

Motorbikes

VESPA LX 125 IE

Excellent condition, only 12,000km, must sell 69,000 baht. Patong. Tel: 087-893 1753.

2012 HONDA CBR 250R ABS

Black CBR 250R, full service history, perfect condition. 13,000km. Sale: 80,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 080-978 3102. Email: mikesaintclaire@gmail.com

NEW ATV

150cc. Running only 70km. Best price 35,000 baht. Tel: 089-588 4550.

Rentals

PMP CAR RENT

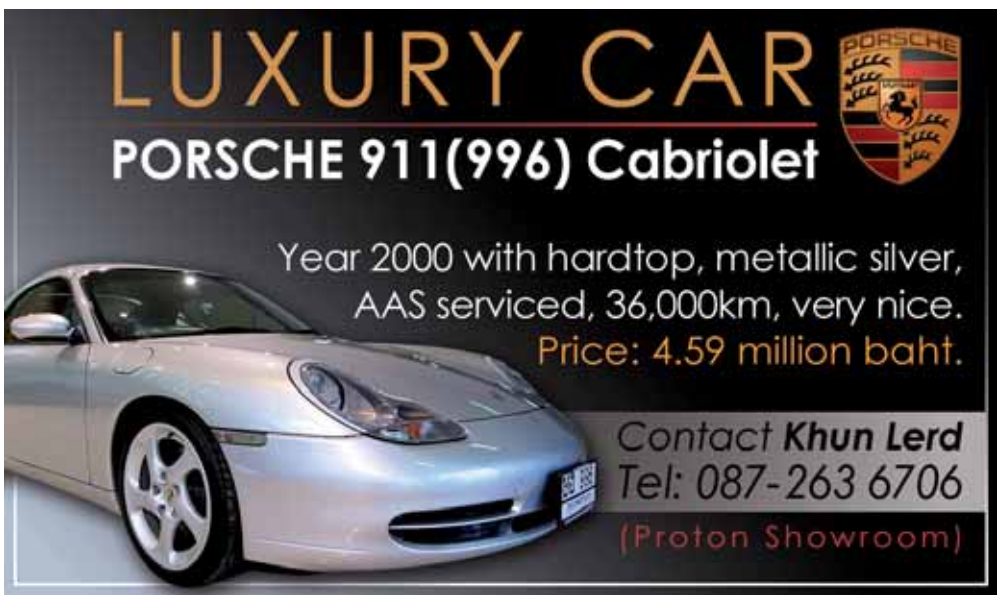
New car for rent. Toyota and Honda. For more information, please call 083-174 3880, 083-641 7654.

CHEAP CAR FOR RENT

Available now in Chalong. Please call 087-689 9679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

CARS FOR RENT

We offer car rental at fair prices. Big discounts now for low season. For more information, please call 084-842 6147 (English & Thai). Email: info@thaidreams.se



Wheels & Motors

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All advertising must be paid for in advance.

JEANNEAU SO 35 (2003)

Many recent upgrades, new sails. Yanmar diesel, Thai registered. US$ 79,950. For details contact Alan Giles. Boatshedphuket.com Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

SEAHORSE MARINE 36' TRAWLER

2007. Cummins 270hp diesel, aircon, generator. Great little boat! US$ 99,950. For details contact Alan Giles. Boatshedphuket.com Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

SELLING YOUR BOAT?

With high season just around the corner, now is the right time to get her listed, Boatshedphuket.com are always looking for new listings, big or small, power or sail, to meet the demand for quality boats. Contact Alan Giles. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

SAILING CATAMARAM

Epoxy Duracore Radical Bay for sale in Samui, hardly used, will take 1.4 million baht, includes trailer, perfect for charter or personal use, safe, light and fast. Tel: 081-894 0339 (English). Email: hilltribe@poppiessamui.com

63FT PINISI KETCH FOR SALE

Well equipped, looks great, good condition. Must sell, only 2.5 million baht. Tel: 086-690 0444 (English & Thai). Email: ricosta@gmail.com

THAI WOODEN BOAT

36ft, Isuzu 110hp, radio, Furuno Fish Finder. 300,000 baht. Tel: 083-102 7801.

MOONSOON FOR SALE

28ft, registered for 15 passengers. 200hp V6 Mercury motor, only 240 hours, recently totally restored. Perfect for snorkeling, diving trips, island hopping or water taxi. Navigation system + fishfinder. 5hp spare motor. Boat and motor in very good condition. Located at Boat Lagoon. Priced for quick sale at 330,000 baht. Tel: 086-747 9292. Email: claudstrey@gmail.com

52' CONVERTIBLE FOR SALE

One original owner, fully refurbished 2012. Immaculate condition, 2xCAT 660hp, 16kw Onan, new watermaker, fully rigged for fishing. US$ 420,000. Please call 086-280 6526.

CHRIS CRAFT SCORPION 311

1988. Twin Suzuki 175hp 4-stroke. New upholstery and just anti-fouled. 1.25 million baht o.n.o. For details, please contact Alan Giles. Boatshedphuket.com Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

ONAN 12KVA MARINE GENERATOR

Fully operational generator with full sound shield and wet muffler exhaust. Model number 12 MDL3P, 1996 model, only 4,000 running hours. Tel: 081-375 2590 (English). Email: stuart.winters@hotmail.com

TASAR DINGHY

For quick sale. Two sets sails. Launch and road trailer. Asking price: 130,000 baht. Email: Sailingalone2001-mail@yahoo.com

FOR SALE

Aluminum dinghy, 3.5m, Yamaha 6hp outboarder, 12L tank, good condition. 50,000 baht. Tel: 082-415 1918 (English). Email: pilotsparadise@gmx.net

LE FLAT 31 ALUMINIUM SLOOP

Volvo diesel. Realistically priced at only US$ 26,000. For details, please contact Alan Giles. Boatshedphuket.com. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

ANTI-PIRACY TASK FORCE

Bespoke anti-piracy solutions for your yacht and crew, specialized in the Gulf of Aden. Security task force on board your yacht. Sail west with confidence. Tel: +1-954-762 7470. Email: asia.maritime.safety@gmail.com

OUTBOARDER FOR SALE

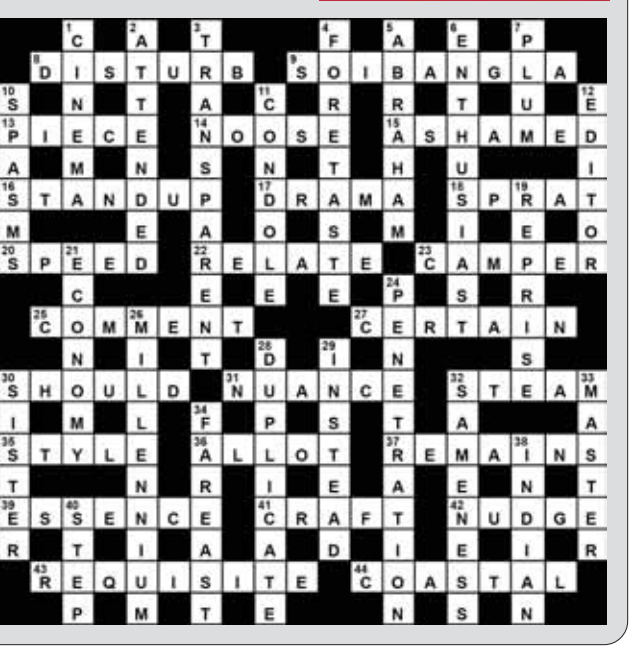
Yamaha 20hp, 4-stroke, transom height L (22.2 inch), brand-new (app 300 hours). 90,000 baht. Served as replacement on a transfer from Borneo, perfect condition. Tel: 082-415 1918. Email: pilotsparadise@gmx.net

Looking for a boat?

See more classified ads at *www.phuketgazette.net*

SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S Cryptic crossword

COFFEE break



Aircraft For Sale

YOUR HELICOPTER
Flying and owning your own helicopter has just become possible. Free complete flight instruction course with your purchase. Email: pat@aeropromgr.com

AIRPLAY ALTIS MICROLIGHT
Superb trike with Konig radial engine. Great economical fun. Little used. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-111 6457 (English & Thai), 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?
If you have an aircraft for sale or an interest in aviation and wish to learn how to fly or buy an aircraft or arrange a private flight, etc. Website: www.aeropromgr.com/newsletter

TECNAM P-92
- Price: 1.5 million baht
- Registration: U-B08
- Year of Manufacture: 2002
- Equipment: Full standard equipment
- Engine: Rotax 912-80HP 350hrs.

Please contact for more information. Aircraft is based at Klong 15. Tel: 081-840 8418.

1999 ROBIN 2160i
I would like to sell my Robin aircraft or trade it for a 4-seat Cessna or Piper (based in Hua Hin). The Robin: TTAF 300hrs. SMOH 60hrs. This is a well-equipped, two-seat aerobatic aircraft. Has the Christen inverted oil system. Excellent inside and outside. King KMA24 audio panel, KX155 nav/com, KI203 vor, KY197A comm, KN64A dme, KR87 adf, KT76A transponder, CSPA400 i-com, FP5 fuel computer, CHT, OAT, Pitot heat. Price: 4 million baht. Please contact Thom. Email: thos_w@hotmail.com

Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS

Built: 1976

Registration: HS-AWS
(in Thailand for the last 6 years)
Previous Registrations:
N4798W – USA
N479GE – USA
I-ECCE – Italy
G-BVNL – UK

Lycoming IO-540-T4B5D (1,300 hours, 700 hours to TBO). Prop: B3D32C419/82NHA-5. Overhauled Feb 2011 (7 years to TBO). C of A Due 11th November 2011. New 5-year Permit. 100 hour check completed 19 Feb 2011.

Specs:

Horsepower: 260	Gross Weight: 3140 lbs
Top Speed: 166 kts	Empty Weight: 2094 lbs
Cruise Speed: 157 kts	Fuel Capacity: 68.00 gal Usable
Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts	Range: 700 nm
Rate Of Climb: 1088 fpm	Fuel Av Gas 100LL
Ceiling: 17,400 ft	1 crew plus 3 passengers

Radio and Navigation Configuration: Fully IFR equipped. 2 Garmin GNS430 VHF/COMM/NAV/GPS/TERRAIN. Garmin GI-106A VOR/LOC/GS/GPS CDI. King KN64 DME. Garmin GTX 320/327 Transponder with Mode C via Ameri-King AK350-30 Height Encoder. Garmin GMA 340 Audio Panel. Bendix King KR-87 ADF. Sandel SN 3308 EHSI. Century IIB Autopilot Dual Axis and S-Tec Altitude Hold. WX-500 Stormscope.

Price: 3.75 million baht. Located at Thai Flying Club, Bang Phra.

Contact Tony Scragg at 081-906 3250, or email ***tony_scragg@hotmail.com***

Notice from Thai Flying Club: There is a very nice Piper Cherokee airplane at the Thai Flying Club (TFC) in Bang Phra. It has fallen into disrepair. Someone took out the seats and some other parts... and then went away.

Owner Wichai Pettongkam loves this airplane and wants to get it back in the air. If you like flying and might want to be a partner in the plane, please come to the TFC to have a look, or contact **Khun Tom** (email tom@thaiflyingclub, Tel: 089-092 2711). Or talk to **Khun Wichai** directly on 081-633 7082.

Khun Wichai does not want to sell the plane, but would welcome a partner who can help to get it flying again. This could be a very good opportunity for someone to get a share in a nice airplane for a very good price. All negotiable.

General Aviation

- Aircraft for Sale
- Aircraft Wanted
- Aviation Services
- Aircraft Sharing
- Aircraft Charter
- Flying Lessons

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

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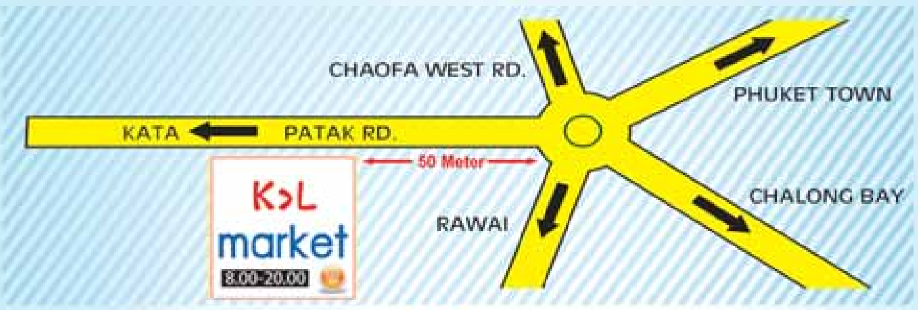
Live in Chalong?
Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at K L Mart



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with Khun Laddawan: (076 - 280403)

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!

DUSIT THANI LAGUNA PHUKET SCOOPS WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS

Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket is the proud winner of three prestigious awards for the fourth consecutive year at the 20th Annual World Travel Awards 2013.

At the Asia and Australasia Gala Ceremony held on October 1 in Dubai, UAE, Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket was named Asia's Leading Beach Resort, Thailand's Leading Beach Resort and Thailand's Leading Golf Resort. The resort's General Manager, Peter Komposch (3rd from right) recieved the awards on behalf of the resort team.

YONEX JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Julie Yi-Hsin Wang (right), Sports Event & Sponsorship Executive, congratulates Sirikorn Sirachotethe, the winner of Year-12 category. This is the last tennis junior tournament in the SUPERKIDZ TENNIS SERIES this year.

THE KING RAMA IX COMPOSITIONS CONCERT

A royal jazz exhibition and concert event will take place between October 30 to November 2 at Saphan Hin Park, Phuket. Free admission!

From left: Mr Chatchawan Pukahuta, representative of The King Rama IX Compositions Concert; Simon Hand, PGTV Producer; Ms Pannipa Thiraphong, representative of The King Rama IX Compositions Concert and Natamon Meesin, PGTV Manager.

British Embassy Bangkok

Important Notice for British Nationals

With effect from 1 November 2013 all notarial and documentary services, e.g. pension letters, affirmations, certification of documents, previously provided by the Honorary Consuls in Phuket and Koh Samui will be transferred to the British Embassy in Bangkok in line with a global update of Consular policy.

Information on how to apply for your specific notarial or documentary need can be found at www.gov.uk/notarial-and-documentary-services-guide-for-Thailand or by phoning 02 305 8333.

The British Embassy in Bangkok provides a same day service, for applications that require attendance in person, however, this is dependent on the submitted application being correctly completed. Please ensure that you provide all the necessary documentation for the service you require, there will be delays if your application is incomplete, and that you submit your application in good time.

British Embassy Bangkok, www.gov.uk/world/thailand, www.facebook.com/ukinthailand
twitter: @ukinthailand

Phuket's middle path

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

RIGHT beside Kathu Waterfall, there exists a Phuket culinary gem. Krua Pailin, or Pailin's Kitchen, is a long-standing establishment that has been serving authentic Phuket food to discerning locals for almost two decades now.

But what actually is authentic Phuket food? We all know of the Peranakan version, influenced by Chinese tastes – noodles and such – which is easy on the palette and therefore a good introduction to the local fares. On the other end of the scale, Phuket cuisine is marked by its heat, thanks to the copious amount of chilies used, a dominant taste that came to be known generally as "southern cuisine".

Yet, between these two polarities there exists a middle ground largely ignored by the general public. I am talking about a wholesome and tasty local cuisine that makes full use of the land's bounty – fresh fish and seafood, wild herbs and indigenous greens, flavored by local seasonings like shrimp paste, dried fish and, of course, lots of chilies.

All of the qualities above come together in dishes served at Krua Pailin, a garden restaurant right beside Kathu Waterfall. An institution in its own right, Krua Pailin's unassuming but idyllic jungle setting edged on one side by a running stream belies its quiet fame; the path leading to it has been well trodden by numerous Thai celebrities, local government officials and both local and tourist foodies. At one time, Pailin's shack-like kitchen regularly air-delivered its delicacies to a certain movie star in Bangkok who hankered after a southern taste.

The establishment owes its success to chef-owner Suwanna "Phung" Saetun. Having run the restaurant for 19 years, first together with her husband and mother-in-law, Phung is now a fully-fledged chef keen to maintain what she calls the "true taste of Phuket." Such is her reputation that she has been approached by Thailand's *Iron Chef* TV producers who have spotted her talent. "I'll go when I am ready," says the 39-year-old chef.

Phung is aware that Phuket food is an acquired taste, so she has prepared a few dishes designed to entice newcomers to this cuisine. First up is *tom som phuk ruam*, a mixed vegetable soup that explodes with natural goodness. Refreshingly light, the soup contains no less than ten types of roots and wild herbs. Tender galangal and banana stem vie for attention, while pineapple chunks and dried garcinia fruits add to the overall tangy note. The soup is not only wholesome but also, when eaten as part of a meal, acts as a foil for other dishes with stronger tastes.

Pla mong jian trakrai, or Mong fish slices with tamarind sauce, is an all-time family favorite. Here it is topped with a generous amount of lemongrass slices, julienne ginger and garlic. Phung sources the fish herself everyday from the fresh *talad kaset* market in town – so freshness is always guaranteed.

If you like crab, you'd surely enjoy *pu phad manao*, or chunky crab-meat in lime sauce, an intriguingly exotic and satisfying dish. More exotic still, and rarely found anywhere else on the island, is the Malay-styled *toumee* curry. This is slow cooked fish fillets in an aromatic sauce – its unique ingredient being petals of bright pink torch ginger flowers and is mild enough for everyone to enjoy. For those with a stronger palette, try *kang prik hoi gun*, a robust curry that combined seemingly incompatible ingredients of Andaman clams, green papaya and *jeera*, or curry leaves.

For the true food buff, try also wild *krang* mushrooms with garlic (suitable for vegetarians); roast ants' eggs; and deep-fried wasps, among many more "jungle" offerings. Some dishes are only available during the rainy season and a few, like *toumee* curry, must be ordered in advance.

At Krua Pailin, you can expect Phuket country food at its best and a no-frills dining experience. But like any other top-notch restaurant, the sophistication lies in the careful attention to details like preparation, freshness and unusual ingredients.

So how about giving sweet-and-sour and green curry a break and trying something completely different?

Krua Pailin opens daily from 10am to 10pm. Location: Soi Nam Tok Katu waterfall, beside Loch Palm Golf Club, tel. 081 956 2490, 076 321 395.

Chef-owner of Krua Pailin, Suwanna "Phunge" Saetan.

Wild mushrooms, herbs and seafood used at Krua Pailin.

Malay-inspired toumee curry with petals of bright pink torch ginger flowers. Photos: Nanthapa Pengkasem

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

Oct 20, 2013, 6:30pm-11pm, Sunday Italian Buffet Dinner at La Trattoria Restaurant, Dusit Thani Laguna.
Have a splendid Sunday with family and friends! Savor our special Italian buffet spread with a variety of choices of antipasti, salads, pastas and pizzas, and a wide range of irresistible desserts at our award winning Italian restaurant, La Trattoria. Priced at THB 1,320+ + per person (food only) and 735+ + for children aged 6-12 years (food plus free flow of soft drinks). For reservations, please call: 076-362 999, ext 7303.

Oct 20, 2013, 12pm-3pm, Sunday Poolside BBQ at Westin Siray Bay.
Enjoy a delightful meal on a Sunday afternoon with your family and friends in a relaxed ambiance, with beautiful ocean views, soft breezes and live music. Our buffet lunch includes a selection of seafood and meats on the grill, full salad bar, live Italian cooking stations, delicious desserts and gelatos. Kids enjoy fun games at the kids' corner. Every Sunday, 12pm–3pm at Prego by the Beach, The Westin Siray Bay Resort & Spa, Phuket. THB 990+ + per person, including free access to the Prego pool. SPG members get a 15% discount. Kids aged 7-12 get 50% off. Call 076-335600 or visit our website at westinsiraybay.com

Oct 21-26, 2013, 9:30am-4:30pm, PYSC Phuket Youth Week & Selling Regatta
Phuket Youth Week offers young people the opportunity to learn to sail and hone crucial skills in the sport, including starting and finishing techniques, mark rounding, boat speed and general tactical skills essential to racing. Training will be offered through Topper Sail Phuket, RYA Training School and Thai National Coaches. The week will finish with a two-day Regatta on the 25th and 26th of October with divisions for the Optimist, Topper, Topaz and Laser. We are also holding a beginners course on the 19th and 20th of October. Limited places, so book now to confirm your place.

Oct 24, 2013, 5pm-7pm, Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards 2013 at Crave Wine Bar & Restaurant, Aloft Bangkok (Sukhumvit 11).
The Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards is a National competition recognizing the efforts and expertise among the hotels, restaurants, cafes and wine bars in the development of wine culture in Thailand. The Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards promote and reward excellence in these venues and convey this message to the media and wine and food consumers in Thailand and abroad. The competition is open to all food and beverage establishments with wine lists. The online registration opens in May 2013 and culminates in the announcement of Thailand's best wine list at the Awards ceremony in October. For more information contact Jon Hyams on + 66-80-4718713. This event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, *PGTV* and the 'Phuket Today' show, broadcast nationally eight times a week on True Visions (channels 85 and 59).

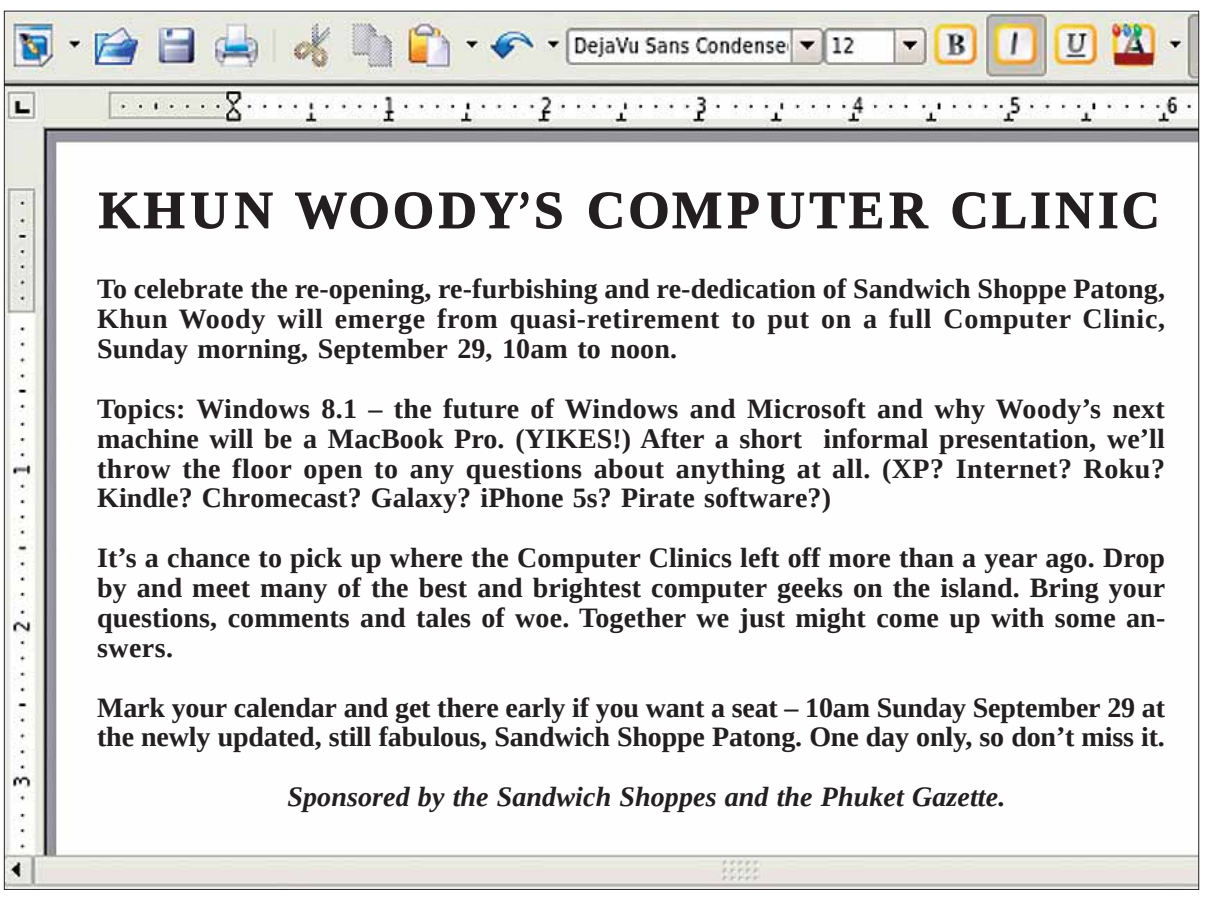
Oct 26, 2013, 8pm-11:30pm, Margaritaville - Parrot Head Party at Underwood Art Factory.
Margaritaville-Parrot Head Party at Underwood Art Factory. Support the Navy League Phuket's Community Service Projects. 1,500 baht in advance, or 2,000 baht at the door. Call 087-266 7514 for reservations. The US Navy League is supported by the *Phuket Gazette* and *PGTV.*

Oct 29-Nov 3, 2013, Phuket Thailand Open Powered by PTT 2013 at Karon Beach.
The Phuket Thailand Open will attract top beach volleyball teams from around the globe. Leading teams to play in the tournament are: Austria, Brazil, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the USA. There will be in total up to six Thai teams taking part in the event, of which three are in the main draw and three in the qualifying. Over 70 teams from over 30 countries will play in the tournament. Through a tie-up with IMG, each tournament on the Beach Volleyball World Tour receives TV coverage across five continents. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, *PGTV* and 'Phuket Today', the island's only national television show, broadcast daily on True Visions (channels 99 and 58). Call + 66-2-3113414, email: pc@pentanglepromotions.com, or visit pentanglepromotions.com

Oct 31, 6pm-12am, Halloween Night at Two Chefs.
Time to find your scariest costume and get ready for the yearly Halloween party at Two chefs. We will be serving a large international buffet. The Two Chefs band will rock the house until the late hours. Best costume of the evening will be rewarded with a Two Chefs gift voucher of 5,000 baht. Bring your Two Chefs member card and get a 15% discount on all food. For those who haven't got it yet, you can receive it for free at any of our restaurants. For more info, call + 66-76-330065, or email them at katacenter@twochefs.com

Nov 2-7, 2013, 10am-6pm, Chang ITF Pro Circuit 2013 (Women's, US$15,000) at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club.
ITF Future professional circuit for women at US$ 15,000 level. There will be two tournaments held in two (2) consecutive weeks at the club. Fore more information, contact Mr Virapol Cholvibul on + 66-81-490-9814

THE SPONSORSHIP EXPERTS
WWW.PAULPOOLE.CO.TH



KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER CLINIC

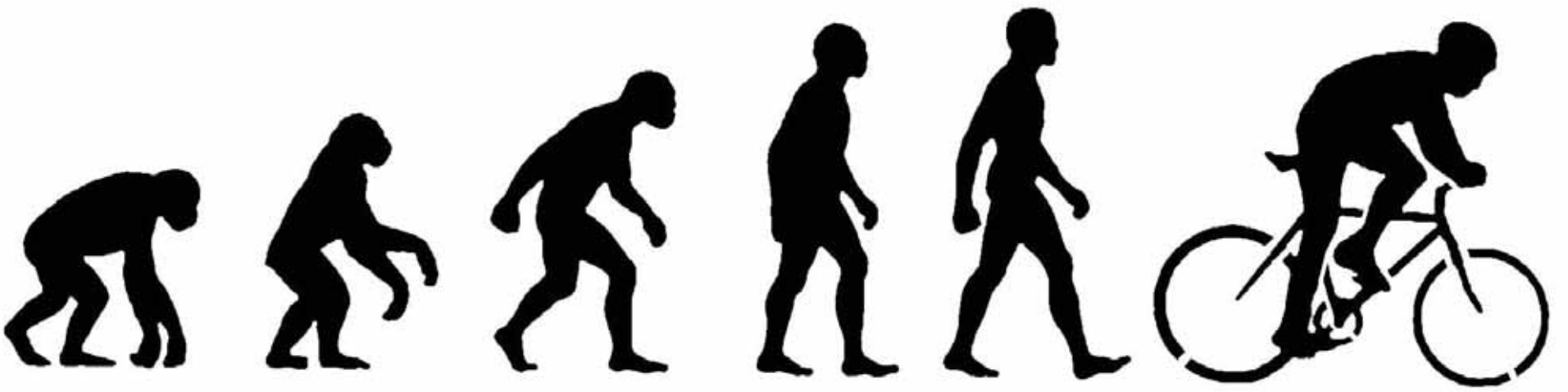
To celebrate the re-opening, re-furbishing and re-dedication of Sandwich Shoppe Patong, Khun Woody will emerge from quasi-retirement to put on a full Computer Clinic, Sunday morning, September 29, 10am to noon.

Topics: Windows 8.1 – the future of Windows and Microsoft and why Woody's next machine will be a MacBook Pro. (YIKES!) After a short informal presentation, we'll throw the floor open to any questions about anything at all. (XP? Internet? Roku? Kindle? Chromecast? Galaxy? iPhone 5s? Pirate software?)

It's a chance to pick up where the Computer Clinics left off more than a year ago. Drop by and meet many of the best and brightest computer geeks on the island. Bring your questions, comments and tales of woe. Together we just might come up with some answers.

Mark your calendar and get there early if you want a seat – 10am Sunday September 29 at the newly updated, still fabulous, Sandwich Shoppe Patong. One day only, so don't miss it.

Sponsored by the Sandwich Shoppes and the Phuket Gazette.



Evolution of the MAMILS

Blazing Saddles
By Baz Daniel

ONE of the more amusing acronyms that the current boom in all things cycling related has spawned is "MAMILS". MAMILS are of course "Middle Aged Men In Lycra" and if the tabloid media are to be believed, the Western world is awash with these rather dubious sounding creatures.

Certainly Phuket has not been spared this plague, as a brief foray around the island's roads any morning will attest. The island's highways and byways have become home to packs of Lycra-clad males, often sporting abundant graying locks or bulging tummies, doing their utmost to appear lithe and athletic, as they pump their pedals and slurp from their water bottles.

The term itself is probably somewhat in contravention of the Trade Descriptions Act as many of these healthy-looking bicycling specimens are in fact well into their sixties or even seventies, meaning that if we take the term "Middle Aged" literally, then a life expectancy of 120 to 140 years can be anticipated as a result of cycling in Lycra. This would put even Methuselah, who according to the bible was not in fact a pedal-pusher, to shame!

The MAMIL acronym also refers exclusively to MALE cyclists... as well it might. While it's true that the female of the species is certainly partaking enthusiastically in the global embrace of cycling, generally she does so with considerably more sartorial aplomb and dress sense than the male Lycra louts – with whom, embarrassingly, she is often forced to share the road.

What has brought about this flight to Lycra, other than the very obvious attractions of sweaty body-hugging material next to one's skin, a well-padded bottom and a tumescent, bulging cod piece?

Brightly colored Lycra has become a uniform of bonding and recognition amongst men of a certain age who enjoy cycling, and all joking aside, it does indeed have many advantages when out on the road, facilitating freedom of movement and ventilation, as any Phuket-based "pedal-phile" will confirm.

The global bulge in the Lycra market has, of course, been driven by those selfish "baby-boomers". This is the annoying generation that, not satisfied with reinventing sex, music, fashion and the media to meet its own ends, now refuses to just go away and age gracefully like previous generations and instead still desperately attempt to cling to their youth and feel entitled to constantly be the center of attention. This is an important key to understanding the rise of the MAMILS and their almost manic focus on exercise, good diet, social engagement and a balanced lifestyle – all in pursuit of an enduring youthfulness.

Rawai-based osteopath Garnett Symonds, himself an enthusiastic MAMIL, says, "As they have reached retirement age with more time on their hands, plus an abundance of internet-based information and a desire to extend their years of healthy living, many men in Phuket have adopted cycling as one of the healthiest forms of exercise for the aging body.

A MAMIL in his natural habitat, note the graying beard and bulging belly. Photo: Richard Masoner

Phuket MAMIL Claudio Vienello – 71 years young with no plans to stop cycling. Photo: Baz Daniels

"Cycling gets you outdoors, often in a sociable group situation and can be enjoyed for long periods without stressing or injuring the body," he says.

Garnett's piece of wisdom should perhaps be tempered, at least in the Phuketian context, with Mark Twain's famous quote: "Get a bicycle. You will not regret it… if you live."

Dr Sayam Hanpiphat, who specializes in physical medicine and rehabilitation at Bangkok Phuket Hospital is also a keen cyclist and explains that there are enormous mental and psychological benefits to becoming a MAMIL.

Reported sightings of MAMILS in Phuket have been steadily increasing. Photo: R. Masoner

"We now know the human brain responds to regular aerobic exercise such as cycling by producing a flood of opiate-like 'happy chemicals' such as dopamine and beta endorphins that elevate mood while enhancing sleep and relaxation. In addition, cycling is very often a group activity which promotes sociability and bonding – which are inherently beneficial."

My good friend Claudio Vianello, with whom I have just been cycling in Italy, spent much of his early life flying attack helicopters over Vietnam and subsequently jumbo jets around the world for American Airlines. Now 71 and settled near Kata, he is a classical example of the modern MAMIL – being an exceptionally fit cyclist and international-class skier for his age group. Claudio says: "Cycling around Phuket has become an absolute passion for me and if I didn't rack up my 300 or so kilometers a week in Lycra, I'm not sure what I would do with myself."

A major meeting point for many of Phuket's Lycra louts is that temple of health and fitness – Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club – which was developed by another arch MAMIL Klaus Hebben, himself an exceptionally fit and gifted sixty-something Iron Man. Each morning you can see a large peloton of Lycra-clad cyclists hammering out of Thanyapura to put in their training klicks. Many members of this group, such as world Ironman legend Jurgen Z ack, are internationally famous and all of them are exceptionally fit and healthy; not a few are well into their fifties, sixties and even seventies. They stand as a highly inspirational testament to the immense health benefits that wearing Lycra (and possibly just a bit of physical effort) can lend to us all. Bring on Phuket's MAMILS!

Hats off to the PIWC

By Pin O'Four

WHILE Australia's Melbourne Cup is regarded as one of the great horse races of the world, equally important is what goes on off the track. And it's all to do with fashion – or more particularly, the hats.

The focus of this colorful extravaganza is known as Fashions on the Field, a tradition at every function that celebrates this great event, even here in Phuket.

Should you wear a hat or fascinator? The debate rages. Photo: The Amazings

When the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) holds its second Melbourne Cup Party this year on Tuesday, November 5, fashions and hats will be very much to the fore.

The whole concept of hats at race meetings began at the turn of the last century in Britain during the reign of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra at the famous Royal Ascot carnival.

Hats, and attaching flora and fauna decorations to them, was all the rage and this fashion became a launching pad for society. Royal Ascot was the beginning of the "season", that time of the year when introductions to potential partners got underway at high society functions.

One commentator wrote that the hat adornments symbolized "money, power, and sex". Then along came what are known as "fascinators", a boisterous new fashion of head decoration where a garland of mainly feathers and ribbons was attached to the hair rather than worn like a hat.

Believe it or not, there has been a raging debate about which is the most appropriate to wear at big occasions such as the Melbourne Cup.

In England last year, new rules were introduced banning fascinators from the Royal Enclosure at Royal Ascot. Wear a hat or we won't let you in!

The rules are not quite as strict in Phuket, where both are welcome, but fascinators seem to be winning the day.

Within the groups in the PIWC is one known as the So&Sos, led by member Maggie Hunt, which is busily in fascinator-making mode as the big day looms.

"One of the group is a qualified milliner so that helps a lot. Some of the creations last year were stunning," said Sue Arnulphy, the event organizer.

"While the PIWC raises funds for scholarships for underprivileged children in Phuket, we do our best to make our events fun and great social gatherings for our members and their partners and guests."

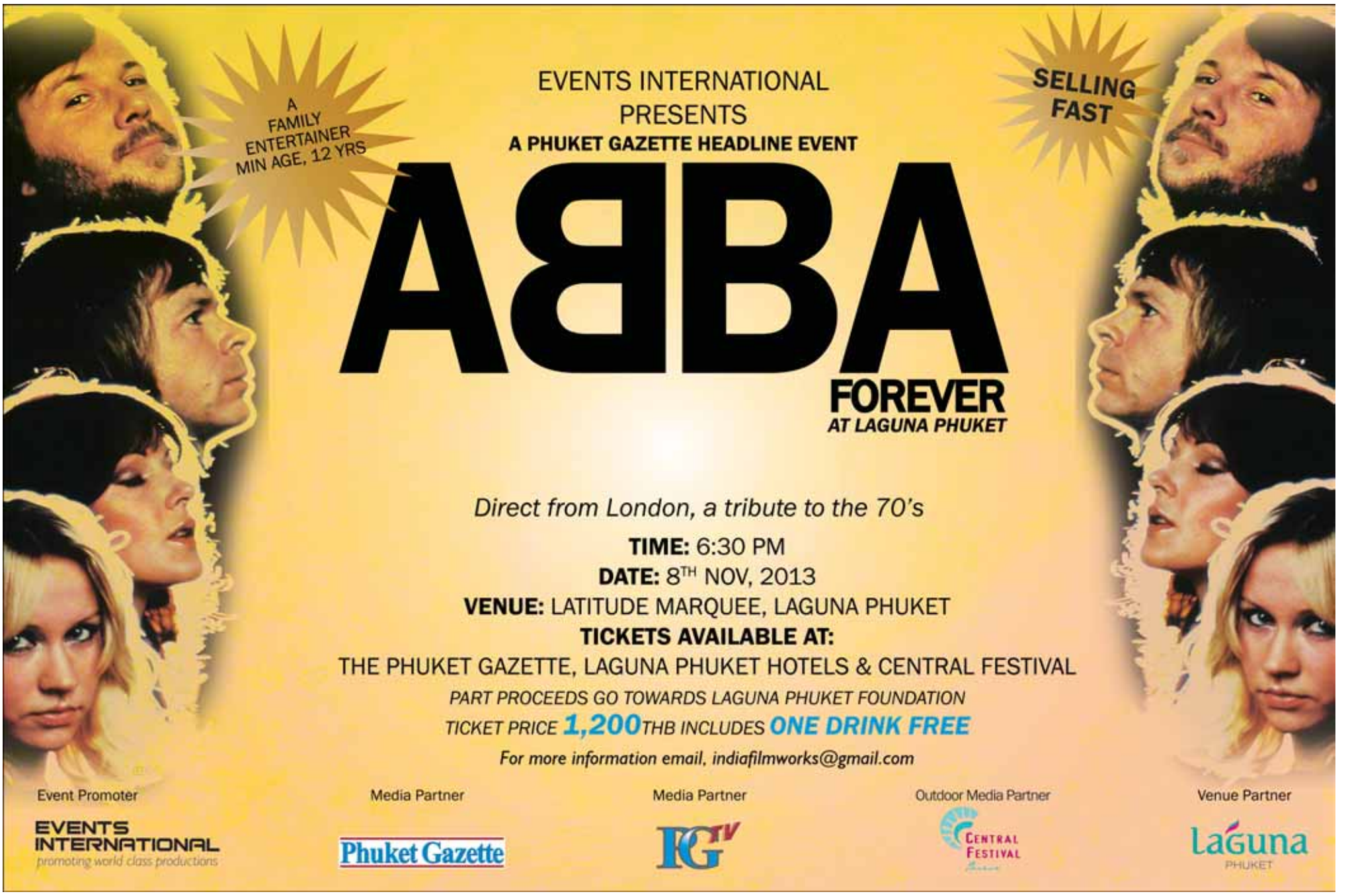
The PIWC's Melbourne Cup Party will be held at Underwood Art Factory on the bypass road, beginning at 9:30am. The "race that stops a nation" starts at 11:00am.

Tickets cost 2,000 baht – which includes three free drinks and lunch. There will be sweepstakes, lots of prizes to be won and, naturally, Phuket's own unique version of Fashions on the Field.

– Phuket Gazette

If you wish to attend please call Lyn Carthew on 076 317929.

No Melbourne Cup outfit is complete without a perfectly matching headpiece. Photo: Hot Gossip 1



Figs for all tastes

ONE of the stranger aspects of attempting an alphabetical survey of plants is that you end up with some odd bedfellows. Take the letter "F" for example. It embraces the huge genus of figs or *ficus* to give the family its botanical appellation. In *Plant Materials in Thailand*, no fewer than 24 different varieties are listed; they dominate the letter in much the same way that the so-called strangler fig throttles its unfortunate host.

The distinctive leaves of Ficus relegiosa. Photo: Eric Guinther

Figs vary from majestic park and forest trees in warmer climes to tough indoor plants such as the rubber tree, or the edible fig of Mediterranean landscapes. There is even a creeping fig which ventures no more than an inch or two above the ground.

F religiosa is at once the most revered, the most unusual and, some would say, the most pernicious of trees. Revered because Buddhism avers that the Lord Gautama attained enlightenment while meditating beneath its ample shade for six years, the bodhi tree flourishes on temple grounds everywhere in Thailand. In Hindu mythology it is associated with fertility in women. But it is definitely not one for your conventional garden. Fast growing and deciduous, it can attain thirty meters, possesses a trunk up to three meters wide and has hanging roots that may occupy much of the surrounding area.

This fig has strangled several trees as it has grown. Photo: Neil Ennis

The Bodhi tree is bizarre in another respect. It needs, as nearly all figs do, the presence of a pollinating *agaonid* or fig wasp which lays its eggs within the growing fruit. The larvae feed on the internal gall flowers, crawl out as adults, and in the process cross-pollinate the external flowers. The mature fruits and seeds (not palatable to humans), are in turn eaten by birds, and dispersed as droppings, where they often lodge in the forks or bark of a host tree and develop into seedlings. In time, these intruders will send roots down to the ground which will, in time, completely envelop and destroy the tree. Hence the pejorative name of "strangler fig".

Nonetheless, no self-respecting Buddhist or Hindu would ever dream of cutting down a tree which has not only sacred associations, but has been used for centuries for its medicinal properties, treating everything from gout and gastric disorders to diabetes. Moreover, it is an impressive ornamental presence and not just on account of its massive size and longevity, but because of its attractive, glossy, heart shaped foliage.

Benghalensis is a related species with similar aerial roots, but is capable of spreading much more widely. One celebrated banyan tree, in Calcutta, has a spread of 400 feet and covers more than three acres. The broad, stiff leaves are a shiny deep green and the fruits ripen to orange.

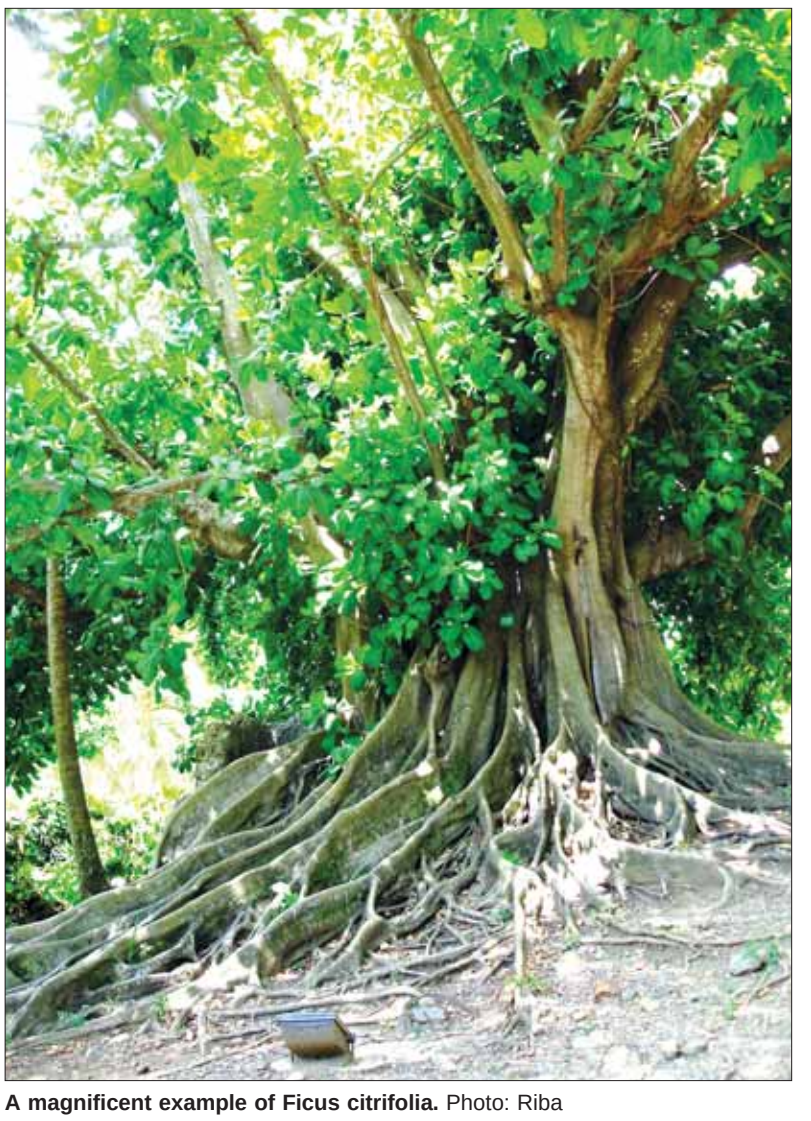
More suitable for our Thai gardens is *Ficus carica*, known world-wide as the edible fig, and a dominant feature of Mediterranean countries. It is not as popular as it deserves to be in Thailand for the simple reason that it dislikes the high and continuous humidity – a feature of life here – which in *F. carica* tends to promote mildew. Oddly, edible figs grow best on poorish soil; too much nitrogen promotes leaf growth at the expense of the succulent, pear-shaped fruit. Pruning during the period of dormancy will increase the tree's fruiting capacity.

As befits a commercially viable fruit, there are many cultivars: "Black Genoa" is a prolific yielder of sweet, dark red flesh, "Mission" has blackish fruits. "White Adriatic" should do better here: it has pale greenish brown figs with tasty pink flesh. This was the variety that I grew in the mountains of Southern Spain. It loved the cool nights and cropped heavily and reliably.

If you are lucky enough to lay your hands on a fig tree, don't plant it close to a wall: it has a large root system and the tap root may go down several meters. One reason why they seem unaffected by drought.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured you can email me at: drpaccampbell@gmail.com

FRUITING FIG: Ficus Carica is perhaps the best known species of fig due to its edible fruit. Photo: H Zell


A magnificent example of Ficus citrifolia. Photo: Riba

Tip of the week

More on pollination

SOME plants have male (stamens) and female parts (pistil) on *different* parts of the same plant. So an agency will again be needed to transfer the pollen. Most melons, pumpkins, and squash, for example, have both male and female flowers. Commercial growers sometimes activate the fertilization process by using a fine brush to transfer pollen from one flower to another. Butagain,insects are the main distributors.

A few species, for example, some citrus varieties, do not require pollination at all, though tangerines do. Obviously as a grower or gardener, it is important that you know the requirements of the species.

Another factor is maturity. Some trees do not bear fruit until a certain age; for avocadoes this is about six years, for papayas, rose apples, guavas or bananas as little as 18 months. Jujubes and jack fruit take 2-3 years.

Tangerines require pollination, usually by bees. Photo: Batholith

How the west was won and where it got us

Books

By James Eckardt

COMANCHES and Texas Rangers feature prominently in Philip Meyer's new novel *The Son* (Ecco, New York, 2013, 561pp) and its popular success undoubtedly springs from the buying power of a legion of fans of Larry McMurthy's *Lonesome Dove*. This 1985 Pulitzer Prize-winning masterwork centered on two ageing ex-Texas Rangers and the villainous Comanche renegade Blue Duck.

The Son goes one better: a multi-generational family saga that spans two centuries, from the days of the Comanches to the great cattle drives to the 20th century oil boom. Despite its grand ambition, the novel is no *Lonesome Dove*. Literary flaws abound, but this is only Meyer's second book while McMurthy had written a slew of them about modern Texas – *Hud, The Last Picture Show, Terms of Endearment* – before turning to the historical fiction of *Lonesome Dove.*

Taken on its own terms, *The Son* is still a stupendous achievement as it artfully weaves together three narrative strands: an interview with the family patriarch, Eli McCulloch, in 1936, when he is 100 years old; the diaries of his son Peter spanning the years 1915-1917, and the reveries of his 86-year-old great granddaughter Jeannie as she lies dying in 2012.

When Eli McCulloch was born in 1836, the area that the Comanches ruled – the Comancheria – covered the western half of Texas, almost all of Oklahoma and parts of Kansas and New Mexico. They were the richest tribe in the West as measured by horses and captives. They had driven out the Apaches and raided freely in East Texas and Mexico. One of their captives was 13-year-old Eli McCulloch. The Comanches mutilated corpses to scare their enemies, raped and tortured survivors because they wanted to, and abducted captives because their tribe always needed more members. Over the course of three years, Eli McCulloch was adopted into a family and became a Comanche warrior. He acquired friends, lovers and scalps.

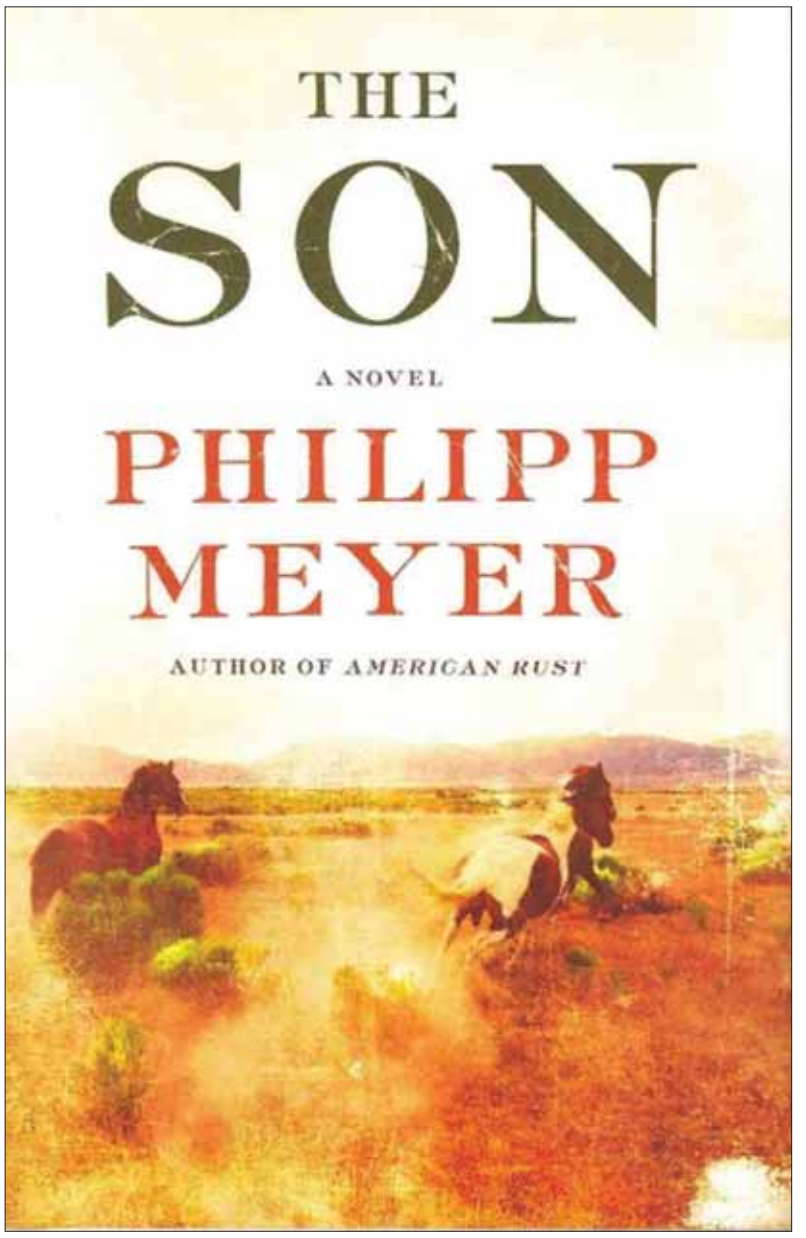
Meyer has done an enormous amount of research and it shows in the clumsy manner of James A. Michener. He devotes entire chapters to how the Comanches made their bows and arrows and butchered their buffaloes. Still, the narrative momentum seldom flags as Eli McCulloch moves on to become a Texas Ranger, a Confederate guerrilla, a cattle baron and an oil industry pioneer. He is only 40 when the once mighty Comanches are nearly wiped out by disease, hunger, the extinction of the buffalo and the US cavalry. And the lush green prairie of his youth turns dry and brown.

As the novel progresses, the other two narrative strands move strongly to the fore. Educated and irresolute, Eli's son Peter is tortured by a modern day massacre, yet redeemed by love. Tough and ruthless, the great granddaughter Jeannie idolizes Eli and presides over a quarter million acre ranch and a huge oil empire. She merits her own cover on *Time Magazine* but in matters of the heart, she comes up short. In her dying moments, she numbers her regrets.

Peter is considered a disgrace to the McColloch family but Eli and Jeannie are celebrated for their Darwinian outlook on life. The Comanches massacred the Apaches who had massacred the Indian tribes before them. The Comanches also massacred the Americans who massacred them right back. The McCullochs not only murdered cattle rustlers but also any suspicious mounted man on their land. They grabbed their land by murder and kept it that way.

And their story is hugely entertaining – the furthest thing from the romance of the Old West. Here is Eli McCullocch on the grand days of the cattle drives from Texas to Kansas:

"The life of a cowboy has been written about as if it were the pinnacle of freedom in the West but in fact it was sleepless drudgery almost beyond imagination – five months of slavery to a pack of dumb brutes – and had I not been riding for my own brand I would not have lasted a day. The fact that the country was tame enough to drive valuable property across tells you all you need to know; the days of Bridger and Carson and Smith were long gone, the land was already going domestic."



Taken on its own terms, *'The Son'* is still a stupendous achievement.

THE SON: From the days of the Comanches to the 20th century oil boom.

WALKING DEAD LI

GRUELING VEG FEST DROPS JAWS WHILE CLEANSING COMMUNITY, KEEPING EVIL AT BAY

SPIRIT entities – righteous and evil alike – were once again summoned to Phuket en masse last week. For nine days and as many nights, purified devotees observing strict vegan diets while abstaining from vice, fulfilled their role by making symbolic offerings to the higher realms; entranced and possessed spirit mediums known as Mah Song, enduring grueling and imaginative acts of self-mutilation – apparently invoked and enabled by powerful, ancient deities if not lost local spirits – drew upon themselves the community's evil energy, suffering and misdeeds, delivering their transcendental occupiers to the numerous sacred Chinese shrines across Phuket and ultimately dispelling them back to the spirit realm in a grand finale last Sunday night at Saphan Hin to conclude the 2013 Phuket Veg Fest. If you missed your chance to witness such a bizarre yet enthralling spectacle, not to worry – for the dead shall be resurrected again on the eve of the region's ninth lunar month in one year's time.

MODERN ORIGINS

Although there are conflicting accounts as to the Phuket festival's origin, most agree it all began around 1825, when the island's population was centered in present day Thalang, before being relocated to Kathu at the dawn of Phuket's tin mining era. During this period, a travelling Chinese Opera was said to have travelled to Kathu to entertain the tin miners. At or around this time a terrible epidemic of some type of fever, possibly malaria, began to claim the lives of many in the mining community. The Opera singers however, never fell ill (or as some accounts claim, fell ill but quickly recovered). The miners, desperate to be alleviated from such a malady, sought advice from the apparently-immune performers, who informed the miners of their strict adherence to a vegan diet. The miners proceeded to strictly adhere to this diet, as well as abstain from alcohol and sexual misconduct.

The epidemic subsequently vanished, sothe legend goes, and was cause for great celebration. Thus occurred the birth of the Phuket Veg Fest. The locals, so thrilled with their newfound health, sent an envoy to Kansai, in China. The envoy returned with holy incense and inscribed tablets. Two objects that still feature heavily in the modern day processions.

While the modern incarnation of the festival still retains many of the original practices, the most famous (infamous) spectacle, is the invocation of the god Lam Tao. Those who channel the deity are bestowed great abilities to withstand personal pain and mutilation. They use this power to inflict very grievous bodily harm upon to themselves, which thy shoulder in order to lessen the suffering of those around them. These displays are not for the weak of heart, and cause some people to be repulsed and even physically ill. Although the original tradition is based on Chinese beliefs (see below), the practice of invoked Mah Song and self-mutilation is believed to have derived from Indian traditions – namely the Hindu festival of Thaipusam.

NINE IS THE NUMBER

Beyond 1825, the Phuket Veg Fest can trace its ancient Chinese Taoist roots to the Nine Emporer Gods Festival or Ji?hu?ngy? (Kow Wong Yeh in Cantonese) in which nine deities are traditionally revered (hence the nine-day duration and alignment with the ninth lunar month): These emperor deities, represented by the stars in the big dipper constellation, include Tan Lang Tai Xing Jun; Ju Men Yuan Xing Jun; Lu Cun Zhen Xing Jun; Wen Qu Niu Xing Jun; Lian Zhen Gang Xing Jun; Wu Qu Ji Xing Jun; Po Jun Guan Xing Jun; Zuo Fu Da Dao Xing Jun and You Bi Da Dao Xing Jun. In Phuket's version today, there is less emphasis on (or perhaps awareness of) all of these original deities, while the general populace tend to believe that more common spirit entities (ancestral spirits, for example) can also be invoked, in addition to the ancient deities.

– Steven Layne and Jesse Rockwell

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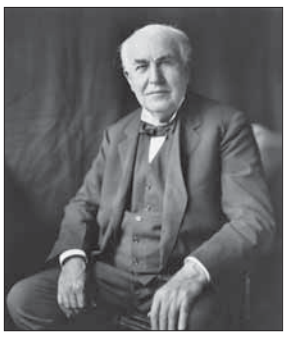
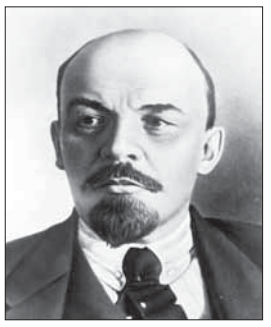
This week in history

OCTOBER 19

1466 The Thirteen Years' War ended.
1512 Martin Luther became a doctor of theology.
1812 Napoleon I of France retreated from Moscow.
1944 United States forces landed in the Philippines.
2003 Mother Teresa was beatified by Pope John Paul II.
2005 Saddam Hussein went on trial in Baghdad.



INVENTOR 1879 Photo: Louis Bachrach



RED 1917 Photo: Soyuzfoto

OCTOBER 20

1720 Caribbean pirate Calico Jack was captured by the Royal Navy.
1803 The United States Senate ratified the Louisiana Purchase.
1904 Chile and Bolivia signed the Treaty of Peace and Friendship.
1947 USA and Pakistan established diplomatic relations for the first time.
1962 The Sino-Indian War begun.
1973 The Sydney Opera House opened
1977 Lynyrd Skynyrd's plane crashed.

BRAVE 1901 Photo: GG Bain News Service

OCTOBER 21

1520 Ferdinand Magellan discovered a strait now known as Strait of Magellan.
1921 The Sheik, starring Rudolph Valentino, premiered.
1940 Ernest Hemingway's "For Whom the Bell Tolls" was first published.
1945 Women were allowed to vote in France for the first time.
1977 The European Patent Institute was founded.

BLUE 1945 Photo: Wilfried Huss

OCTOBER 22

1797 First recorded parachute jump.
1875 First telegraphic connection in Argentina.
1879 Thomas Edison tested the first light bulb.
1957 First United States casualties in Vietnam.
1975 The Soviet unmanned space mission Venera 9 landed on Venus.
2008 India launched its first unmanned lunar mission Chandrayaan-1.

FAREWELL 2003 Photo: Eduard Marmet

OCTOBER 23

1707 The first Parliament of Great Britain gathered.
1911 First use of aircraft in war.
1917 Lenin called for the October Revolution.
1958 The Smurfs appeared for the first time.

LANDMARK 1973 Photo: Enochlau

OCTOBER 24

1648 The end of the Thirty Years' War.
1857 Sheffield FC, the world's first football club, was founded.
1901 Annie Edson Taylor went over Niagara Falls, in a barrel.
1945 The United Nations was founded.
2003 Concorde made its last commercial flight.

OCTOBER 25

1861 The Toronto Stock Exchange was created.
1940 Benjamin O Davis was named the first African American general in the US Army.
1945 The Republic of China took over administration of Taiwan.
1962 Nelson Mandela was sentenced to five years in prison.
2004 Transactions using the American Dollar banned in Cuba.

Photo: Mark Fischer

End of the Rains Retreat

AFTER three months of the Rains Retreat when Buddhist monks take shelter in their monasteries, men in orange robes can be seen walking the streets of Thai cities and towns once again. The day when the monks leave the monasteries is called *Awk Pan-sa*, meaning "leaving the rains retreat" and this year it falls on October 19.

It also goes by another name – Mahapavarana or "discussion day" as on that day monks exchange knowledge they gathered during the three months of retreat and discuss what they learned. Laymen who visit the temples on that day also have a chance to learn more about Buddhism and ask questions. Later the monks leave the monasteries to spread their knowledge around the country and to improve people's lives.

If you have some unanswered questions about Thailand's predominant religion, this might be a good time to visit one of the following temples:

Wat Chalong is the most famous temple in Phuket. It is dedicated to two monks who helped locals fight against a Chinese rebellion.

Wat Thepnimit is located in Wichit district and is one of the oldest temples in Phuket.

Wat Mongkol Nimit near old Phuket Town is very popular with local Buddhists because of its convenient location.

Wat Suvankeereewong in Patong is the temple of choice if you're staying in the popular seaside party town.

Photo: ScorpianPK

Day of King Chulalongkorn

Each year on October 23, Thais commemorate their beloved King Rama V– Chulalongkorn. Rama V is known as the King who modernized Thailand ridding it of slavery, introducing electricity, postal services, telegraph, telephone and more. It was also Rama V who influenced the development of modern Thai civil service. This day, which is a national holiday, is called "Piyamaharaj" in Thai and it marks the beloved King's passing in 1910.

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Lock and load for dive high season

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

Scuba Nick gets hugs from the Dive Supply posse after having won one of several awards at the annual season opening.

LOCK on your tanks and load that gear on the boat because the Phuket diving high season is officially here. This year's season was ushered in with the annual ruckus parties and dive show equipment suppliers, all brought to the industry pros of the entire Andaman region by Dive Supply and Aqua Masters.

Free flow drinks and all-you-can-eat grub enthusiastically marked an upcoming season of bounty.

The members of the dive business that weathered the patchy low season and the economic troubles it can bring to both established and new companies took full advantage of the hospitality by both Dive Suppply and Aqua Master.

The revelry got kicked off with a twist this year as Carl Webb the marketing manager for Dive Supply splashed out for a massive American Western themed hoedown complete with complimentary cowboy hats, catering by Sala Mexicana and a mechanical rodeo bull.

However, everything wasn't all sun and dust, as representatives from Suunto, Scubapro, Bauer Compressors and Intova were all present to walk attendees through the new equipment developments making sure new features and add-ons could be explained to the rest of us in the diving world when we start poking around our local dive shop.

From Intova, Joe Ganahl was present, walking dive company owners through the advantages of using the new Sport 10k for the rental market. Intova, hot on the heels of GoPro in the extreme sports camera world, brought the Sport 10k with an underwater housing set for recreational limits (40 meters) to the dive industry as an affordable solution for rental cameras, which often suffer the hardships of any rental gear.

Also at the event, Suunto and Scubapro launched three deals.

Suunto is now throwing in a free transmitter with purchases of a variety of different types of air integrated computers, while Scubapro is handing out a free octopus (not the animal) with their MK25/S600 regulator and also running a "full set" special.

"This is the only opportunity we have to gather the dive community in big numbers. It was a successful show, we were able to bring everyone together to talk a little business and have a lot of fun," Mr Webb said.

Earlier that day Brendon and Liz Singer had given a lecture on a new six-month campaign for tracking the decreasing number of shark sightings in Thailand (see page 8). By this time, as the sun was starting to fade, the optimism over new prospects, new challenges and new gear seemed to pervade the party.

However, despite the time and crowd, it was possible to still see the Aqua Master's new equipment setup for the female Phuket day-trip diver.

"After thorough research and testing, we recognized a gap in the marketplace for dive gear that specifically meets women's scuba diving needs," said Michael Wehrle, Southeast Asia regional manager for Aqua Lung International. "We tapped into the insight of our international team of female divers, water enthusiasts and active individuals who are driven by their passion for the sport of diving."

Though improperly gendered to give honest feedback on the equipment, it is clear that Aqua Master has looked over all the details to ensure that even the little irritating issues, such as long hair getting awkwardly caught up in your head band, won't even wreck a moment of the dive.

With a stretch of sunny days, equipment deals and having spent the "green season" flicking through dive magazines and heartwrenchingly beautiful photos of the world beneath the waves, everyone – pros, expats and tourists – can happily head back to calmer waters and take the plunge.

Holger Schwab receives a Thailand Tourism Award for Sea Bees from the Tourism and Sports Minister Somsak Pureesrisak. Photo: Supplied

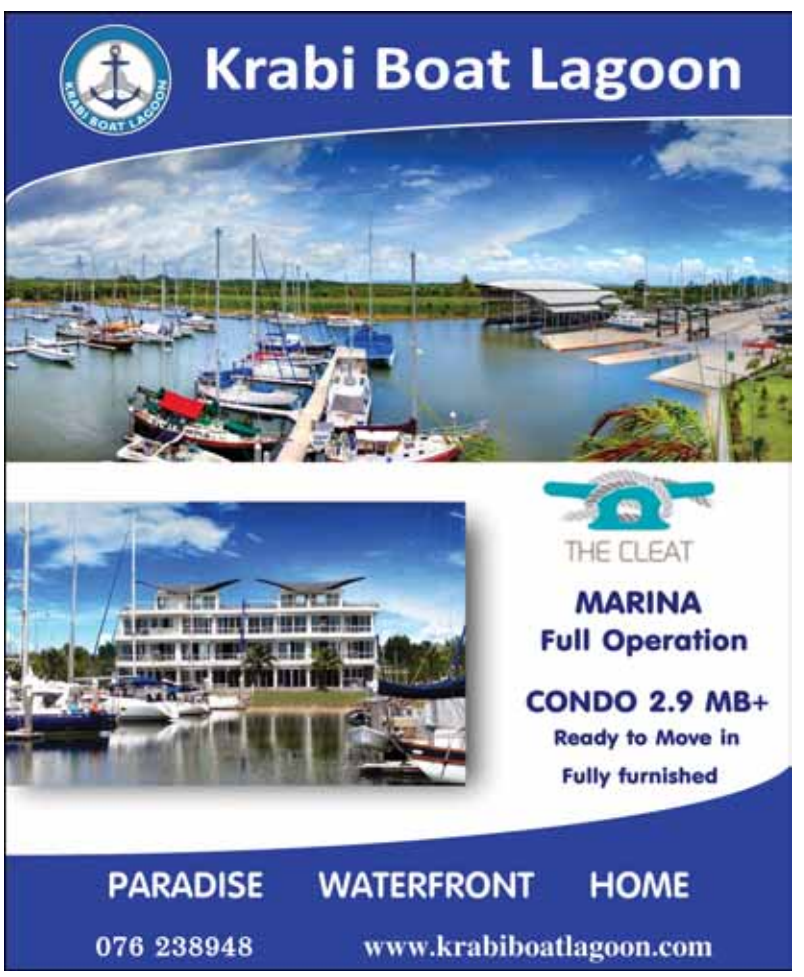
Sea Bees wins national award for excellence

THE recent Thailand Tourism Awards 2013 honored a dive company among the seven businesses and projects for " Awards for Outstanding Performance". Sea Bees Diving, one of the most well-known and established dive companies in Phuket, found itself among an eclectic field of winners ranging from historical renovation projects to resorts.

"It is a great honor to receive this award, but also very positive to see how much the Committee Members focused on the environment during their visit and assessment of our operations," Holger Schwab, the owner and Managing Director, said.

"To receive recognition for how our fleet operates, that small dive groups are beneficial to the reefs and marine life and that the environment does not have to be compromised when it comes to service is something we have aimed for constantly over the years," Mr Schwab said.

– Phuket Gazette



Raya Divers honored by PADI

PADI 5 Star Instructor Development Centre Raya Divers was awarded the PADI Outstanding Contribution to the Diving Industry Award for their excellent service towards the diving industry, explained Thailand's West coast PADI Regional Manager and Project AWARE Ambassador. Nominees are chosen by regional managers and approved by PADI Asia Pacific Vice President Henrik Nimb.

Don't miss the boat!

If your listing details require updating for the 2014 version of Phuket's yellow pages, you better move quickly or risk absence from the island's LARGEST business directory – by far!

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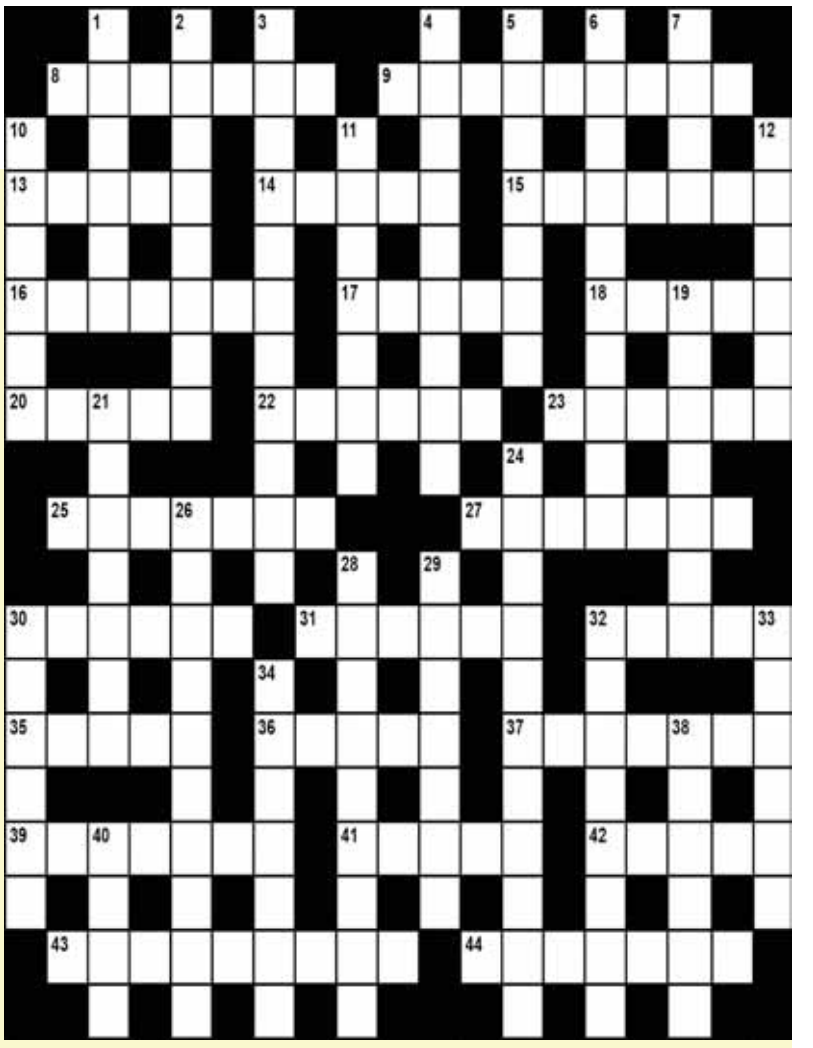
JUK'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: Find the 10 differences between these pictures.

Artist and brand consultant Miguel Kirjon lives in Phuket with his partner Lin Prachakrich and publishes a series of children's books "Juk's Adventures" in 9 languages. See juksadventures.com for more information.

COFFEE break



Across:
8. Interrupt date Sir, but wrongly (7)
9. A big salon remodeled in a Phuket walking street (3,6)
13. Bit of an epic out East (5)
14. Back soon, note, to ensnare (5)
15. Has made unusually abashed (7)
16. Do not turn up for an assignation and upsets, puts out (5,2)
17. Armada moves without a show (5)
18. Cut up parts of small fish (5)
20. Son back deep in amphetamine (5)
22. Tell about the deceased (6)
23. Cold morning for each person under canvas (6)
25. Caught special moment in remark (7)
27. Sure, could be in crate (7)
30. Ought to hold us apart (6)
31. Subtle difference, nun around a Church of England! (6)
32. Mates possibly cook (5)
35. Small, yet odd, line in fashion (5)
36. Assign to a Liberal fate (5)
37. Continues to be antiquities (7)
39. Possibly sense Church of England has intrinsic nature (7)
41. Skill in boats (5)
42. Prompt grand nude to cover (5)
43. Needed rise quite badly (9)
44. Lo! A cast thrown near the shore (7)

Down:
1. Nice new graduate moving pictures (6)
2. Waited on date, tend to be upset (8)
3. Errant pants could be see-through! (11)
4. Sample for broken tea-set (9)
5. Sailor, harm a different biblical patriarch! (7)
6. Worried, thus I sent a devotee (10)
7. Fruit worth having (4)
10. Pass out manuscript contractions (6)
11. Study charitable distribution and give sympathy (7)
12. Periodical boss to ride out (6)
19. Peer, Sir, stumbles in repeated passage (7)
21. Thriftiness in financial system (7)
24. Infiltration makes nation peter out (11)
26. In mine, mull over for a long period (10)
28. I aped cult, ordered copy (9)
29. Dates in error, alternatively (7)
30. Nurse a nun (6)
32. Similarity in mass seen possible (8)
33. Stream changes for teacher (6)
34. Set afar out in the distant Orient (3,4)
38. South Asian aid turns up in inn (6)
40. Stage pets turn up (4)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):
Personal relationships fall under the spotlight during the second half of October. The stars suggest that Librans can grow tired of a fire sign friend who is constantly singing their own praises, while another air sign's tendency to count on help starts to be irritating. Those whose birthday is due in the coming week are forecast to have a better balanced working life in the year ahead.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):
The stars indicate that transportation and communication can be affected by a tricky cosmic climate this weekend. Scorpios may have to cancel or delay their plans for getting out and about. If you are let down by another water sign friend, this is probably due to simple forgetfulness. A tactful reminder will serve you better than getting irritated with this person. Romance is sparkling on Wednesday and Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):
Your tolerance can be put to the test during the next few days, both in the world of work and on a personal level. The astral atmosphere should become easier after the middle of the week, with peace prevailing during the last week of October. In the meantime, it would be wise to keep a low profile. Spending more time at home can spark off ideas for improvements.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):
Intuition serves those born under the sign of Capricorn well during the coming days. The stars show that recent stress should fade away, and you will be more inclined to enjoy what the social scene has to offer. A new leisure activity is highlighted to become something that will become important in your life. Where romance is concerned, this is an auspicious time to follow your heart. Finances are lucky this weekend.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):
Your moods are unpredictable until midweek and this can lead to unnecessary misunderstandings. Aquarians are advised to think before they speak, and also consider carefully who they are speaking to. The air lightens after Wednesday, with more focus on your realm of romance. Those single and seeking can meet their match in an earth sign. If you are already committed, expect your partner to share a secret this weekend.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):
Pisceans are predicted to attract more attention than usual during the remainder of October. Work is well starred, with focus on your recent efforts leading to promotion of some sort. In the realm of romance, an earth sign is determined to hook you this weekend. Those who are single will welcome this flirtation, but if you are already committed, the stars recommend backing away before things get out of hand.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):
An unsettled cosmic climate can mean that things are not straightforward this week. Jumping to conclusions is highlighted to set you back in the world of work; Arians are advised to wait for trusted information to be revealed and there are hints that this will happen towards the end of the month. A storm may be brewing in your romantic zone as a result of jealousy that should be nipped in the bud.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):
This is an auspicious week to ask yourself some serious questions, particularly regarding what you really want to happen where work is concerned. The stars indicate that some Taureans have been going with the flow, hoping that this will lead them to better conditions. The remainder of October is an auspicious time to take control. In the realm of romance, a fire sign is ready for more commitment.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):
Meeting others in the middle is forecast to get Geminis further than insisting on having everything all their own way. An earth sign is poised to express their feelings about this situation and you would be wise to listen. Your outlook at work can depend on how much has been learned from past mistakes. Money matters should improve as the end of October draws nearer, but splashing out can be a temptation this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):
Your home life will be more important than what is happening in the outside world this week. The stars indicate that Cancerians can become involved in a disagreement with neighbors and this will require a diplomatic approach. Tuesday is the most auspicious day to reach understanding. In the world of work, you have opportunity to impress someone with influence during the coming days. Finances are luckiest on Wednesday and Thursday.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):
Making ends meet can be compromised by unexpected expenses this week, but there are signs that you will be able to negotiate. Finances are forecast to become more stable at the end of the month. In the realm of romance, even a grain of uncertainty should be enough doubt to make Leos stop and think some more. A cooling down period can help you see what you really want.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):
Those born under the sign of Virgo are advised to strike while the iron is hot. The stars are on your side this week, with focus on a new work opportunity becoming available. More confidence is highlighted to enhance your charisma until the end of October and you should take advantage of this. Romance with an air sign starts to unfold, but there can be some barriers along the way.

Belgium, Germany, Switzerland book World Cup tickets

Germany's Andre Schuerrle celebrates a goal against Ireland during their 2014 World Cup qualifying match . Photo: Reuters/Ina Fassbender

By Justin Palmer

TWO-goal Romelu Lukaku fired Belgium's golden generation into next year's World Cup finals, with Germany and Switzerland on Friday also sealing their tickets to the Brazil extravaganza.

Belgium, boasting one of the most talented squads in Europe, will return to the global showpiece for the first time since 2002 after a 2-1 win in Croatia guaranteed top spot in Group A.

Perennial finalists Germany's 3-0 home win over Ireland, with goals from Sami Khedira, Andre Schuerrle and Mesut Ozil, put them through from Group C while the Swiss won 2-1 in Albania to wrap up Group E. Netherlands, with Robin van Persie hitting a hat-trick in an 8-1 demolition of Hungary to surpass Patrick Kluivert as record Dutch scorer with 41 goals, and Italy had sealed their passage to the finals before Friday's penultimate round of qualifiers.

Holders Spain moved to the brink of qualification from Group I after captain Xavi and substitute Alvaro Negredo struck in a laboured 2-1 win at home to Belarus.

Group F leaders Russia, with a 4-0 victory in Luxembourg, and England, who beat Montenegro 4-1 at Wembley with Wayne Rooney among the scorers, remain in pole position in Group H ahead of Tuesday's final round of matches.

Victory on a wet night in Z agreb prompted joyous celebrations from the Belgian players in front of a sizeable and vociferous contingent of travelling fans.

"I'm super happy for the team. We always believed we could qualify and now it's here," said Lukaku, looking ahead to a party atmosphere in Brussels for their final game against Wales.

The pacey Lukaku broke the deadlock from Steven Defour's defence-splitting pass and doubled the lead seven minutes before the break, racing away from halfway before lifting the ball over prone keeper Stipe Pletikosa and walking the ball into the net.

Germany progress

Injury-hit Germany, boosted by the return of midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger after a six-month break to earn his 99th cap, still swept aside Ireland.

"I think overall we played a very good qualification. We won eight of nine so we can be satisfied. Something still needs to happen though. The defense needs to become more stable," said coach Joachim Loew.

Sweden captain Z latan Ibrahimovic struck a late winner to earn a 2-1 victory over Austria that secured second place behind the Germans and one of the playoff spots.

The eight best group runners-up advance to a two-legged playoff in November to fill the last four European places.

Goals from Xherdan Shaqiri and Michael Lang clinched Switzerland's passage with their successful campaign built around a rock-solid defense that has conceded just six goals.

Iceland or Slovenia will finish second in the group.

Iceland, 2-0 winners over Cyprus on Friday, will secure that spot if they can win in Norway on Tuesday while Slovenia, who face the Swiss in Berne, stayed in contention thanks to Milivoje Novakovic's hat-trick in a 3-0 drubbing of the Norwegians.

Spain's victory in Palma de Mallorca put them three points clear of France with one match to play and a point against lowly Georgia in Albacete on Tuesday will secure the world and European champions a berth in Brazil.

Late blunder

Russia need a point from their final game away at Azerbaijan to qualify after brushing aside Luxembourg to move three points ahead of Portugal.

A late blunder from goalkeeper Rui Patricio gifted Israel a 1-1 draw in Lisbon to leave Portugal, who led through a first half goal from center back Ricardo Costa, staring at the playoffs.

England will win their section with victory at home to Poland. Roy Hodgson's side had to remain patient to overcome stubborn Montenegro who had not lost to the 1966 World Cup winners in three previous meetings.

Rooney, who missed the last two qualifiers through injury, eased England's nerves when he struck soon after the restart and a Branko Boskovic own goal, a stunning third on his debut by Andros Townsend, and an injury-time penalty from Daniel Sturridge secured victory.

Ukraine remain one point behind and must hope England slip up against the Poles. Andriy Yarmolenko scored the only goal as the Ukrainians edged Poland 1-0 in Kharkiv which all but ended the Euro 2012 co-hosts' hopes of progressing.

Bosnia, seeking to reach their first major tournament as an independent nation, and Greece remain neck-and-neck on 22 points at the top of Group G after home wins on Friday.

Bosnia, with Edin Dzeko scoring twice, thumped Liechtenstein 4-1 while a Martin Skrtel own goal handed Greece a 1-0 success at home to Slovakia.

Nicklas Bendtner made a sensational return from a six-month ban by netting both goals in Denmark's 2-2 draw at home to Italy in Group B.

The striker was suspended by the Danish FA after being arrested for drink-driving but his international return was spoiled by Alberto Aquilani's stoppage-time equaliser.

The Danes remain third, level on 13 points with Bulgaria who had two players sent off in a 2-1 defeat in Armenia.

– Reuters

Australia should back top six batsmen: Ponting

AUSTRALIA'S selectors need to show faith in their top six batsmen after undermining their confidence by chopping and changing the order during the recent Ashes series defeat, former captain Ricky Ponting has said.

Australia's 3-0 loss in England was marked by a string of calamitous batting collapses, as selectors dropped players and moved them up and down the order in a fruitless search for a winning formula.

With the first test of the return Ashes series starting in Brisbane next month, Ponting said there was no quick fix for Australia's woes and that selectors needed to decide on the nation's best batters and nurture them.

"I think everybody on the outside has been a little bit worried about what the next generation of players have got, particularly on the batting side of things," Ponting said in comments published by The Australian newspaper on Monday.

"Everyone acknowledges we have good depth of fast bowling, but where the next Michael Clarke is going to come from in the batting department is what everyone is concerned about.

"I don't think it is as bad as a lot of people might believe, I think they have just got to decide who the six best batters in the country are and I reckon they have got to back them for a while and try and release some of the pressure on the guys when they go out to bat.

"Take the last series by itself, Watto (Shane Watson) and Phil Hughes seemed to bat in every position in the order – that can't be good for the individuals or everyone else because if those guys are moving so is everyone else.

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting warms up ahead of Surrey's County Cricket Match. Reuters/Phil Noble

"The lack of stability and the lack of confidence that some of our players have been taking, not just into each game but into each innings they play, that doesn't make things any easier."

Australia's struggles, which included a dismal 4-0 test series loss away to India earlier this year, prompted former players and coaches to gather in Sydney last week to look at ways of solving the team's batting woes.

Ponting, a participant at the forum, backed Hughes and Usman Khawaja, who have struggled to convert their promise into consistent form at test level.

After scoring an unbeaten 81 in the first innings of the opening test at Nottingham, Hughes was dumped for the rest of the Ashes series after managing just two runs from his next three innings.

Recalled for the second test at Lord's, Khawaja scored a half-century in the second inning, but was dumped for the final test at The Oval after four consecutive failures.

"If the answer is not Hughes and not Khawaja and not those guys then what's going to happen?" Ponting posed.

"If they don't pick them, those guys will go back to Sheffield Shield cricket, they will be the leading run scorers and will be the next ones picked again, because they are simply the best we have got and they have proved that over a period of years. That's my belief, anyway.

"The selectors have been looking for short-term fixes and that's not going to happen with this current group and it rarely happens in international sport or high-level sport," he said.

"The challenge for selection right now is picking guys who can actually improve while playing international cricket and the only way they can do that is if they are given a bit of assurance and a bit of love along the way."

The first test of the return Ashes series starts in Brisbane on November 21.

48-hour swim

By Luke Swiderski

DIANA Nyad, the first person to successfully swim from Cuba to Florida without a cage, completed her latest endurance swim on Thursday without having to worry about sharks, jellyfish or the current.

Her 48-hour continuous charity swim in New York City raised more than US$ 100,000 (62,582 pounds) for Hurricane Sandy recovery, and came little more a month after the 64-year-old made her historic swim across the Straits of Florida. At 96 miles (155 km), her pool swim was shorter than her 110-mile (177-km) swim in the sea.

The fundraising total, still growing from online donations, was destined for AmeriCares, a humanitarian relief organization, which said it will use the funds to address the health needs of Hurricane Sandy survivors.

With more than 25,000 people still displaced from the storm, many survivors need help for basic healthcare access. Others face anxiety, depression and symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), said Lindsay O' Brien, who manages the organization' s Hurricane Sandy Relief program.

"That is exactly where this money will go," O' Brien said.

AmeriCares has used a grant of $ 110,000 to bring mobile mental health clinics to children and families in the Gerritsen Beach section of Brooklyn.

Nyad' s two-day swim brought out celebrities including actor Joe Manganiello and Olympic gold medallist Ryan Lochte, who swam alongside her, as did Sandy victims and first responders from the US Coast Guard and the New York police and fire departments.

Even though she did not have to contend with the ocean, "it was by a thin line that I made it to the end" Nyad told ABC television' s *Good Morning America* after leaving the pool. "This one was a bear." ***– Reuters***

Diana Nyad takes a breath during her 48-hour swim in New York. Photo: Reuters/Eduardo Munoz

Edwards was victorious in the Porsche Supercup in May. Photo: Benoit Tessier

Death on track

BRITISH racing driver Sean Edwards was killed in a crash at the Queensland Raceway in Australia.

The 26-year-old, the son of former Formula One driver Guy Edwards, died on Tuesday, October 15 when the Porsche in which he was a passenger instructing a 20-year-old male, slammed into a wall and caught fire.

Monaco-based Edwards, who was leading the drivers' championship in the 2013 Porsche Mobil 1 Supercup season with one race to go, was taking part in a private training day at the time, according to Australian news reports.

The driver reportedly suffered severe injuries.

"Our thoughts are with his family and we want to express our deepest condolences to his relatives," Hartmut Kristen, Head of Motorsport at Porsche, said in a statement.

Edwards had a cameo role in the recently-released movie Rush, playing his father Guy who helped pull Niki Lauda from his burning Ferrari after a crash at a F1 Grand Prix at the Nurburgring in 1976.

Reacting to the tragic news of Edwards' death, former McLaren driver David Coulthard took to Twitter.

"Shocking news about Sean Edwards passing, top man and super talented racer, condolences to his nearest and dearest," he said.

Karun Chandhok, a former F1 driver, added on Twitter: "RIP Sean Edwards... Sadly highlights the dangers that instructors put themselves in while helping other drivers." ***– Reuters***

Attention to detail: extreme swimming

Swimming Tips

By Randy Simon

ATTENTION to detail… when I was in the military, it was something I learned a LOT about. But it was a necessity. When you are out on missions for weeks at a time, and getting tired and hungry, the ability to pay attention to small details, like personal hygene and health (eating and sleeping,) become very important. The ability of a person to stay on top of these little details can be the difference between staying alert, healthy, and able to carry on with the mission or falling ill, getting injured or worse, becoming a casualty that requires others to stop doing their jobs to assist.

In sports, attention to detail can play an important part in the success or failure of an athlete. On deck, swimmers will hear me refer to "extreme" swimming. But what is it? It's attention to detail. Focusing on little things ALL THE TIME! Anyone can focus on drills when that's what you're working on. And anyone can work hard when told to. But what about during warm-ups and cool-downs?

Isn't technique just as important then? Is form and skill something we only work on at certain times during the workout? Shouldn't it be ALL the time? And what about strength? Everyone is strong when they are rested. Can you be strong at the end of a workout, when you've been trying hard and are physically tired?

Can you be strong when you have had a bad day at school or work and mentally you just want to shut down? Are you able to be strong on Saturday mornings when you show up for training tired and sleepy after you've been up late with your friends on Friday night?

Strength comes from being prepared. And being prepared comes from paying attention to the little things. As Emily Dickenson said: "Take care of the small things, the big things will take care of themselves. You can gain more control over your life by paying closer attention to the little things."

I think she's referring to attention to detail…don't you?

Need help? Having a clear mind without clutter and anxiety is a good start. Thanyapura's Mind training has been designed to enhance mental faculty of attention by reducing and eventually eliminating the subconscious habits of mental hyperactivity (restlessness) and hypo-activity (dullness). It also promotes deep psycho-physiological relaxation, mental attentiveness, focus, resilience and endurance.

Tip propvided by Thanyapura's Aquatics Head Coach, Randy SimonTo contact the coach Email: aquatics@thanyapura.com

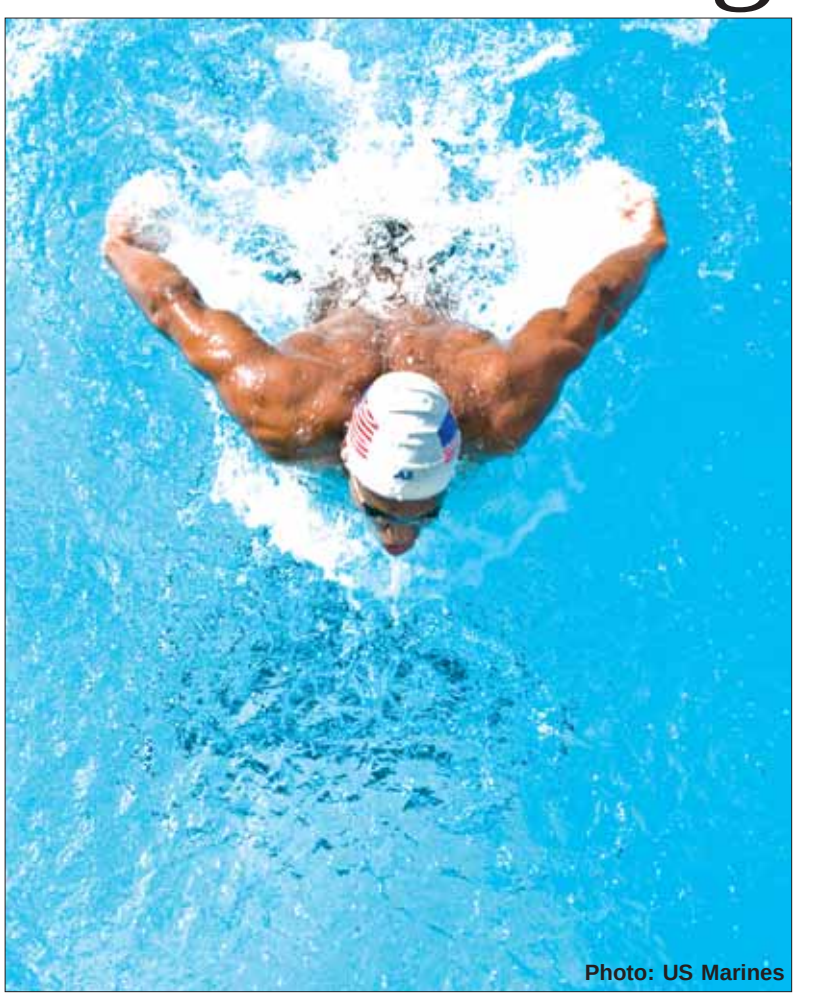


Photo: US Marines

Tri-Fest around the bend

THE 20th Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT) will take place on Sunday, November 24, marking the beginning of Laguna Phuket's week-long Tri-Fest.

This year's LPT will celebrate its 20th anniversary while welcoming the inaugural Challenge Laguna Phuket (CLP) on Sunday, December 1 to its iconic multi-sports week-long event – Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest 2013.

During the proceeding seven days, Laguna Phuket will be a hive of activity, with athletes and guests taking part in social activities, training sessions and competitions at the destination resort.

The atmosphere will be electric and guests and visitors will enjoy what Laguna, and indeed Phuket, has to offer. On Sunday, December 1, athletes will race in the CLP – a longer, more challenging triathlon, comprising a 1.9km swim, 90.1km bike ride and a 21.1km run.

Top finishers of Laguna Phuket Triathlon 2012 celebrate (left to right) Belinda Granger, Tim Meyer, Radka Vodickova, Ruedi Wild, Alberto Cassadei and Edith Niederfringer. Photo: Supplied

The Race of Legends

The days between the two spectacular events in Phuket will be filled with a Tri-Fest of training and social events held in and around the luxurious Laguna Phuket destination resort.

This triathlon carnival has proved a popular attraction for international athletes eager to sample the delights of Thailand while rubbing shoulders with the likes of Ruedi Wild and Radka Vodickova, last year's LPT champions.

Ruedi Wild triumphed last year in 2:29.22. Following Wild home were an elite field of seasoned athletes including Tim Meyer, Alberto Cassadei, Massimo Cigana and Simon Agoston. The 2012 women's field top finishers were Radka Vodickova, Belinda Granger, Edith Niederfringer, Nickey Barnard and Sarah Wheeler.

Reigning champion of the Ironman 70.3, 2012 (last year's version of the newly branded CLP), Melissa Hauschildt of Australia, has also registered to return to defend her title.

She's set to face strong challenges from a field that will include Vodickova and Granger, who finished second and third respectively last year.

LPT and CLP are once again set to see high-caliber fields of elite men's pros taking on their tropical challenges.

Reigning World Champion Pete "PJ" Jacobs has confirmed he will race the inaugural CLP half distance triathlon on December 1 – setting up an intriguing contest with fellow Australian Chris "Macca" McCormack, the defending title-holder, two-time world champion and Challenge Ambassador, for a slice of the race's 25,000 Euro prize purse.

Italians Massimo Cigana and Alberto Casadei will try to make an impression on the two Australian champions in a field that also features LPT 2012 champion Ruedi Wild from Switzerland.

The enduring appeal of Laguna Phuket Triathlon and the unique challenges of Challenge Laguna Phuket are attracting entries from leading international pro athlete personalities, as well as age groupers worldwide.

To date, a combined 1,500 athletes have signed up for the two main races. Registration for the 2013 half distance Challenge Laguna Phuket is open until November 20 and a total of approximately 1,800 athletes are expected to sign up this year.

– Phuket Gazette

The LPT and CLP are proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and PGTV. For more information, visit: challengelagunaphuket.com

Junior Challenge

PHUKET'S active and healthy lifestyle destination, Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Center, is extending its commitments to developing sporting excellence in athletes and enthusiasts of all abilities and ages by hosting the Thanyapura Junior Challenge Triathlon, part of the Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest 2013, on Saturday, November 30.

With participants divided into Junior (6-8 years), Intermediate (9-12) and Senior (13-18) categories, the triathlon event will give young athletes the chance to experience the world class sports facilities at Thanyapura including its 50 meter Olympic standard outdoor pool with biking and running routes set within the surrounding nature of Khao Phra Thaew National Park.

Thanyapura is an inspiring environment for children. Training alongside professional athletes, Olympians and world record holders gives a sense of tangibility to their aspirations, as these sporting stars show them that their goals are attainable with the right outlook and support.

The Thanyapura Junior Challenge Triathlon will be hosted with support from the local Thalang Police Authority and Chief of Thalang District, ensuring the safety of both competitors and spectators throughout the weekend.

Juniors will perform a 50m swim, 3km bike and 500m run; Intermediates will swim 150m, run 6km and follow with a 1,500m run; Seniors will do 300m swim, 12km bike and end with a 3,000m run.

Thanyapura would like to encourage all young visitors and local residents to participate in the Thanyapura Junior Challenge Triathlon on Saturday, November 30, 2013.

– Phuket Gazette

HEAD START ON HEALTH: The challenge will be contested by youth aged 6-18.

For online registration and race information please visit challengelagunaphuket.com For Junior Training Information, please contact triathlon@thanyapura.com

Teco confident for final three

By Steven Layne

FOLLOWING a rejuvenating, week-long break, a nearly full-form Phuket FC are back on the road, set to take on PTT Rayong – arguably the league's strongest team – this Saturday (October 19).

To be played at PTT Stadium in Rayong, the match will kick off at 6pm.

Now cushioned mid-table with 39 points, in 9th place of the 18-team Yamaha League One (YL1), the Islanders are under minimal pressure, having already cemented their place in Thailand's first division next season after downing Gulf Saraburi 1-0 at home on October 6.

Even if Phuket fail to secure a single point from their final three matches this season, it is now mathematically impossible for them to become one of the two teams to be relegated – one of which has already been confirmed as Rayong United, who have garnered only 23 points so far this season.

Nonetheless, Head Coach Stefano "Teco" Rodrigues says that his boys are confident ahead of their upcoming matches.

"If we can get four or six points, I think it will be good. All three remaining matches will not be easy but we have a lot of key players who have recovered from injury, and have been continuously improving on our systems and tactical [game]. The win against Saraburi was good for boosting our confidence," he told the *Gazette*.

In second place with 60 points, PTT Rayong are under great pressure to secure promotion to the Thai Premier League; only three teams will get such prestige; aside from 1st placed Airforce AVA FC (65 points), 3rd placed Bangkok FC (58 points) and 4th placed Singh Tharua FC (56 points) are also in contention for promotion.

All stakes considered, Phuket fans will be keeping their fingers crossed in hope that a repeat of last season's drubbing at PTT Stadium will not occur; but make no mistake the travel-weary Phuket squad that lost 6-0 last year was completely different from the current one.

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE

	TEAM	P	F	A	GD	PTS
1	Air Force	31	47	25	22	65
2	PTT Rayong	31	37	20	17	60
3	Bangkok	31	64	48	16	58
4	Port Lions	31	52	35	17	56
5	Korat	31	43	32	11	48
6	Trat FC	31	53	55	-2	42
7	Saraburi	31	42	38	4	41
8	Nakhon Pathom	31	40	40	0	39
9	Phuket	31	34	35	-1	39
10	Royal Navy	31	41	43	-2	39
11	Krabi	31	41	44	-3	38
12	BBCU FC	31	28	39	-11	38
13	Ayutthaya	31	34	39	-5	35
14	TTM FC	31	30	38	-8	35
15	Sriracha	31	45	49	-4	34
16	Khon Kaen	31	35	48	-13	32
17	Rayong FC	31	37	57	-20	27
18	Rayong Utd.	31	33	51	-18	23

Coach Teco looks forward...

"They [PTT Rayong] will try hard to beat us, but our aim is to play good football and try not to make any mistakes," Coach Teco assured.

As for next week, Phuket will play another Rayong-based team – Rayong United – in what will be the Islander's final home match of the season on Saturday, October 26.

"Even though Rayong United are already relegated, in the game of football you can never underestimate your opponents, so I think it will not be an easy match. But this is one match we must win for the supporters."

Phuket will conclude the season on November 2, on the road against 5th placed Nakhon Ratchasima FC – the Korat Swat Cats.

"Korat will also be hoping to win as it is the last game and at home for them, but we are not worried and will do our best," assured Teco.

Asked about his position and future with the club, the Brazilian international said that he is currently negotiating a new contract; aside from this, he also recently found out the sex of his unborn child, scheduled for birth in two months.

"It's a boy," he said proudly.

The *Gazette* would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Coach Teco and his family, wishing him and the club the best of luck in the conclusion of this season and beyond.

In other Phuket FC news: staff, players and supporters received some reparation after the club successfully appealed a red card which was issued to no 17, Kriangkrai Chasang in the club's 3-1 loss to Krabi on September 28.

According to an official TPL letter, as reported by Siam Multimedia company, the decision to downgrade the red card to a yellow card was made after TPL officials reviewed video of the incident and spoke to the match's referees.

The letter concluded that Kriangkrai's intent was to go for ball, and that when he committed the defensive foul, the attacking player (Valci Junior) did not have an indisputable chance on goal.

When volleying, you should reduce speed, not increase it. Photo: supplied

Layers of volleying

Tennis Tips
By Roger Cochrane

VOLLEYING can be either the most satisfying shot in tennis, or be the most intimidating. It can be a very unfamiliar area on the court or an area of tremendous enjoyment.

In PBI we don't use the word punch to describe the volley and this is the first layer to understand to become more effective at the net. Punching leads to a very aggressive mindset. You're definitely hitting something. Your arm goes from bent to straight when you punch. This is a fantastic idea when you're participating in a Muay Thai class here at Thanyapura, but we feel this is a negative action at the net on a tennis court.

Peter Burwash likes to call the volley a C&D shot, a controlled-directional shot. However, he is also the first to say if you are close to the net and the ball is high then just pound it, swing away, finish it - but until you get that opportunity for a super easy ball you need to be able to do a few other things.

The word 'catch' for the volley provides a much calmer and more realistic mindset for players. The volley should be about subtracting speed from the ball rather than adding speed. Simply put, adding is punching and subtracting is catching. When you catch a ball in your hand typically your arm is bent and your hands are soft, there is some 'give' when you catch an object. The same when you are volleying, there should be a little bit of 'give' and ultimately this give will equal feel and touch. The first layer that needs to be laid is for your hands to become softer, so catch the ball instead of punching it.

The next layer is simple racket preparation when the ball is coming at you. You need to prepare for the height of the ball coming to you. The ball coming at you will be high or low, it may be slow or fast but it is the height of the ball that is the important issue.

Another layer to add is aiming the volley. In reality this is the simplest aspect of volleying. We all understand mirrors and how they work. Aiming a volley is just like using a mirror. Simply put you are reflecting your opponents shot either back to them or away from them. Simply aim the mirror (your racket) where you want the ball to go and let it 'reflect' off of your racket. Aiming a volley is not such a big deal, getting to the ball and judging it correctly are far more difficult tasks, but once you get to the ball make it simple by just using your understanding of the mirror.

The last layer to add is the concept of backspin on the volley. If you understand the concept of having an open racket face (tilting the racket so it is slightly pointing towards the sky, or roof) then you are well on your way to being able to create backspin as you volley. A volley struck with an open racket face will create spin and there is no need to do anything more than that to create the spin. This spin creates friction with the air and slows the ball down. Spin also allows you to have more 'feel' when you are volleying. You must be able to 'subtract' speed on your volley to be a good volleyer. Spin, along with relaxed hands will allow this to happen.

The following are your points for review for getting unstuck with your volley game:

- Get away from thinking "punch"
- "Catch" the volleys
- Think about subtracting speed when you volley, as opposed to adding speed.
- Use a mirror to aim your volleys, reflect the ball away from your opponent.
- Hit volleys with an "open" racket face in order to create spin and consequently control.

These points will increase your comfort and success at the net. Happy controlled volleying!

Tip by Thanyapura's Tennis Head Coach, Roger Cochrane. *Email: tennis@thanyapura.com*

Get ready Karon: FIVB

Ranked 5th: Lilli – Seixas

Ranked 2nd: Holtwick-Semmler

THIS year's Phuket Thailand Open powered by PTT, the penultimate event of the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour, sees Brazil, Germany, Thailand and the USA with three teams apiece in the main draw. Italy has two teams and the remaining direct acceptances are made up of one team apiece from Argentina, China, Czech Republic, Finland, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Russia and Spain.

The Phuket Thailand Open powered by PTT is the biggest annual beach sporting event in Southeast Asia and will be staged on Karon beach, Phuket from October 29 to November 3. Qualification for the final eight places in the main draw will be held on Tuesday October 29, with the main draw starting on October 30 with two days of pool play, before changing to a single elimination format for the latter stages of the event.

The Brazilian trio includes the world ranked no 1 team of Talita and Lima and the no 3 ranked team of Maria Clara and Carol, whilst the German team has the world ranked no 2 team of Holtwick and Semmler and the no 8 ranked team of Ludwig and Walkenhorst. Thailand as the host nation has two direct acceptances; world ranked no 40 Radarong and Udom- chavee and world ranked no 69 Numwong and Hongpak. In addition the veteran pairing of Tenpaksee and Phokongploy have been given a wild card into the main draw. Admission to the tournament is free and a large sponsor zone on-site with activities and games will further enhance the spectator experience. For beach volleyball fans who are unable to travel to Phuket, SMM TV will telecast "live" matches involving the Thai teams from the opening day of the main draw, whilst the semifinals on Saturday, November 2 and the finals on Sunday, November 3 will be televised in Thailand on NBT and T-Sports.

– *Phuket Gazette*

The Phuket Thailand Open powered by PTT is supported by the Sports Authority of Thailand, PTT Public Company Limited, Thai Beverage Marketing Co Ltd, Tourism Authority of Thailand, Mazda Sales (Thailand) Co Ltd, Kata Group, Phuket Gazette, PGTV, Woraburi Resort and Spa, TOT Public Company Limited, Grand Sports, Tez Tour, O' Natural, 91.5 FM, Haad Thip Public Co., Ltd, and Jungceylon. Umbrella sponsors of the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour are Mikasa and Jinling Sports. For more information on the tournament, please contact Pentangle Promotions Co., Ltd at Tel: 02-3113414/5 or via the website at pentanglepromotions.com

Ranked 1st: Lima - Talita

Ranked 4th: Liliana – Baquerizo

Ranked 3rd: Marie Clara – Carol

Five more sports added to Phuket beach games

THE Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) gave approval to adding five more sports to the 4th Asian Beach Games, which will be hosted on Karon and Patong beaches in Phuket from November 14 to 21, 2014.

These include modern pentathlon (which includes shooting, fencing, swimming, horse-riding, and running); footvolley, beach athletics, beach body-building and flackball (American style beach football).

There are now 23 kinds of sports in the competition, including beach versions of water polo, marathon swimming, sepak takraw, handball, kabaddi, volleyball, woodball, sail-windsurf, basketball, football, wrestling (kurash), Thai boxing, jet ski racing, triathlon, water skiing, rock climbing and extreme aeronautic sports, effectively akeing it the competition's largest edition thus far.

At a recent press conference to announce a test preparation event, which will be held in Phuket from November 8 to December 1, 2013, Phuket Governor Maitree Inthusut encouraged Phuket residents to take part in the event. "The confirmation of readiness will be announced three months before the [2014] event starts. This lead-up time will be a good chance for more than 360,000 Phuketians to create some income," Gov Maitree said.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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