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Land Office chief indicted over encroachment

PHUKET (TNA, Gazette): Just one day after Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit slammed the Phuket office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) for not reporting cases of encroachment, a complaint was filed against Land Department Director Chairerk Dissaya-amnaj for failing to cancel a Chanote land title deed issued on 21 rai of mangrove forest in Rassada Village 3.

Monthon "Palad Rambo" Chartsuwan, an MNRE officer in charge of law enforcement issues, along with residents of Village 3, filed their complaint with Phuket City Police on March 29.

Several government agencies and Phuket MNRE officials had previously concluded that the disputed land is mangrove forest under Royal protection and that a Chanote title deed should never have been issued to former Interior Ministry Permanent Secretary Anan Anantakul in 1984. The deed was later passed onto K. Anan's family, he said.

Citing examples of deforestation and encroachment across the island, Gov Niran on March 28 criticized the Phuket office of the MNRE for failing to report any encroachment or make arrests, despite evidence that encroachment was continuing in some areas.

Speaking at the monthly meeting of the Phuket Provincial Security Committee, Gov Niran urged all agencies to step up the fight against illegal occupation and use of government land. He also called for better efforts to protect national forest, conservation land and other natural resources from exploitation.



MNRE official Monthon Chartsuwan files a complaint against Land Department Director Chairerk Dissaya-amnaj for failing to cancel a land title deed issued on 21 rai of mangrove forest in Rassada.

However, Paitoon Panchaiyaphum, chief of the Marine and Coastal Resource Conservation Center Region 4 Office in Phuket, reported that Phuket's marine and coastal resources were receiving adequate protection by his agency.

The center had received good co-operation from the dive industry and tourism-related businesses in monitoring protected areas, he said. The office dispatches patrol boats 15 days a month to prevent fishing within the three-kilometer exclusion zone, and other illegal activities, K. Paitoon said.

The agency is also working to create artificial reefs and minimize damage to coral reefs by installing moorings at dive sites so dive boats will not need to anchor, he said.

No suspects have been apprehended, the governor said.

Noting that such encroachment is often organized and paid for by influential investors, Gov Niran ordered the Phuket MNRE office to seek assistance from the provincial administration's environmental protection unit if they found themselves incapable of fulfilling their duties on their own.

Gov Niran vows to stamp out underage prostitution

By Sangkhae Leelanaporn

PHUKET: Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit has ordered Kathu Police Superintendent Col Grissak Songmoonak, Kathu District Chief Khantee Silapa and Patong Municipality officials to work together to immediately put a stop to underage girls working as prostitutes on the island.

The order follows recent sweeps of nightlife entertainment venues in Phuket as part of a crackdown ordered by Interior Minister Chalerm Yoobumrung. The raids turned up girls younger than 15 working as prostitutes at karaoke bars in Phuket City and Patong.

Governor Niran confirmed that "underage prostitutes" were discovered in Patong in late February.

"During the crackdown on entertainment venues in Patong staying open after the 2 am closing time, police found a number of Thai females younger than 15 working as prostitutes," he said.

Gov Niran did not reveal the names and locations of the bars or how many child prostitutes they employed.

Police reported that some of the girls had been brought to Phuket to work as prostitutes, making the issue one of human trafficking, said Gov Niran.

Last week, Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Piya Bharatasilpin said that one establishment on Phun Pol Rd Soi 11 in Phuket City, where there are a number of "massage parlors", had been closed after a girl younger than 15 was found working there.

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New airport chief announces expansion plans

By Janyaporn Morel

MAI KHAO: An increase of almost 16% in passenger throughput at Phuket International Airport (PIA) has prompted the announcement of plans to expand airport facilities to support up to 15 million arrivals and departures a year by 2011.

During a press conference held at PIA offices, PIA Director Wing Commander Wicha Nernlop said that the airport recorded 2.84 million arrivals and departures between October 2007 and February 2008, a 15.82% increase on the same period the previous year.

There were 5.5 million arrivals and departures at the airport in the fiscal year October 2006 to September 2007, he added.

"PIA can currently handle up to six million passengers a year, but the increasing number of visitors means facilities must be improved," K. Wicha said.

Initial plans include expansion of parking facilities by 12,500 square meters, which will provide 328 additional car-parking spaces and another 200 spaces for motorcycles, at a cost of 20 million baht, he said.

Current facilities, spread over 26,000sqm, comprise 366 car-parking spaces and 77 spaces for buses, he added.

A budget has yet to be finalized for new terminal buildings, which will take about three years to complete, he said.

Work on improving public facilities – toilets in particular – is already underway, he added.

"PIA only has 1,300 rai at its disposal, limiting the scope of possible expansion," said K. Wicha.

"There are two limousine companies operating at the airport, which gives customers a choice, but we are in discussions with the limousine operators to find ways of improving their service," he added.

'Bogus cops' slay Burmese in failed extortion

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

KATHU: A Burmese laborer was executed by a shotgun blast to the face on the night of March 30 after refusing to pay money demanded by two Thai men posing as undercover police officers, Tung Tong's police chief has told the *Gazette*.

Tung Tong District Police Superintendent Col Arayapan Pukbuakhao on March 31 identified the victim as So Sung, 25, a construction worker living at a workers' camp on the road that runs along the northern boundary of Loch Palm Golf Course.

The murder was reported to police about 10 pm by Akasak Hemklang, owner of the

construction company Muang Ake Built Up Ltd, which has been contracted to build a project in the area.

Witnesses said two well-built men covered with tattoos arrived at the camp on a small motorbike. Identifying themselves as off-duty police officers, they demanded money from workers, Col Arayapan explained.

After collecting 190 baht from one woman and 500 baht from another, So Sung emerged from his room and told his fellow workers not to pay because the pair were only students, not real police, Col Arayapan said.

This enraged the men, one of whom shot

So Sung in the face and neck before fleeing, he added.

Police arrived to find the victim lying face up wearing only a Burmese-style sarong.

His body was sent to Patong Hospital for examination.

Police artists are working on composite sketches based on witnesses' descriptions to track down the pair, Col Arayapan said.

Initial evidence suggests that the culprits were professional gangsters and not students, he said.

Police have begun showing eyewitnesses photos of possible suspects in the case, Col Arayapan added.

Post office sting nets 10,000 ya bah pills

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PHUKET CITY: Phuket Police intercepted a package containing 10,000 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills with an estimated street value of 5 million baht at the Phuket City Post Office on March 21.

The seizure came after the arrest the day before of two men in Phuket City for possession of illegal firearms, Region 8 Police commander Lt Gen Thane Thawisri announced at a press conference on March 24.

Gen Thane said that Phuket natives Sorrapong "Aod" Phadungkarn, 30, and Pathitta Mathong, 23, were in possession of two automatic handguns, a modified rifle and about 160 rounds of ammunition.

Police also seized bank account books and deposit slips as evidence of transactions worth 7 million baht, he added.

On March 20, undercover narcotics agents received a tip-off that Aod and Pathitta were awaiting a large shipment of *ya bah* pills to arrive via Thailand Post's express mail service, said Gen Thane.

At 9 pm that day, a team of officers led by Phuket City Pol



Region 8 Police commander Lt Gen Thane Thawisri points to weapons seized in the initial raid.

Lt Col Pongnarin Suthin searched the couple's residence at 207 Wande Apartments in Rassada, where officers found the cache of weapons, bank slips and bankbooks, said Gen Thane.

During interrogation, the suspects said that a package containing *ya bah* sent from Northern Thailand would arrive at the Phuket City Post Office the next morning, he said.

At 9:30 am on March 21, officers retrieved a large cardboard box from Aod's postal box. Inside was a plastic container of fermented fruit and a second container of *ya bah* pills in blue bags.

A total of 50 bags, each containing 200 pills, were seized.

Police suggested the fermented fruit was used to conceal the drug's scent.

Man stabbed to death in Soi Romanee

PHUKET CITY: A sound technician tidying up after a jazz event in the popular tourist street Soi Romanee was stabbed to death early on March 31 after a reported "misunderstanding".

Lt Col Adul Nirapai of Phuket City Police said that police received a call at 2:10 am, reporting that a man had been stabbed in Soi Romanee.

"We arrived to find Komkrit Koysomboon crying, standing over the body of his friend 45-year-old Sanit Pumsuwan, from Samut Prakan," Lt Col Adul said.

"Komkrit was walking across the road to place a keyboard outside his house when a gang of motorcyclists sped past just in front of him.

"He swore at the motorcyclists after they had passed, but three men drinking in a pickup parked nearby thought that he was swearing at them,

"An argument started and Sanit came to help Komkrit. Sanit pulled out a knife and pointed it at the three men. They began fighting and Sanit was stabbed with his own knife," he said.

"Sanit was stabbed 11 times in the chest and down his left side. He bled to death.

"We are still searching for the three men," Lt Col Adul said.

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Murder fugitive arrested in Patong

By Sompratch Saowakhon

PATONG: Kathu Police took into custody on the night of March 27 a fugitive wanted for murder and other crimes committed in Samut Prakan in December 2006.

Kathu Police Inspector for Investigations Lt Col Chalermchai HERNSAWAT identified the suspect as Kriengkrai "Krieng" Saelee, 26, a native of Tambon Paknam, Muang District, Samut Prakan.

Kriengkrai was arrested about 10:30 pm while selling clothes at a stall at the Ko Kaew outdoor market on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, near Jungceylon.

The Samut Prakan Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Kriengkrai on January 4 this year for charges of murder, attempted murder, illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition, and discharging a firearm in public, Lt Col Chalermchai said.

The arrest warrant was distributed to police nationwide after the suspect fled Samut Prakan, he said.

Kriengkrai moved to Patong to live with relatives who owned a clothing stall at the Ko Kaew Market, Lt Col Chalermchai added.

Police in Samut Prakan told



Fugitive murder suspect Kriengkrai 'Krieng' Saelee, 26, was taken into custody in Patong on March 27.

a press conference on March 30 that Krieng was wanted for the shooting murder of a 14-year-old girl in the waning hours of 2006.

Maj Pakpum Hoyai of Samut Prakan Muang District Police identified Krieng's victim as Ketsaraporn Chuenban, a student at Haad Ammara School in Samut Prakan at the time of her murder.

Maj Pakpum told the *Gazette* that many of the victim's relatives and friends had attended the event to see the man who had taken Ketsaraporn's life. Among them was the victim's mother, Ketsanee Munmom, 41.

Crying and overcome with rage, she attacked Krieng and slapped him in the face several times before police were able to pull her away, Maj Pakpum said.

On the night of December 31, 2006, Ketsaraporn, her boyfriend and other New Year's Eve revelers were preparing to ring in 2007 in front of her home in Tambon Thai Ban Mai, Muang District, Samut Prakan, he explained.

About 11:30 pm, Krieng and three male friends arrived at the home on motorcycles.

The gang had been fighting with members of a rival gang who were also celebrating at the victim's home, Maj Pakpum said.

Riding pillion, Krieng opened fire with a short-barrel shotgun. Ketsaraporn was killed and two of her friends, both male students from her school, were injured, he added.

The other three men were arrested and charged, but Krieng managed to escape and fled to Phuket. He had been living in Phuket for about a year before his capture, he said.

Maj Pakpum named the other three men as Kunapan "Pom" Hemsuwan, 20; Vitun "Ko" Pon-Eim, 37; and Pornthep Mee-Sri, 31.



A plume of black smoke rises above Patong as The Courtyard, formerly the Grand Tropicana Hotel, burns on March 28.

– Photo by Yann Flavelli.

Marriott's Courtyard ablaze

PATONG: Crowds gathered on Ruamjai Rd on the afternoon of March 28 as flames engulfed the corner section of The Courtyard hotel, formerly known as the Grand Tropicana Phuket and now owned by Marriott.

"The fire started about 2 pm and took firefighters about 30 minutes to put out," Kathu Police Superintendent Col Grissak Songmoonnak told the *Gazette*.

"We believe that a spark from workers carrying out construction might have ignited insulation and started the fire," he said.

"We have no more information at this time. We are still investigating the cause of the fire. It is too early to put a value on the extent of the damage," Col Grissak added.

The Phuket Grand Tropicana hotel made headlines in February last year after several guests contracted legionnaires' disease, which was found in the hotel's cooling system.

Sweden mulls issuing travel warnings

PHUKET CITY: The Swedish Embassy in Bangkok is considering posting warnings on its website advising Swedish women of potential dangers when traveling in Thailand.

The move comes after a number of sexual assaults and killings of female foreign tourists in recent years, most recently the stabbing murder of 26-year-old Swedish tourist Hanna Backlund on March 15 at Mai Khao Beach.

"We are considering posting a general warning on our website addressing the dangers one faces when traveling in Thailand," said General Consul Christina Palm from the Swedish Consulate in Phuket.

Other countries have al-

ready taken such measures. "We continue to receive reports of sexual offenses committed against foreign women and men," the British Embassy warns on its website.

"Female travelers in particular should maintain a high state of personal awareness during their time in Thailand," the warning states.

Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit was recently quoted as saying Miss Backlund's murder had hurt Phuket's reputation.

Tourism is the biggest earner of foreign money for Thailand, bringing in more than US\$16 billion in 2007.

Other violent attacks against female Swedish tourists in recent

years include the rape of a 12-year-old girl and the attempted rape of a woman, both on Koh Samui in January 2006.

At a recent press conference, Thai Tourist Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Choochart Suwannakom was quoted as saying his department would follow through with a plan to distribute whistles to female foreign tourists at beach destinations as a way of ensuring their safety.

– Ingrid Jakobsen

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BIS launches E-waste for art project

KOH KAEW: Year 12 students at British International School, Phuket are collecting discarded hardware to use in their E-waste Sculpture Project.

People are encouraged to support the project by donating old hardware, such as computer parts, phones, remote controls and video players.

The aim of the project is to raise awareness of the growing global problem of electronic waste.

The disposal of electronic components in landfills is a growing concern worldwide as the heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and mercury that they contain can leach into groundwater long after being dumped.

Donations can be made until the end of April by calling 076-238711 or email: azielinska@bcis.ac.th

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Trash: A big problem

With a multitude of unregistered inhabitants in Phuket and growing numbers of tourist arrivals to the province, garbage has reached unmanageable volumes with which the island is struggling to cope.

The sole existing incinerator located in Saphan Hin cannot keep up with high demand and does not have the capacity to burn the vast quantities of garbage produced on the island.

The incinerator can burn up to 250 tonnes of garbage a day, far short of Phuket's daily garbage generation of about 520 tonnes daily.

Waste that is not burned is piled behind the incinerator in landfills next to water-retention ponds.

This practice has already wreaked an environmental catastrophe.

Last June, toxic effluent from the retention ponds leaked into nearby mangrove forests and into Khlong Koh Kui and Khlong Koh Phee, killing large quantities of farmed fish and other marine life there.

The problem is predicted to worsen. Government studies es-

Phuket's waste-handling resources are being stretched beyond their limits – and so far the funds needed to tackle the issue on a large scale have failed to materialize.

Gazette reporters Sangkhae Leelanapaporn and Pathomporn Kaenkrachang ask some key government officials what's being done to solve the mounting garbage problem.

estimate that up to 1,000 tonnes of garbage generated per day by 2013.

Comprehensive studies into the investment of a second incinerator at the plant have already been conducted, but approval was never granted by the military-installed government.

P h u k e t Governor Niran Kalayanamit said in October last year that the proposal would likely be approved after national elections in December, but so far it remains in limbo.

To fill the gap, local government administrations and the private sector have therefore introduced a number of local waste-reduction plans and projects in recent months.



'We are currently collecting used glass in Cherng Talay every Wednesday,' said Mar-ann Samraan, vice-president of Cherng Talay OrBorTor.

A tale of two cities

Cherng Talay and Patong are among the island's fastest-growing areas and both are suffering huge trash-management headaches.

In Cherng Talay, Tawat Rojthanapong, director of Health and Environment of Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), said that only about 10,000 residents are registered in the area, but the actual number of people working and living there is triple that amount.

Foreign workers, workers from other provinces and hotel employees who move there from other districts have created a growing demand for accommodation, bars and restaurants in recent years, he said.

This, in turn, has attracted construction workers, creating an increase in the number of construction camps.

"We collect 30 to 35 tonnes of garbage daily, or 950 tonnes monthly," K. Tawat explained.

"Last December, which is the peak period for tourists visiting Phuket, we collected a whopping 980 tons. Four or five years ago the number was about 10 tonnes daily."

About half of the waste is organic, while 20% to 25% is glass bottles.

A glass-recycling program was announced in February to much fanfare, but it is not yet fully operational.

On February 13, Natural Resources and Environment Min-



ister Anongwan Thepsuthin presided over the launch of the glass program together with the Phuket Provincial Administration Office (*OrBorJor*), the Cherng Talay OrBorTor, the Development of Environment and Energy Foundation (DEE), and the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion.

The Cherng Talay OrBorTor is to collect bottles and provide a central site where the private company Bangkok Glass Co is to then sort and deliver to trad-

ers for 70 satang per kilogram. The company has been operating a similar project in Khon Kaen.

So far, however, the Bangkok Glass end of the deal has yet to come into effect.

Mar-ann Samraan, vice-president of Cherng Talay OrBorTor, said, "We are currently collecting used glass from hotels and from 7-Eleven shops in Cherng Talay every Wednesday using OrBorTor trucks.

"The glass is then dumped

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in need of bright ideas

Garbage dumped in Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd Soi 2, in Patong, is just part of the 80 to 100 tonnes of trash produced in Patong every day during high season. With up to 100,000 people in Patong at any one time during the holiday season, the waste problem is in dire need of a solution.



in the low season and 80 to 100 tonnes in the high season. Within the next five years, this number is expected to soar to 135 tonnes a day.

“We have never conducted a survey into the makeup of Patong’s garbage, but it is believed that bottles pose the largest problem of the different types of waste,” he said.

“In the past, no-one seemed interested in collecting the glass waste as it was heavy and cumbersome and generated only small profits – as little as 20 satang per kilogram,” K. Wirat added.

“Now things are looking up with Bangkok Glass Co expressing interest in collecting the bottles with a view to selling them on.

“Also, the bottle situation improved even further recently with a Phuket-based secondhand shop also showing interest in taking the glass off our hands,” he said.

Garbage is currently collected twice daily by 16 garbage trucks and separated by garbage workers before being delivered to the incinerator in Saphan Hin.

“We allow the garbage workers to keep the things that they think they can sell themselves, because they receive only a modest salary that does not stretch far in a place like Phuket,” K. Wirat said.

A Patong-based incinerator is out of the question due to prohibitive land costs for such a facility and regulations that ban such a project in the area.

A scheme to improve

Patong’s waste-management system by distributing plastic garbage bags in 10 colors, each designated for a particular category of waste, was announced in September last year.

The project has yet to get off the ground, due to lack of budget. There are also concerns about how the multitude of bins required would appear in a tourism area.

Another plan, still in its infancy, has recently been launched. Over the past four months, Patong Municipality has



Wirat Jinda, director of Health and Environment of Patong Municipality, said that the garbage problem in Patong has already reached ‘crisis levels’.

been using a garbage-converter machine courtesy of the Industry Engineering Club (*Chomlorn Usahakam Kreungjakol*) that transforms food waste into materials used to make dishwashing liquid, glass, plastic and construction materials.

In addition to more facilities, better environmental education is needed, said K. Wirat. Unauthorized dumping of construction waste and people’s

tendency to ignore rules on littering are adding to the problem, he added.

“I have been to Malaysia and Singapore on educational garbage-management tours and I’m very impressed with both countries and the fact that people seem to respect the littering laws,” he said.

“Thai people don’t. We have the wrong kind of attitude. Cheating the system seems to be regarded as desirable. This has to be changed.”

The circle game

While local governments struggle to get their waste-management systems up to speed, little is happening at the national level to support their efforts.

Governor Niran said back in October that alternatives to central government support have been sought.

“If the central government does not approve funding for another incinerator, the private sector may then be offered the chance to tackle the island’s garbage-disposal problems instead,” he said.

If this is the case and the private sector is prepared to invest, then sections of the Public-Private Investment Act will have to be changed, said Governor Niran.

Multi-million-baht plans for alternative garbage-disposal solutions have already been submitted by PTT and Ecco, which were outlined in the signing of an MOU between the Ministry of Energy, Phuket Province and British renewable-energy company Sepco, Gov Niran explained.

Sepco has already surveyed the Phuket incinerator area and said that it would be able to dispose of the garbage in the 128-rai landfill, turning it into a green zone and public area using modern garbage-disposal technology from the UK.

Even if this plan goes through, it has been widely acknowledged that simply increasing incineration capacity is not a viable long-term solution to Phuket’s waste management needs.

While recycling and collection initiatives at the local level should help alleviate trash woes, it is clear that without some big ideas and large-scale government backing, these will prove to be band-aid solutions to a growing environmental crisis.

behind the *OrBorTor* office on Srisoontorn Rd.

“We made a deal with Bangkok Glass to come and remove the glass for delivery to Bangkok, but not enough glass has built up yet because we just started the project two months ago,” he said.

Cherng Talay will host another waste-reduction facility, an *OrBorJor* project to transform organic waste into fertilizer. The facility is scheduled to open this month.

Back in Patong, however, the garbage problem has already reached “crisis levels”, said Wirat Jinda, director of Patong Municipality’s Health and Environment department.

He said that the number of residents registered as living in Patong is 18,087, but the real figure is closer to 50,000.

In the tourist season, this number jumps to about 100,000, he said.

Some 65 to 85 tonnes of garbage is produced daily in Patong



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Queer News

Burglar busted during cat nap

NAKHON SRI THAMMARAT: In most professions, apart from those involving heavy machinery or driving perhaps, falling asleep on the job will earn you a strict telling off, a warning letter or in the worst case, the sack.

In the burglary trade, however, sleeping on the job can have somewhat more serious consequences as one young army deserter in Phraphrom District discovered March 27.

Pvt Chanchai Phanrak, 25, who a few days earlier had deserted his unit at their base in Chonburi, was found fast asleep in bed by Chaiwat Phensawat, 22, the son of the owner of the house he was robbing in Village 6 Tambon Naphru.

K. Chaiwat was on his way to the bathroom, when he noticed a strange man sleeping on his sister's bed – his sister was staying with a relative at the time – and her possessions scattered around the room.

Chaiwat crept in for a closer look to make sure the man really was a stranger and then called his father, Prawet Phensawat, 46.

The pair grabbed the sleeping stranger, tied him up and waited for the police.

Police soon arrived to arrest the sleepy trespasser. Police said that Pvt Chanchai confessed that six days before his fateful nap, he had requested a day's leave from his base in Chonburi and then fled back to the South where



Hapless Pvt Chanchai Phanrak (right) was found fast asleep after he had attempted to burgle a house. 'When I got into the room, however, I found that the bed was very soft and comfortable,' he said.

he was from.

He also confessed that at the time of his desertion, he had only just been released from military prison where he had been incarcerated on charges of theft.

"Before the incident, I'd been visiting a relative in Maharaj Hospital [in Nakhon Sri Thammarat City]. I then wandered around aimlessly until it was nearly dawn when I came across a house with a window open.

I decided to sneak in and rob the house. When I got into the room, however, I found that the

bed was very soft and comfortable. I thought I'd just lie down and shut my eyes for a moment and then make my escape with the things I had stolen. But because I was so tired, I fell fast asleep. The next thing I knew the occupants of the house had me pinned down," Pvt Chanchai lamented.

Lt Col Wutipong Titisroj, Deputy Superintendent of Phraphrom Police Station, said that Pvt Chanchai had committed at least 10 burglaries and his commanding officer would be notified of his arrest so he could be prosecuted.

Heartbroken man leaps to his death at hotel

PHUKET CITY: A young Thai man was found dead on the morning of March 28 after falling from his 19th floor room at the Royal Phuket City hotel.

Maj Wicharn Suwannasit, Inspector at Phuket City Police Station, said that police received a call at 2 am from hotel staff reporting that a man had been found dead on the fourth-floor outdoor deck of the hotel.

Police identified the man as Charas Srituwant, 24, from Chonburi. "Charas was dressed in shorts and a brown T-shirt. In his wallet, we found US\$272 and about 3,000 baht. He worked on a cruise liner," Maj Wicharn said.

K. Charas checked in to the hotel on March 27, but the room had been booked in the name of a female friend of his, whom Maj Wicharn declined to name.

"They had dinner in the hotel room but they started arguing because K. Charas said that he loved her, but she said she just wanted to be friends," Maj Wicharn told the *Gazette*.

"She left K. Charas' room about midnight. The last thing he said to her when she was in the elevator was that if she did not love him in this life, then he hoped to see her again in his next life," he added.

"K. Charas and the woman had been friends for about seven years, but they both had their own separate partners," Maj Wicharn said, adding that K. Charas was engaged to be married to another woman.

Police found no evidence of foul play and are treating the death as a suicide, Maj Wicharn said.

Police nab motorcycle thief

PHUKET CITY: A prolific motorcycle thief has been charged with stealing four motorbikes in Phuket within a four-week period.

At about 5 pm on March 23, a police officer spotted Nakhon Ratchasima native Sankom Kraiam, 21, by the side of the road outside Soi Tawee Sup in Wichit removing a number plate from a Honda Click motorcycle, said Phuket City Police Superintendent Col Nos Svettalekha.

The officer approached Sankom and radioed Phuket City Police Station, officers there confirmed that the plate number and bike description matched that of a motorcycle reported stolen at 11 pm the night before, he added.

The bike had been stolen from outside the owner's home in Rassada, he said.

Sankom was arrested at the scene and taken to Phuket City Police Station, where he confessed to stealing the Honda Click and three other motorcycles in Phuket, Col Nos added.

Sankom told police that earlier in March he had stolen a

Honda Click from Koh Sireh and a Kawasaki Neon that he had hidden behind a tree in Saphan Hin, only for it to be discovered by a passerby who then alerted Phuket City Police, Col Nos said.

On March 22, Sankom stole a black Suzuki Step in Wichit, he added.

"He would look for an unlocked motorcycle parked outside a house and wheel it out of sight. Sankom would then go and make a counterfeit key at his home so that he could return to the bike and ride away on it. He would either keep the bike or sell it for 3,000 baht," said Col Nos.

Sankom, who was released from Kathu Police Station in December last year for stealing mobile phones in Patong, has been charged with robbing at nighttime, which carries harsher punishments than robbing during the day, said Col Nos.

He is being detained at Phuket City Police Station, he said.

The bikes are being held by Phuket City Police while the investigation continues, he added.

- Alin Boonkrungthong

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Big bikes boost dampened spirits

Unusual weather patterns for this time of year, with heavy rain each afternoon, have shattered dreams of most Khao Lak-based businessmen who hoped to cash in during the Easter spike in tourist numbers before the wet season begins.

This year, however, the wet season came more than a month early. This is mind boggling, especially as the previous wet season was so long and heavy. The rain in March was so heavy that most visitors to Khao Lak were confined to their resorts and dined at resort restaurants.

Hardest hit were local dive shops, receiving many cancellations and complaints, especially when visibility at the Similans Islands dropped to an all-time low after a storm at the end of March.

After the storm, visibility as short as five meters was reported – a nightmare for any Similans-lover knowing that visibility of up to 50 meters is possible.

The slippery roads caused several traffic accidents in and around Khao Lak.

Local drivers still find it unnecessary to switch on their headlights when heavy rain impairs visibility. At least two motorists were killed in the center of Khao Lak in March.

A 100-meter stretch of the guardrail at the first curve near Khao Lak beach, on the southern half of Lamru National Park, has been destroyed after weekly incidents of cars and trucks slamming into it.

Until the end of 2007, the local *OrBorTor* replaced that part of rail on a monthly basis, but any interest in doing so now is gone.

Local authorities have yet to erect warning signs and road



Custom bikes and their riders stopped off at Khao Lak on their way to Phuket Bike Week.

markings signaling the sharp curve ahead – something long overdue.

Face off. In the past six months a number of new shops, pubs, restaurants and plazas have opened around Khao Lak center, near the Nang Thong Beach intersection and along Bang Niang Rd. There are too many new businesses to list on this page.

Khao Lak's appearance has changed dramatically – some say for the better, while others say they preferred the old, laid-back pre-tsunami Khao Lak.

Khao Lak's popularity

among Thailand fans is at an all-time high, making it inevitable that the face of the area will change continuously.

Khao Lak-lovers need not worry, however, because in contrast to destinations such as Krabi, where all development is concentrated around a single beach, Khao Lak's 120-kilometer-long coastline provides enough space to cater for the upcoming tourism boom without making it as overcrowded as Patong and Pattaya.

Easy Rider. On March 7 and 8, Bang Niang Beach was host to Khao Lak's first Bike Show, which was a lighter version of the annual Phuket Bike Week. The event was organized by K. Damon, owner of Badgers Biker Bar, located on Petchkasem Rd halfway between Nang Thong and Bang Niang beaches.

Organizing Bike Show staff placed "No Drugs" signs all over the area, supporting the official efforts. Instead of offending Khao Lak visitors, the money for the road signs could have been used to educate Thailand's youth about the negative effects of riding tuned-up Honda Dreams recklessly and the prolonged effects of using *ya bah* (methamphetamine), the latter being a huge problem that has been ignored by Thai officials for more than a decade.

Even though there were some minor glitches in the live-music part of the show, the event was hailed a success by its organizers, which it clearly was given the short amount of time available for promotion.

Beautifully crafted, custom Harleys and hard-bodied biker babes were all on show, with live music and beer a-plenty.

Nearby restaurants were packed and received a fair slice of the trade.

Expats have their fingers crossed that the event will be repeated next year. Anything that helps boost interest in Khao Lak is a stepping stone towards the beach becoming a leading tourism destination in Thailand.

Franky Gun is an expat writer, artist, designer, scuba instructor and businessman who left Germany in 1991 to live in Thailand. He moved to Khao Lak in 2001 and since calls Khao Lak his home. Franky can be contacted via email to: avalon@loxinfo.co.th



ANDAMAN COASTING
By Franky Gun

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Dentist gunned down by patient

A young dentist was shot dead by a patient in the clinic where she worked in Songkhla's Sadao district on March 22.

Police suspect the patient was actually a hired gunman.

Phichaya Asawasunthornnet, 26, was shot by a patient in the OK Saha Clinic in Daan Nok, a town along the border with Malaysia and home to Thailand's busiest land-border-immigration checkpoint.

Witnesses told police that as Dr Phichaya was turning away from the patient to pick up some dental tools, the patient drew a 9mm pistol and shot her three times in the back before fleeing from the clinic. He escaped in an Izusu DMax pickup truck, they said.

Dr Phichaya was rushed to Sadao Hospital by her boyfriend Purana Lohanawakul, the owner of the clinic.

From there she was transferred to the better-equipped Prince of Songkla University Hospital in Haad Yai, where she died from her wounds.

The gunman registered in the patient's log under the name "Phairoj Seubsai", but a subsequent investigation revealed that no such person exists, police said.

Officers believe the man was a hired gunman.

A personal dispute, possibly linked to the victim's relationship with the owner of the clinic, is likely to have been the motive for the killing, police said.

The clinic owner had been married once before, they noted.

Fish shock. A man was killed while using a live electric cable to shock fish in Songkhla's Singhanakhon District on March 29.

Friends rushed 24-year-old Theeraphong Choptang to Songkhla Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival. Doctors established the cause of death as multiple organ failure caused by a massive electric shock.

Hospital authorities notified



Explosive rounds

One of four soldiers injured in Pattani's Nong Jik District on March 27, when an improvised explosive device buried beneath the road surface was remotely detonated by suspected insurgents. The soldiers, in a Humvee, were escorting military doctors on their rounds to local villages at the time of the blast.

Cap Pratheep Onrot, duty officer at Songkhla Muang District Police station, of the incident.

Police investigating the incident learned that on the morning of his death, K. Theeraphong went fishing with friends in Ban Nong Hoi in Singhanakhon District's Tambon Chingkho.

K. Theeraphong was using a live wire to stun fish in the pond so they would be easy to catch. After he accidentally electrocuted himself, his friends rushed him to hospital, but he died on the way.

Malay mystery. A Malaysian tourist was found beaten to death in his room at the Cathay Hotel

in Yala's Betong district on the morning of March 22.

Police were called to the hotel at 10:30 am after cleaners found the victim's body lying on the floor of the room.

The man appeared to be in his mid-forties, police said.

The room showed signs of a violent struggle; furniture was scattered and the walls and bed were splattered with blood.

From the victim's hand, police collected as evidence strands of hair believed to be those of his killer.

The victim checked into the hotel on March 21 with four other Malaysian men, hotel staff told police.

Shortly before midnight, guests heard a violent argument in Room 207 and a hotel security guard went to ask the men to keep the noise down.

At 8:30 am the next morning, four of the men checked out. A cleaning woman said that one of the men told her not to clean room 207 just yet as their friend was still sleeping. Reception staff told police that the group seemed in an unusual hurry to leave.

After being informed of the killing, the police alerted officers at all border crossings to keep a watch out for the four Malaysians. The body of the victim was taken to Betong Hospital

for autopsy.

Police suspect the victim was killed after having an argument with his companions.

Teachers flee. More than 200 teachers in government schools in four border districts of Songkhla province have sought transfer out of the area, a senior education official said on March 28.

Soljai Wibulkij, director of Songkhla Education Service Area 3 office, said the teachers stated their wish to be transferred out of the districts at the end of the school year.

Some wanted to work in schools close to their families, while others want to be transferred out of the violence-stricken areas, K. Soljai said.

Forest fears. National-park officials are worried that the insurgency in the Deep South may be contributing to the depletion of the area's forestland and biodiversity.

Last year, rangers at The 340-square-kilometer Budo-Sungai Padi National Park reported 13 arrests for illegal logging with seizure of hundreds of cubic metres of hardwood timber.

Park Superintendent Sitthichai Madsri said the arrests represent only a tiny fraction of loggers who have invaded the park, which encompasses the range of hills that stretches through the provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat.

"Entering the forest is like entering 'no man's land'. It is too dangerous to send in rangers as we don't know who is who. We only have old shot guns while they carry modern weaponry," K. Sitthichai said.

"We dare not even ask security officers to fly in patrol helicopters because of the high risk of being shot down."

Around the South news round-up is sourced from the pages of The Nation, Daily Xpress and Kom Chad Luek newspapers.

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Caution urged over testicle chop shops

Boys who want to change sex by having their testicles surgically removed should think again, experts have warned. The warning follows a complaint by gay activist Nathee Theerarojjanaphon to the Medical Council that a 16-year-old boy in Chiang Mai province had his testicles removed and his two friends, aged 14 and 15, were also seeking to have the operation.

Removing their testicles could make their complexion and body look like that of a woman, the boys believed.

Dr Supachai Kunaratnapruk, chief of the Public Health Ministry's Department of Health Service Support Department, said there is no scientific evidence that removing a boy's testicles can change his sexual appearance and complexion.

Instead of looking beautiful, boys would face dangerous side-effects and risk having to take hormone drugs for the rest of their lives, she said.

Most sex-change operations for male teenagers in Thailand have been done by legal and illegal clinics in Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Phuket, she added.

The clinics use websites to advertise the operations, which cost 4,000 to 5,000 baht.

Dr Supachai said that most operations are of poor standard and dangerous.

Medical Council secretary-general Amnat Kulasanant said his agency will charge any physicians who perform sex-change operations on boys under 18 without parental consent.

Conniving to be cops. There were 161 cases of cheating reported by would-be police cadets sitting the annual Royal Thai Police entry exam, which were taken by nearly 100,000 applicants, said Deputy national police spokesman Pol Maj Gen Ruengsak Jaritek.

Total scores, individual scores and amount of right and wrong answers were exactly the same among the 161 cheats, he said.

When the cheats were asked to retake the exam, the results varied widely, he added.

For love or money. Many women in Isarn are paying large sums to matchmaking agencies in the hope of finding foreign husbands.

In January, one agency in Khon Kaen allegedly took more than 10 million baht from local women looking for well-to-do farangs, said Lt Col Verravoot Siangsai of the Khon Kaen Muang District Police.

Some agencies charge up to 70,000 baht for introductions and a chance to meet after a series of online chats.

If a couple introduced to each other by an agency marry, the agency charges another 50,000 baht, plus 10% of the dowry paid by the foreign groom, he said.

About 50 women made complaints about several agencies in January, but only one filed



Hot season

Contestants pose during the swimsuit competition of the Elite Model Look Thailand 2008, held March 24 at Sofitel Centara Grand Hotel in Bangkok.

an official complaint because the rest were too embarrassed, he said.

"Not all foreigners agree to marry the women after they meet. Some men came just to have sex," he noted.

Sonic boom. Seven people were injured in Samut Prakan when a truck's natural gas cylinder exploded while being filled at a PTT gas station on Bang Na-Trat Rd about 12:30 am on March 30.

Police suspected that the tank might have been defective or the staff tried to overfill it.

Injured were two gas station workers, the drivers of two other vehicles, the station owner and two staff of the gas station convenience store. Most of them suffered ear injuries.

Splashing out. The Public Health Ministry wants to teach as many as 11 million children under 15 years old to swim.

Teaching more children to swim will reduce the number of drownings each year, said Public Health Minister Chaiya Sasomsap, who wants the number of children who die by drowning to

fall below 1,200 annually by the year 2010.

The ministry on March 26 launched a project to provide free swimming lessons to 400 children.

K. Chaiya said that the leading cause of death in under-15s is drowning. Most victims are between the ages of five to nine and most drownings occur in March and April, when children are on school holidays and the weather is hottest, he said.

Just 16% of approximately 13 million children under 15 know how to swim, he said.

It is an essential skill that will save many lives, he added.

Hot heads. The rising temperatures have seen a correlation in the rising number of patients seeking psychiatric help in Nakhon Ratchasima province.

The number of patients at Nakhon Ratchasima Psychiatric Hospital has risen by 20% since the hot season began, its deputy director, Dr Norachat Rattana-chata, said on March 28.

Most patients are over 40 years old. Common symptoms are insomnia, depression, stress and mental disorders, he said.

Passport to prison. Police in Bangkok on March 28 arrested Korean Kim Hoi Sung for allegedly forging passports for sale.

Mr Kim was arrested on Soi Lard Prao 96 at 1:15 pm while delivering false passports to an undercover police officer.

Tourist Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Chuchart Suwannakhom said police seized 63 South Korean and Hong Kong passports from Kim.

Kim said that he had been living in Thailand for seven years and had been hired to forge passports at the rate of 10,000 baht each, police said.

He superimposed pictures of his customers on passports that he bought from South Korea, police said.

Online car tax payment. The Land Transport Department now accepts online payments for vehicle taxes through 10 banks.

The service, which began last week, is expected to welcome payments from 200,000 vehicle owners in its initial stage.

Each year, 27 million cars in Thailand are subjected to road taxes totaling around 16 billion baht.

Around the Nation news roundup is sourced from the pages of The Nation, Daily Xpress and Kom Chad Luek newspapers.

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By Nick Davies

Sufficiency Economy keeps agriculture local

Tucked away on the slopes of Nakkert hills off Chao Fa East Rd, an allotment overflows with indigenous plants, fruit trees, palms and orchids for sale. This is one of Phuket's two Sufficiency Economy agricultural projects supported by the Department of Agricultural Extension under the Ministry of Agriculture. The second project is in Cherng Talay.

The project provides a central location where locals can turn their home-grown produce into income and agricultural knowledge can be passed on to the community. School children go there on day trips to learn about grass-root economies, while horticulturists come to buy plants, trees and flowers at reasonable prices, including a wide range of indigenous orchids.

Sufficiency Economy is a theory of a self-supporting micro-economy at village level that was conceived by HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej. The phrase "One Tambon One Farm" was coined under the same premise as the better-known "One Tambon One Product" concept.

HM The King's wish was to see a traditional way of communal self-sufficiency maintained that provides sustainable incomes for community members while preserving traditional ways of life, free from the trappings of spiraling debts that many were experiencing as they embraced modern, yet often more-costly and less-sustainable, farming methods.

A small wooden shack on the plot of land is adorned with easy-to-read posters depicting the methods and benefits of following the self-sufficiency initiative.

The area is also a resting space for community members and doubles as a conference venue for visiting officials to pass on concepts and methods



The Sufficiency Economy project at Soi Nagkok is a boon for local community members and indigenous plants. Local rubber tapper K. Wirat can earn extra income from cultivating plants that he is also helping to save from extinction.

of sustainable agriculture.

Among the most striking and colorful plants growing in this hillside garden are the varieties of orchid that have been carefully transplanted onto old wood and hung from trellises.

Many of the orchids hang-

ing there are unique to the area and include varieties that were on the verge of extinction.

In the past, these orchids may have been unscrupulously ripped away from the bark of their host tree in the jungle and sold in city markets, dwindling their pres-

ence in their native habitat.

Now the orchids and many other indigenous species of plant have hope of salvation. They are cared for with green fingers and allowed to flourish until they produce new shoots, which are carefully transferred to another pot or piece of wood and allowed to grow on their own.

The project covers almost one rai, which was donated by Nang Sanya Hiranwadee and is under the supervision of project's co-ordinator Watcharee Duangkaew of the Agricultural Office, Phuket City district.

Plants and trees are cheaper here than in commercial nurseries. Orange and lime trees,

well on their way to maturity, are just a few hundred baht and there are several types of palms, ferns and creepers.

The orchids are still highly valued and cost about 1,000 baht for each plant.

One individual who has benefited from the project is K. Wirat, a local rubber tapper. He now has a place close to home where he can offload his raw rubber, for which he earns about 70 baht per kilo – a day's work for K. Wirat. He can also earn more money from the plants he helps to cultivate at the project.

To find this Sufficiency Economy project, take Chao Fa East Rd to Soi Nagkok, opposite the TOT offices.

Follow the road leading up towards the hills for about two kilometers until it turns into a dirt track. On the left, you will see a large, official-looking sign on the left written in Thai and English.

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Moods by the water

Regular readers of this column may recall the Sea Hag restaurant in Patong with its colorful owner, K. Kenya, a few weeks ago. Well, this week we have yet another loosely-African-related eatery in Mali Waterfront, situated lakeside in Karon.

The land-locked country of Mali is one of the poorest in the world, whereas Mali Waterfront is downright chic. Mali in West Africa features the Niger and Senegal rivers; Mali Waterfront features the nearby dunes of Karon Beach and its large lake.

And that's where the similarities abruptly end.

Mali Waterfront has been open for a little more than two months and its dining area sports a black-and-white theme that

works effectively.

The restaurant is big and bold in concept, with dining and chill-out options ranging from alfresco or covered lakeside-dining to sprawling on a sofa or propping up the bar.

A spotlight pierces a silver shaft up into the clear night sky while colorful bead lights wrapped around four recently transplanted palms provide ambient lighting.

At the far end by the bar is a sand-floored area with sofas and a dance space cleverly illuminated by more string beads, lending the whole place a decidedly cool feel.

Over in the northeast night sky, silvery-gray, post-apocalyptic-like towers of clouds boil and twist, lightning flashing and growling from within. They threaten to

On the menu

WITH
Sam Wilko
Mali Waterfront



Dine alfresco or lakeside at the moody Mali Waterfront.

head our way, hesitate, change their mind and then waft over the hillside to empty themselves on Sin City while we sit and enjoy the cool evening breeze.

It's a full-moon night and every table is reserved, catering to a party slated to start at 11pm. A member of staff points out that Mali Waterfront has been mad busy almost every evening since its opening, so word must have

circulated quickly.

The early-evening service (and I don't mean vespers) is exemplary, with lots of smiles and attention. I order, gently pointing out that our five-year-old is ravenous and guess what? He gets his fish and chips within minutes and settles into his food even before I can take a sip from my absolutely minuscule dry martini (160 baht).

My shrimp bisque (80 baht) soon arrives and is deliciously creamy with a juicy great shrimp (dead) pierced by a lemongrass stalk. By now, diners are arriving in droves and all of a sudden the great service begins to falter as orders are taken seemingly faster than the kitchen can handle, or maybe the kitchen's up to speed and the wait staff isn't.

Any way you look at it, after some 20 minutes we get our main dishes, both seafood plates and both cold.

We sip our wine and stochically eat our fish and chips (180 baht) and poached fillet of red snapper with dill cream sauce,

veggies and tasty saffron rice priced at (270 baht).

By now, Mali's almost full-house and things are getting a little strained around the edges, but the ubiquitous smile on the wait-staff's faces stays firmly in place.

In spite of the rush, our waiter still has time to give a cuddle to a Scandinavian baby at the next table.

With some 40 labels to choose from, the wine list at Mali Waterfront is capable enough but a word of caution: It's better to choose higher-end labels towards the 2,000-baht level as some of the cheaper ones here are a little compromised and can come back the next day with a nasty bite.

As for the menu, it's not exclusively seafood and even includes an admirable "Phuket Old Town" southern-Thai food section, featuring such local delights as braised pork in sweet-and-soy sauce, as well as other Phuket dishes, along with Italian food, hamburgers and sandwiches. There is also a free salad-bar.

Make no bones about it, this is a tourist venue and as such performs very well, but don't expect haute cuisine, five-star service and piping-hot food served tableside.

Even the aspiring rat chef in the movie *Ratatouille* acknowledged the difficulty of getting service just right, but somehow I get the impression that roller blades for staff members here – as in the movie – would be a little risqué.

To end the evening, the little lad has a strawberry ice cream (80 baht) and before you know it, it's time to crank the starting handle of the Bentley once again.

It's been a mixed night out but the cheerfulness of the staff overall and the wonderful location at Mali Waterfront have been enough to ensure that it was an enjoyable one.

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Happily Ever After

Recently married in Phuket

Tanida Silapa and Pol Sub Lt Patiwat Yodkwan celebrated their nuptials at the Royal Phuket City Hotel on March 24.



Khanittha Putkaew and Kiattisak Jenkarn were married at the Phuket Merlin Hotel on March 20.



When *Pop Idol* burst onto UK television screens in 2001, it ushered in a new era of reality TV that would go on to take many forms around the world, most notably *American Idol*, which is currently in its seventh season. Who could forget the faces of those stars who shot to fame on these programs, such as... Actually, can anyone remember any of the stars of that first season?

"It's obviously about entertainment and ratings. There isn't really any substance in it as such; it depends on who works on the shows and what they can give," said Joshua Alamu, who has appeared as a vocal coach on such UK television shows, including *Pop Idol*, *Dance X* and *X-factor*.

"Working on reality shows was a great experience. It was glamorous on one side, while on the other it was all politics. I enjoyed working with the contestants and developing them, getting them to believe in themselves. I love taking an artist and saying, 'How can we make you better? How can we make you more confident?'" said Joshua.

Joshua was in Phuket to hold singing and songwriting workshops for students at British International School (BIS). "I've been here for the best part of six



A man of many talents, Joshua showcases his musical abilities.

days. What I've been doing is working with the kids in the school with singing and performance. I also did one songwriting workshop," he added.

Born and raised in London, Joshua has family in the UK, as well as Ghana and Nigeria. "I spent three years in Africa. I absolutely adore African music. It's part of who I am, part of my roots. It's influenced the whole world, from jazz to rock," he said.

Playing a prominent role in all of Joshua's vocal coaching is speech-level singing (SLS), a technique that has helped shape the voices of many of the most successful vocalists of the past 50 years. "I work with the Speech-Level Singing organization, which is a worldwide organization, set up by [vocal coach] Seth Riggs, that's based in LA in the US. Mega-stars have trained in this technique, from Kelly Clarkson to Stevie Wonder," said Joshua.

Hoping to bring SLS to Thailand, Joshua was testing the water at BIS with the help of friend and colleague Claire Cornielje, head of visual and performing arts at BIS.

Claire and Joshua plan to build on their workshops and open this level of vocal coaching up to the whole community.

Joshua's first break in the music industry came at an audition also attended by revered vocal coach Carrie Grant and her husband David Grant, who had a string of UK hits in the 1980s and now also works as a vocal coach.

"Carrie heard me sing and gave me work straight away, so I started doing backing vocals for people like Take That, the Spice Girls and Robert Palmer. Then David and Carrie set up a band called United Colors of Sound and they asked me to join. We were signed to Sony, disbanded eight years later and that's when I fell into teaching," he said.

"It's come right back around and I'm now working on a sound-

track for a movie called *Dark Eden*, which will be a trilogy. I've been asked to do all the music for it: the songs, working with the artists. I'll also record some of the songs and write a lot of them myself," he added.

Some scenes from *Dark Eden* will be filmed in Thailand. The low-budget movie will be part martial-arts thriller, part love story and part tragedy. "It's about a soul who discovers who he is," said Joshua.

As a vocal coach who works with singers both signed and unsigned, Joshua has come across a range of talents during his career. "I think everyone can sing. Whether they can sing technically or not is another thing. I can take a bad singer and make them good, take a good singer and make them better or take a great singer and make them fantastic. As long as they're willing to put in hard work, I'm happy to work with them," he said.

Speaking about the current state of pop music, Joshua said, "Now we're looking at people who can really sing and write songs. There are a lot pop bands developing management deals and record deals as we speak," he said.

While pop music is still alive and kicking, there will be massive marketing campaigns and mimed performances a-plenty to sit



Joshua gets involved and offers student Delphine Lobelle, 17, some advice on the fly.

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The man behind the voices

Joshua Alamu knows a thing or two about music, but you may not even recognize his name. He has been in a band signed to Sony, worked on a string of reality-TV shows and vocal-coached stars such as Westlife, Will Young, All Saints and Joss Stone.

While in Phuket to hold a number of workshops at British International School, Joshua spoke to *Gazette* desk editor Matt Crook about life behind the scenes in the music industry.



about the same old things – love hate, peace, there’s nothing new you can cover – but you have to take those concepts and talk about them in a fresh, imaginative way,” said Joshua.

Joshua’s perspiration may have paid off. “At the moment, one of the songs I’ve done has been thrown at Pink and I’m about to see if that works out,” he said.

In terms of whom he respects, Joshua is all praise for the guys behind the scenes. “I admire the educators, the guys who you don’t hear about, who spend all their working days getting those other guys out there: the publishers, the teachers, the A&R guys, the technicians, all those guys. They’re the ones who really make it happen. If it wasn’t for them, nobody would sell any records,” he added.

Joshua’s career has been built around helping others find their voices.

“The one bit of advice I would give is to not be afraid to express who you are with your voice. Don’t be afraid to get up on stage and do it, even if it goes wrong, because you will learn from it and just get better,” he said.

“Stick your finger up at the world and just get up and do it.”

For more information about Joshua and his vocal training visit www.euphonicproducts.com or www.epcrew.co.uk

through. “I hate miming. You either sing or you don’t. It’s just a waste of talent. People should be able to make mistakes, but then mistakes don’t equal entertainment I guess,” said Joshua.

While singers miming is a *faux pas* for Joshua, writing songs is a different matter. “Writing is a craft. It’s something you need to work at. Sometimes artists work well with writers and then they decide to write on their own. Then the music isn’t as good,” he said.

“Good songwriting is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration. You have to work hard to write a song. It all starts with talking



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This week

RIGHT: HRH Princess Ubol Ratana Rajakanya talks with Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit at the ITB 2008 (International Tourism Bourse) trade show. Minister of Tourism and Sports Weerasak Kowsurat stands in the background (far right).



AUSTRIAN ACCOLADE: Austrian Ambassador to Thailand Arno Riedl (center) and guests congratulate Phuket Senator Phummsak Hongsyok (2nd from right) for being appointed Austrian Honorary Consul to Southern Thailand at a celebratory dinner at Thai Thai restaurant at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort.



MISSION POSSIBLE: Hollywood star Maggie Denise Quigley, of Mission Impossible III and Rush Hour 2 fame, is welcomed to Royal Phuket Marina by Gulu Lalvani on March 27.



KIDS IN THE KITCHEN: Varunchai Rungruan (front, left), Phuket showroom manager of the Hafele Design Studio at The Courtyard, joins Hafele management from other provinces at the Hansa Cocktail Party on March 21.



TV TIME: Mercure Patong Phuket Executive Assistant Manager Narongchai U-Thanang (back, 3rd from left) welcomes Thai TV star Trisadee "Por" Sahawong (center) and winners of the SF Cinema City movie contest "Enchanted" for their prize stay at the resort.



STRIKE: TV stars Puttipong "Pet" Promsakha Na Sakon Nakhon (left) and Sinitra "Noon" Boonyasak (right) join Jungceylon Operations Manager Naresh Janthalakhana (2nd from right) and SF Cinema Marketing Director Suput Ngamwongpaiboon (2nd from left) at the opening of SF Bowling on the third floor of Jungceylon on March 15. Joining them is Phuket Reporters Club chairman Thongthuan Sukmuang (center).

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Keeping a clean sheet in Thailand

The subject of laundries, washing machines and dryers is one that I am involved in regularly in the sale and fitting-out of new properties.

I've been dealing with a lady who is buying a luxury apartment in Phuket and she wanted to know where the washing machine and dryer would go.

I pointed out to her that I had not used a washing machine for 20 years and that, in my opinion, the available space would be better used for wine fridges.

I told her that if I bought a new washing machine and dryer it would cost the same as taking all my clothes to my local laundry lady for about five years.

Once a week I take a basket of laundry and pick up last week's, all freshly washed, ironed and hanging up ready to go straight into my wardrobe.

If I buy a washing machine and dryer, I still have to do the ironing – and that's the worst part.

Sure you can get a maid to do it, but the last time I tried to get my cleaning lady to do the ironing, my girlfriend's best soft-satin top finished up with a big hole in the sleeve.

Have you ever tried ironing bed linen? How about the bottom



It would cost you the same as a brand new washing machine to send your laundry to Apple every week for five years.

sheet, the one with the elastic around the edge?

What is it about bedding sets here and why is there never a top sheet, just a bottom sheet with elastic, a couple of pillow cases and a quilt?

The top sheet is the perfect cover in the tropics and protects the quilt from unpleasant, sweaty bodies. When I came here you couldn't find a single sheet – only sets – and only the advent of international supermarkets made it possible to find single sheets.

Apart from that, I have always had an aversion to laundry. I used to help my mother sometimes with her smaller children. That included changing nappies.

You knew you had to change the nappies because the kid became red in the face and then squawked.

Nappies were a big deal then. You had to clean them, rinse them, boil them in copper, rinse them out again, wind them through the mangle and hang them out to dry.

Everything else went into the washing machine, which tossed them back and forth until you decided that the water was dirty enough.

You emptied it out and refilled it until the water was clean, put the clothes through the mangle to squeeze the water out and hung them on a clothesline to dry.

Then came those disposable nappies. Take them off, wrap them up and throw them in a rubbish bin.

Soon after that, automatic washing-machines and dryers started appearing in people's homes. You didn't need to wash the nappies any more but everything else went in, except perhaps, as they were termed, some ladies' "delicates".

Quite a few delicates got shredded in the older machines and many ladies preferred not to risk their unmentionables, especially the lacy items.

In fact, even here in Thailand, where we have access to cheap laundry services, most ladies prefer to take care of their own unmentionables and delicates.

As I explained to the woman who is buying an apartment: Have the maid or driver take the clothes to a local laundrette.

My local laundrette is owned by Apple, who came to Phuket from Nakhon Sri Thammarat 20 years ago and worked in hotels as a receptionist, including at the Crystal Beach, Karon, and Patong Beach Hotel.

She became best known as the smiling face who greeted guests at the internationally renowned restaurant Baan Rim Pa.

Now she has a husband, two children, a laundrette in Cherng Talay and she is about to open a bed-linen shop.

Apple's laundrette does anything and more for most people's needs, including sending clothes for dry cleaning.

I'm certainly not going to buy any washing machines and dryers for my house. I don't need all the grief.

I definitely prefer the Apple solution.

I don't see why I should spend a lot of money to make my life more difficult.

LARGER THAN LIFE

By Graham Doven

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Diesel unveils spring-summer range at Indigo

While the global brand's spring-summer-2008 collection was being paraded, two words screamed out from Diesel's runway: new rave. While Diesel has traditionally targeted the 18-to-35s market, this new line shifts the focus to the 15-to-25s bracket.

The women's line in particular was reminiscent of a style propelled into the mainstream by new-rave bands, such as the Klaxons, and their devoted followers.

In the women's range, neon colors, off-the-shoulder tops and baseball caps drew a lot of the attention. Brightly colored hot-pants and over-sized belts also made appearances, but the real standout was the faded floral dress.

Floral prints are becoming increasingly popular, but it was bold of Diesel to show a dress that reeks of 60s' "flower power".

The dress accentuates the bust while flowing formlessly below down to the ankles. It created a look, but did no favors to the model wearing the dress.

French Connection and Oasis both have more-appealing floral dresses on the market this season. While some designers have applied a 50s' retro look to

An elegant ensemble of guests were on March 27 treated to delightful finger food and drinks at the Indigo Pearl Resort before being treated to a glimpse of Diesel's spring/summer range for 2008.

The *Gazette's* Matt Crook was there to separate the black from the white as the colorful concoctions flowed down the catwalk.



their spring-summer offerings, Diesel's, at times, harps back to a decade later.

Also prevalent were silver

high-set boots. Rising to just below the knee, this moon-walking footwear was an effective contrast to the bright colors used in a number of the tops. The boots were one of the items that really stood out as being sexy.

In keeping with the youthful appeal of the range, Diesel adorned several female models

with caps either splashed with neon colors or just plain. The caps looked dated, but the women's headbands created interest.

Wide headbands have come and gone over the years, but combined with Diesel's less-outlandish designs, they added a mysterious chic.

At times, the combinations

used in the women's outfits looked hastily thrown together. This lazy, mismatched look worked occasionally or else truly harked back to new rave, where anything goes in terms of clothing combos.

Where Diesel's range looked best was with simple, plain outfits and patterns, such as the use of worsted fabric that gelled perfectly with the high-set boots. The less color Diesel used, the more appealing the look was.

The men's lines also incorporated worsted fabrics, along with low-neck vests and understated jackets. The men's clothing worked better than the women's because the items seemed somehow more casual and less overdone. Patterns ranged from stripes and camouflage through to occasional hints of the more garish look that Diesel went for with its women's items.


Pants were hung low, which at times appeared juvenile. Diesel's latest range will appeal to a broad span of ages, although perhaps less so to over-30s.

The music at the pre- and after-show parties was a telling sign of what Diesel tried to do. Electro-clash, indie-tronica, new rave—call it what you will, it's all

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Diesel's spring-summer-2008 range features everything from neon caps and off-the-shoulder tops to low-hung jeans and floral dresses.



The models pose after showcasing what Diesel hopes we will all be wearing this summer.



Catwalk calamity of fantastic fashion? The 100 or so in attendance watch as Diesel shows off its latest lines.

electro and it's all vogue. It isn't, however, new and so Diesel's Phuket offering felt trendy, but lacked any resemblance of being cutting edge.

Although Diesel is famed for its denim, there was little of it on display in Phuket. The fashion show was well received and the audience bubbled with excitement. With so many standout hotels, resorts and locations on the island, fashion labels could gain a lot from traveling to Phuket. Hopefully, there will be more in the future from Diesel and other labels.

Diesel's spring-summer range has, according to the press release, been inspired by deep-sea aquatic life. The entire range, of which only a snippet was shown in Phuket, comprises silhouettes and colors that are said to suit urban and suburban lifestyles.

"Pale-blue washed jeans, air-light texture shirts and black-and-white fitted denim" are just some of the designs that can be found in Diesel's first-floor boutique store at Central Festival.

For more information call the Diesel store at Central Festival Phuket at 076-249864.

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TALES OF A TRAVELER

By Scott Mallon

If you've seen the movie *Collateral*, starring Jamie Foxx and Tom Cruise, you might remember how Foxx, a cabbie, made his way through the hard times in his life. Clipped to the sun visor in his cab was a photo of a beautiful island. Whenever he was feeling blue or having a less-than-stellar day, he looked at the photo and it took him away from his troubles, helping him remember there is more to life than driving a cab.

Maybe you've thought about it at one time or another: palm trees, white-sand beaches and a crystal-blue sea, sipping on a cold beer and taking it all in. For some, Pattaya is too in your face, Koh Samui and Phuket are too touristy and Hua Hin is just missing that wow-factor.

Maybe you've already been to these places and are looking for a change. Whatever the reason, if you are seeking that perfect getaway, I've got just the place for you – and I'm hesitant to tell you about it. Call me selfish, but I love Koh Chang and want it all for myself.

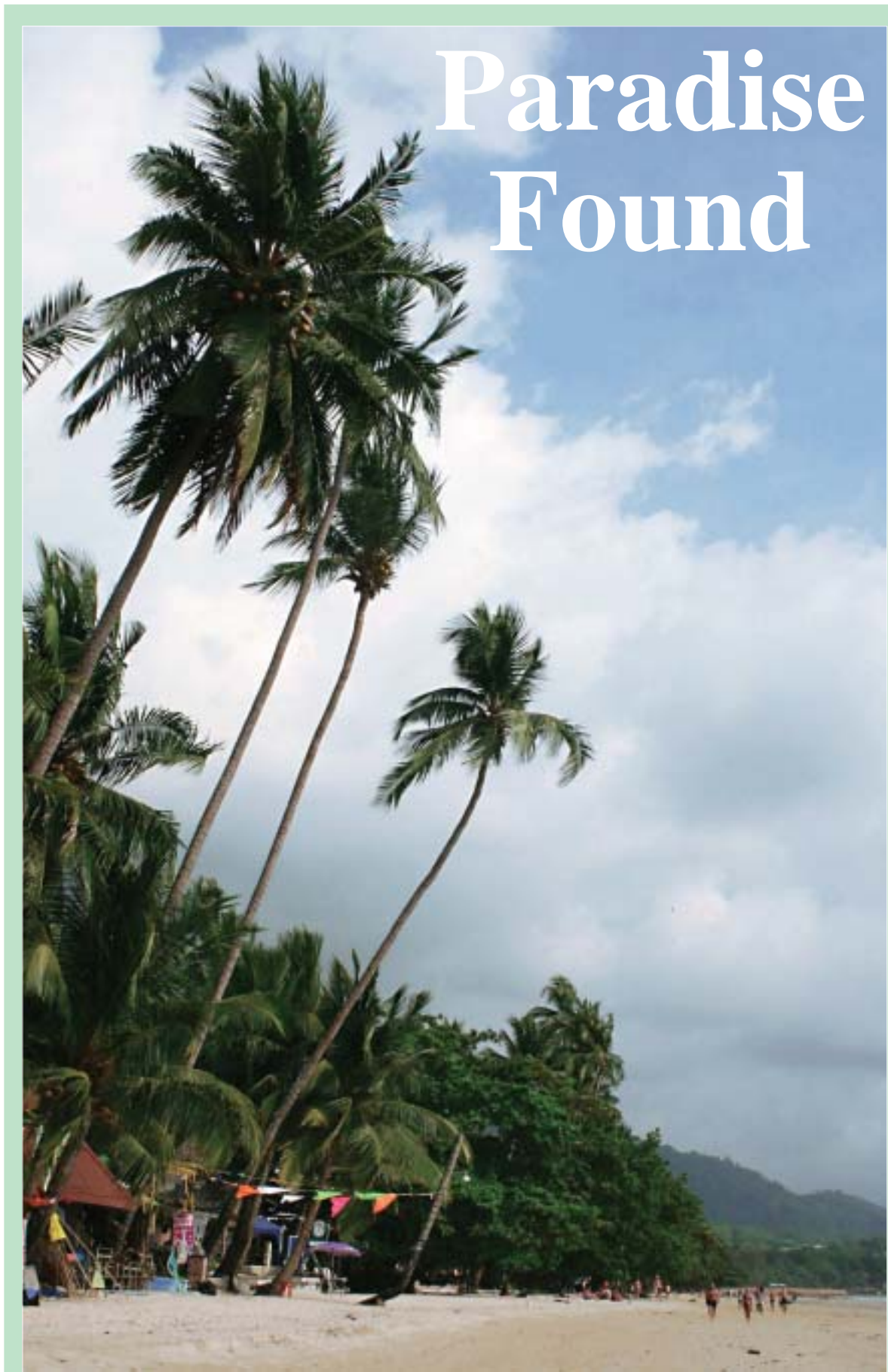
Ferries between the island and Ao Thammachat Pier on the mainland in Trat run every 30 minutes, from 6:30 am to 7 pm daily. The cost is 120 baht each direction. The trip breezes by and there is food and drink available.

Once you reach the island, take a *songtaew* to your final destination. Fares run between 50 and 80 baht depending on whether you go to White Sand Beach (50 baht) or Lonely Beach (80 baht).

No matter where you decide to go, upon landing you'll be rewarded with breathtaking tropical scenery. The island is about as close to paradise as you will find anywhere on earth. There is just enough development to fulfill your basic needs – yes, there's Internet and cable TV – but the island is still relatively undeveloped.

Whether you're looking for inexpensive bungalows or four- and five-star resorts, there is a full range of accommodation on Koh Chang.

The White Sand area of the



Life doesn't get much better than on White Sand Beach.

island is the most developed. Klong Prao and Kai Bae beaches have four- and five-star hotels with spectacular sea views. Lonely Beach, while no longer quite as lonely as it once was, has still managed to keep from turning into an overdeveloped tourist-destination. Lonely Beach is

the preferred backpacker destination with unspoiled beaches and low priced-bungalows farther away from the pier than White Sand Beach.

The White Sand area of the island is a great place to take the family. It is quiet but with enough small restaurants and shops to

keep you busy – at least for a few days. You might also choose to do what I did: nothing, except laying on the beach sipping beer.

My stay at the Alina Grand Hotel was what you would expect on an island paradise – perfect. Ek and Dave founded the Alina Hotel and Resort in 1998

and named the hotel after their baby daughter, Alina. The Alina Resort came first, and then eight years later the duo opened the Alina Grande Hotel across the street.

The Alina Resort offers hotel rooms and bungalows equipped with a choice of air conditioning or fan, hot water, refrigerator and cable TV. To top it off you can dine at the beachfront restaurant. Prices start at about 800 baht a night.

The Alina Grande Hotel boasts new rooms with king- or queen-sized beds, balconies and views of the sea and hills. Traditional Thai art graces the establishment and the swimming pool is situated beneath the hills.

As if that is not enough, there is a travel agency and mini-market within the hotel, as well as a patio bar and swimming pool. There are other places to stay in the area – but with an average rate of 1,500 baht per night, you get one of the best deals on the island here.

There are no huge malls or movie theaters on the island, but there is more than enough to do. If you tire of drinking at one of the tiki bars along the beach or gorging yourself with seafood, you can always take a trip to one of the waterfalls on the island.

Than Mayom Waterfall consists of four levels and is the most popular of the waterfalls on Koh Chang. In addition, you can swim in the large pool that rests in front of the falls. Another waterfall worth traveling to is the three-level Klong Plu Waterfall. As with any waterfall you hike to, be careful – the Klong Plu falls are quite slippery and the last thing you need to ruin your holiday is a 50-meter fall.

Koh Chang has good food, affordable accommodation, extraordinary scenery and a laid-back vibe. For those who care, there is a bar scene. It certainly doesn't rival the nightlife of Phuket or Pattaya, but for a semi-deserted tropical island, it's more than enough.

The worst thing about Koh Chang is the trip back to Bangkok.

For further details about traveling to Koh Chang by Ferry call 039-597143, 039-528288. For more information about Alina Grande Hotel visit www.alinaresort.com

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming events on the island

Until April 24. BIS IB Visual Arts Exhibition.

A display of works by graduating students of the British International School IB program at Room Limited gallery on the bypass road.

Open to the public until April 24, from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm.

Closed during Songkran, from April 13-16.

Contact K. Gai. Tel: 076-238711-20 ext 3603. Email: saowarotm@bcis.ac.th Website: www.bcis.ac.th

April 6. PC Group Therapy – Patong.

Join *Windows for Dummies...* author Woody Leonhard and his band of techie irregulars in a wide-ranging discussion of computer topics.

If you can't get your Windows to work right, if you need to find a decent Internet connection, if you're going to buy a computer in Thailand or if you need to get one fixed, this is the place to be. 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Patong.

For further information contact Woody Leonhard. Tel: 089-1960940. Email: woody@khunwoody.com Website: www.khunwoody.com

April 6. Chakri Memorial Day (Public Holiday).

Chakri Day commemorates the origins of the Chakri dynasty, founded by Rama I, who established Bangkok as the nation's capital.

HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej is the ninth monarch of the Chakri dynasty.

April 10-12. Phuket Bike Week.

Phuket BikeWeek is an annual celebration of everything about motorcycles. There will be exhibitions, bike cruises and weekend parties. The bikers will then celebrate Songkran outside the Phuket Graceland Resort & Spa.

For further information email sumon@ridethailand.com or alissa@ridethailand.com or visit www.phuketbikeweek.com

April 13-15. Songkran Festival (Public Holiday).

Songkran (Thai New Year), also known as the Water Festival, is held during the driest months in Thailand.

VISAKHA BUCHA DAY

May 19

Visakha Bucha Day is a public holiday observed on the day of the full moon during the sixth lunar month of the Thai calendar.

It is a day to commemorate three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha. Miraculously, these events fell in the same month and on the same date in the Buddhist era.



Songkran is celebrated by Thais throughout the country by pouring – traditionally only a little, but these days a heck of a lot – water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

April 17-20. Phuket International Cricket Sixes.

Winner of prestigious awards from the International Cricket Council and the Asian Cricket Council, the Phuket International Cricket Sixes will be held at Karon Municipal Stadium.

Phuket Sixes attracts club cricket teams from around the world, along with local Phuket sides, to enjoy the competition and camaraderie of cricket.

April 20-24. Phuket Asian Seniors Masters 2008.

Come watch the Phuket Asian Senior Masters 2008, a senior professional golf event. This event will have a full field of more than 140 senior golf professionals from more than 20 countries.

On April 20 there will be a pro-am tournament; entry is 30,000 baht per team of four golfers.

Play commences each day at 7:30 am. Free Entry for spectators.

For more information contact Prachuab Subcharoen. Tel:

081-6072672. Email: thaiseniorga@thaiseniorga.com Website: www.thaiseniorga.com

April 20. PC Group Therapy – Laguna.

10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Laguna.

April 26-May 17. Soldiers – Art Exhibition.

In his 20 paintings, K. Thaweesak is questioning himself as to what causes wars and destruction, whether it be past wars or current conflicts.

He looks at who is involved in the wars, the instigators and the victims.

He also observes how nonsensical and destructive it is to have wars.

At D Gallery, RPM, daily from 11 am until 7 pm.

Contact Bowie for further information. Tel: 076-360867. Email: bowie@dgallery.co.th Website: www.dgallery.co.th

April 27. PC Group Therapy – Chalong.

10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong.

May 1. Labor Day (Public Holiday).

Public holiday for all commercial workers, but government offices will remain open.

May 5. Coronation Day (Public Holiday).

Coronation Day commemorates the ascension to the throne of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on May 5, 1950.

May 14. Punchline Comedy Club - Live Stand-up Comedy.

Punchline Comedy Club in association with the London Comedy Store presents another night of live international stand-up comedy.

Three top comedians, two glass-filling intervals and a joke competition will fill a night of fun and laughter.

Comedians Paul Thorne, Tom Wrigglesworth and Ian Moore will perform from 8 pm to 11 pm at the Holiday Inn Resort, Patong.

Tickets are available from Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

For further details contact Pete. Tel: 081-9565650. Email: info@phuketcomedy.com Web: www.phuketcomedy.com

May 26-29. Phuket Celebrity Golf Tour.

The tour will take place in Patong.

This is a unique event where players of all handicaps and abilities can play a round of golf with top football, snooker and entertainment celebrities from the UK.

Each evening you will be entertained by the group of celebrities at the Graceland Hotel in Patong.

Contact Jeff Ogden for further information. Email: jsogden@talismen-energy.com

May 31-June 1. 10th Phuket International Rugby 10s.

Marking a decade of international rugby on Phuket, this year's Rugby 10s tournament will be played at Karon Municipal Stadium.

For details contact Patrick Cotter. Email: phuketrugby@gmail.com Website: www.phuketvagabonds.rfc.com

June 15. The 2008 Laguna Phuket International Marathon.

The 2008 Laguna Phuket International Marathon is expected to be another success this year with more than 1,000 participants in the 42km marathon, 21km half-marathon, 10km run, and 5km walk. There will also be a 2km kids' run.

Registration is available at www.phuketmarathon.com Early bird offers end on March 31. Registration closes June 5.

For more information contact Roman Floesser. Tel: 02-2362931. Email: direct@goadventureasia.com

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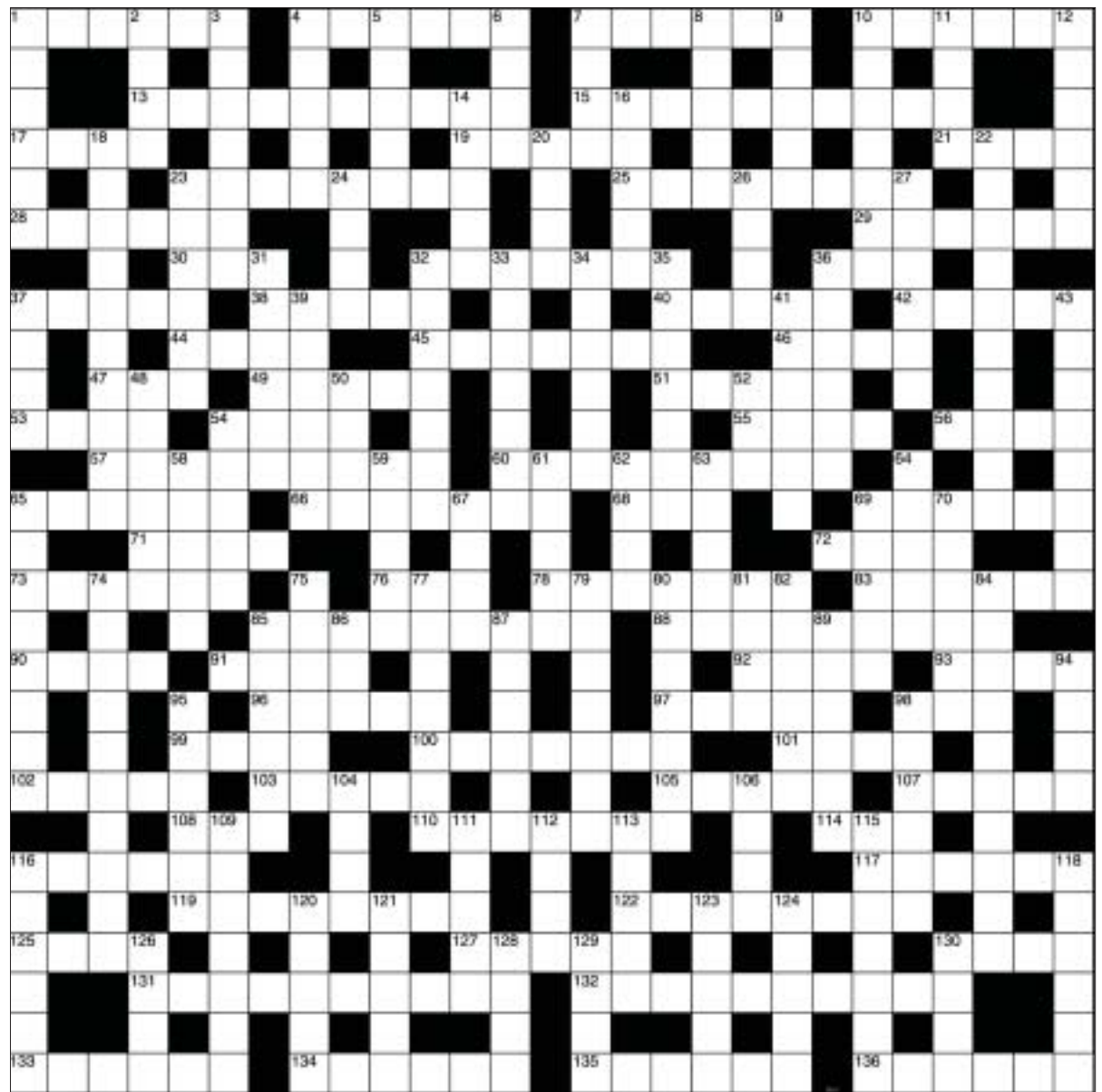
PUZZLES

The BIG Crossword

Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid below are at least 25 words or phrases related hospitals. The words may read vertically, horizontally or diagonally. They may also read right-to-left or down-to-up. Score: 15 or more, good; 20 or more, very good; 25 or more, excellent. Solution on the next page.

D	S	X	R	Z	W	N	O	T	C	U	Y	H	F	I
X	O	A	G	P	O	O	V	Z	A	C	E	N	R	N
B	F	C	G	N	T	I	N	U	N	R	U	B	A	J
R	Q	A	T	F	S	T	G	E	C	D	A	C	C	U
A	K	V	D	O	U	A	G	S	E	G	B	S	T	R
G	Z	V	P	A	R	R	L	H	R	X	S	L	U	Y
R	K	L	J	L	E	E	W	Z	C	T	F	S	R	Y
N	O	D	O	M	D	P	R	E	E	O	A	P	E	A
I	K	R	E	H	C	O	X	T	N	X	N	D	H	Q
Y	N	G	P	O	R	N	H	O	T	Q	R	E	A	C
E	T	J	E	F	C	O	O	T	E	I	A	A	P	R
B	I	L	E	Y	S	T	P	I	R	L	Q	L	Y	D
Z	F	V	A	C	I	T	E	H	T	S	E	N	A	Y
V	Z	V	O	U	T	I	W	H	R	P	W	H	D	S
B	T	P	V	S	S	I	K	D	T	S	E	D	X	U
D	E	Q	I	X	T	A	O	F	W	T	Y	C	B	E
S	Y	R	I	N	G	E	C	N	N	W	N	H	E	S
K	I	B	Z	W	G	P	M	E	U	G	O	V	D	R
C	I	N	I	L	C	E	I	V	L	Q	E	X	D	U
E	R	R	S	D	D	T	A	D	B	W	G	C	E	N
R	D	I	S	I	A	N	O	M	L	F	R	A	E	B
S	N	M	C	P	O	O	Y	U	U	K	U	G	X	C
C	O	I	Z	Y	L	W	A	R	D	A	S	K	C	I
L	N	M	M	B	S	X	O	X	L	X	R	I	P	R
E	L	P	H	Y	S	I	C	I	A	N	C	T	Q	B



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Across

- 1. Swiss cottage
- 4. Tugged sharply
- 7. Rock crystal
- 10. Masked
- 13. Proposal
- 15. Something detested
- 17. Inhale audibly
- 19. Festival, ...Gras
- 21. Current units
- 23. High (of view) (4'1-3)
- 25. Fattier
- 28. Dupe (4,2)
- 29. Jellied petrol
- 30. Film studio with lion emblem (1,1,1)
- 32. Companions
- 36. And so on
- 37. Leaf (through)
- 38. Overweight
- 40. Covered in foliage
- 42. Contents list
- 44. Glimpse
- 45. Actress, ...De Mornay
- 46. Fishing rod winder
- 47. Sticky coal by-product
- 49. Baghdad native
- 51. India's Taj ...
- 53. Deposits
- 54. Author unknown
- 55. Among
- 56. Tells falsehoods
- 57. Lengthens
- 60. Rectified
- 65. Put in
- 66. Soiled
- 68. Raw mineral
- 69. Index or pinky

- 71. Revise
- 72. Andes nation
- 73. As a gamble (2,4)
- 76. Touch clumsily
- 78. Wilier
- 83. Walk like baby
- 85. Paintings of people
- 88. Sumatra, Java, etc.
- 90. Fleshy part of ear
- 91. Siamese
- 92. Contented
- 93. Trampled (on)
- 96. Presses
- 97. Contemptible people
- 98. Cereal grass
- 99. Flowers, sweet...
- 100. Inaccurate
- 101. Biblical son of Isaac
- 102. W African land
- 103. Lured (3,2)
- 105. Zodiac sign
- 107. Bumps into
- 108. The affirmative
- 110. Hugely
- 114. Alien spacecraft (1,1,1)
- 116. Nauseate
- 117. Reviews (ledger)
- 119. Large information store (4,4)
- 122. Slaughterhouse
- 125. Waist ribbon
- 127. Enthusiastic
- 130. Ice-free Norwegian port
- 131. Bizarre
- 132. Breath
- 133. Eluded (capture)
- 134. Oscar-winning actress, ...Hepburn
- 135. Allergy rash
- 136. Distorted

Down

- 1. Club
- 2. Speech defect
- 3. Yanking
- 4. Produce
- 5. Cathedral, ...Dame
- 6. Actress, ...Delany
- 7. Rectangular courtyard
- 8. US state, ... Island
- 9. Noughts
- 10. Actor, ...D'Onofrio
- 11. Concept
- 12. Chinese dumpling
- 14. Prophetic signs
- 16. Racist
- 18. Small carved figures
- 20. Rework
- 22. Wandering (of river)
- 23. Large warplane
- 24. Lone
- 26. Sector
- 27. In a risqué way
- 31. Sulking
- 32. Spookiest
- 33. Taxi fee (3,4)
- 34. Moved (cradle)
- 35. Gaol, the...
- 36. Optic cover
- 37. Capture
- 39. Side street
- 41. Falsely incriminated
- 43. December conifer (4,4)
- 48. Slumbering
- 50. Against
- 52. Is compelled (to)
- 54. Humorous action
- 58. Sequence
- 59. Burst
- 61. Decree

- 62. Horse color
- 63. Become established (of weather) (3,2)
- 64. Ballpoints
- 65. Respirator (4,4)
- 67. US Midwest state
- 69. Entertained
- 70. Nakedness
- 74. Drugs, illegal...
- 75. Gruff
- 77. Coming up
- 79. Black road surface
- 80. Every evening
- 81. Verge
- 82. Paint spreader
- 84. Thrill-seekers
- 85. Medicine bottles
- 86. City, ...de Janeiro
- 87. Hinder
- 89. Bahamas capital
- 94. Fawns' mothers
- 95. Desexed
- 98. Unproven gossip
- 104. Mute
- 106. Crooked
- 109. Passed (law)
- 111. Scrapes lawn
- 112. Highly curious
- 113. Hear (about)
- 115. Pixies
- 116. Magic saying, open...!
- 118. Propped (up)
- 120. Ethiopia's Addis...
- 121. Totted up
- 123. Proverb
- 124. Jewelled crown
- 126. Embrace
- 128. Sailor's greeting
- 129. Republic of Ireland
- 130. Formerly Across

Solution on next page

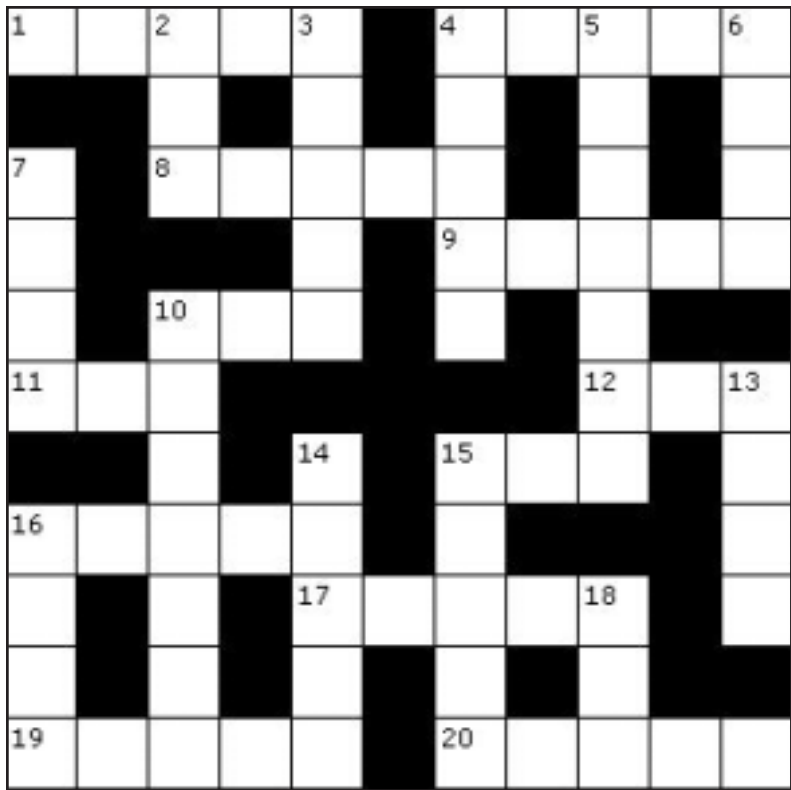
su | do | ku

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Solution, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

		5	1				6
4		2			8		
7			3				
	6			3			7
				7			
2				9			8
					9		3
			2			9	4
8					5	6	

Sudoku is very simple: each row, each column and each "box" of nine squares within the puzzle must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9 with, naturally, no repetitions. Beware: there is only one solution to this puzzle, which is on the next page.



Quick Crossword

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 1. Sound | 2. Sick |
| 4. Not drunk | 3. Be very good at something |
| 8. Used to tie shoes | 4. Wimp |
| 9. The devil | 5. Obvious |
| 10. Winged animal | 6. Korean pop star |
| 11. Not on | 7. Extinct bird |
| 12. Used for catching fish | 10. Someone with authority |
| 15. Point | 13. Form of public transport |
| 16. Spicy ingredient | 14. Gun |
| 17. Finicky | 15. Place to dance |
| 19. Concur | 16. S American country |
| 20. Weight | 18. Japanese currency |

Solution below

Get your brain in gear with The Monster Quiz



Kids! Ask Mum and Dad to help you find the answers to these questions. They're not easy but, if you do some research, you should be able to find the answers to all of them.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. According to Douglas Adams, what is the answer to life, the universe and everything? | 7. Which famous singer had a string of hits in the 1970s and is often referred to as the "Queen of Disco"? | 14. Which river runs through Budapest? |
| 2. When the United Nations was established in 1945, what did it replace? | 8. What is the chemical symbol for the element Arsenic? | 15. What are the names of the two major feeder rivers to the River Nile. |
| 3. What is the name of the largest lake in South America? | 9. Used in navigation, what do the letters GPS stand for? | 16. Which four American States that start with the letter I. |
| 4. What is the capital city of Libya? | 10. Who invented the ball-point pen? | 17. What is the main effect of vitamin K deficiency? |
| 5. In which country did the peaceful Velvet Revolution take place in 1989? | 11. What does the computer term RAM stand for? | 18. What is the largest internal human organ? |
| 6. Which boy's name was the title of the debut album released by famed English singer Amy Winehouse? | 12. In which city is the TV series Grey's Anatomy set? | 19. Who wrote the best-selling novel <i>Sex And The City</i> ? |
| | 13. Which African country was previously known as the Republic of Upper Volta? | 20. What was the name of the first full novel written by Charles Dickens? |

Answers below

Puzzle Solutions

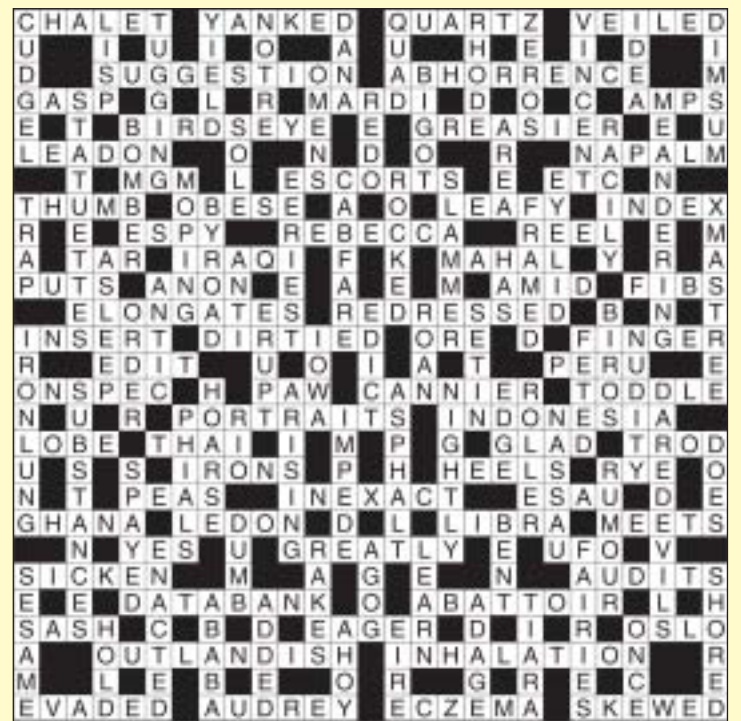
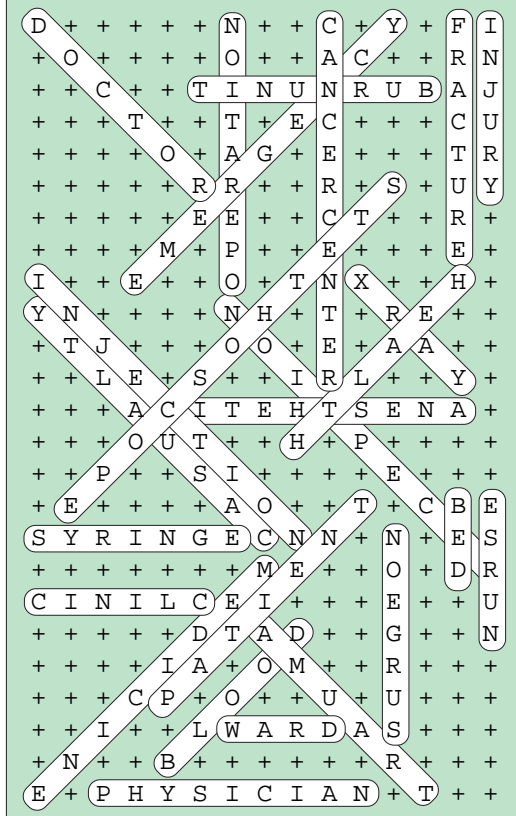
Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



Monster Quiz Answers

- 42;
- The League of Nations;
- Titicaca;
- Tripoli;
- Czechoslovakia;
- Frank;
- Donna Summer;
- As;
- Global Positioning System;
- Laszlo Biro;
- Random Access Memory;
- Seattle;
- Burkina Faso;
- The Danube;
- The Blue and White Niles;
- Idaho, Illinois, Indiana and Iowa;
- Bleeding;
- The liver;
- Candace Bushnell;
- The Pickwick Papers*.

Hidden Words SOLUTION



Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle

3	8	5	1	2	7	4	9	6
4	1	2	9	6	8	7	3	5
7	9	6	3	5	4	1	2	8
9	6	8	5	3	1	2	4	7
1	4	3	8	7	2	5	6	9
2	5	7	4	9	6	3	8	1
5	2	4	6	1	9	8	7	3
6	7	1	2	8	3	9	5	4
8	3	9	7	4	5	6	1	2

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 ราคาเริ่มต้นที่ 15.5 ล้านบาท
 คอนโดมิเนียม 17 ห้อง
 ราคาเริ่มต้นที่ 3.9 ล้านบาท

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Everybody wants it. Some women would trade their sex appeal for a slice of it. Britain's Posh Spice needs it so bad it hurts. Model Kate Moss has it, and it has been her salvation. I am talking of course, about good taste.

Taste commands serious respect in Western culture and we are reminded daily that it gets you farther than mere good looks, brains or money. In the end it's not very surprising that we are all slavishly engaged in the ongoing struggle to become that woman described as having "fabulous taste". Then again, the crusade has got way, way out of hand.

As a good-taste wannabe – and show me a woman who isn't – I know only too well the extremes of which we are capable.

I have obsessed about Egyptian cotton-crisp white sheets and spent indecent amounts on linen tea towels. I have bought things entirely because someone with OGT – officially good taste – owned them, copied picture-hanging formations and flower arrangements. You may roll your eyes at this, but actually it's all in the detail.

Even worse, I have even uttered the words, "I don't care if they are awful – I just want to see inside their apartment." Taste makes people popular, even if they are terrible human beings.

A touch of taste

But the blind pursuit of good taste is not really the problem anymore. The problem is that good taste has become standardized and is now as inevitable as sea grass. Everybody is doing it with a matter-of-fact, pragmatic efficiency as if conforming to some official directive.

I give you the following: silk-cashmere blankets, painted floorboards, elk skins, ticking and deep-seated white sofas. I could go on, but why bother when any of us could recite the elements in our sleep? There is also a formula for clothing: lean jeans, cashmere sweaters, white cotton shirt, big ring, hair in a tangly ponytail.

The truly tasteful can afford to break the mold, but even the maverick touches – disco ball in the TV room, macaroni cheese at the dinner party – are part of a carefully calculated bigger picture: the unexpected twist being the signature of highly evolved good taste.

It's not just that everywhere you go people are following some version of "The Rules Of 21st Century Good Taste", which means our environment has a supermarket-branded predictability about it. And we've painted our

floorboards... yes, white... and I've had a haircut, yes... longish and blondish... It's not even that good taste used to be aspirational and now feels like a requirement of responsible citizens, such as recycling.

The real downer is the terrible tyranny of good taste – the fact that at the flower stall you are drawn to the faded peonies and not the gaudy chrysanthemums; that when you go to buy a new dress or the paint for the hall you are thinking cool aesthetics rather than originality or – God forbid – fun.

You toy with the idea of going crazy with lilac, but white with a hint of white wins through because safe taste always triumphs over individuality. You think that the turquoise dress is divine, but you know it isn't the obvious dress to buy if you have

a great eye for taste, so you don't.

Who knew we could all be brought to heel so easily? Who would have guessed how anxious to get it right – or at least to be seen to have got it right – we would become in the process?

Remember shopping, as in the frivolous hit-and-miss habit? Remember the car-crash outfits chosen in a breathless red mist because we had fallen in love with the clashing prints, or the Moroccan handbag bought on holiday – and not even during that ethnic moment?

Remember ugly stuff? Remember the houses of your parents' friends that were sometimes like the sets of Agatha Christie murder mysteries, but mostly a riot of synthetic bean bags, tartan blankets and artifacts turned into lamp shades?

Now you live with a mus-



tard-yellow bedroom on sufferance and make a point of telling any visitors that you are in the process of decorating... "Oh, this? Not us at all..." Is that living well or just another form of self torture, like staying the size you were at university well into your fifties or trying to cook like a TV chef even though you don't get home until eight?

And here's the worst of it – the really tasteful have realized the only way of demonstrating their gifts is by stepping outside the zone and doing "Off Taste".

Off Taste is very, very complicated. It's about introducing out-of-kilter touches that somehow don't jar with the whole; it's about letting things clash, but in a good way.

You don't just need a good eye, you need an almost extra-sensory perception of what works with what. You've got a snowball's chance in hell of narrowing it down to a formula. I'm telling you, the nightmare is only just beginning...

Ambrosia Sakkadas, a Britain-born Greek Cypriot and graduate of Central St Martins College of Art & Design in London, is an artist, designer and newspaper columnist. Her tasteful first novel Greek Girls Don't Cry, is available from amazon.com, and a second is now in the works.

BMW makes big claims about new X6

BMW claims its new X6 is the "world's first sports-activity coupe" (SAC). While it is certainly the first in this so-called upmarket segment, what about the Toyota RAV 4, which could arguably be labeled the first SAC? Perhaps a moot point, but whereas the Japanese model is firmly established – particularly among the highly impressionable youth market – the X6 is trying to position itself as a top-line, four-wheel-drive model with the latest technology.

With a variety of award-winning engines, both gasoline



BMW has revved up its X-series with what it calls its 'sports-activity coupe', the X6.

and diesel, the X6 does, however, have a lot to offer.

For the first time in BMW's history, the entire model range is turbocharged with a quartet of

forced-induction powerplants. Its flagship is a twin-turbo V8 producing a massive 408bhp (300kW) at 5,500rpm.

This 4.4-liter model makes the X6 the most powerful production model in the X-series range. In addition, it chucks out 600Nm of teeth-pulling torque, from 1,800rpm through to 4,500rpm, and offers up a sprint time of 5.4 seconds from 0 to 100kmh. Top speed, as always with European volume cars, is

electronically limited to 250kmh.

To optimize packaging, allowing a relatively low hood line, the twin turbos and the catalytic converter are located within the vee of the engine. In addition, the location of the turbochargers allows improved performance from the turbos without compromising the front-suspension layout.

Second up is the 3.5L gasoline motor – "International Engine of the Year 2007" winner. The diesel variants are expected to be the biggest sellers in the X6 range. The X6 30d has a single turbocharger, six-cylinder diesel engine delivering a healthy 235bhp at 4,000rpm and 520Nm of torque.

Other important features incorporated in the X6 include a brake-energy-regeneration system comprising an intelligent alternator control, which improves fuel economy. This is achieved as the alternator reduces drag on the engine by only engaging when required to charge the battery. Additionally, the energy generated by the engine on over-run – under-braking or going downhill – that was previously wasted now charges the battery.

Other green measures include low-rolling resistance tires and a high-precision injection system to optimize combustion within the motor.

The X6 is the third X-series model in the range and is built in the States, as is the X5, which is produced at Spartanburg, South Carolina, while the X3 is assembled by the Magna Corporation of Canada in Austria. It is significant that German manufacturers, notably BMW, Mercedes-Benz and, to a limited extent, Porsche, look overseas for production. The strength of the euro is one of their principal concerns, but the US is their major market – particularly for compact SUVs – and logistics and economics definitely come into play.



By Jeff Heselwood

The X6 range is well fitted with a host of standard equipment, such as climate control and electric seats, while the top-of-the-range model has self-leveling rear suspension and Nevada-leather upholstery.

The famous BMW iDrive, allowing driver and front-seat-passenger control of climate, audio, navigation and communications, is fitted to all models, but for the average driver is still too complicated to operate.

The model range launches in May this year. Although no prices have been announced, they will undoubtedly be higher than the RAV4.

Jeff Heselwood can be contacted at jhc@netnavigator.com

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Novelist of the new Japan

Born four years after the end of World War II, Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami is a world away from traditional masters such as Yasunari Kawabata and Yukio Mishima.

His passions are jazz and Scotch whiskey, not samurais and saki – and instead of historic nostalgia, Murakami ladles out a potent dose of urban hyper-realism and wild surrealism.

Twelve of his novels have been translated into English, the latest being *After Dark* (Harvill Secker, London, 2007, 201pp.) I've read half of them and been delighted by all.

After Dark takes place on a single night in Tokyo, from just before midnight till just after dawn. Adding to the intensity is Murakami's narrative adoption of a roving camera eye. This cinematic device provides both grand sweep and personal intimacy. The novel opens:

"Eyes mark the shape of the city.

"Through the eyes of a high-flying night bird, we take in the scene from mid-air. In our broad sweep, the city looks like a single gigantic creature – or more like a single collective entity created by many intertwining organisms.

Countless arteries stretch to the end of its elusive body, circulating a continuous supply of fresh blood cells, sending out new data and collecting the old... To the rhythm of its pulsing, all parts of the body flicker and flare up and squirm.

Midnight is approaching, and while the peak of activity has passed, the basal



Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

metabolism that maintains life continues undiminished, producing the basso continuo of the city's moan, a monotonous sound that neither rises nor falls but is pregnant with foreboding."

The camera then zooms in at a brightly lit, nearly deserted Denny's Restaurant in an entertainment district of bars and love hotels, just before midnight. (Time is indicated by a clock at the top of each chapter.)

A 19-year-old college student named Mari Asai is nursing a coffee and reading a thick tome when she is interrupted by another student eager to talk.

Tetsuya Takahashi had met Mari two years earlier at a swimming pool with her beautiful older sister Eri. A trombonist in a jazz band, he is on his way to a rehearsal in a nearby basement.

A long conversation ensues, with Mari mostly a reluctant participant. Takahashi takes his trombone to rehearsal, but not long after, a giant of a

woman with cropped blond hair arrives to ask Mari's help. Her name is Kaoru, a former professional wrestler and now manager of a love hotel called Alphaville.

Her problem is a naked, bleeding Chinese prostitute who has been stripped and beaten by a client. She'd called her friend Takahashi, who had told her about Mari who speaks fluent Chinese.

Together, the two women clean up and clothe the Chinese prostitute. The camera then follows her assailant, a midnight-shift computer worker named Shirakawa.

A parallel plot is the mysteriously sleeping Eri. The camera rests on her, then focuses on a television screen where a man with a shrouded face keeps vigil over her body.

Later, Eri awakes trapped in a room inside the TV screen and searches vainly for escape. Later still, she's restored to her bed. What's going on here?

Surrealism, remember. All of Murakami's novels toy with out-of-body mys-

teries.

The beautiful Eri announced to her parents at dinner that she was going to sleep and has been in a deep sleep for nearly two months.

Mari confides this to Takahashi as they meet in a park in the dead of night. Mari has always been jealous of her sister's beauty and reluctantly confesses to Takahashi that the one time she felt close to her sister was when they were both trapped in a dark elevator.

Throughout this slender novel, the whole movement is by Takahashi toward Mari who slowly opens up and provides a slender ray of hope at the end of the story when she crawls into bed with her sister as a new day dawns:

"Eventually, Eri's small mouth does move slightly, as



if in response to something...

"Whatever it is, something is trying to send a sign to this side through a tiny opening in the consciousness. Such an impression comes to us with certainty."

No need to be tongue-Thai'd anymore

It's easy to start learning a language. You might pick up a few words from friends, memorize a line or two from a phrasebook, even study some grammar.

At the same time, it's easy to get in over your head. And when it comes to mastering a new language, who isn't in over their head?

Think of all the English literary references in, say, a *Shrek* movie. Now compound that with pop-culture references, slang and characters who speak with half-a-dozen accents – and this is marketed as entertainment for kids.

If you consider how a foreigner learning English must feel, it's dizzying. Yet somehow there are billions who speak or study English as a second language.

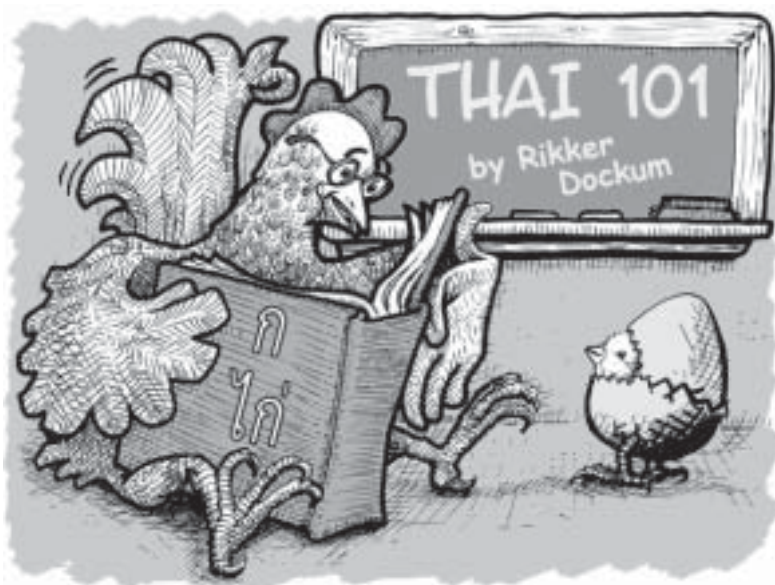
So what makes you think you can't learn Thai?

That's where I can help. You're reading the maiden voyage of "Thai 101," a new column in which I'll address questions and issues for students of the Thai language.

I've lived in Thailand off and on for six years.

During these years, learning, improving and mastering my Thai has always been one of my main pursuits.

While you were enjoying the latest bestseller beneath the sun-



shine of Koh Samui, I was browsing the stacks at the library.

While you were honing your karaoke skills, you would have found me reading up on etymology or serial verb constructions.

I'm not a polyglot who wants to learn every language. I've studied a few, but Thai has captivated me in a way I can't shake.

Last year, as I approached the five-year anniversary of the first time I ever uttered *sawatdee khrap*, I tried something new – I started a blog, with which this column shares its name.

I called it *Thai 101*, because even after several years of

intensive study, I'm a perpetual student and it reminds me of how much Thai I have still to learn.

The good news is that Thais appreciate even the tiniest amount of effort on your part.

As you may have noticed, most people you meet will be impressed that you are making the effort to learn their difficult language at all.

Some will heap praise upon you as if you had just recited the entire Ramakien, when all you did was order lunch.

I have learned the most by simply speaking Thai with Thais every day. I ask questions, and I pay careful attention to the way natives speak – word choice,

phrasing, intonation.

I recommend the same to anyone, but sometimes it's helpful to hear something particularly puzzling explained by someone who has been through the same learning process. That's where I come in.

This column will serve as a useful forum for your questions. Pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, I'll tackle them all.

The column will be geared toward beginners, but I'll gladly take questions on any topic, any level.

If it's not suitable for here, I could always write about it on my blog, which tends toward more advanced topics.

Whenever I meet someone who's lived in Thailand for a while and who thinks it's hopeless to learn the language, I want to prove them wrong.

If that's you, then read this column and see if the language isn't worth another try.

Next time we'll kick things off with an overview of free resources for the would-be student of Thai.

We're already in over our heads. We might as well keep swimming.

Rikker Dockum writes regularly at thai101.blogspot.com and can be contacted at: rdockum@gmail.com



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Stamping out Thailand's unwanted visitors

The capture of alleged international arms dealer Viktor Bout in Bangkok last month is only the latest in a series of high-profile arrests of foreign criminal suspects, fugitives and even international terrorist suspects hiding out on Thai soil or using the country as a base of operations.

The trend has been trumpeted by the Royal Thai Police as evidence of better co-ordination of investigations with its foreign counterparts, but the reality is that Thailand has become an attractive destination for international fugitives.

Many of the reasons for this are obvious and differ little from those of other foreign visitors: the food is delicious, the climate good and the living cheap.

These same factors that have led to Thailand's development as a mass-tourism destination (see "First Person", facing page) also make Thailand a haven for some dangerous characters.

Apart from the ease of entry under the current visa exemptions that apply to nationals of more than 40 countries, once in Thailand, criminals enjoy many infrastructure advantages they would not elsewhere.

For example, Thailand has thousands of Internet cafés across the country, where those of ill-intent can keep in contact with co-conspirators and track investigations against themselves with little risk of detection.

The string of headline arrests started with the 2003 capture in Ayudhaya by Thai police and CIA operatives of Indonesian national Riduan "Hambali" Isamuddin.

A number of foreign sex offenders have been extradited to stand trial for child molestation, with the suspects in at least two cases found to have lived in Phuket.

Thailand is also an attractive destination to hide out for more run-of-the-mill criminals, such as 21-year-old American bank-robber Morgan Hoke, aka "the Ponytail Bandit", who entered the Land of Smiles early this year on her own passport after allegedly committing a string of bank robberies with her husband in Texas.

Hoke was apparently so confident in her safety here that she had her mother fly in from Texas to join her – along with her pet cat.

Phuket also suffers from an influx of Thai criminals and fugitives on the run [See news pages]. Hopefully, the planned move of Police Region 8 headquarters to Phuket will signal the start of a serious new approach to crime enforcement on the island – we are going to need it.

– The Editor

Do you have an opinion you want to share?
Email editor@phuketgazette.net

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Letters

The *Gazette* is pleased to receive mail from readers. Please write to us at 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000, fax to 076-213971 or send an email to editor@phuketgazette.net

with your views for publication in our next issue. We reserve the right to edit all letters. Pseudonyms are acceptable only if your full name and address are supplied.

Why not charge them?

I read with disgust your article on the dumping of rubbish near beautiful Nai Thon beach [see "Sakoo OrBorTor: 'no action' on Nai Thon dumping", March 29 issue]. This is typical of money-hungry developers: short-term thinking and the destruction of a beautiful environment.

One wonders at the reluctance of the Sakoo OrBorTor to act upon this and charge the offenders. Is the OrBorTor on the payroll? It seems more than likely.

Paul Nelson
By email

The rustling of brown envelopes

This sort of photographic evidence [see "Sakoo OrBorTor: 'no action' on Nai Thon dumping", March 29 issue] would hold up in most courts of law worldwide.

I can hear the rustling of brown envelopes from here and I am in Yemen.

It's sad and unnecessary. The Nai Thon community should take their rubbish and dump it at the Vasi Construction premises.

Neill Campbell
Yemen

What is the point of CCTV?

If the photographic evidence [see "Sakoo OrBorTor: 'no action' on Nai Thon dumping", March 29 issue] isn't enough to press charges on the company that owns the truck, why have Phuket authorities bothered to install expensive CCTV cameras in places

throughout the island?

Photographic evidence should be as good as "catching in the act". The whole thing sounds a bit dodgy, doesn't it? Perhaps the truck company is too powerful and nobody dares to stop them?

Mike
By email

You can get away with murder

The response by Sakoo OrBorTor to what I thought was conclusive evidence of illegal dumping [see "Sakoo OrBorTor: 'no action' on Nai Thon dumping", March 29 issue] was, I think, evidence of some money passing hands.

I have never heard of a law anywhere – yes, even in Thailand – that requires the police to be present when a crime is committed.

The above being said, I now know that regardless of eye witnesses, photos, videos and so on, I can commit murder and get away with it if no policeman sees me.

Actually, if there is a shred of truth to the OrBorTor's statement, then any crime without a policeman being present is not an arrestable offense. Sad.

Don Aleman
By email

Sea turtles nearly stomped

It was supposed to be a shining example of wildlife conservation carried out with the best of intentions, however, the sea turtle release at Laguna turned out to be a poorly organized "show" for anyone with a camera.

The event lacked proper

planning and supervision of the turtles during their release. Crowd control was also an issue as people clambered closer and closer toward the point of release.

Repeated requests by the host for people to step back and not to obstruct the turtles' path fell on deaf ears. To further exacerbate the problem, no one seemed to do anything about it until the host allocated volunteers to help.

The turtles were released among the feet of the participants with just a 4-meter-wide avenue between the crowds of people and the spot where the turtles were being put on the sand.

Once the turtles were in the water, they had to dodge people standing and swimming in the water. Feelings of sadness, frustration and anger all became evident as the release progressed.

With better planning and supervision, this really could be a truly wonderful event, the idea and intention were certainly there!

Aidan
Cherng Talay

Hook, line and drinker

I fully support the Interior Minister's decision to enforce a 30-day drinking ban. Phuket residents will finally experience some peace and quiet.

Samuel Crisp

I got my April fuel

I almost fell off my office chair when I read the devastating news on April 1 about the 90 days without booze! Luckily, my assistant was not so easy to fool, and I'm happy again!

Have a good day,
Alike

Letters conveying views and suggestions are published here. Those seeking comment from government officials and/or business owners are published in *Issues & Answers* on the facing page.

Resort manager weighs up impact of mass tourism

The increase in mass tourism has positive and negative effects on Phuket. Mass tourism brings in more guests and helps promote the island, yet package tourists spend less during visits and package-deal vacations are sometimes priced below the combined value of the accommodations, transportation and meals provided.

I think the demand for tourism services is increasing. The name Phuket has become very well known; I think it is a place everyone wants to see once in their life.

Phuket currently has 380,000 registered accommodation rooms at all levels, from "no star" rooms to full 5-star accommodations.

These support every grade of tourist, but package tourists arriving on charter flights always stay at the 2- to 4-star hotel category. Very few of them stay at five-star hotels.

Some 2,000 new rooms are expected to be added next year. I think it would be great if the number of rooms built correlated to actual market demand – and not just the profit projections of investors.

To protect Phuket against oversupply, new construction should reflect supply and demand factors as forecast by such tourism industry experts as the World Tourism Council (WTC) or the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA).

I think it's true that Phuket is becoming a year-round tourist destination. A few years ago, we began calling the low season the "green season" instead.

The green season is aimed at specific groups that travel during this time of year, such as Indians, Chinese, Australians and

FIRST PERSON

Phuket continues to attract an increasing number of tourists each year, spawning constant growth and private construction while the island's infrastructure development struggles to keep pace. A mass tourism trend has developed and more and more tourists arrive here on package tours, which are especially popular among Asian visitors.

Methee Tanmanatragul, former President of the Thai Hotels Association Southern Chapter and currently the managing director of Phuket Rising Sun Residence in Chalong, is wary of mass tourism.

Here he shares his thoughts on mass tourism, infrastructure woes and related topics. Compiled by *Gazette* Chief Reporter Sangkhae Leelanaporn.



Middle Easterners who come here to enjoy the rainy season.

If we could better manage supply and demand, it would become less necessary to compete among ourselves using promotional price discounts. Then, if we became faced with a major crisis, there would be less need to worry. We could still fall back on using big discounts to survive as a last resort.

Currently there is a problem with the rate of overall growth compared to infrastructure development. Infrastructure maintenance and new construction is funded by the government, but the demand for it is created by rapid growth in tourism and new projects built by the private sector. Government infrastructure

simply can't keep up.

Consider as an example Phuket International Airport. There is insufficient parking and security-check lines for departures are very long. I don't think tourists want or expect this. They shouldn't have to wait for more than an hour to clear Customs and Immigration. The situation is problematic for both arrivals and departures, but with more tourists coming every year the government infrastructure is having trouble catching up.

As previously stated, the best solution would be to control mass tourism by evaluating supply and demand according to WTC and PATA forecasts. Investors would have to comply, with the government responsible

for enforcing new regulations on permissible development.

The government should consider putting in place regulations to limit growth on new construction and improve tourism-industry management. It would not be difficult, but would require determination and commitment from all sides. Sitting down to discuss the issue would be the necessary first step.

In Singapore and Hong Kong, they forecast how many three- or five-star hotels should be built over a five-year period. Then they adapt these plans according to what the market does over that time.

This is very different from Thailand, where investors can do whatever they want – if they have

money and land.

We should do business with long-term sustainability in mind, not just short-term profits over three to five years. Currently, when a major crisis occurs everyone suffers and we must wait at least two or three years to recover because supply keeps going up while demand remains relatively constant.

Everyone wants the number of tourists to go up and up, but they forget to consider that more arrivals does not always equate to more profit; less can be more – if you manage it correctly. More tourists and unregulated growth can not only mean reduced profits, but also lead to unnecessary environmental destruction and stiff competition.

We have to plan for future crises, accepting that anything can happen without warning – including disasters both natural and man-made. Nowhere in the world is completely safe.

I'm not concerned with regulating how individual hotels market their products and services.

I'm worried about the overall management of Phuket's tourism industry, especially its affect on infrastructure requirements.

For example, better regulation and organization could fix Phuket's transport woes. There is no need for an expensive light rail system. Other countries that receive more tourists than Phuket do not have light rail transport, but they manage their bus and other transport systems well.

Currently when a guest walks out of the Phuket airport, it is as if he or she is a piece of meat that everyone is fighting over to grab and eat. That's how it is now, but if we had better tourism management the situation would certainly improve.

Re-entry permits: the art of staying in Thailand

I obtained my first non-immigrant B, multiple-entry visa in the UK last year and have since then been living and working in Thailand.

My non-imm B visa was due to expire, so I went to Kuala Lumpur to obtain a new non-imm B visa.

My accountant prepared all the paperwork for my application. Upon presenting these papers in KL, I was told by embassy staff that I could be issued only a single-entry, three-month B visa. When I questioned this, all I was told was that the problem was my work permit, but they couldn't say exactly what.

I was in Kuala Lumpur on January 30 and my work permit, which is valid for one year, was

due to expire on February 8. I explained that I would renew my work permit when I returned to Thailand. However, they insisted I could be issued only a single-entry visa, but that I could upgrade this to a multiple-entry visa in Thailand.

However, my accountant told me that this cannot be done in Thailand and that I will have to return to Kuala Lumpur and again apply for a non-imm B visa before my current visa runs out.

Can you please advise me of the best action as my business requires me to leave Thailand often and having a single-entry visa makes this difficult.

Robert J Scammell
By email

Issues & ANSWERS

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Pol Capt Krissarat Nuesen, of the Phuket Provincial Immigration Office, replies:

You can apply for a one-year permit-to-stay based on the non-immigrant B visa that you received from the Thai embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

You must apply for a one-year permit-to-stay at the Phuket

Immigration Office before your visa expires. You qualify for the permit-to-stay under category 7.1 of the Order of The Royal Thai Office Headquarters, No. 606/2549.

For further information see www.immigration.go.th/nov2004/2notice/rtp606EN.pdf

Once you have been issued

with a one-year permit-to-stay, apply for a re-entry permit before you need to leave Thailand again. Otherwise, if you leave Thailand, you will need to obtain a new visa.

The re-entry permit will allow to you to return to Thailand without voiding your one-year permit-to-stay.

A single-use re-entry permit costs a1,000 baht and a multiple re-entry permit costs 3,800 baht.

With a one-year permit-to-stay and a multiple re-entry permit, you no longer need to obtain a new visa from an embassy or consulate.

In the month before your permit-to-stay expires, just come to our office and apply for a new one.

Phone freaks break their silence

Is there nowhere left on our small planet that's safe from the annoying ring tones of mobile phones and the inane prattle that subsequently ensues?

Sid went on his annual dive trip to the Similans a couple of weeks ago. As the good dive-ship *Lollypop* slid out of Tap Lamu, a wave of agitation spread though the assembled throng of sub-aqua enthusiasts.

A frisson of energizing fear seemed to galvanize my fellow aqua-naughts causing them to dive into their luggage, pull out their mobiles and call home for one last idiotic conversation before we slid out of network range.

The typical conversation went a little like this:

"Hello, it's me. Yes, we're on the boat now just leaving the harbor. What? What did you say? Oh yes, right, it's in the biscuit tin next to the stereo where we always keep it. What? What? The cat's got scabies? Well she'll have to wait until I get back. Yes, in three days. Well I'll call you as soon as we get back into range again. Okay, good luck in the Godzilla look-alike competition."

Smacked of gob, Sid felt a bit left out of all this.

Wracking what's left of my brain, I couldn't think of a single absolutely urgent conversation I needed to have about my gold-

fish, pet hamster or whatever, before we dropped below the radio-wave horizon. As far as the rest of the known world was concerned, I ceased to exist. Was I some sort of social misfit, an outcast from normal civilized life, because I didn't seem to have one last inane prattle that I urgently had to deliver to someone?

That's the way life has become.

We have to phone or text our Facebook pals every 24 hours, just to let them know that the grim reaper hasn't smashed our mobiles from our sweating hands and consigned us to that place where no mobile network can penetrate.

Yes, that's

the modern version of hell. A mobile-less realm where people talk personally to each other, employing such quaint, old-fashioned communication strategies as eye contact, facial expressions and, heaven forbid, bodily contact.

Yes, yes, I know that what used to be called a phone now transmits both still and video images of you and your friends as you make rabbits' ears behind their heads just before they bungy jump off the Kawarau Bridge in Queenstown, or launch themselves down the Cresta bobsleigh run in Saint Moritz.

But it's just not the same as



a real one-on-one conversation with the possibility of a cuddle thrown in.

As the ultimately intrusive modern device, the cellphone has spawned a rash of new rules of etiquette and social engagement. When is it socially unacceptable to take an incoming call? Many seem to think that their mobiles take precedence over all real-life, interpersonal exchanges in which they happen to be engaged.

Delivering a baby? Hold on a tick, that's my golf partner on the mobile. I'll just let him know that I'll be 20 minutes late joining him on the links.

Making love? Oops, hold on honey, that's the difficult client I told you about calling from Hanoi. It'll take a moment to let him know that his jellied eels will be delivered to him tomorrow.

And so it goes on.

True story. One pal of Sid's

had to endure a particularly nasty divorce in Sydney, but did enjoy a moment of comic relief when his buxom soon-to-be ex-wife answered her mobile while being questioned by the judge in court and was fined for contempt.

Nowhere seems safe in today's Phuket. Sid has had to endure mobile misery on the beach, in the herbal sauna and even in the swimming pool. A guy I train with keeps his mobile poolside and interrupts his laps just to talk to his travel agent.

At least we're safe underwater (so far), which is one of the great boons to being a scuba enthusiast in this age of mobile misery. At least down there, among the coral gardens and moray, they can't reach you. You'd think that the other divers would have enjoyed the three days out of network range as much as Sid did. But oh no.

Even before we were back within a few miles of the coast, all my fellow divers were waving their phones, waiting, like nervous parents-to-be, for the networks to come back on. And the moment their phones were online, it was back to inane conversational business as though they had never been away.

"Hello, yes just getting back into port. How's the cat? Really, rabies not scabies? Who won the Godzilla contest? Really, Godzilla. Well I never."

At this point Sid jumped overboard and was last seen doing a ferocious breast stroke back in the direction of the Similans.

In The Stars

by Isla Star

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Those of you who were the subject of an April Fool's joke will get a chance to retaliate. Life is forecast to be lighthearted as the month progresses and cares disappear as your contentment increases. The only event likely to rock the boat could occur mid-week when an old flame expects romance to be rekindled. This would be an invitation for mistakes to be repeated. Wear the color ivory to encourage a wise attitude.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Mentally you are fighting fit, but physically you are somewhat drained. Recent commitments have demanded more energy than expected, so put the emphasis on relaxation for now. Heat builds up in a new relationship and the person concerned could demand more involvement than you're ready to give. This Sunday is the best day for a heart-to-heart talk concerning the situation.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Those of you who have recently been reminded how important family relationships are will be ready to make extra effort. Your tendency to act first and think later is getting in the way of seri-

ous progress in business. A Sagittarian friend has some pearls of wisdom, but Leo can't see the full picture. Luck is on your side concerning a possible change of residence.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): Most of you are forecast to cruise through life during April. As the end of the month approaches you will be glad to have put something on one side for rainy days. Those who haven't managed to do so could find themselves tightening belts. In the meantime, new employment prospects will be presented. This will probably involve more travel than family members are happy about, but a compromise can be found.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Your hopes for a holiday are temporarily dashed, but short trips can compensate. The air is clear for reconciliations; those of you who have regretted words spoken in the heat of the moment are advised to make the first move. A dream you have early in the week could shed some light on a big decision. The number 5 is lucky this weekend.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): Your gestures are open to

misunderstanding this weekend. Those of you who would like to get to know a certain someone better are advised to make your intentions clear. There are signs that a new romance is bubbling under. Pace yourself in the heat as energy is liable to be running low. This is not the right time to take up a physically demanding sport. Wear the color peacock blue to encourage balance.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): After a joke played on you last week backfired, you now see the funny side. The over-sensitive attitude of last month finally gives way to a more down-to-earth mood. Those who have recently become single will be content to remain that way. Celebrating your freedom could include a last-minute trip this weekend. Money matters will receive a boost when an investment finally pays off. Number four can bring some luck on Monday.

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): Those of you who suspect that an acquaintance has been spreading rumors will discover the truth this weekend. It

seems likely that this person will no longer be part of your friendship circle. April is the ideal month to spread your wings socially; accepting invitations with no immediate appeal can lead to more enjoyment than anticipated. On

Tuesday you will need to plan appointments carefully as delays are indicated.

Those of you who were the subject of an April Fool's joke will get a chance to retaliate.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): Memory lapses are indicated during the days ahead. An ongoing personal dilemma is probably responsible for this and you should endeavor to move on. Acceptance is the key as there is nothing you can do to change the situation. A new person in authority at work causes ripples, but you will soon find that they have the power to improve unsatisfactory conditions. Wear the color light jade green to encourage a positive outlook.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): You will be happy to drift through life during most of April. Having achieved a long-term ambition, your confidence has grown and this is being noticed by some powerful people.

As the month progresses, offers of business opportunities will be presented and at least one has a chance of success. Where romance is concerned, attraction of opposites could fade away when a more compatible Taurean shows interest this weekend.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Although your need to be a free spirit is strong, if you are single and searching for a soulmate you could find your match this week. Cancer finally comes out of their shell for long enough to make a romantic approach and a magnetic attraction is forecast. Those already in a committed relationship will be impressed by their partner's achievements this week. Wear lavender for peace of mind.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): Putting all your eggs in one basket is inadvisable. Those of you who have been searching for the right investment are advised to wait until next month when a realistic proposition is forecast to appear. In the meantime, expand your social circle to include those you would like to do business with. Working with Aries would be rewarding, but don't expect to see eye to eye with Gemini.

I made a New Year's resolution to keep a database and track all announcements by government agencies concerning ICT and software development. I am regretting that commitment already. March saw more than 40 announcements from Thai government agencies on high-technology projects planned for the next five years.

I'll try to make some sense of it all. Let's start with the master plans. The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Ministry is developing its National ICT Master Plan 2007-2011 to submit for Cabinet approval in September. Its purpose is to reduce the digital divide between people in metropolitan and rural areas, allowing everyone in Thailand access the Net.

Meanwhile, the Association of Thai Software Industry (ATSI) is working with the National Science and Technology Development Agency's Technology Management Center (TMC) through the Industry Technology Assistance Program (iTAP).

The program aims to develop Roadmap 2020 – a plan by the TMC to set the direction of Thailand's software development over the next 12 years.

In addition, the National Electronics and Computer Technology Center (Nectec) is developing a knowledge-engineering-technology roadmap. The five-year plan has three phases: 1) collect information that can be accessed through a specially developed content-management system; 2) create a digital library that automatically summarizes information; 3) develop a knowledge-based system prototype with artificial intelligence, allowing people to search for any kind of knowledge through text, voice and images.

Education Minister Somchai Wongsawat recently made three startling announcements: 1) the Education Ministry will buy one million notebook computers to be loaned to students; 2) he will ask the ICT Ministry to provide high-speed Internet access to all 32,434 public schools in Thailand; 3) the Education Ministry will spend about 12.4 billion baht over the next four years to "develop IT personnel for providing IT knowledge to students", which hopefully means lots and lots of qualified IT teachers.

Nectec has designated Digitized Thailand as its flagship

Some of Thailand's best laid ICT plans

project for the year. It will provide a network and the tools to use it and it will act as a central collection point of digital content contributed to and accessible anytime, anywhere, by anybody.

The Application of Digital Library for Education project is another part of the Digitized Thailand plan. This one is by the Office of the Basic Education Commission, under the Ministry of Education. Students and teachers will have access to a digital library of books, articles, music, videos, photographs and other learning resources.

There are also many projects and programs on the drawing boards to help Thai software companies. The National Innovation Agency, under the Science Ministry, will provide funding support to private companies to encourage innovation and the patenting of intellectual property.

The Software Industry Promotion Agency (SIPA) believes that open-source software is a crucial area of innovation, and encourages local users to support and promote open source.

Nectec and the Open Source Software Network will next year establish the Linux Technology Center as a base for local open-source-software development. The three-year goal is to produce a 100% Thai-made open-source mobile device for data collection and storage.

SIPA will work with the Office of Small and Medium En-

	Rating	Geopolitical Risk	English Proficiency	Infrastructure	Labor Cost	Cultural Compatibility	Government Support
India	Leader	High	Good	Poor	\$5,800	Fair	Fair
Philippines	Leader	Moderate	Good	Good	\$6,564	Good	Good
Malaysia	Up and Coming	Moderate	Fair	Good	\$7,200	Poor	Good
Vietnam	Up and Coming	Low	Poor	Poor	\$7,200	Fair	Good
Thailand	Bookie	Low	Poor	Fair	\$11,124	Poor	Fair
SKorea	Bookie	Moderate	Poor	Good	\$23,440	Poor	Good
Singapore	Bookie	Low	Fair	Good	\$31,584	Good	Good
Pakistan	Bookie	High	Good	Fair	\$3,900	Fair	Good

Even the BOI does not paint a pretty picture when describing the state of Thailand's IT labor. Yet plans are afoot to change that.

Source: "BOI software incentives package and other related ICT industry", compiled by Thailand Board of Investment (BOI) Investment Promotion Officer Patipol Kornkamonpruk.

terprise Promotion to establish a Digital Content Incubation Center aimed at supporting IT startups and SMEs providing consultancy, training, technical support and electronic media. The center will aim to have such companies promote collaboration among local software developers.

ATSI plans to set up a software fund to provide soft loans of three years to businesses so they can invest in Thai software.

ATSI is also working with the Department of Industrial Promotion, SIPA, Microsoft, Rangsit University and 20 other local software producers to set up the country's first software factory.

Promoting Thai software in other countries is a big priority. With the help of ATSI, Nectec

aims to promote Thai software in emerging markets. To this end, Nectec has already signed a memorandum of understanding to promote Thai software in Bhutan. ATSI has asked SIPA for 5 million baht to make a Thai-made software suite for Laos.

The Thai Software Export Promotion Association plans to boost software exports by helping local companies tap into the international market. Plans include targeting the financial market in Vietnam, followed by China, Japan and the Philippines.

On the heels of the "Go To US Market" scheme, Software Park Thailand has developed the "Go To Chinese Market" program, to encourage local software businesses to penetrate the Chi-

nese market. The Park signed a memorandum of understanding with Singapore-Hangzhou Science and Technology Park, which will act as a matchmaker to identify and link potential partners with Thai software businesses.

The most sensible of all these plans is an initiative of SIPA's electronic-commerce subcommittee to match the demands of E-commerce and software in the tourism industry with local software providers.

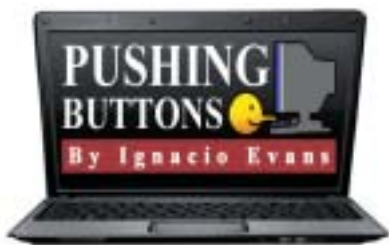
The first three priority E-commerce applications for the initial stage are electronic marketing, online reservations and interactive digital mapping.

There are more than 1,000 potential target clients in the tourism industry that need software and systems to improve productivity. Future applications could include customer-relationship management and electronic-payment systems.

The big question is, "Where are all these software developers and IT professionals coming from and who is going to train them?" A program initiated by ATSI will train senior students in software programming and development processes to make them "industry ready" when they graduate. Students from the nine universities of the Rajamangala University of Technology system will be sent for training and work at local software companies in the ATSI network.

Sripatum University in Bangkok plans to invest 300 million baht to upgrade its ICT infrastructure to become an "ICT Campus", offering ICT and software-related courses. The university will also open its "Information Service Institute" to provide IT courses.

SIPA can evidently pull many rabbits out of a hat. They are hoping to produce 10,000 IT and computer professionals "as Thailand has a lack of IT skills, especially computer engineers". How they are going to achieve this has yet to be revealed.



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By Semacote Suganya

HomeWorks spend B1bn on Phuket supercenter

PHUKET CITY: Central Retail Corporation (CRC) has announced that the Phuket HomeWorks supercenter, currently under construction across the bypass road from Central Festival, is the corporation's largest HomeWorks project to date.

The home fittings and furnishings supercenter is being constructed at a cost of one billion baht and is expected to open before the end of October. It is currently 20% complete.

Up to 300,000 customers per month are expected to shop at the center, consisting of a HomeWorks superstore, a Power Buy store and an electronics and computers center.

HomeWorks will take up 10,000sqm of the new building while Power Buy will occupy about 3,000sqm. The remaining area will be rented out said Kamchai Louiyapong, Vice-President – Business Development of CRC Power Retail Co Ltd.

He added that the two-story building will cover a total area of 26,000sqm.

An enclosed walkway over the bypass road linking Central Festival and HomeWorks will allow customers to shop at both stores. The cross-flow of shoppers is expected to be a major draw card for commercial tenants in the new center Khun Kamchai said.

"With investment capital of 1 billion baht, we expect to recoup our outlay in eight to 10 years," he added.

Nilubol Jirapattanapongm, Marketing Director of CRC Power Retail Co, said that HomeWorks and Power Buy will be the main attractions for customers.

"HomeWorks in Phuket is our big-

gest project to date. With investment capital of a billion baht, this kind of investment is more than that of some hotels. We are willing to invest this much because we are confident that Central and HomeWorks work together very well," she said.

K. Nilubol added that the HomeWorks store in the supercenter will be unique in that 30% of its product range will not be available at other HomeWorks outlets. "As people in Phuket have high-spending power, we will be offering high-end products in a range of areas, from built-in furniture to wooden floors and even outdoor spas," she said.

The HomeWorks and Power Buy in the HomeWorks supercenter will also offer greater ranges of goods than their counterparts in Central Festival, which will remain open, said K. Kamchai.

"Central Festival focuses on fashion and entertainment, but HomeWorks is for home and home services," said K. Kamchai. "We will co-ordinate our marketing plans and join activities with Central, so customers will flow between the two. People who rent shop space can be assured they will have customers as our strength is marketing."

K. Nilubol explained, "We often share media coverage with Central Festival with things such as advertising and promoting events, but much of our marketing



'We are willing to invest this much because we are confident that Central and HomeWorks work together very well' – Nilubol Jirapattanapongm, Marketing Director of CRC Power Retail Co.

we do ourselves because we have a different customer target group."

"Our target clients are owners of new and old homes. People who are renovating or redecorating their homes think of us first," she added.

Asked why HomeWorks opened the small outlet in the basement of Central Festival, K. Kamchai explained that that small-shop format is well suited to Bangkok where HomeWorks has outlets

in smaller shopping malls. "With bigger, stand-alone HomeWorks centers, we can offer more products and a greater variety so customers can get exactly what they want," he said.

"Besides, Phuket has the fastest-growing property market in Thailand. So if we want to be responsive to customers' needs, we must have a bigger format, new items and a complete range of products. We have some imported products as well," he added.

Smaller stores inside the complex will be allocated into the following zones: Zone 1 restaurants; Zone 2 banking, retail and services shops; Zone 3 decor stores; Zone 4 furniture; Zone 5 food; Zone 6 small shops of about 80sqm each.

The entrances will be lined with small retail shops and a central area will be used for staging events.

In attracting commercial tenants, K. Kamchai said, "The front of the building will have an area of 400sqm with high visibility. We are confident that people who rent shop spaces in this area will attract many customers from their shops being very prominent."

Another attraction, K. Kamchai said, is parking. "Often there is not enough parking space at Central, so shoppers will be able to park here and walk to Central using the bridge," he explained.

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ON THE MOVE

Mövenpick Resort & Spa in Karon has appointed **Andrew Johnstone**, from England, as Public Relations Manager. An Oxford Polytechnic graduate and British Army cavalry officer, he also holds an MA from the Royal College of Defence Studies.

Since moving to Phuket in 2001, Mr Johnstone has written for many travel and lifestyle publications and was also features editor at the *Gazette*.



Ghaninbhadj Singhsant has been appointed Director of Training (Corporate Office) at Centara Hotels & Resorts. Mr Singhsant graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication from Chiang Mai University.

He has previously worked in the training field with international brands including L'Oreal and Unilever, and was at Manpower Thailand before joining Centara.



Chonlathich Na Nakorn, from Phuket, has been appointed Assistant Sales & PR Manager of Mercure Patong Phuket. He graduated with a Master of Business Administration from Central Queensland University, Australia, and a Bachelor of Arts (Hotel Management) at Rangsit University in Bangkok.

K. Chonlathich was at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort before his Mercure appointment.



Weak dollar has ripple effect

The falling US dollar might appear to be bad news only for America, but the weak dollar is causing strains in many economies.

Japan is watching the yen, appreciate rapidly against the dollar. There is no sense of national pride in having a strong yen. Quite the reverse, it is making Japanese exports to the greater US dollar zone more expensive and less competitive.

The Japanese economy appears to be managing to stay out of a recession, although economic growth is so weak the economy is almost stagnating.

One year ago, the Bank of Japan, Japan's central bank, was poised to increase interest rates from the dismal base rate of 0.5%. However, as the credit crunch, felt mainly in the US and later in Europe, started to take hold, conditions for any interest rate hike started to disappear.

The Bank of Japan is more likely to cut interest rates, but when you have rates at 0.5% it is only a little way to go before reaching zero. The Bank of Japan is aware that it has limited room to maneuver. Japan may have the world's second highest foreign reserves at around US\$ 1 trillion, but it also has the world's highest domestic debt at 180% of gross domestic product.

This debt is different to the debt in countries such as America. In the US, the debt was mainly incurred by consumers, although the government played a substantial role. Japan's debt was caused almost completely by crazy government spending in the 1990s when the ruling party thought that the way to raise Japan from recession was to throw money at the problem.

Quite how anyone expects Japan to be able to repay its domestic debt remains unanswered.

This is an area that has many economists and investors

worried. If Japan was able to fall into a financial quagmire after the booms of the 1970s and 1980s, it is possible that the US could fall into the same trap. They both share one common problem: too much debt.

The euro zone appears to be the beneficiary of the falling US dollar. The value of the euro is rising rapidly, which is good for euro-zone residents vacationing in America or importing goods from a weaker currency area.

However, for exports, it makes the euro an expensive production center and manufacturers are, where possible, moving operations to cheaper countries. The more rapidly the euro appreciates, the greater the pressure for manufacturers to relocate.

Usually during the economic cycle, the US leads the way, followed by the UK and then Europe. Impacts that are felt in America today are felt some months later in other parts of the world. (The "real" world as opposed to the "financial" world, which usually anticipates events.) This can be felt both when economies are slowing and recovering.

Currencies, such as the pound sterling and the euro, can best be described as expensive



against the dollar. However, currencies are no different from other areas of financial markets. They resemble pendulums and when they move in any direction they generally move too far before correction sets in.

There is increasing concern that a significant percentage of the world is going to experience a protracted recession; something so bad that economic historians will have to go back decades to find parallels.

This is only one school of thought; many economists believe that there is a recent trend of milder and shorter historical norms.

The greatest asset that we have today, compared with even a decade ago, is the rise in the size of some emerging economies. These include China, India, Russia and Brazil, but it is easy to overlook parts of the Middle East and newcomers such as Vietnam. In addition, countries

embryonic. Several decades ago, the world economy was almost totally reliant on North America and Western Europe. Then Japan entered the equation. With so many substantial economies reaching a "critical mass", the dynamics of the situation have changed.

In 1998, the Russian economy was on the verge of collapse and its size was of little consequence; 10 years later, Russia, if expressed as a European economy, is now Europe's largest automobile market. It also has large foreign exchange reserves and even boasts its own sovereign wealth fund.

It shows just how much can change in a decade.

Richard G Watson runs Global Portfolios Co Ltd, a Phuket-based personal financial-planning service. He can be reached at Tel: 076-381997, Mobile: 081-0814611. Email: imm@loxinfo.co.th Website: www.global-portfolios.com



MONEY TALKS

By Richard G Watson



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By Scott Mallon

Phuket's Yellow Tiger still roars

It was early evening and getting dark as a car sped along the highway towards Bangkok. A cellphone rang repeatedly and Yellow Tiger barked out the same phrase to callers: "Somsak lost by third-round knockout, Somsak lost by third-round knockout!"

It was October 4, 2006 and Somsak Sithchatchawal had just been knocked out by Panamanian Celestino Caballero in a bout that came to shock Thai fans – and it was Yellow Tiger's job to break the bad news to them.

Yellow Tiger embarked on his career as a boxing writer some 30 years ago, 10 years before the championship reign of the great Khaosai Galaxy. Now one of Thailand's most well-known boxing journalists, known to his readers as Yellow Tiger and for one distinguishing feature: a lazy left eye that he's had since birth.

In 1975, Yellow Tiger married a go-go dancer in Phuket. He was struggling to make ends meet working as a fisherman. Madly in love, he worked hard to build a life with his new wife; she had other ideas, however.

After a year of marriage and poverty, it became too much for her to bear. One day while Yellow Tiger was out at sea, she packed her bags and left, never to be seen again. He was devastated.

Yellow Tiger quickly decided he was in need of a drastic life change. He hopped on a fishing truck and headed for Bangkok in search of a new life. He had just 85 baht to his name.



WBC super bantamweight champion Celestino Caballero (left) with Yellow Tiger (right) after knocking out Somsak Sithchatchawal in three rounds in October, 2006.

"It was rough at first," he said. "I was in bad shape. Nobody would give me a job. Even the soi dogs were scared of me."

Within a few days, he landed a job as a janitor at Nonthaburi Boxing Stadium. It was there he nurtured his love for Muay Thai and boxing into a career. He worked at the stadium for a few years, learning the ins and outs of the sport and making valuable connections. The stadium eventually

closed, but he used his contacts to find a job as an office boy on the now defunct *Boxing and Muay Thai Magazine*.

His love for boxing and Muay Thai inspired him to study the different styles of the writers at the magazine and to give writing a shot. It wasn't easy; he had a third-grade education and was untrained in journalism. Before long, though, he had his first article published and he was writing full time for the magazine.

It was while working at *Boxing and Muay Thai Magazine* that he was given the name Yellow Tiger. Malaysians are sometimes referred to as Tiger People because of the abundance of tigers in the region. Phuket, where Yellow Tiger hails from, is next to the Malaysian border – or so thought people in the Bangkok-based Muay Thai community.

Since he was the only southerner working on the magazine, his editor, Prateep Buaram,

came up with the nickname Yellow Tiger to give readers a moniker they could remember. Decades later, it's the name he is known by.

Yellow Tiger writes for *Muay Lok Magazine*, where he has his own fan club, Chik Song (the Open Envelope).

Despite being unable to speak a word of English, he has traveled the globe covering fights and has met some of the biggest names in boxing.

Not bad for a once poverty-stricken fisherman from Phuket who was married to – and dumped by – a go-go dancer.

Scott Mallon, a Bangkok-based boxing writer and photojournalist, is a member of *The Ring* magazine's ratings advisory panel.



ALL TOGETHER NOW

THALANG: Students from Baan Prujumpa School, Wat Meuangmai School, Baan Pa Khlok School, Baan Borkruad School and Wat Thepkrasattri School competed in various sporting events on March 9 as part of the Annual Festival of the Two Heroines.

Games, which were played at Thalang Chanasuk Memorial Field, included tug-of-war, mountain biking, rattan ball, sea boxing and sack racing, with 500 baht going to winning teams.

Pictured in a grueling tug-of-war are students from Baan Pa Khlok School.

**PATONG
DARTS
LEAGUE**

PATONG: Market Bar continued their fine run with a 2-1 victory over Offshore. Valhalla saw double, but still got the beer and Queen Mary stretched their unbeaten streak to 30 wins in a row.

In Queen Mary's decisive 7-2 road win over Beach House, Steen of Queen Mary hit a 180 to take the high score yet again. Dogs Bollocks, who got off to a slow start, bit into the Sick Buffalo and took the beer for good measure.

Shakers had the finishing touch against Valhalla, with Shaun closing a 54 (14, X20), Andy a 69 (T19, X6) and Oli checking out on a 58 (4,14, X20).

The disadvantages of electronic scoring came into the spotlight when the all-important beer leg had to be replayed after a scoring error mid-way though.

League secretary Steen has requested captains of home teams remember to SMS results to him as soon as possible, preferably after the game.

Send additional match notes to darts@phuketgazette for inclusion in this forum.

March 25 results: Beach House 2 Queen Mary* 7; Sick Buffalo 1 Dogs Bollocks* 8; Simply Red 1 Piccadilly* 8; Market Bar 5 Offshore* 4; Valhalla* 4 Shakers 5 (* = winner of beer leg).

Standings: 1. Queen Mary (31 pts.); 2. Piccadilly (29); 3. Shakers (16); 4.= Dogs Bollocks, Offshore (15); 6= Market Bar, Sick Buffalo (13); 8.= Beach House, Valhalla (12); 10. Simply Red (9).

April 8 match-ups: Simply Red v Queen Mary; Valhalla v Dogs Bollocks; Shakers v Piccadilly; Sick Buffalo v Offshore; Market Bar v Beach House.

Flying Fish make a splash at international meet

SINGAPORE: Two swimmers from British International School (BIS) Flying Fish Swimming Club took part in the Singapore National Age Group Championships from March 7 to 9 with some impressive results.

Bianca Goetz, 12, a Singaporean national, won three silver medals in the 12-year-old freestyle events: for the 100m (1:03.18), 200m (2:17.40) and 400m (4:49.10).

Goetz also picked up a bronze medal in the 50m freestyle (30.00), securing her position in the Singaporean youth national squad to take compete in the Southeast Asian Age Group Championships in Bangkok from June 6 to 8.

Thai national Karnnika Porter, 15, swam the 50m and 100m breaststroke events, achieving the second-fastest time in the 15-year-old age group and the fifth overall fastest time for that event.

These performances qualified Karnnika to swim in the Thai National Age Group Champion-



Members of the Phuket relay team, who made it to the finals in the 4-by-100-meter-medley event. Among the swimmers are BIS students Gavin Lewis (far right) and Karnnika Porter (2nd from left).

ships, which were held March 21 to 27 in Ubon Ratchathani.

Two swimmers from BIS Flying Fish represented Phuket at the championships, with Porter joined by Gavin Lewis, 17.

Porter finished the 50m breaststroke race in 37.27 seconds – just two seconds outside the national record. She finished

14th in the 100m breaststroke and recorded a personal best of 3:03.52 in the 200m breaststroke.

In the men's 50m butterfly final, Lewis recorded a swim of 27.51 seconds – 0.07s outside the national record. In the men's 50m freestyle, he swam 25.39 seconds to take sixth place – 0.5s outside the national record.

ISLAND FURNITURE CRICKET LEAGUE

CHERNG TALAY: Match nine of the Island Furniture Cricket League at Cherng Talay Wittayakom School on March 2 saw the Liquid Lounge Lizards (LLL) take on the Village Cricket Team (VCT) for the second time in as many weeks.

In their previous encounter, LLL won easily by 380 runs. This time, VCT batted first, a chore they took to with copious amounts of beer.

In one of the quickest innings in the league's history, VCT soon found themselves back in the pavilion without troubling the scorers. None of the batsmen made it to double figures and the side managed to notch up only 44

runs, with the side all out in the 12th over.

LLL's B Davis and C Du Preez did the damage with the ball, with bowling figures of 4-0-15-4 and 5.4-1-14-5, respectively. A Hodges also picked up a wicket.

After lunch, LLL went out to chase down a minuscule target of 45 runs to win. However, they lost opening batsman C Du Preez for a golden duck (out on the first ball faced), which gave VCT something to cheer about.

D Orchard showed his dislike for running singles by scoring 24 not out off 11 balls, including five fours. Although LLL lost one more wicket, they reached their target in the seventh over to

win by eight wickets.

LLL were awarded 15 points for their efforts, taking them to the top of the league ladder with 74 points. VCT added just one more point to their tally, to take them to seven on the points league table.

C Du Preez was named man of the match.

Patong Cricket Club is second overall in the league with 56 points. Island Cricket Club has 51 points and VCC have yet to score.

The next matches will be played at Cherng Talay Wittayakom School on April 6.

For details email Mark Whetton at scarfy@loxinfo.co.th

Supercross stars to perform at Bike Week

KATHU: As part of Phuket Bike Week, to be held April 10 to 12, motorsport fans will be treated to a motocross stunt display by biking brothers Michael and Aka Robinson.

The show will take place April 12, at a time yet to be confirmed, at Patong Go Kart on Wichit Songkhram Rd.

Between them, Michael and Aka Robinson have held the New Zealand Motocross and Grand Prix Championship, the Asia Pacific Motocross and Supercross Championship and the AAM SIC Malaysia Motocross Championship.

AC Milan to return to Phuket

PHUKET CITY: AC Milan Academy Croatia will return to Phuket for the third time to hold a training camp at Surakul Stadium on Wichit Songkhram Rd from April 28 to May 1.

Head Coach Damir Cavka, along with his assistant Coach Miro Pelvic, will offer a workshop for 50 of Phuket's football coaches and a training camp for 100 children aged 11 to 14 years.

The training camp will cost 1,500 baht per day for coaches. A price has yet to be set for children.

The Milan coaches will select five Thai coaches and a yet-to-be-determined number of players to attend the AC Milan Croatia Institute for two weeks in May with all expenses paid.

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel



A multi-million-baht rejuvenation of Saphan Hin has begun to make the area more appealing and protect the coast from erosion. Inset: a computer-generated image of the Phase 1 completed.

Phase 1 of Saphan Hin makeover 20% complete

PHUKET CITY: Work on the first phase of a project to beautify 6,000 square meters along the Saphan Hin waterfront is now 20% complete.

The project, which is being co-ordinated by Phuket City Municipality, is expected to be complete by September.

Kriangsak Chuchatpong, director of the Public Works Division of Phuket City Municipality, told the *Gazette* that the aim of the "Ley Nai Muang" project is to protect Phuket's coast at Saphan Hin from potential erosion by sea water.

The landscaping of the area is also set to make Saphan Hin more appealing as a place for the public to visit.

The first phase of the project commenced at the beginning of March and comprises a three-meter-high, 268m-long stone embankment. Phase 1 also includes a 2.8m wide, 380m long concrete promenade along the waterfront.

Funded by Phuket City Municipality, the first phase of construction has been allocated a budget of 10 million baht.

Phase 2, which is currently in the planning stage, will shift the focus of the project onto landscaping.

"We still need another budget for the second phase. We are waiting for next year's budget and expect to finish about mid-next year.

"This first phase needs about 180 days to complete and we expect to finish on time, although we are facing some problems, such as not enough workers," said K. Kriangsak.

When completed, Saphan Hin will be a public area that K. Kriangsak hopes will be well received by locals and visitors to Phuket.

"Saphan Hin is a well-known place where people go to see the sunrise in the morning, just like at Promthep Cape where people go to see the sunset in the evening," said K. Kriangsak.

The project was designed by Phuket City Municipality and the construction contractor is Phuket Rock Co Ltd.

La Flora Resort opens its doors



Although La flora Resort has opened its doors to the public, the resort is still only 90% complete. The remaining construction work is expected to be complete by the end of April.

PATONG: The five-star La Flora Resort is on the beach road in Patong is now 90% complete and is accepting bookings.

The resort, which is built on three rai of land, has opened the doors to 28 guest rooms and seven pool-villas out of a total of 67 units, which will comprise 57 rooms and 10 pool-villas.

Open now are the Current Restaurant, a rooftop bar and two parallel lap-pools. The buildings take up 80% of the total area, leaving 20% for gardens and communal pools.

Construction of the hotel began in June 2007 and has been developed by STP Group Management Co Ltd, which is the same developer as La Flora Khao Lak Resort & Spa and The Racha on Koh Racha.

"We have changed some design details along the way, which has delayed the construction work slightly. We have now finished the main structures and

are working to complete the interior decoration, which we expect to have ready by the end of April so that we can offer 100% service," said Pussadee Fungneng, director of sales and marketing of La Flora Resort.

"Out of the 35 units we have in service at the moment, 65% are occupied. By the end of April we hope to be completely up and running as most of our facilities are already finished. We will open the Spa Flora Spa by the end of April as well," she added.

La Flora Resort's rates are between 7,000 baht and 35,000 baht per night. The resort was designed by Visanu Saensiri and Sahayotha Co Ltd is the construction contractor.

For more information contact La Flora Resort, STP Group Management, 39 Thaweewong Rd, Patong. Tel: 076-344241. Fax: 076 344251. Website: www.laflorapatong.com

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Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit

Head north for stylish furniture

For long-lasting wooden furniture made in traditional Lanna style, check out the new range of home and garden furniture from Northern Thailand on display at House & Home.

The Lanna style is considered one of the original forms of Thai architecture and design. This range of handcrafted wooden furniture and ornaments, including chairs, cupboards, folding screens, bowls and lamps are imaginatively crafted by artisans from Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai; but look like they could have been made generations ago.

Managing Director of House & Home, Paranyoo Banchuen, said this is one of his favorite collections. "I like these for my own home. I want others to know about this lovely decorative furniture and I'm quite sure you will not find them selling as cheaply in other Phuket stores," he said.

For simple decoration, there are ornamental carvings, such as graceful and curious-looking Siamese cats. Wooden felines have an antique finish causing the paint to appear aged and cracked.

Large, standing lamps are a great way to artistically fill an



DISTINCTLY LANNA: Handcrafted and hand-painted furniture from the North of Thailand.



keep the cost down," he added. "These furniture items are built to last a long time. They are made of durable woods, such as pine, teak and other hardwoods and they have all been expertly hand made," he added.

Because the furniture is handmade, each piece is unique and new designs are being crafted all the time.

K. Paranyoo said that new additions to the collection arrive each month, always adding something different.

empty corner. The bases are hand painted with patterns of Lanna lines and topped off with cotton shades.

There is a wide range of stylishly carved folding partitions, ideal for dividing a room or creating an area to change clothes. The prices range from 1,000 baht to over 10,000 baht for the more intricately carved partitions.

One brilliantly practical piece of furniture is a stair chair. It's a chair that unfolds to make a step ladder, just the right height for changing a light bulb or reaching a top shelf. The stair chair sells for 2,900 baht.

"The cost of the furniture is kept low as the store buys the furniture directly from the people who craft it. In fact, some cus-

tomers have found that transporting the furniture can be more costly than the price of the furniture itself," said K. Paranyoo.

"Westerners seem to really like these wooden items because they look like antiques from Northern Thailand but they are not overpriced. We buy directly from the manufacturers, so there is no middle man, which helps to

House & Home is open daily from 8:30 am to 7:30 pm and located on Chao Fa West Rd. For more information, call their customer service department at 076-209309-10.

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Gardening

by Bloomin' Bert

The insidious ginger heads

I know I sometimes go on a bit and have been known to drone incessantly about the most inane subjects. Believe it or not, I have even been accused of ranting about things that have absolutely no connection with gardening.

Sometimes, rants are absolutely necessary and some subjects so significant, that they justify repetition. I'm not referring to global warming, world health issues or the futility of war.

I'm talking about something far more insidious, concerning those who suffer from an incurable, but seldom-discussed affliction: Gingervitis.

Gingervitis is a condition that some of us are born with; unfortunately little can be done about it. If it was just the unfortunate color of their orangy-reddy hair it wouldn't be so bad, but combined with their worryingly pale skin and those inevitable freckles, it's just not right.

God help the ginger kids. They must have it really bad. Ever since that episode of South Park with the "We've all seen them - on the playground, at the store, walking on the streets - they creep us out" speech, I have had a strange suspicion that their peers must take the mickey mercilessly. I know I would have. Still do actually.

Even my own sister is guilty of blatant, out-and-out gingerism. One of her daughters has a massive mop of red hair. Ginger? She insists not. My niece is about as "auburn" as Chris Evans. To anyone who's never seen that particularly irritating ginger buffoon on British television program TFI Friday, well he's an... irritating ginger buffoon.

Having said that, gingers do seem to be somewhat proud of their carrot-top looks. I was chatting to a friend of mine today, who has full-blown ginger-vitis, over several bloody Marys. He's a lost



NO FRECKLES HERE: The white ginger is a tall, tough plant topped by a fluttery flower.

Photo by Forest & Kim Starr

cause. There is little anyone can do for him.

He has noticed a bizarre irony. He rightfully points out that while there are many strange people in this world who, for reasons best known to themselves, choose to dye their hair various shades of red, you don't meet too many gingers who choose to disguise their plight.

Gingers do have something in common with the world of flora; a plant named in their honor. Actually, the moniker is where the similarities end, as the ginger plant family has far less dodgy hair and decidedly fewer annoying freckles.

The ginger plant is best known for its long history as a pungent spice for cooking and as an herbal remedy for various ailments; more importantly it forms the basic ingredient for the ultimate tea-dunking biscuit.

Here in Phuket, we're more likely to see the more floral versions - more commonly known by the color of their flowers: red, yellow or white ginger. White

Ginger (*hedychium coronarium*), is a tropical perennial and a not-too-distant cousin of the culinary ginger (*zingiber officinale*) of tea-dunking biscuit fame.

Otherwise known as the butterfly ginger lily, or *mahahong* in Thai, it is originally native to India. White ginger is an attractive, tough plant that will reach up to a couple of meters in height if grown in containers.

The leaves are 20 to 30 centimeters long, lance-shaped and sharp-pointed. The plant is easy to spot, as these leaves are arranged in two neat, opposite rows that run up either side of the stem.

The white ginger can be one of the most fragrant plants in the garden, bearing flowers that not surprisingly, given its alternate epithet, vaguely resemble butterflies.

The flowers eventually give way to showy seed pods chock full of bright red seeds. The plant is popular in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands where it is used in leis - those garlandly things they hang around each others' necks.

These things don't need much encouragement. With a bit of TLC, they will quickly outgrow any container you might have in the house, so yearly division is needed.

As with other plants that produce one-off flowers at the end of a stem, it's a good idea to deadhead spent flower blooms and remove old stems, allowing nutrients into the developing parts of the plant promoting new growth.

The white ginger plant does best in partial shade and soil with a lot of organic matter. The plants should be kept fairly moist. If potted, the stems can be immersed in water up to the crown.

This is one of those plants that you can successfully propagate with rhizomes.

Dummies' guide to the process: Plant the rhizome in the smallest pot in which it will fit loosely, and cover with ten centimeters of potting soil. Water it. Place the pot in a bright or sunny spot till the rhizome sprouts. Keep the soil on the dry side. That's it.

As with ginger-headed people, these things aren't very good at standing up for themselves.

You should be prepared to stake them, as they start tilting and falling over as the stalks struggle to carry the weight the plant when the heavy flowers are in full bloom. At least they don't have Gingervitis though.

Maybe we should form a society here in Phuket for these afflicted individuals. Then they will have a place where they can get together and swap amusing ginger anecdotes. I've got a name for it: the PGA. The Phuket Gingervitis Association.

I even know of a wooden house where they can meet regularly. Perhaps calling it the PG Woodhouse would be pushing it a tad though. Maybe not - gingers are a strange lot.

Want to know more about a plant in your garden? Email Bloomin' Bert at: bert@bloominbert.com



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Sky's the limit to tourism growth

With more than 5.4 million tourist arrivals to Phuket in 2007, the market will have to look to the skies in order to maintain its upward momentum.

So far, the Airports of Thailand (AOT) has failed to grasp the scope of expansion needed for coping with the increased levels of traffic in the region.

Current problem areas are lack of parking, management of vehicular traffic flow at airport entrances and exits, inferior passenger facilities and minimal apron space and passenger docks. It appears that this lack of long-term planning will inevitably choke the goose that laid the golden egg for Phuket's tourism.

While Phuket has done little to improve airport facilities, its domestic competitors are expanding.

On Koh Samui a second airport is in the works. At Koh Kood, an island in Trat province, plans are underway for a new commercial airport aimed at the same tourist demographic as Phuket's.

With international hotel chains such as Six Senses opening up on Koh Kood, the island represents strong competition and is quickly becoming the fourth-largest island destination after Phuket, Koh Samui and Koh Chang.

Meanwhile, back in the Andaman region, there is good news that the provincial government in Phang Nga is looking to build an airport north of Khao Lak on Koh Kho Khao. While this



LEFT: The Sarojin in Khao Lak is among the many upscale resorts now operating in Khao Lak, an area that is some 70 kilometers from the nearest airport, in Phuket.

BELOW: Koh Kho Khao may soon have an airport and bridge linking it to the fast-growing tourist areas of Phang Nga, but will it be enough?

poses infrastructure challenges such as the need for a bridge to the island, which is currently serviced by ferries, it appears to be a step in the right direction.



PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

The Khao Lak hotel market continues to expand, with international chains such as the Meridien and Ramada adding to the current inventory of 4,000 rooms in the area.

Although the property industry in Khao Lak is still in its infancy, this is predicted to take off as well.

While this government-sponsored airport initiative is a positive, it is often the case that these substantial infrastructure projects don't quite match the re-

quirements of their users. In Krabi, for example, Tiger Airways ceased flying to the Krabi airport as demand did not meet its short-term goals.

Koh Samui, in contrast, has been an excellent case study as a destination airport success story in a location dominated by tourism. The existing airport, privately owned and operated by Bangkok Airways, has grown over the years with an attractive and exotic design that reflects both Thailand and the local flavor.

Bangkok Airways has a vested, long-term interest in the facility and remains focused on the larger picture of the developing market.

At major airports the landing and take-off fees amount to more than 10% of overhead costs for airlines, making the small, regional airports a more lucrative option for both international and low-cost carriers.

Therefore, a private airport in Phang Nga operated by a low-cost carrier might be the recipe for long-term success. Not only would it allow better tourist ac-



cess to Khao Lak but it would also free up space at the existing Phuket airport, enabling it to better service its own direct market.

At Phuket Airport, meanwhile, the main discussion point remains the lengthening of the runway at a time when smaller regional aircraft growth is far outpacing that of the larger and more fuel-hungry 747s of a bygone era.

In a nutshell, Phuket and its neighbors need either a second airport or a large-scale expansion, neither of which are on books for the current facility. If the pace of infrastructure can't

keep up with market demand, then visitors will go to other locations in Thailand or fast-growing locations such as Cambodia or Vietnam.

Looking to the skies, the answer is out there but it appears to be in a holding pattern.

Bill Barnett is managing director of C9 Hotelworks (c9hotelworks.com), a Phuket-based hotel and residential property consulting firm. With more than 20 years' experience in the region, he has played an active role in some of the island's biggest developments.



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Property Gazette

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Chanote. Plots in small private development near Nai Yang. Quiet countryside setting. Paved road. Ready to build on. 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 087-2630810. For further details, please see our website at www.arun-estate.com

SHORT SALE B2.8M



Moo Baan Chao Fa Thani. Detached house, 260sqm of land, communal pool, 24hr security. 2-3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, open kitchen, large living room, fully furnished, garden. Tel: 089-6639669. Email: andrekant@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL 3-BEDROOM, 3-BATHROOM HOME



The Oasis: 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom modern home. Fully equipped kitchen, 14mx5m pool and jacuzzi. Fully landscaped, 2 car garage. 2km from British International School. Brand new construction. Tel: 076-239370, 085-796-9324. Email: oasisphuket@yahoo.com

INEXPENSIVE LAND

1-rai house lots near airport and Mission Hills Golf Course. Chanote, underground electricity. 1.06 million baht, full price! Contact Chris Fisher. Tel: 086-9421930.

POOL VILLA FOR SALE

Bang Tao. 3 bedrooms, big living room, 2 bathrooms, 2-car parking. Contact for more details. Tel: 087-893-3183. Email: phuketmat@yahoo.com Website: www.phukethome.ws

ON THE BEACH

2-bedroom apartment in north Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, swimming pool. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-2765117. Email for photos. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

SEA VIEW, 3.2 RAI

at north end of Bang Sak Beach. This land is between Thap Tawan Beach Rd and Bang Sak Beach Resort, 6km from Takuapa. Tel: 081-8947644.

LAND FOR SALE

11 rai in Pasak area located near Laguna Phuket. Only 2.8 million baht per rai (Nor Sor 3 Gor). Good-sized plot and no need for fill-soil. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com



Detached House for Sale

- In Chalong
- New detached house on 370sqm of land with Chanote title
- 1-story, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (1 with jacuzzi), 3 toilets, 1 living room and Western kitchen (with microwave, dish washer, big cooler, electric hot plates), 1 stock room.
- Car(s) park
- Ornamental pond and jets of water which maybe fitted out in swimming pool
- Big underground septic water tank
- Frontal view of a small lake
- Quiet, well-situated and exposed
- Near all commodities
- Telephone line
- Internet ADSL, Cable TV

Price: 7.5 million baht. Must see! Tel: 087-2709093 Email: allservices29@gmail.com

SEAVIEW CONDO PATONG

Seaview, 2-bedroom condo with wrap-around balcony with views of the Andaman Sea, Patong, mountains, and lush jungles. Fully furnished. 7.9 million baht obo. Please contact either: Phuket Paradise Properties at 081-0875828 or Tropical Properties Real Estate 076-340792. Email: scuba1959@msn.com for further details please see websites at: www.phuketparadiseproperties.com/view_detail.php?propertyID=323 or www.phuket-tropical-real-estate.com/more_detail.php?id=111852

LAND FOR SALE

Manik-Bangjo land. Chanote. 4 rai at 2.7 million baht per rai. Located in residential area and close to road. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

PATONG CONDO VIEW

35sqm. Furnished, TV, pool, parking, freehold. 2.1 million baht. Email: guntmit@aol.com

GREAT OPPORTUNITY

Due to health problems, I am offering two houses for quick sale: one on half a rai of land and another on 1 rai. Both are located in a good residential area 5 mins from Laguna resort. Buy both for 15 million baht. Call Bepy for more info. Tel: 081-8930692. Email: toto@phuket.ksc.co.th

FOR SALE OR RENT



Very spacious new villa in quiet area in Rawai. European style, quality building, large living area and huge terrace. 3 bedrooms with aircon, 3 bathrooms (en suite), 1 separate guest toilet. Western kitchen, laundry, garage, wall, gate, tropical garden, True TV. 650sqm plot with Chanote. For sale at 9.5 million baht, or rent (long term only) for 35,000 baht per month. Contact Paula. Tel: 084-8441486. Email: meeuwissenpaula@hotmail.com

3.6 MILLION BAHT RENTAL INCOME

4 pool-villas near Laguna. 48 million baht. Tel: 086-9520772. Email: kamala@phuket.ksc.co.th

SHOPHOUSE CHALONG

Modern building on busy soi. 5.25 million baht. Tel: 084-8419040, 081-7974061.

LAND FOR SALE, YANUI BEACH

1,000sqm. Road and electricity, leasehold 30 years + 30. 4 million baht. Tel: 081-979-7767. Email: tamsinstead@yahoo.co.uk

HOUSE IN PATONG

One-story house, furnished, 23sq wah, 3 bedrooms with aircon, 1 bathroom with hot water, living room, kitchen. Tel: 076-341724, 081-569-0664. Fax: 076-344485. Email: sunsetap@ji-net.com

2 HOUSES FOR SALE IN KARON

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 109sq wah. 200m walk to beach. Contact K. Mol. Tel: 084-0623429.

VILLA FOR SALE



Immaculate villa. Private area, big lush garden, pool. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, big living room, Scandinavian kitchen, huge patio, fully furnished, contemporary Balinese-Thai style. Living area: 450sqm. Land: 1,400sqm. Near Heroines' Monument with scenic hill view. Chanote. 12.9 million baht. Tel: 084-6907057.

FOR SALE BY OWNER

Beautiful, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, study, Western kitchen, aircon, 191sqm, pool, 225sqm of land. 6.4 million baht. For more info call: 087-3863388 or email: shanya.arman@gmail.com For further details, visit our website: www.flickr.com/photos/22419624@N08/sets

KRABI/AO NANG AREA, SEA VIEW

Phuket is called the Andaman pearl, but Krabi has the beauty of nature. Large plot, 30 rai (5,600sqm) of Chanote land for sale. Solid investment. The land has 123-meter frontage road. The land is surrounded by a park and forest zone. Less than 100m from the sea. Boat access close at hand. Electricity available. 10km from Ao Nang. Perfect for small resort or residential development. 8 million baht per rai. Contact Kag or Edwin for more info. Tel: 086-7866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

2 plots. 500 and 1,000sqm land located between Rawai and Nai Harn. Chanote title. Price: 2.5 million and 4.5 million baht. Tel: 089-7284005.

Exclusive house and office for sale/rent



Chalong, 250sq wah, 5 bedrooms en suite, 4x16 swimming pool with Jacuzzi, fully furnished, ADSL Internet, garden, home theater, office room, aircon. Buy 16.8 MB, For Rent 240,000 B/month

Tel: 087-0719907, 081-5698432
www.naraplacephuket.com

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Property Gazette

REAL BARGAIN



Two-story Mai Khao Villa. 645sqm tropical garden, Chanote, 3 aircon units, double bedroom (2nd floor with sea view), 3 bathrooms, maid's room, living/dining area, Thai-Euro kitchen, telephone, partially furnished, private water well, carport. Price: 6.9 million baht. Tel: 076-206595, 081-397-9380. Email: phuket.house@yahoo.com

SALE BY OWNER

Last corner unit, new 2-story townhouse. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, carpark, 113sqm. Between Heroines' Monument and Laguna. Reduced from 1.95 million baht to only 1.8 million baht. Tel: 087-3863388. Email: shanya.arman@gmail.com For further information please see our website: www.flickr.com/photos/22419624@N08/sets

NEW TOWNHOUSE

in Tan Tong 7 project. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 19sq wah. Central location on Chao Fa East Rd, opposite Villa California. 1.9 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.

RAWAI SEAVIEW HOUSE

New, super modern and furnished. Best location, 2 or 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, garage, garden. Sale from owner. Freehold. 11 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062. or visit our website: www.phuketdir.com/poolseahouse

SURIN BEACH LAND FOR SALE

1,016sqm: 6 million baht. 996sqm: 5 million baht. 5-minute walk to Surin Beach. Tel: 081-8687676.

PHUKET CITY CONDO

Corner condo unit overlooking pool. Great location opposite Tesco, near Big C and Central. 42sqm plus two balconies in a modern building. TV, stereo, aircon, washing machine, furniture all included. Will be finished by mid-2009. 3 million baht obo, but the price will increase near the project's completion. Tel: 087-277-0978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

THAI-STYLE HOUSE IN KAMALA



on more than 1 rai of landscaped gardens. Illuminated security walls, electric gate, three 10,000L filtered water tanks with local water plus ground well with automatic pump. Emergency generator, cable TV, 3-phase electricity, 2 phone lines. Large swimming pool, waterfall, koi fish pond, garden lighting. 3 to 4 bedrooms all en suite, 4 aircons, 4 ceiling fans, 2 stories plus wine cellar/storage room. Teak walls and hardwood floors. Fully furnished with many extras. Natural surroundings and hill views with enough land for future expansion, eg 3x 2-bedroom rental units. Chanote available through holding company for foreign ownership. Asking 18 million baht; walk-in, walk-out. Willing to accept 50% down and 50% after 6 months. Includes Mazda 626 sedan car. Tel: 081-8922942. Email: gsantos512@yahoo.com

TWIN HOUSE RESORT B1.99m

Twin house, 80sqm, includes terrace, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, furnishing, aircon, clubhouse, security guard, resort facilities, common pool, 200sqm, quiet area, 5 mins to Nai Yang Beach. Tel: 076-245966, 085-7842004. Fax: 076-245962. Email: info@thailandpropertygroup.com For details, please visit our website at www.thailandpropertygroup.com/development_detail.php?idc=184

LAND FOR SALE

10-min drive across Sarasin Bridge. Chanote, 80 rai. Has road and utilities access. Suitable for hotel or residential projects. Nice location, just 300m from the beach. Only 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

LAND FOR SALE

in Rawai. 85sq wah. 1.5 million baht. Also have 1 rai at 5.5 million baht or best offer. Tel: 084-6268105.

KARON LAND FOR SALE



15 million baht per rai, Chanote. Hillside, panoramic sea views, quiet area. Contact for details. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: se_rim@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND



5 mins to Phuket Airport, close to the beach. 10 rai, 120 million baht. Must see. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: gyb_giff@hotmail.com

LUXURY VILLA IN CHALONG

Luxury villa situated in a private estate in Chalong area. Land: 1,000sqm. 3-story house: 770sqm. 6 bedrooms with aircon and en-suite bathrooms. Living room, dining area, private swimming pool. Chanote. Tel: 081-9583341. Email: lavilla phuket@gmail.com

TOWNHOUSE

in Than Thong 3 project. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom. 19sq wah. Located near Khao Khad Viewpoint. On Phattana Thongtin Rd. Fully furnished. Price: 1.2 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.

KARON BEACHFRONT

Land for sale. 10.5 rai with Chanote. Very good location for business (hotel & resort). Asking price 250 million baht. No agents! Email: anutsamantamit@gmail.com

40 METERS OF BEACHFRONT

2-rai plots on Koh Yao Yai. 30-min speedboat ride from Phuket. Full public utilities. Great nature retreat in tropical paradise. 4 million baht per rai. For photos and details contact Mr C. Tel: 087-2670714.

1 RAI, GREAT SEA VIEW, KAMALA

1 rai of land in Kamala, stunning view. Price: 10.5 million baht. Tel: 081-8921097. Email: info@swethai-realestate.com

DESIRABLE



unique and elegant home/office. This property located ideally on Samkong Rd, Phuket City, represents the ultimate in a comfortable home with adjoining office suite. Recently refurbished and tastefully decorated at a cost of more than 4 million baht, this property is now available for discerning home buyers. The home consists of: master bedroom with balcony, elegant en-suite "spa" bathroom, large second bedroom with balcony and ensuite bathroom and a third double bedroom with balcony. The property has a maid's bedroom and separate toilet/shower. The fitted kitchen features an adjoining breakfast/dining area. The home also offers a vast, comfortable sitting room with contoured ceiling and atmospheric lighting. The adjoining 3-level office suite is ideally suited for numerous business opportunities. The property features an attractive garden and 2-vehicle carport. Asking price is a realistic 8.5 million baht. Call for details. Tel: 081-7191705.

THAI-STYLE HOUSE

near Laguna, 3 bedrooms, living room, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 087-8938590.

KATA SEAVIEW LAND

Best land in Kata, 1,200sqm. 3-phase electricity, Chanote, easy access, building plans for 19 units. Net profit of 60 million baht. Great deal! Company transfer. Only 12.5 million baht, includes plans. Tel: 089-6525664.

Suan Pana
CHALONG PHUKET

Phase I houses for sale or long-term rent. Very private with mountain view, 2 bedrooms, living room, bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished, Sat TV, ADSL, UBC, swimming pool.

Contact : 089-7243669

COCONUT ISLAND LAND



for sale. 4.5 rai, Chanote, hillside panoramic sea view, close to beach. 14 million baht. Please call K. Buddha for more information. Tel: 089-2900484.

AO POR LAND, URGENT SALE



150 rai, Chanote, panoramic sea view. From 2.3 million baht per rai. Contact for more info. Tel: 089-7727012. Email: se_rim@hotmail.com

RAWAI, 3 BEDROOMS POOL

220sqm living space, newly built, 700sqm land. Sauna, Jacuzzi, top-quality interior, saltwater pool, PVC-window doors. Resale, original price: 10.9 million baht. Save 3 million baht. Now only 7.9 million baht. Top bargain. Come and see now. Tel: 089-6525664.

GREAT SHOPHOUSE

for sale. 3 years old with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Excellent location on busy Chao Fa West Rd. 6 million baht. Contact K. Piyanute. Tel: 081-8926991.

BANG WAD DAM, NICE PLOT



Nice plot overlooking natural lagoon behind Bang Wad Dam. Approx 26 rai, sloped land, access road, water and electricity. Good for residential project. 2.5 million baht per rai (negotiable). Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

NEW LUXURY CONDO

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and Cape Panwa Resort facilities. Paid 4.5 million baht. Quick sale at 4.9 million baht with freehold title. Contact Dave. Tel: 087-8938834.

VILLA FOR SALE

Foreign freehold in Thalang, near Surin. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 en suite. Living area, kitchen, aircon. Private parking. The street is secured by an electric gate operated by a personal-card-swiping system. Includes company papers and Chanote. 2.1 million baht. Contact Lee. Tel: 084-3078407. Email: thai.prop@yahoo.co.uk

HOUSE WITH POOL

Land & Houses Park. 2 million baht down, 5 million over 3 years. Tel: 087-8950328. Email: giepp969@hotmail.com

FOREIGN FREEHOLD

condo in Rawai. 27sqm. Close to bank, 300m from the pier. 650,000 baht, negotiable. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads
at www.phuketgazette.net

BUILDING FOR SALE
in busy area, Soi Sai Nam Yen, Patong Beach

- 4 stories, first floor has large area convenient for restaurant or bar.
- 8 apartments on floor 2, 3, 4.
- Chanote title, electricity
- 2 minutes to the beach

Asking price: 50 million baht.

Call 087-2709093, 081-8687676

Property Gazette

KATHU POOL HOUSE



5.9 million baht. 280sqm of living area. Swimming pool. 3 en-suite bedrooms. Western kitchen. Air-conditioning throughout. 5 mins from Patong. Email: kathuhouseforsale@yahoo.com for pics or call Tel: 081-5379684.

TROPICAL POOL-VILLA

in Chalong. Brand-new, spacious, 2-bedroom villa with deluxe kitchen and large living area. Priced to sell. Tel: 089-6521473.

LUXURY APARTMENT, KATA

70sqm in luxury, newly built complex, 400m from Kata Beach. Pool, steam sauna, top kitchen, Jacuzzi. Come and look. From 2.9 million baht, full luxurious furnishings. Tel: 089-6525664.

PATONG TOWER CONDO

One-, two- or three-bedroom condos. All newly renovated. Tel: 087-2770552, 087-2773086.

PROJECT FOR SALE

Higher price range. High profit. No brokers. Only serious customers. Email: phuketprojectsale@yahoo.com

LAND IN RAWAI

Many small and big plots for sale. 1 rai. 43sq wah. Sea view. 5.9 million baht. Tel: 085-7955383.

LAGUNA TOWNHOUSE

59/09. 2 stories. 3 bedrooms. Unique lake-and-golf-course view. Only 24 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

KAMALA CONDO SALE

1 bedroom. 650sqm. Communal pool. Service. Quick sale only 2.3 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

SEAVIEW LAND

14 rai of seaview land located in Rawai on a hill side. Hill views. Price 6 million baht per rai. Contact Tip. Tel: 086-9496480. Email: thipsee84@hotmail.com

KOH SAMUI LAND FOR SALE

2 rai of land with one house, six bungalows and 10 rows of houses ideal for rentals. Near beach. Chanote title. Asking price 30 million baht. No agents! Email: anutsaman tamit@gmail.com

HEAVEN ON EARTH



5-bedroom, Thai-style villa in Phuket. Magnificent Phang Nga Bay view. 3 big bedrooms (en suite) with sea views. Private swimming pool. 730.8sqm land plot. Construction area approx 573sqm. Full security service. Located at Rommai Chailay Estate. 27 million baht. Tel: 081-7191705. Email: layan@loxinfo.co.th

FOR SALE

Pool Villa in Chalong. 743sqm. 3/4 bedrooms including maid's quarters. Jacuzzi. Bar (fully equipped). Office. Garage. Large external entertaining area. Garden. European-style kitchen. Quick sale: 8.5 million baht. Mr Jonathan Hirst (sales manager). Tel: 076-381490, 081-2710015. Fax: 076-280539. Email: jonathan@sea-property-international.com

RAWAI SEAVIEW HOUSE

3 stories. 3 bedrooms. Pool. Garden. 11 million baht. Tel: 081-7839062. Website: www.phuketdir.com/poolseahouse

BEACHFRONT LAND

Beautiful piece of land opposite Yacht Haven Marina. Ready to build on, road access, water, electricity. 7 rai with more than 180 meters of beach frontage. For quick sale. Only 6.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-3430777.

SUPER BEACHFRONT APARTMENT, 5*

Stunning design. 2 en-suite bedrooms and Jacuzzi. Western-style kitchen, terrace. Views of Kata Bay and hills. Beach path. Pools, spa, gym, restaurant. Good rental pool. 16.5 million baht. Tel: 085-8822587. Email: speedj speed@hotmail.com

BEST DEAL!

Land for quick sale. 400sqm for 1.6 million baht at Nai Harn Beach. Tropical location in the best area, 10 mins from beach. Contact K. Krit for appointment. Tel: 081-6913029. Email: kris_silanachai@yahoo.com

POOL VILLA FOR SALE

Bang Tao, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big living room, sat TV and telephone line. Tel: 084-8516121.

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

near Mission Hills. 1.7 rai. Only 2.2 million baht. Tel: 087-2699206. Email: phkt51@yahoo.com

LAND & HOUSES PARK



at Parichart Village 35/20 Soi 1. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons, some furniture, 50sq wah, garden. Chalong area. Urgent sale! 4 million baht, must see. Contact Nina. Tel: 087-6899679, 087-2681341. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE



in Irawadee 2 Project, located near Khao Khad viewpoint. 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Only 1.5 million baht. Please contact to view. Tel: 087-277-0978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

AIRPORT & BEACH LAND

1 rai (1,600sqm) with four 2-bedroom houses. Includes 2 bathrooms, full furnishings, communal swimming pool, Internet. 19 million baht for all. Tel: 081-6919346. Email: sumon@ridethailand.com

PRIME SLOPING LAND FOR SALE

2 1/2 rai, asking 20 million baht per rai. Behind the Government Savings Bank, Patong. 400 meters from Phrabaramee Rd. Suitable for condo/serviced apartments. New, wide access-road. Quiet. Contour done. Owner available for discussion. Contact K. Songpan for more information. No brokers please. Tel: 081-7378662.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

and rent. For a more personalized approach to your property, please visit www.phuketproperties.com If you are a real estate developer or owner you may list your properties with us. Contact K. Noi or Julie. Tel: 081-8931360, 081-7192903.

4-BEDROOM VILLA WITH LARGE POOL

Nice villa with large swimming pool. Very safe and quiet location with security. Available for long-term or holiday bookings. Tel: 076-378361, 081-676-4849. Fax: 076-263919. Email for full details. Email: info@etwood.com

KOH YAO YAI

Quick sale, 4 rai, Chanote, water, electricity, 5 mins to beach. 500,000 baht per rai. Tel: 081-8928208.

ABSOLUTE BEACHFRONT LAND



in Khao Lak, Phang Nga. 400 rai. 4 million baht per rai. Chanote. Separate plots at 6 million baht per rai. Urgent sale! Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

BEAUTIFUL GARDEN APARTMENT

Bang Tao Beach Gardens. Beautiful, 2-bedroom, ground-floor apartment (124sqm), overlooking gardens & pool. Two-minute walk to Bang Tao Beach. Furnished. 10 million baht. For info please contact Thanisara. Tel: 081-8928259. Email: thanisaraferguson@gmail.com

PATONG CONDO

Motivated seller. Growing family has bought land to build on. Selling, smart, modern 1-bedroom condo. Furnished, parking, tennis court, 40m pool, lush tropical garden. Asking good, fair price. 3.8 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 087-2650118. Email: ant_p_clark@yahoo.co.uk

NEW RAWAI POOL-VILLA

2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 300m from the new pier. 3.9 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 086-0760141. Email: than que4@gmail.com

SAI YUAN HOUSE FOR SALE



Two-story house with additional living space in the attic. Sea view, 640sqm. 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, car park. Nice garden, big swimming pool. A few minutes from Nai Harn Beach. For more information call 084-8475700, 087-898-7642. Email: morn_48@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

Villa-style, 3-bedroom house located in good position within Villa California. Extended, air-conditioned master bedroom, with mirror-door wardrobe included and large en-suite bathroom. 2 air-conditioned bedrooms and separate bathrooms. Lounge with aircon. Dining area, utility room. Extended and modern European-style kitchen with 4-ring hob oven and washing machine included. Connected to main water and sewage lines. No septic tank. Viewing recommended. 2.2 million baht. Tel: 089-2891502.

THE COCO VILLAS SALE B6.5M

2- and 3-bedroom units in a tranquil area. High-quality materials, private pools. Tel: 086-2823616, 086-2746886. Fax: 076-367068. Email: thecocophuket59@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR QUICK SALE



Discounted from 2.9 to 2.7 million baht. House on big land plot, 294sqm. Ready to move in, with kitchen, cable TV, telephone, aircon and 3 carports. Call! Tel: 089-8737865. Email: nuchpn@hotmail.com

APARTMENT PATONG BEACH

Now commencing construction of 4 top-quality, poolside, open-plan, 1-bedroom apartments. On a very quiet natural site in the hills at the north end of Patong Beach. 2 mins from the beach and center of Patong. Road access and good water supply. Starting at 4.9 million baht. For full details contact Andy. Tel: 081-8913466. Fax: 076-296160. Email: antc@phuket.ksc.co.th

CHALEYKERE VILLAGE IN KATHU

2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, swimming pool. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-9347637.

80 RAI, BEACHFRONT

At Bang Sak Beach, 10 mins from Khao Lak, 340m of beachfront. Chanote, good road. 4 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-7298365.

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!

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Property Gazette

Properties For Rent

COMPLETE SEA VIEW



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, full kitchen. ADSL, True TV and a view that won't stop! See the fireworks! A must-see! Available for long-term in April 5, 2008. 75,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-8821963. Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

KAMALA BEACHFRONT VILLAS

Fully furnished to a high standard. Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking swimming pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Private, gated, parking with storage. True TV and ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing. Pool and gardener service. Daily rental offered; weekly: 40,000 baht; monthly: 140,000 baht. Contact K. Suchada. Tel: 084-8436837.

HOUSE AT CHALONG

For rent near Palai Beach. 2 or 3 bedrooms, aircon, fully furnished, phone line. Tel: 089-7288311.

CHALONG BEACH

Two furnished, 3-bedroom townhouses for rent. 10,000 baht per month. For more info call Tel: 089-4706104.

BEACHFRONT CONDO

Kalim-Patong, high standard, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, pool, many facilities. Tel: 081-8920038.

NEW FURNISHED VILLAS



Close to Laguna. 300sqm, 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen and pool. Long- or short-term rent. Tel: 081-7344324. www.phuketgreenlandvillas.com

SOI NAYA



Beautiful villa, 180sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, aircon, ADSL, garden, pool. Tel: 081-9683702.

HOUSE FOR RENT

in Srisuchart Grand Ville 3 Project. 3 bedrooms. 2 bathrooms. Some furniture. 1 car park. Garden area. Good location. Tel: 081-7372595.

PATONG APARTMENT

300m from beach. Clean, modern, comfortable. Aircon, TV, fridge, big bed, pool, car park. Tel: 081-0825707. Website: www.phuketaccommodation.info

2 RAWAI POOL-VILLAS

3 or 4 bedrooms, furnished, near beach. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: chotip07@yahoo.com

RAWAI POOL HOUSE

for rent. 4 bedrooms, 500sqm house. 10m pool, high end and newly built. fully furnished. Never seen! Big garden. 5 mins to Nai Harn Beach. Tel: 089-6525664.

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE IN CHALONG



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This new 3-story shophouse is available for long-term lease. Ideal for home office/shop accommodation. Inquiries at: 089-6521473.

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in quiet and safe area, long or short term. 5km from Laguna. Furnished, True TV, telephone line, Internet, big garden, 3 bedrooms, 2 aircons, 2 big bathrooms, bathtub, hot water. Only 16,000 baht per month, or 13,000 baht if you pay lump sum for 1 year. Tel: 087-4172757 (English), 086-682-9804 (Thai).

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Nai Harn, near Sai Yuan Rd. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room. Fully furnished, open-plan Western kitchen, 8mx4m pool and lovely 800sqm garden. Gardener and pool cleaning is included. For long-term rent. Please contact Paew at Tel: 089-9725378 or Wolfgang at Tel: 083-3888036.

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Private kitchen, aircon, True TV, ADSL, pool. 4,000 baht per week; 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8500568.

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New, 3 bedrooms. 5 mins from BIS and RPM Gym. Security. Wi-Fi, cable TV. Short- or long-term rental. 75,000 baht. Tel: 085-4737847. Email: simon@worrall.info

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near Neramit Villa, Thalang. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. 60sq wah. 19,000 baht. Tel: 087-2839181.

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Property Gazette

Property Wanted

SEAVIEW LAND WANTED
2 to 5 rai, preferably in Kata-Karon or Kamala up to Nai Thon. Zoning must be suitable and legally entitled for condo project according to Building Control, City Planning, National Environment Control and Maintenance acts. Email: cfmcap@phuket.ksc.co.th

HOUSE WANTED
We have a client who wants to buy a 3- or 4-bedroom house in Chalong or Paklok. Must be on a managed estate. Can cost up to 7 million baht. Tel: 076-271315. Email: info@phuketlandandhomes.com

LAND IN RAWAI - NAI HARN
Looking for a plot between 200 and 800sqm to build a house. Tel: 085-7955383.

LONG-TERM RENTAL
wanted for family. Location: Patong, Kata or Karon. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-8989274.

ABOUT 1 RAI WITH SEA VIEW
at a maximum of 6 million baht. Kata, Chalong, Rawai, Nai Harn. Contact me with details. Tel: 089-9728544. Email: av58phuket@yahoo.com

LAND WANTED
in Kata-Karon, Chalong or Phuket City. Between 150 and 800sqm. Please contact for details. Tel: 086-1203660.

Property Services

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Electrical-system installation, repairs, maintenance. Plumbing and painting is also provided. Contact for more info. Tel: 081-5384989 (English), 086-9487489 (Thai). Email: mnobnorb@hotmail.com

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Dealership Office: The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket. Contact: Martin Holmes. Tel: 076 238 803. Fax: 076 273 319. email: info@leemarine.com

Brokerage Office: The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket. Contact: Andrew de Bruin / Marcus Oelerman. Mobile: 081 894 1530 / 01 968 1437. Tel/Fax: 076 239 729. email: brokerage@leemarine.com

Yacht Haven Marina Office: The Yacht Haven Marina Phuket. Contact: Jim Poulsen. Mobile: 081 881 3237. Tel/Fax: 076 206 260. email: yacht@yacht@leemarine.com

Pataya Office: Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach. Contact: Mark Heath. Mobile: 0817879408. Tel: 038 235 061. Fax: 038 235 062. Email: mark@leemarine.com

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Purchasing Officer

- Thai nationality / Age not over 30 years
- Bachelor's Degree in any field
- Good personality and service minded person
- Computer literate; MS Office, Excel and Word
- Experience in related work is preferable
- Able to communicate in English
- Driving license

Publications and Web Designer

- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science or related fields
- 2-3 years experience in web / graphic designer
- Excellent knowledge of Computer Graphics Applications
- Experience in using Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, HTML, CSS, Macromedia Flash and Dream Weaver
- Experience with development system
- Ability to communicate in English
- Good Communication and Presentation skills
- Able to work both in a team and independently

Service Support Officer

- Thai national
- Bachelor's degree in related field
- Computer proficient, good typing skills in both Thai and English
- Good command of both spoken and written English
- Ability to coordinate multiple projects working with... housing service, shopping matters ticketing and accommodation arrangement, trip arrangement, transportation coordination.



British International School, Phuket (BCIS)
59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Thailand
Tel: 076 238 711-20 Fax: 076 238 750 www.bcis.ac.th



CoColopez, a new Phuket fashion brand, will open a boutique, Café & Internet service on June 15 at Jungceylon Patong. We are seeking to fill the following positions:

Office (based in Kamala)

- Brand Manager 1 position
- Accountant 1 position

Qualifications

1. Bachelor's degree or higher relevant to the position.
2. 1-2 years experience from the same field.
3. Good command of both spoken and written English required.
4. Service minded with excellent customer service skills.

Boutique (Jungceylon)

- Designer 1 position
- Cashier 2 positions
- Tailor 1 position
- Waiter/Waitress 1 position
- Boutique supervisor 1 position
- Sales staff 3 positions
- Bartender 1 position
- Housekeeper 1 position

Qualification

1. Higher Vocational or Bachelor's degree relevant to the position.
2. 1-2 years' experience from the same field.
3. Good command of both spoken English required.
4. Pleasant personality, service minded with excellent communication skills.

Commission & service charge can be negotiated for boutique's staff
Interested applicants are welcome to apply in person or send an application with complete resumé and recent photo to:

CoColopez Fashion Phuket Co., Ltd

Human Resources Department
86/16 Rimhard Rd, Kamala Beach, Kathu, Phuket 83150
Contact: Khun Jakrapon Wichan
Email: dayuke@hotmail.com
Tel: 076-386157. Fax: 076-386158 Mobile: 089-1211642



WestKit Software Co., Ltd. a subsidiary of a German company (MintNet GmbH), is a Phuket-based web design, software development, mobile technology, contact market solution provider. We are expanding rapidly and in search of highly talented professionals to join our team in either Bangkok or Phuket. If you are looking for a challenging career with opportunities for growth and advancement, in a fun and professional work environment, then send us your resume to the address below.

PROJECT MANAGER

You will be responsible for managing a team of developers and designers to plan and deliver projects under strict deadlines. You will interface directly with clients locally and internationally during all phases of the project life-cycle, maintaining communication, setting expectations, while delivering top-notch products and services. You will interact with offshore development and support teams to facilitate definition, critical issues, risks, priorities, resolving conflicts within the projects, and communicate customer expectations and deadlines utilizing project management tools efficiently. You will be responsible for building productive teams of developers.

Qualifications:

- At least 2 years of proven experience as a Project Manager.
- At least 3 years of professional experience as a web developer or related field.
- Must have web technology knowledge with a solid understanding of HTML, CSS, PHP, and MySQL.
- Understand the design process and software development life-cycle.
- Must know how to motivate team members from a variety of functional disciplines.

SR. SOFTWARE ENGINEER

You will be responsible for the design, development, integration, documentation, maintenance, and upgrade of various web based systems. You will ensure that our client has the most efficient and effective business applications, by providing fully competent engineering design, development and maintenance techniques to the web based systems. You will analyze software requirements, as specified by end-users locally and internationally, to determine feasibility of design within time constraints. You will work and communicate effectively with a wide range of functional disciplines, keeping each constituent informed of the progress of their project(s), and problems encountered during development. You will also provide technical mentoring and supervision to lower level Software Engineers. Responsible for the ongoing support and improvement of existing applications.

Qualifications:

- At least 5 years of professional Software Engineer with experience.
- Advanced knowledge of PHP, C/C++, Java, or other OO Languages.
- Advanced experience with MySQL, Postgres, and/or Oracle databases.
- Intermediate to advanced knowledge of Linux, UNIX, and/or Apache.
- Strong knowledge of development methodologies.
- Demonstrated ability to write and maintain technical documentations.

SR. FLASH DESIGNER

You will be responsible for creating interactive "movies" on the web using Flash technology. You will be working independently or in a team to creatively plan the interface design, look and feel, interactions, and information design integrating with a variety of Internet based applications. You will be able to create and customize a variety of different effects from abstract concepts and turn them into visually exciting, innovative designs that are web friendly, easy to navigate, enhance user experience, support information architecture, and satisfying client's requirements. You will also provide technical mentoring and supervising to lower level designers.

Qualifications:

- Minimum 3 years experience as a professional Flash Designer.
- Excellent working knowledge of ActionScript, Photoshop, Illustrator or Freehand, HTML, GIF animation, CSS, Web color theory, typography, browser capability standards, and corporate identity (essential).

SEO SPECIALIST

You will be responsible for placing websites in top positions on a variety of search engines. You will ensure that our client's web sites are optimized efficiently for search engines, by effectively implementing ranking techniques and methodologies to the web sites. You will be coordinating and communicating with our local and international team of developers to determine and utilize optimum design and development processes and procedures. You will be responsible for continuously monitoring and reporting the success, critical issues, and risks related to the web sites to involved individuals.

Qualifications:

- Minimum 2 years of professional experience as a SEO Specialist or related field.
- Self-motivated and result-oriented individual with excellent skills in math and HTML.
- Able to work autonomously, under pressure and meet strict deadlines.
- Knowledge of various web page modification techniques.

MARKET RESEARCHER

You will be responsible for acquiring accurate information for business opportunities for Thailand and Southeast Asian region. You will be responsible for identifying, understanding, and researching market segments, participants, trends, and new business opportunities. You will create concept papers, proposals, and budgets as from your research. You will monitor and report on Government policies and strategies. Additionally, you will attend IT exhibitions, conferences, read trade journals, and analyze industry research to generate investment leads.

Qualifications:

- University graduate with outstanding academic record in a related field and a minimum of 2 years professional experience.
- Critical competencies include ability to identify and collate key data and develop sustainable analyses of market trends with prognoses for future development.
- A capacity to thrive in a team-oriented entrepreneurial environment.
- Ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously.
- Excellent written communication skills in Thai/English.
- Able to work autonomously and under pressure.
- Must be computer literate.

SALESPERSON

You will be responsible for generating leads and maintaining relationships with existing customers. You will be coordinating with our research team in establishing new business opportunities locally and internationally, by providing customized solutions which meets or exceeds client's needs to achieve company's objectives. You will work and communicate effectively with a variety of discipline to determine the feasibility of design within the time constraint for each project proposed, while ensuring absolute customer satisfaction.

Qualifications:


- University graduate majoring in Marketing or related field.
- Female candidate shall have at least 2 years of experience in sales in IT or a related field.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, self-motivated, enthusiastic and result oriented.
- Able to work autonomously and under pressure.
- Knowledge of MS Office software.

All positions require the ability to communicate well in English and Thai. Knowledge of German is a plus.

Interested individuals are invited to send their resume with expected salary to:

WestKit Software Co., Ltd., 24th Floor, Rm.#ML2408, 999/9 Rama I Rd., Patumwan, Bangkok 10330 or Tel.: 02 252 8599, 076 281 569, E-mail: ra@westkit.com, info@westkit.com

Island Job Mart



Outrigger Hotels and Resorts, one of the fastest growing hospitality companies in Asia Pacific, are expanding into Thailand.

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We are currently looking for Thai Nationals to fill the positions below and join our pre-opening office in Phuket.

- 1) **Director of Sales & Marketing** - Responsible for developing strategies and plans to ensure maximum market share, revenue and occupancy growth
- 2) **Information Systems Manager** - You will be responsible for establishing all aspects of the IT systems. Experience in a Micros/Fidelio Opera environment essential. Experience in shell builds and openings very advantageous
- 3) **Chief Accountant** - Set up accounting controls and procedures and oversee accurate and timely preparation of financial statements and related financial reports.
- 4) **Assistant Human Resources Manager** - Provide HR service and assistance to employees in matters related to employee benefits, payroll, compensation, employment, human resources administration, training and be integral in establishing these systems suitable to Thailand.
- 5) **Secretary** - Assist the Personal Assistant and Management team in all clerical and secretarial duties

If you feel you have the necessary skills and experience to fulfill these positions, are interested in any of the above positions, and, would like more information please email to the below address, with your resume, recent photo and salary expectations Pieter.vanderhoeven@outrigger.com. A full job description can be gained on request.




Phuket Dot Com is expanding and needs additional, enthusiastic staff to join our growing team in a modern and exciting work environment:

PHUKET

Systems Developers 3 positions (Phuket based)

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Maintain and modify systems/programs to conform to system changes or to make improvements to existing programs
- Develop new systems/modules to work and integrate with existing systems
- Design the database structure to work and integrate with the new modules/existing systems
- Test and debug system modules/programs as assigned
- Support and train users to use the system as assigned
- Conduct research on the appropriate technology to use in a system development team

REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum 1 year experience in application development using PHP, MySQL, XML
- Experience with AJAX
- At least 3-years' working experience as a system developer
- Good knowledge of web technologies
- Familiar with search engine optimization concepts
- Working experience on Google Maps
- Experience with content management systems, experience with Drupal will be a major plus

Please apply in person at Muangmai Building 4th Floor, 9/17 M. 6 T.Rasda A. Muang Phuket (same building with IT City) or send CV to hr@asiawebdirect.com: subject => (Position applying) + (Branch). For more information, please contact Khun Chotiwat Tel: 076-236550 Ext. 120



Anantara Resort and Spa Phuket, Mai Khao Beach
Opening September 2008

Are you a spirited individual who believes in delivering luxurious heartfelt hospitality? Do you want to ensure every guest leaves with an amazing story to tell? Then, Anantara wants you to apply for a career at our new flagship property.



To be part of the Anantara story, you must like using your initiative, show genuine and natural warmth to colleagues as well as guests, act with honesty and integrity at all times, and be proud to deliver the unparalleled experience that is Anantara.

We are seeking leaders, supervisors and line associates for the following departments:

- Finance
- Kitchen
- Engineering
- Front Office, Housekeeping
- Revenue Management
- Recreation and Fitness, Spa
- Food and Beverage Service
- Human Resources and Training

All associates will enjoy flexible rostering with a minimum 6 days off per month and work an average 45 hours per week.

Transport to and from Phuket Town will be provided.

Submit your CV with covering letter stating the position you are applying for and the reasons you would like to be part of Anantara by April 18th to email address recruit_phuket@anantara.com

Good Luck with your application!



Phuket's largest trade and retailer of Swimming Pool, Jacuzzis and Spa supplies, plus Indonesian tiles and stones. We are looking for a dynamic person to join our team.

SENIOR SALES MANAGER

- Must be able to set up a top sales department who will report to him/her
- Help to develop marketing plan and targets
- Thai national, Male/Female
- Minimum 3 years' experience in similar position
- Excellent command of English
- Own transportation with valid license is preferred
- Good knowledge of computer, Internet and websites

We offer an attractive remuneration package including bonus incentives, commission, uniform, car and mobile phone allowance.

Candidates with the above skills and experience please submit a comprehensive resume to:

Water Works Warehouse Co., Ltd.
209/16 M. 5 (Near Shell station),
Thepkrasatri Rd., T. Srisoontorn, A. Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: 076-273577 Fax: 076-273579
Email: ann@waterworkwarehouse.net



We are a well-established and high-profile stylish Thai-cuisine restaurant. We are seeking motivated and dynamic professionals to join our sales & operations team:

SALES MANAGER

Must possess at least 3 years' related experience. Knowledge of Phuket's hotel and tourism markets a definite advantage.

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Must possess at least 3 years' of restaurant management skills. Knowledge of food and beverage operations an advantage.

Applicants are invited to apply in person or in writing with full CV stating present and expected salary to:

Silk Restaurant • Bar
The Plaza Surin 5/50 Moo 3, Cherng Talay,
Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: (66)-076-271241 Fax: (66)-076-271242
Email: hr@paradisep Phuket.com
www.silkphuket.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT/SALES

Phuket Ocean Villas are looking for motivated individuals to join their team. Applicants should be fluent in English and Thai, and have excellent computer skills. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-527565. Apply by email: cv@phuketoceanvillas.com

TELEMARKETING

Progressive company seeks English speaking telemarketing staff to work from Chalong office. Hours to suit. Experience useful, but not essential. Good rates of commission offered. Tel: 081-8337836.

QSI SCHOOL

of Phuket, an American-style school, has the following anticipated vacancies for the 2008/09 school year: pre-school teacher and a high school English teacher (not ESL). Successful candidates will be native English speakers, have at least a bachelor's degree and hold appropriate teacher certification. Letters of interest may be emailed to alansiporin@qsi.org. Please include your resume and references and be prepared to document qualifications.

SALES STAFF WANTED

English speaker. Experience in sales would be an advantage. We offer excellent benefits and commissions. Please contact Michael for details. Tel: 081-8937720. Email: salesteam@bayproject.com

MASSAGE SHOP

Staff wanted for busy shop in Patong. Accommodation available. Aged 20+. Tel: 085-4737847.

ENGLISH SPEAKING LADY

for morning and afternoon help. Must have own car or motorbike. Tel: 086-745-8832. Email: gregmackay67@hotmail.com

REAL ESTATE STAFF

Thai staff only. One Accountant, female, 5 years' experience, can sign for a minimum of 4 million. Must speak and write English. One Purchasing, female, must speak English. One Secretary. Must speak and write good English. Please contact for more information and to make an application. Tel: 076-203487, 089-8736889. Email: wnammatapetersen@hotmail.com

RESEARCHER-WRITER

Part time to do research and report facts about America and the American economy. Please email information about yourself to: ltnesneg@aol.com

SALES STAFF FOR CONDO

Following our huge sales success in our current project we are launching a new project, Seaview Haven Lagoon Condo Phase 2. Our company is seeking sales staff who meet the following requirements: 1. Must be fluent in English, both spoken and written; 2. Attractive, outgoing personality; 3. Experience required. Please contact for more information at Tel: 081-5976195. Forward your CV via email. unique_property@hotmail.com

SWEDISH FEMALE SALESPERSON

Travel consultant. We are an expanding travel agency located in Phuket City. We are looking for a Swedish female travel consultant, 25+.

Computer/Internet knowledge is essential along with a past in the travel industry, organizational skills and a really good working knowledge of Thailand. Please contact for more info at Tel: 076-246427, 081-7879454. Please apply by sending mail to: andersp@loxinfo.co.th

Island Job Mart

IT/Marketing All-Stars Wanted (Thai Nationality only)

Brand new Web Communications company, based in Phuket, is building a dynamic team of professionals. We welcome applications from candidates with the following skill/knowledge set:

Office Manager

- Highly detail-oriented with superior organizational skills
- 2 years minimum experience as Office Administrator/Manager or Exec Asst.
- Excellent communication skills in spoken and written English and Thai
- Advanced proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook)
- Experience handling visa/work permit requirements for foreigners
- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Human Resources or related fields

Marketing Assistant

- Advanced proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Power Point)
- Highly organized and detail-oriented with superior administrative skills
- Excellent communication skills in spoken and written English
- Prior experience working as an Administrative/Personal Assistant or in a Marketing Department
- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing or Business Administration

IT/Marketing Project Coordinator

- Excellent analytical, problem-solving and interpersonal communication skills
- Highly organized and detail-oriented
- Excellent command of spoken and written English
- Prior professional experience working in Marketing is a must
- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Computer Science/ Information Technology or related fields would be an advantage
- Proficiency in PHP/MYSQL, ASP, ASP.NET and other Web based applications would be a definite advantage

Online Marketing Coordinator

- Excellent grasp of Pay Per Click campaigns
- 1 year min experience working in an E-commerce company or as Pay Per Click officer
- Proficiency in monitoring, analysing and reporting on Pay Per Click campaigns
- Good knowledge of Web-based Technologies
- Excellent English communication
- SEO experience/knowledge would be an advantage

Web Developer

- Excellent knowledge of ASP.NET or PHP (object-oriented Programming)
- Good knowledge of Database Architecture MySQL & T-SQL
- Experience in Web Services and with Asynchrony Web requests
- Good Javascript knowledge a must
- Experience with XML/ XSLT Transformation
- Experience working with open source CMS Systems based on ASP.NET or PHP

Web Layout Officer

- Excellent knowledge in CSS3/ XHTML
- Experience in creating HTML solutions with multi-browser compatibility
- Good understanding of graphic elements
- PHP and Javascript knowledge optional, but would be an advantage

Web Designer

- Artistic eye with a good technical background
- Excellent knowledge in Adobe Photoshop/ Illustrator and Imageready
- Experience working with Macromedia Flash and basic knowledge of Action Script
- Experience with HTML Web Technology

NOTE: Basic English skills and a Bachelor's Degree or higher in Computer Science/ Information Technology or related fields is required for all IT positions.

This is a unique opportunity to join a company where talented, motivated applicants who are open to learning new technologies are welcomed. If you are a hard-working IT or Marketing professional who would prefer to work in an upbeat, caring environment, please forward your CV with a cover letter to: recruitment@bitsiren.com



The Exclusive Boutique Apartment Spa Entertainment Located at Kamala Beach, Phuket is seeking qualified & energetic persons to fill the following positions:

SITE ENGINEER

- Bachelor's degree or higher in construction engineering or any related field
- Min. 5 years' experience in construction of residential project, real estate development or project management
- Positive attitude, self-motivated, strong leadership, proactive interpersonal & communication skills, well organized & able to deal with Contractors & Clients
- Fair in both written & spoken English
- Computer literacy: Auto CAD, Microsoft Project, Microsoft Office or any software relevant to the position
- Able to work in Phuket, own transportation

QUANTITY SURVEYOR (3 POSITIONS)

- Bachelor's degree in civil engineering/ electrical engineering or related field
- Min. 5 years' experience in construction management/quantity survey
- Responsibility for quantity surveying, construction schedules and reports, able to undertake administration of construction contracts, secretarial tasks and support between construction & architect team
- Positive attitude, self-motivated, proactive interpersonal & communication skills, well organized & able to deal with contractors
- Computer literacy: Auto CAD, Microsoft Project, Microsoft Office or any software relevant to the position
- Excellent in both written & spoken English

SITE SECRETARY

- Thai nationality, vocational degree or higher in management or related field
- Responsible in providing site administration tasks, preparation and ability to support with clarification and co-ordinate the admin. and paperwork to the construction and architect team
- Computer literacy: Auto CAD, Microsoft Project, Microsoft Office or any software relevant to the position
- Good planning, detailed, service-minded and well organized

ACCOUNTANT

- Bachelor's degree or higher in accounting field
- Min. 5 years' experience in accounting, real estate or property management
- Be responsible to establish & maintain effective accounting system, monitor payment voucher, taxation, accounts payable (AP) and accounts receivable (AR) and knowledge of Quick Book 2006 program
- Fair in both written & spoken English

Interested candidates, please send full resume, expected salary & a recent photo by fax or e-mail to:

PARADISE GROUP - Human Resources Department
The Plaza Surin 5/50 M. 3, Cherng Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110
Fax: 66-76-271242 Email: hr@paradisepuket.com



Looking for a change? Would you like to work in a dynamic and global environment? Would you like to live on a beautiful island with all the comfort of an international destination?

HotelTravel.com is a leading international online travel information and hotel reservation service. We are a multi-cultural company, employing experienced and knowledgeable staff from six continents. We pride ourselves in our ability to provide unparalleled customer service in eight different languages.

We are currently accepting applications for the following position:

Travel Writer (full time)

Job Responsibilities:

- ▶ Create/edit travel guides
- ▶ Administer a travel-related forum (answering customer's travel-related questions)
- ▶ Write articles for tangent E-zine, online monthly travel magazine
- ▶ Create/edit hotel information

Qualifications:

Prospective applicants should have the following skills/experience:

- ▶ Native English speaker
- ▶ Excellent creative writing skills with a firm grasp of correct grammar and spelling
- ▶ Curiosity and passion for travel
- ▶ Ability to work to deadlines
- ▶ Internet research savvy
- ▶ Travel industry, marketing, or journalism experience would be an advantage.

Only motivated, positive individuals should apply for this exciting opportunity to work in HotelTravel.com's professional and supportive environment.

Interested applicants should submit an application, including CV, to careers@hoteltravel.com or call +66 76 282 808 Mr. Anupab Satakorn for further information.

SUNNAV บริษัท ชินนาฟ จำกัด
บริษัทในเครือบางกอกกรีน ดำเนินธุรกิจเกี่ยวกับการท่องเที่ยวทางทะเล
สร้าง และซ่อมเรือยacht

URGENTLY WANTED
MANAGER PHUKET BRANCH 1 POSITION
Good salary, bonus, commission,
social security, living expenses

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42 หมู่ 6 เขตหนองจอกสาย 4 อ.สวนหลวง จ.นครปฐม
email: personnel@bangkokgreen.com www.sunnav.com

INTLAW OFFICE
สำนักงานทนายความ นานาชาติ และ เชื้อชน

Looking for a Contract Coordinator or Thai Lawyer

- ▶ Age between 25-35 years old
- ▶ Bachelor's degree
- ▶ Speak, read and write good English
- ▶ Contract work in English
- ▶ Experience is an advantage

Please send your resumé, recent photo and expected salary to
Administration Manager at
International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd.
17/6 Chaofa Road, Talaad Nuea, Muang, Phuket 83000
manager_phuket@phuket-realestate-law.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

Reporter

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with initiative, an outgoing personality and plenty of experience about the world and how it works. Also essential are the ability to communicate in English, both spoken and written, and a car.

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd
367/2 Yaowarat Rd, T. Taladyai, A. Muang
Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-236555

Gazette Online
Classifieds – 10,000
readers every day!

Island Job Mart



GREAT WORKFORCE GREAT WORKPLACE

Marriott Vacation Club, Asia Pacific, a leader in the global vacation ownership business, is looking for competent individuals and active professionals to join our team in the following positions

. MARKETING EXECUTIVE	10 Positions
. OWNER REFERRAL EXECUTIVE	1 Position
. RECEPTIONIST	3 Positions
. RESERVATIONS OFFICER	2 Positions
. GUEST RELATIONS EXECUTIVE	2 Positions
. SALES EXECUTIVE - JAPANESE	1 Position
. MARKETING EXECUTIVE - JAPANESE	1 Position
. OWNER REFERRAL ASSISTANT MANAGER	1 Position
. GUEST ACTIVITY PLANNER	1 Position
. ACTIVITY GUIDE	2 Positions

All positions are based in Phuket at various locations including Patong, Surin, Kamala and Mai Khao and require self-motivated, pro-active, confident people with excellent interpersonal skills.

An intermediate degree of proficiency in English is necessary. Candidates with the above qualifications should submit a resume with a recent photograph to the Director of Human Resources at pansak.l@marriott.com or fax: 076-348354 or mail to:

MVCI, Asia Pacific
230 Mai Khao, Talang
Phuket 83110, Thailand

Or Apply in person
Monday - Friday
from 10.00 am - 3.00 pm

For more information, please visit our website at www.marriott.com

PEARL ISLAND PROPERTY

Sales and marketing. 2 positions. Qualified candidates, age 25-35, must have a bachelor's degree and a minimum of one year's experience in property sales and marketing. Must also be fluent in English (written and spoken), have a driving license and be proactive with good presentation and computer skills. Tel: 076-362600, 081-970 4173. Fax: 076-362602. Please contact by email and enclose your CV. Email: joop@anchanvillas.com For further details please visit our website at www.anchanvillas.com

MAID WANTED JULY/AUGUST

Farang male on Phuket wants maid from July 7 until August 18. Cleaning, shopping, sometimes cooking and looking after children. Must speak English. Driver's license needed. Lodging is provided. Salary: 15,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-302600, 084-4406856. Email: sten@proetica.se

REPUTABLE LAW FIRM SEEKS

- Executive Assistant
 - Good English
 - Excellent organizational skills
 - Translation skills
 - Junior Assistant
 - Good English
 - Ability to work in a team
 - Junior Accountant
 - Ability to comprehend simple accounting data
- Salary and benefits subject to experience. Please contact for additional details. Tel: 085-1618251. Email: siripansa_pond@hotmail.com

CHEF & WAITRESS - JUNGCEYLON

Chefs and waitresses wanted for a restaurant/cafe opening soon at Jungceylon shopping center. Good location! Contact K. Oh. Tel: 087-8810300 or Email: thommm@online.no

MARINE TECHNICIAN

Sailing yacht-charter company is looking for a technical manager. Good salary for qualified candidate. Email: thailand@dreamyachtcharter.com

SALES EXECUTIVE WANTED

Sell advertising space in *Adrenaline Sports and Lifestyle SE Asia* magazine. Qualifications: Between 28-42 yrs old. 5 years experience in marketing and sales to big companies. Excellent personality, interpersonal, communication, negotiation and problem solving skills. Good written and spoken English. Please contact for more information. Tel: 075-637754, 086-697 0379. Email: niiik.k@gmail.com or visit our website: www.adrenalinesea.com

MANAGER & STAFF NEEDED

- Thai female manager with 3-5 years experience in hotel or resort management. Must speak and write perfect English.
 - Electrical engineer. Must speak English.
- Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-8736889. Send your CV by Email: wnammatapetersen@hotmail.com

RAIMON LAND



Raimon Land was recently recognized at the Thailand Property Awards 2007 winning Best Developer, Best Urban Condo (The Legend) and Best Property Development Website (theriverbangkok.com). Now we are looking for highly motivated and success driven employees to join our award winning team and take our operations in Phuket to greater Heights.

Position: Sales Executives

Responsibilities:

- Selling luxury real estate to prospective clients
- Present show unit in a professional manner
- Providing information
- Respond to inquires via emails or telephone
- Update the customer's database
- Manage buyers' contracts and documentation

Qualification:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in any related field
- Preferably 1-3 years experience in real estate sales
- Sales experience in another industry will also be considered
- Proficient in MS word and PC skills
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Service minded, self-motivated and confident personality

Position: CRM Manager

Responsibilities:

- Manage property managers and subcontractors
- Maintain communications with customers prior/post transfer
- Handling customer requests
- Work together with CRM team

Qualification:

- Female, age not over 35 years old
- Bachelor's degree in any related field
- At least 3 years experience in Customer Relations. Preferable experience in property management
- Good personality and interpersonal skills
- Excellent command of English
- Able to work under pressure and service minded

Position: CRM Officer

Responsibilities:

- Build and maintain communications with customers from the after sales period to transfer of units
- Dealing with customer requests
- Inspecting rooms with customer before transferring unit.
- Coordinate with Transfer Department and Accounting Department
- Coordinate with property management team

Qualification:

- Minimum 2-3 years experience customer service or CRM, preferably some property management background
- Experience in CRM or secretarial tasks, comprising of basic computer knowledge, email etc.
- Good communication skills
- Service minded and able to work under pressure
- Fluent in spoken and written English

For an interview to be arranged interested applicants should apply by sending a full resumé with a recent photo, indicating qualifications, experience and expected salary. Application should be sent by post, email or fax to:

SmartCityPeople (Thailand) Recruitment Co.Ltd.
Unit 92/56-57B Level 19 Sathorn Thani II, North Sathorn Road,
Silom, Bangkok, Bangkok 10500 Thailand
Fax: +66 2 636 7030
service@smartcitypeople.com

Quality developments by Raimon Land



SALES POSITIONS

Wine Connection is looking for sales executives. 3 positions are available. Foreigners as well as Thais are encouraged to apply. Positions are available in Phuket, Khao Lak and Krabi. Salary, commissions and monthly support package offered. Apply today at Wine Connection Chalong. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-282411. Fax: 076-282414. Email: gmpuket@wineconnection.co.th

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER WANTED

New international school in BKK is looking for early childhood teachers. Please contact for details. Tel: 02-6426386, 081-8690566.

LHP FOUNDATION

is seeking a Thai national with prior social work and experience caring for HIV patients and other health conditions. Tel: 076-614060. Email: areasufehome@loxinfo.co.th

TIMESHARE JOBS IN HONG KONG

Absolute is looking for 4 English-speaking, sensible, experienced, cold-line and in-house sales staff to join its newest sales center in Hong Kong. Excellent product, potential and package. Sales manager is John Parnell, training starts March 9. Don't miss this opportunity! Email: bl@marbella.net
Email your resumé or apply online at www.clubabsolute.com/fivestar

Employment Wanted

IRISHMAN 42

Seeking position in any field. Experienced driver - bus and heavy goods vehicles. Tel: 076-381920, 085-7920452. Email: pj_duignan@yahoo.ie

HOTEL, DIVING, SALES

Male, 43, Swiss national, sales manager (13 years of advertising experience), hotel business (head waiter) and diving (PADI instructor). Fluent in German, English and French (basic knowledge of Thai and Italian). I am looking forward to hearing from you soon, kind regards, Stefan. Tel: 087-2684981. For more information please contact me by email at: stefanhaldenstein@hotmail.com

Tout, Trader & Trumpet

Articles For Sale

FRIDGE FOR SALE

Large, 3-door. Excellent condition. 27,000 baht ono. Contact Dean. Tel: 087-2847407.

MOVING SALE

Please contact at Tel: 086-9507788. Website: www.picasaweb.google.co.th/kingkongsimon/simonfurniture

SHOW HOME: 390,000 BAHT

1-bedroom home built to Australian standards as a display, export unit, fully installed on your land. Ideal for small lot; can be relocated easily. Tel: 076-281283, 081-8924804. Please see website for info: www.safe-wayphuket.com

MONITOR FOR SALE

Fujitsu Siemens 17" CRT monitor for sale. 1,000 baht, in Khao Lak. Tel: 076-443149, 086-2811945. Email: mike@ethailand.com

BANG TAO GYM

Second hand gym equipment for sale. Good price. Tel: 081-5250078.

MONGOOSE

Rockodile, 21-speed, 1 month old: 7,000 baht. Cold-drink refrigerator, 2ft x 5ft: 4,000 baht. Desktop computer. Compaq: 8,000 baht. Tel: 084-6288450.

POOL TABLE

No coin. Blue/brown. 33,350 baht. A must see. Tel: 089-6503160.

Articles Wanted

FREEZER WANTED

Small freezer wanted, suitable for home use. No fridge, just freezer. Email: alanphuket@hotmail.com

Bulletins

SPONSOR

a needy 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 (Tel: 087-4178860 or carol.fryer@piwc.info) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-2776948 or email: sue.arnulphy@piwc.info).

DIVING SIMILAN

Similan and Richelien rock. 4 days/nights for 16,500 baht, 12-16 April. Tel: 085-7955383.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Mission Hospital
Phuket City
Wed and Sun 7 pm

Bangkok Phuket Hospital
Phuket City
Fri 7 pm

Patong Hospital Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun
at 7 pm and Fri at 8 pm

Chalong Health
Clinic-near Chalong Circle
Tues 1 pm

For Phuket info (English)
call 081-9564031,
081-8912895

Scandinavian speaking Group
Wat Karon School-Karon
Tue and Sat 7 pm
Tel 081-2732053 (Nor)
087-2795636 (Nor)
086-7458910 (Swe)

For info on other Thailand
AA meetings inquire
at Tel: 02-2318300
(for Thai language press 3)
www.aathailand.org
email info@aathailand.org
phuketaa@yahoo.com

Business Opportunities

ALL KINDS OF HOTEL restaurant and kitchen inventory for sale. Contact Jan Jensen. Tel: 081-9683882.

BUSINESS FOR RENT English school center and law office for rent in Phuket City. Tel: 081-6072489.

GUESTHOUSE - LAGUNA

Restaurant. Spa. Swimming pool. 29-year lease. 4.2 million baht. Buy or rent. Tel: 083-1823751.

BAR FOR SALE

Geckos pub/restaurant in Kamala. Must be seen. Tel: 089-2908016.

SPORTS BAR FOR SALE

in Karon. 1.8 million baht. Good location. Fully equipped. Please contact George for more information. Tel: 085-0693221. Email: gordon_charlton@hotmail.com

SHOP FOR SALE

Sainamyen Rd. Large, clean shop with 2 rooms. Shower. Fully furnished. 400,000 baht ono. Please contact to K. Dean. Tel: 087-2847407.

TAILOR SHOP AT JUNGCEYLON

Well established tailor shop at Jungceylon, Patong for sale. Tel: 086-3287376. Email: sohailnoshad@hotmail.com

SHOP FOR RENT

Newly refurbished. Top location in Phuket City. Thai/Farang. Furniture available. Please call K. Phil. Tel: 089-6186894.

NIGHTCLUB IN KATA CENTER



KATA NIGHT BAZAAR PRICE 3.5 MILLION BAHT OR PARTNERSHIP 50%.

- The only night club in Kata, Karon and Chalong area. No competition!
 - 3-story (mezzanine/balcony included), stock room, kitchen.
 - Disco is located in a "government zoning area".
 - Top brand sound, lighting, effects and visual equipment and systems, new with 2 year warranties.
 - Have government licence.
 - All materials, equipment, furniture, air condition and coolers are new with warranties.
 - 3rd floor has 4 newly furnished rooms with cable TV and air conditioning.
 - 2 rooms with balcony and gardens/city view (Kata).
 - 2 rooms without balcony and seaview.
- Tel: 087-6899679. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

between Chalong and Rawai. 40 seats. Quality furniture and professional kitchen. 3-year renewable lease. Reasonable rent. Asking 1.3 million baht ono. Includes 6 months' rent. Tel: 084-0603477. Email: attvitaphuket@yahoo.co.uk

BAR FOR SALE

Great Patong location. Contact Kevin for more information. Tel: 084-7300190.

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Restaurant/bar on Karon main road for sale. Seats 38. 3 floors with big newly-furnished apartments. Monthly rent: 15,000 baht. Tel: 088-9729149. Email: info@klausharbauer.com

BEAUTY SALON

Near Tai Pan Disco, loyal customer base. Perfect small shop for your wife or girlfriend. Very low rent. Price: 250,000 baht obo. Tel: 081-6064467 (Thai/English). Email: arto.titinen@tramigo.net

RAWAI RESTAURANT/ GUESTHOUSE

Restaurant with 3-year lease. Guest house 5-year lease. Both easy to renew. No key money. Kitchen fully equipped. 6 big rooms plus owner's apartment. Rent: 45,000 baht per month. For sale at 1.3 million baht. Owner going home. Tel: 089-6475422.

BAR AND RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Fully equipped bar and restaurant with pool table. Only bar on Nanai to serve English fish and chips. Has good local trade. Please contact K. Larry. Tel: 085-7919844. Email: lonpon123@yahoo.com

CRUISE BUSINESS FOR SALE

Turnkey, fully-equipped 24m boat (would make a nice private pleasure boat). Websites, company, etc. 9 million baht ono. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-6525664. Email: kurtfy@yahoo.com

SEAVIEW GUESTHOUSE

and restaurant in Patong. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

ELEGANT SHOPHOUSE

Bargain, 4-story shophouse with Chanote. Fully equipped restaurant on 1st and 2nd floors. Fully furnished apartment on 3rd and 4th floors. Valued at B6.7 million, now priced at only B5.5 million. Have to move out. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-8915602.

GUESTHOUSE, KARON

Beautiful guesthouse. 6 apartment suites from 45sqm. 50 meters from beach. 2.9 million baht for inventory. 55,000 baht monthly rent. Tel: 086-2718254. Email: ninproperty@hotmail.com

NEW NANA PLAZA PATONG

Beer and go-go bars available starting from 1 million baht for 3 years. Also food license. Finance available. Contact Lee. Tel: 086-6109230. Email: nanaplazapatong@yahoo.com

GREAT DEAL! BUSINESS SALES & RENTAL UNIT

- Hotel for sale: 3 rai, newly renovated boutique resort, great deal, best location in Patong.
 - Hotel for sale: 55 rooms in 5-rai area, small luxury resort located in the quiet end of Patong. New construction, clean and great atmosphere.
 - Hotel for rent: best location in Phuket City.
- Please contact via email for an appointment. Email: allservices29@gmail.com

ROOFTOP RESTAURANT

for rent on the top floor of Sinthavee Hotel, Phuket City. Convenient for a restaurant or bar. Also, a discotheque on the 2nd floor (with license). Email: allservices29@gmail.com

SALON & SPA

for lease or rent with all equipment included. In the basement of Fantasia in Phuket City. Tel: 086-5930086.

BOOKS FOR SALE

Many language books and about 5,000 used books with shelf. For quick sale: 350,000 baht. Please contact K. Pui. Tel: 084-1705552.

MONKEY'S NUTS

Well-known successful bar in prime location for sale. Very low price, no key money. Contact Raymond for full details. Tel: 084-8454562. Email: curtains_unlimited@hotmail.com

BAR/RESTAURANT FOR SALE

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