

# Phuket Gazette

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**INSIDE**



**BIZ:** Royal Phuket Marina teams up with global marine events planner to build the island's first large-scale MICE facility by adding a conference center to its property mix.

See the full story in the Business section on page 21.

**NEWS:** Tsunami warning buoy update; Tourism on track. **Pages 2 & 3**

**INSIDE STORY:** A look into reports of oil exploration's adverse effects on marine life. **Pages 4 & 5**

**LIFESTYLE:** Judgment Day for whiz kids. **Page 16**

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## Phuket hosts regional wargames supply ship

By Akbar Khan

**AO MAKHAM:** An unremarkable privately-owned ship carrying thousands of tons of military hardware and humanitarian aid sailed quietly into Phuket waters last week, slipping away virtually unnoticed a few days later as the cargo vessel went on to play a supporting role in regional SEACAT (South East Asian Cooperation Against Terrorism) exercises.

The privately owned Danish-built cargo ship *Cpl. Louis J. Hauge Jr* has been adapted for its special load-carrying role to serve as a floating warehouse for the US military. It has been stretched by 150 ft and can roll off equipment onto lighters so cargo can be delivered anywhere, said Captain Glenn Bond the crew leader.

"We were at Saipan up by Guam and now we are part of a SEACAT training program for 10 Asian nations to join in role-play simulations," he said.

Edward E. Baxter, the Public Affairs Officer for the Far East activities for the Military Sealift Command (MSC) Pre-positioning Program, told the *Gazette*, "The fleet is an element in the US's triad of power projection into the 21st century-sea



**MAIN:** Anchored off Ao Makham last week, the privately-owned vessel *Cpl. Louis J. Hauge Jr* is much more than an ordinary cargo ship.

**INSET:** Some of the military hardware below deck on the vessel specially adapted for wargames and humanitarian missions.



shield, sea strike and sea basing. This is a flagship of a squadron of 10 boats that can support 18,000 marines for a month with everything they need.

"We are here for a little R&R before we continue tomorrow on a week-long annual SEACAT anti-terrorist exercise to help train the coastguards of several nations in this area.

"These nations learn to work together in terrorist scenarios not only dealing with pirates trying to get on vessels, but also how to board and search vessels suspected of smuggling

contraband," Mr Baxter added.

"In this year's cat-and-mouse game this ship plays the role of a cargo ship carrying illicit cargo. We will sail down to Singapore and test the ability of these countries' national homeland security and how well they can communicate and share information with neighboring nations, as well as brushing up on their interception skills," he said.

Mr Parsh Singh's Parsh Marine Service PTE Ltd - based in Singapore - is the agent for the vessel which is now hired out on a long-term

contract to the MSC.

As well as carrying a plethora of military equipment ranging from Abrams tanks to Humvees and giant military trucks, the vessel was also loaded with containers full of refrigerated and dry food, - enough to feed 3,000 people for a month - more than a million gallons of fuel and 65,000 gallons of water.

Captain Bond said that it is a joy working with Thai forces and that the people of Phuket had been most hospitable. "The crew are happy to have R&R in Phuket," he said.

## Pond poisoners caught at Suan Luang Park

**PHUKET CITY:** Scores of municipal workers labored for several days to remove thousands of rotting fish from the main pond at Suan Luang Park, after fishermen were caught using poison to kill and capture them the night before.

An officer from Phuket City Municipality who asked not to be named told the *Gazette* that

the municipal officials responsible for patrolling the park at night first noticed fish floating on the surface of the pond between 2 am and 3 am on August 16.

A subsequent search led to the detainment by security guards and eventual arrest by police of four fishermen who were allegedly using chemicals to kill the

fish and then using hand nets to remove them. The men had planned to sell their catch at a local market, the officer said.

The officer described the chemicals used by the fishermen as "similar to *look men* [moth balls]." Also collected as evidence were the fishing nets and 80 kilograms of dead fish, mostly

Nile tilapia and catfish. Both are staples of the Thai diet and are farmed throughout the country.

Many smaller species of fish were able to survive the poisoning of the pond, said the officer. "Officials have done their job in catching the fishermen and the public shouldn't become unduly worried," she added.



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# Tourism remains steady

Janyaporn Morel

PHUKET CITY: Despite global economic problems, tourism in Phuket continues to grow, with 4.79 million tourists having passed through Phuket International Airport since the beginning of the fiscal 2008, up 600,000 from the same period a year earlier.

Anoma Thongyai, deputy director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) South Region 4 Office in Phuket, revealed the figures at the monthly Governor Meets the Press conference held on August 15.

Although fuel prices are still high and tourism destinations around the world have felt the strain of a volatile global economy, occupancy rates in Phuket's hotels remain at between 40% and 55%, about average for low season on the island, Khun Anoma added.

One area of change lies in the spending habits of tourists, who after shelling out for costly air tickets are more careful about spending and less likely to buy extravagant items on impulse, she said.

Tourists visiting Phuket this low season are come mostly from Australia, the Middle East, India, Hong Kong, China, Korea and Japan. The num-

ber of Japanese visitors is increasing, partially in response to the reopening of the direct Narita-Phuket route in July, which has seen load factors averaging about 90%.

There are also eight charter flights operating between Hong Kong and Phuket.

While the number of foreign visitors has remained steady, fewer Thais have been visiting, said K. Anoma.

She cited the reduction in domestic flights available from carriers low-cost Nok Air and One-Two-Go as a major factor.

Phuket International Airport Director Wing Commander Wicha Nernlop said that THAI Airways is expected to announce the addition of several more flights between Bangkok and Phuket.

However, a member of THAI Airways reservations department told the *Gazette* that the only impending increase in carrying capacity would come on September 1, when flight TG 1221 from Don Meuang to Phuket, and its return leg, would resume service.

There are no new flights planned, but THAI might add special, non-scheduled flights to help meet passenger demand during peak periods, she added.



## Jewelry for sale: 89,000,001 baht

PHUKET CITY: Pattani-native Rozita Hazan is hoping to sell a pair of family heirlooms for 89 million and 1 baht.

She told a press conference on August 12 that a distant relative of hers was given the ring and bracelet by the Pattani royal family (at a time before Pattani lost its independence to the Siamese).

"The price has meaning," said K. Rozita. "Number 8 represents the age of our king, while his reign is the ninth generation of the Chakkri dynasty and number 1 is because there is only one king."

— Sompratch Saowakhon

## Firefighter found hanged

PHUKET CITY: Police on August 14 discovered the decomposing corpse of a municipal firefighter who apparently hanged himself several days earlier.

Phuket City Police Duty Officer Pol Lt Tada Sodarak identified the deceased as Apirat Sararat, a 30-year-old native of Pattani.

Police were informed of Khun Apirat's death by a 191 call placed by fellow residents of the firefighter's dormitory on Kra Rd, he said.

When police arrived at about 4 am, they found that friends of the deceased had already taken down the body, which they had found suspended by a red-and-white firefighter's rescue cord from the top of the door leading out to the balcony.

From the state of the body, police believe K. Apirat took his life at least three days before.

The friends told police that K. Apirat had lived in the third-story room with his girlfriend, who had left a few days before.

"I assume this case is a suicide," Lt Tada said.

— Janyaporn Morel

## More Phuket flights added

PHUKET: Bangkok Airways added more flights to its weekend Bangkok-Phuket service starting August 15.

Flights PG 273 and PG 274 (Airbus 320 with 162 seats) have been added to the service and now fly on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

PG 273 is scheduled to leave Bangkok (Suvarnabhumi Airport) at 1:45 pm and to arrive at Phuket International Airport (PIA) at 3 pm.

PG 274 is scheduled to depart from PIA at 3:50 pm to arrive at Suvarnabhumi Airport at 5:10 pm.

# Four perish in weekend smashes

Sompratch Saowakhon

PA KHLOK: Four people were killed on the night of August 17 in two separate road accidents involving motorcycles. One of the victims was a five-year-old child.

At about 7 pm on August 17, two women and a boy — members of the same family — were killed after the motorcycle they were riding collided with a pickup truck on the Baan Para — Baan Muang Mai Rd in Pa Khlok, on the route to the Mission Hills Golf Course, said Thalang Police Major Seksan Konsakorn.

The driver of the pickup told police that he was driving his vehicle at about 80kmh when he saw the motorbike being driven at speed along the sidewalk. As the pickup approached, the motorbike veered into the side of the

truck, causing the collision and knocking the three family members to the ground, he added.

The bodies of three victims, all pronounced dead at the scene by Kusoldharm Foundation volunteers, were taken to Thalang Hospital for autopsy.

"The left side of the pickup suffered damage consistent with the information the driver gave us and the vehicle came to rest in the correct lane, which suggests the vehicle was being driven appropriately," he added.

Maj Seksan identified one of the women as 43-year-old Vassana Puengpak, a native of Srisaket province. The other woman and the child remained unidentified, although police said the child was about five years old.

On the same night, one man was killed in a horrific collision between a Mercedes-Benz and a motorcycle on Thepkrasattri Rd.

Pol Maj Prakorb Boonkwan of the Thalang Police said that at about 9 pm Pradit Mulikabutra

was attempting to traverse Thepkrasattri Rd on his saleng (motorcycle with illegal sidecar) to reach the opposite lane.

Riding against the flow of traffic near Baan Nai Klum Mosque, Khun Pradit was killed instantly when the Mercedes-Benz smashed into his motorcycle at full speed. His left leg was crushed and his right leg ripped clean off, he added.

Mercedes-Benz driver Sitha Ngan-Sathit, 36, told police that he had been driving his car at about 90kmh when the saleng suddenly maneuvered straight into his path, making the head-on collision unavoidable.

"We cannot make presumptions about who is in the wrong in this case. The motorcycle driver drove in the wrong lane to reach the other side and the Benz driver was driving very fast," said Maj Prakorb.

However police have yet to file any charge against Khun Sitha, as is usually standard in all road accidents resulting in death.



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**B20m CCTV system for Rawai**

RAWAI: As part of a bid to crack down on crime in the area, Rawai Municipality has been granted 20 million baht in central government funding from the for the installation of 32 closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras.

Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos made the announcement at an August 15 ceremony held to announce a range of crime-fighting initiatives in Rawai.

Camera installation should begin in early 2009, with work scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

An independent contractor is now being sought to install the cameras.

"We need to consider how this system will benefit Rawai after it has been installed. It won't give us 100% protection against crime, but it will go some way to preventing robberies and muggings," he said.

Rawai, which falls under the responsibility of Chalong Police District, has been the site of numerous violent muggings in recent years, some conducted by armed youths against foreign tourists.

Also in attendance at the ceremony was Phuket Police Commander Maj Gen Apirak Hongthong and officers from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation.

Gen Apirak said that a special team of officers has been lined up to monitor Phuket's motorcycle gangs and Internet shops frequented by suspected criminals.

Police will work with local government sectors to keep an eye on criminals in Rawai, he added.

The move comes as part of an overall goal to clean up the image of Rawai and the surrounding area in the eyes of tourists and residents alike.

According to statistics released by Phuket Provincial Police, crime in Rawai has been steadily declining in recent months.

"We want tourists and residents to feel safe in the upcoming high season," added Gen Apirak.

- Semacote Suganya

# Tsunami warning system improvements on hold

By Sompratch Saowakhon and Stephen Fein

PHUKET: Plans for Thailand to launch two more "tsunameters" off the Andaman coastline to improve its tsunami warning system capability have become bogged down by red tape and technical problems, leaving Phuket with only one direct detection unit in place as the fourth anniversary of the 2004 disaster nears.

Dr Smith Dharmasaroja, who chairs the committee that directs the Nonthaburi-based National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC), told the *Gazette* that the NDWC was budgeted 165 million baht for the two tsunami direct detection units in 2007.

When deployed about 250 to 300 kilometers off Phuket, they will enhance the NDWC's ability to detect and warn of an impending tsunami, he said.

Technically known as Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunami (Dart) monitoring systems, the state-of-the-art tsunameters consist of a pressure sensor on the ocean floor that relays data to a surface buoy equipped with satellite technology.

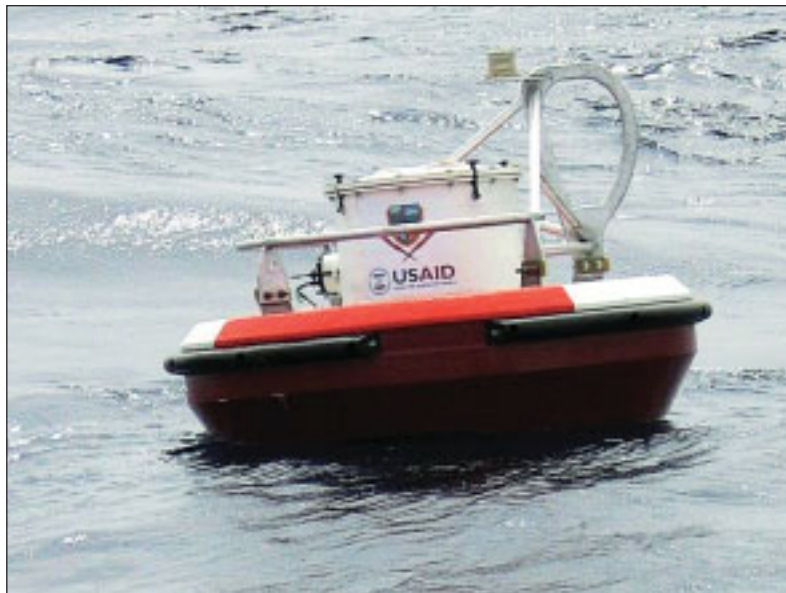
The units enable national agencies such as the NDWC to detect a tsunami and issue a warning in real time.

Unfortunately, the contractor the NDWC is negotiating with to provide the two tsunameters is unable to meet the technical requirements that Thailand and India agreed to in their effort to set up a regional system, Dr Smith said.

The authority to move forward with the purchase rests with the ICT Ministry and its Meteorology Department, he added.

Two "tsunameters" have been deployed in the Indian Ocean since the tsunami. The first, launched by Thailand and the US on December 1, 2006, in the middle of the Indian Ocean, is still functioning normally and providing data to the NDWC.

Last year Dr Smith confirmed the suspicions of a *Gazette* reporter that the location of



This state-of-the-art tsunameter, one of two deployed in the Indian Ocean, consists of a pressure sensor on the ocean floor that relays data to a surface buoy equipped with satellite technology.

the first tsunameter was too far west of the subduction zone where the last tsunami originated to be of real benefit to Phuket should another tsunami-producing earthquake occur there, because by the time the west-moving tsunami wave reaches the sensor, its east-moving counterpart would already have reached Phuket beaches.

However, Dr Smith de-

scribed as inaccurate reports attributed to Dr Plodprasop Surasawadee, who as assistant minister of the Prime Minister's Office was quoted by a Bangkok-based English-language daily in May as saying that the first Thai tsunameter was not working at all.

Jakarta-based David McKinnie of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) serving as a co-

ordinator for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS), also confirmed that the Thai tsunameter is still functioning normally.

He agreed that the Dart unit needs better maintenance, however. "These systems need regular maintenance and the Thai station is long overdue for such routine work," he wrote the *Gazette* in an email.

The second tsunameter, further south off the coast of Sumatra, is broken, he admitted.

"We know that NDWC is planning to purchase two additional tsunameters," he added.

Mr McKinnie refutes claims that the location where the first Thai-US Dart unit was deployed was poorly chosen.

"Tsunami waves travel very fast in deep water and much more slowly in shallow water. The waters between Phuket and the Andamans are relatively shallow. The water from the source to the Dart station is relatively deep. A tsunami would reach the Dart station 1.5 to two hours before it would reach Phuket, thus the station provides a potential warning lead time of 1.5 to two hours," he wrote.



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# Searching for clues in

There have been an unusual number of marine animals beaching themselves around Phuket. On June 4, a dwarf sperm whale died after washing ashore at Patong Beach. An autopsy revealed a large amount of man-made debris in the whale's stomach.

Then, on June 28, some 20 false killer whales beached themselves at Koh Racha Yai, leading to the death of one of the animals.

Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) biologist Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong said at the time that as most of the animals appeared healthy, the beaching was likely not the result of illness. All the whales except the one that died were returned safely to the water.

Two days later, the carcass of a striped dolphin was found washed ashore at Baan Dan, Mai Khao.

The animals had suffered multiple injuries from fishing nets. On July 5, three rough-toothed dolphins were rescued after they beached at Ao Makham. One

Over the past 15 years there have been four mass strandings of dolphins and whales around Phuket. Two of these strandings occurred in the past two months, prompting *Gazette* reporter Sompratch Saowakhon to dive in deep and find out more about what could be causing marine creatures to lose their way.

theory put forward by PMBC experts was that the animals were fleeing a disturbance, possibly something man-made.

Concerned about the number of animals washing ashore, one *Gazette* reader sent in a letter hypothesizing that oil exploration activities in the Andaman Sea may be related to the abnormal behavior of Phuket's marine mammals.

PTT Exploration and Production Public Company Limited explained to the *Gazette* that it has sub-contracted a French company to survey new gas sources under the Andaman Sea around Ranong, Phang Nga, Krabi, Trang, Satun and Phuket provinces.

The two-dimensional seismic surveys involve the use of two sets of seismic air guns, which are set up on a boat, sending 2,000

pounds per square inch of air pressure every eight seconds. The waves travel to the seabed and are reflected off soil or stone to be analyzed by PTT equipment. The frequency used is between 10 and 80 Hertz.

PTT has five boats out surveying in the Andaman Sea working in five separate zones, covering an area of about 68,820 square kilometers, with the closest zone to Phuket about 150 kilometers away.

Andy Smith of Ocean Geo Diver in Rawai told the *Gazette* about some of the unusual happenings he has witnessed while out at sea. "This is the wrong time of year to see [whale sharks], but there are two whale sharks hanging around here at the moment. It is very, very strange.

"Whale sharks are nocturnal and divers usually have to

swim down to see them sleeping on the sand. Now they are swimming around six to seven meters from the surface.

"There are some very strange things happening in the water at the moment, I don't know what is causing this - global warming perhaps.

"Normally whale sharks are very graceful, but these ones seem quite anxious and are flipping about unusually. Everyone is talking about it and I am quite concerned," he added.

When asked about the mysterious strandings, Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation co-ordinator Michelle Mouille told the *Gazette*, "It is my only guess that in the sea right now there are [effects caused] by pollution, fishermen and global warming that are all problems that result from human activity. That's my personal belief."

Sontaya Manawattana, a veterinarian from the PMBC, said, "We can't pinpoint why the animals have been beaching. Maybe they panicked or perhaps they were chasing food. It is possible that the sonar of the oil exploration has affected the behavior of the dolphins and whales, but we don't have any proof of that yet. Sonar can affect them because these animals use sonar themselves.

"In theory, when you use a low-frequency sonar warning in the sea, it can make animals living in the deep sea panic. They might then rise to the sea surface very fast. The rapid pressure change will cause them to get the bends, which is like what can happen to a diver," he explained.

Siriphong Fuenglikhit, PTT Government & Community Relations External Relations Department assistant manager, said, "We would like to listen to any concerns the public may have so we can then make a report to present to the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

"We will wait until our plans are approved before we conduct our next survey. We will also let people know before we start the survey.

"We place utmost impor-



tance on environmental responsibility. Some people still think that we are conducting surveys near the coast. We want to inform people about our project that actually takes place a long way from the coast.

"There have been a lot of comments made about whether our project has an impact on marine life. We release seismic waves initially at a low frequency so that any animals that use sonar will leave the area. The animals' instinct tells them to avoid the area. We also have boats that patrol the sea, using sonar to determine if there

are any animals below. "We have never been informed of our projects interfering with marine life. If it were the case, the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, the Department of Mineral Fuels and the Department of Fisheries would not permit us to conduct surveying.

"We must wait for all permissions to be granted before we begin surveying again. If everything is okay then it should be done around July 2009."

Santi Thongvilas, geology

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'When you use a low-frequency sonar warning in the sea, it can make animals living in the deep sea panic. They might rise to the sea surface very fast. The pressure change will cause them to get the bends.'

- Sontaya Manawattana, PMBC veterinarian



# Phuket's marine mystery



Volunteers work together to return some 20 false killer whales to the sea after the animals beached at Koh Racha Yai on June 28.

officer of the Department of Mineral Fuels, said, "In 2007, PTT began analyzing the area, reporting all of their findings to us. In 2008, PTT has been conducting two-dimensional seismic surveys. In 2009, PTT must take all the information from the previous two years to compare with newer information to present to us again.

"There are actually 10 companies that have been surveying and digging in an area of about 45,000sqm. However, all 10 companies returned their concession from the government, citing how it was not worth it for them to

invest their time and money in those areas. In February 2007, PTT requested a concession. If they have good luck, perhaps they will find oil this time."

Sutha Prateep-Na-Thalang, chairman of Ao Chalong Local Fishermen Network, said, "Local fishermen have not been affected by PTT's activity. What we are worried about is that the project will affect rare sea animals that live in the deep sea. The fact that PTT uses sonar to clear the area before it starts work makes it safe for animals, especially whales.

"If PTT makes any mis-

takes or affects our ability to fish then we would expect compensation, but in the location they are working, there are no fishermen there except for some Taiwanese tuna fishermen, who have go out to the deep sea to catch their fish.

"PTT has acted correctly, but I still worry about the future after it has set up its pipelines to transfer oil. There are many storms in the Andaman region, so I hope that their pipes will be able to cope with the conditions."

Although PTT has acted in accordance with the law and



Whale sharks are not a common sight off the coast of Phuket at this time of year, especially during the day, but two of the animals have been spotted hanging around six or seven meters from the water's surface.

there is no concrete evidence to prove that oil exploration around Phuket has been causing the mysterious beachings, there are still concerns for the wellbeing of the island's marine environment.

Ong-Art Chanachanmongkol, chief of the Phuket Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment, said, "I need the Ministry of Fisheries to keep a close eye on the project. The survey workers must protect all of our natural elements, such as coral.

"We are concerned about the coral reefs and sea grass. We also cannot ignore the possibility

of oil polluting the marine life. Not enough has been done in Phuket to protect against oil spills. PTT must employ satisfactory protection measures."

Nalinee Thongtham, PMBC marine biologist, said, "The PTT project supports Thai people and their need for energy.

"It looks as if PTT's survey equipment does not have any effect on marine animals as the signal frequency is very low, which is something people need to be educated about. However, it is still unknown how the project will affect the coastal environment once PTT starts drilling for oil."

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PROMJAI DENTAL CLINIC



# Garage blamed for exploding gas car

A Surat Thani car owner lodged a complaint with the provincial consumer protection office on August 14 after her vehicle exploded.

Phatcharee Bunyaem said the blast and fire that destroyed her sedan in May were allegedly caused by substandard equipment and installation work of an LPG fuel system by Santi Charoen Karnchang garage.

Garage staff also failed to show up at a recent meeting brokered by a senior public prosecutor. The garage has not contacted her after she demanded 100,000 baht in compensation, she said.

The Chief of the Provincial Land Transport Office, Suchart Chumchob, said that Santi Charoen Karnchang garage had been in operation for a long time, but had begun to install LPG systems without special permission.

There is only one garage in Surat Thani that is authorized to do this work, he said, but did not give its name.

K. Phatcharee said the garage charged her 19,000 baht for the LPG system and verbally pledged to cover one year of insurance payments. The blast occurred four months after installation.

An inspection found that the valve to the LPG tank was damaged and that the fire had heavily damaged the car, but no scientific proof as to whether the blast was caused by substandard installation work or equipment.

**Rubber heir slain.** A young man was beaten and shot dead in a rubber plantation in Nakhon Sri Thammarat's Cha-uat District on August 16.

The body of Thaweesak Janreuangrit, 19, was found lying on a path through the plantation in Khuan Nong Hon just before 1 am. He had been beaten with a blunt instrument and shot repeatedly.

Police recovered one .38-



**BIG MOMMA:** Hippo Sunee stands beside her first baby, which was born at Songkhla Zoo on August 14. The zoo will stage a contest for people to name the baby hippo.

Photo by Santipab Ramasutr

caliber bullet and two three-foot lengths of wood from the scene.

On the night of his death, K. Thaweesak, the son of a wealthy man who owned the rubber plantation where he was killed, had gone to a friend's birthday party not far from the scene of the incident, police said.

At the party, K. Thaweesak met a former love rival named Bunrit, or "Mek", police said. Mek had gone out with a girl until her parents ordered her to marry K. Thaweesak. At the party, Mek tried to get K. Thaweesak to come and speak to him, but he refused and fled into the rubber plantations, pursued by Mek and about 10 of his friends.

Witnesses then reported hearing gunfire.

Police believe the mob caught K. Thaweesak and started beating him, before one of the assailants drew a .38 revolver and shot him. Police are now preparing evidence to request an arrest warrant for Mek.

**Never too old.** Two women travelling on a tour bus were arrested in possession of 10,000 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills in Phatthalung on August 12.

The two women, Yupha Ratanaphan, 54, from Satun, and Wasana Kaowjang, 29, from Songkhla, were on a coach from Bangkok to Haad Yai when police searched the bus as it was passing through Khuan Khanun District and found the drugs in a bag between the women.

The arrest came following intelligence that a large shipment of *ya bah* would be sent from Bangkok to Haad Yai on a tour bus. Phatthalung Narcotics Suppression officers working with Highway Patrol officers set up a checkpoint to search every coach passing through Phatthalung.

Under interrogation, the two women admitted that they had been paid 50,000 baht each to carry the drugs to a dealer in Haad Yai. Yupha allegedly said she had carried drugs from Bangkok to Haad Yai a number of times before as she believed that, as a middle-aged woman, she was unlikely to be searched. The suspects told police that, in total, 50,000 *ya bah* pills were sent from Bangkok that day, divided between five teams.

The women were handed over to Pol Lt Chanan Mekchai, Duty Officer at Khuan Khanun Police Station, to be charged.

**Forest felled.** Authorities in

Krabi are hunting for a land encroacher after finding a 25-rai area of protected forest land that had been illegally converted into a palm and rubber tree plantation.

Acting on reports from villagers in the area, Anurat Weeraphongwatanakul, Chief Administrative Officer (*palad*) of Khlong Thom District, on August 13 led a team of Border Patrol Police and Forestry Department officers to forest land in Pa Bang Khram National Forest Reserve near Village 2 in Tambon Khlong Thom Neua.

After walking through some undamaged forest, the team came to an area where many of the trees had been felled or were dead or dying. Officers found that about 25 rai of trees had been felled and rubber and palms had been planted in their place. The land had been used illegally for at least two years.

Palad Anurat said that forestry officers would now reclaim the area and work to restore it to its former condition. Authorities, who believe the person responsible is a man named Jiranan from Village 4 in Tambon Khlong Thom Neua, are preparing to request a warrant for his arrest.

**100-baht killing?** A man was shot dead while driving home from a restaurant in Chumphon's Lang Suan District in the early hours of August 16. His wife said that the gunmen were youths who demanded 100 baht, though police say they do not believe her.

Durian trader Masukari Malaheng, 26, was shot in the head three times as he was riding away from Laem Ya Seafood restaurant with his wife Thanatkan Nuirat, 28, about 12:30 am.

When police arrived at the scene, they were met by K. Thanatkan, who was unharmed

in the attack. When she and her husband set off to drive home, two youths rode up alongside and asked them to pull over. They asked Masukari if they could have 100 baht as they had nearly run out of petrol, she told officers.

As K. Masukari asked her whether he should give the money to the youths, one of them said "too late now" and shot him three times in the head before driving off, K. Thanatkan said.

While she was giving her statement, K. Thanatkan did not appear at all sad or troubled by her husband's killing. From their inquiries, police learned that two months before the killing, K. Thanatkan had taken out a 750,000-baht life insurance policy on K. Masukari, who she had been in a relationship with for seven years, police revealed.

K. Masukari, police said, was a successful trader and had made a lot of money from his work. He was not known to have any enemies.

Police said they were not yet convinced by K. Thanatkan's version of events and would continue their investigation.

**Officials hit hard in South.** Despite claims by political leaders in Bangkok that the security situation has improved in the Deep South, violence in the region continues unabated – largely due to complacency by officials.


Speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior security official in the region said 17 of the 41 people killed last month were government officials. Of the 78 people injured, 42 were officials.

The trend was the focus of discussion in Songkhla on August 9 at a meeting between security planners from the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Center (SBPAC), the Internal Security Operation Command (Isoc), the Army and other agencies assigned to the South.

It was agreed that the security agencies have become complacent, though the reason for the complacency was unknown.

The July 17 televised announcement on "the end of the insurgency" by three unknown, self-proclaimed insurgent leaders was also discussed. Chetta Thanajaro, former defence minister who leads the Puea Pandin Party in the coalition, said the incident was a hoax and other attendees agreed with his assessment. The meeting did not discuss what action would be taken against government officials involved.

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



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# Reports of attacks on women on the rise

Reports of violent abuse of Thai women and children have increased, with the Public Health Ministry's One Stop Crisis Center informed of about 20,000 cases last year.

"Violence, including sexual violence, remains an everyday threat for women and girls," said Dr Chanvit Taratthep, director of the Bureau of Health Service System Development.

Health Ministry records for 2007 show that 8,172 women aged over 18 and 9,579 girls suffered abuse last year.

The ministry found some 109 elderly people, both men and women, had also suffered violent abuse from relatives.

Mahidol University researcher Kritaya Archavanichkul said she had found 17,529 news reports of violent attacks on women over the past 10 years. Some 64% of these related to sexual violence, such as rape. Some women had retaliated by cutting their husbands' penises, she noted.

Females of all ages are vulnerable; the youngest girl reported raped (by a family member) was 13 months, while the oldest woman raped was 105 years old, Khun Kritaya said.

Meanwhile, the youngest boy suffering abuse was six years old and the oldest man abused was 83.

"Most of the women and girls were raped by family members or friends," K. Kritaya said.

**Tragic mushrooms.** Thirteen residents of Banna Trao village in Srisaket's Phusing district were rushed to hospitals late on the night of August 14 after eating poisonous mushrooms for dinner.

People from four families picked the mushrooms from a forest near their village, thinking they were edible.

They ate the mushrooms for dinner at about 5 pm and started feeling nauseous before developing breathing difficulties at about 11 pm.

All were initially rushed to the Kukhan District Hospital. Four of them, all in serious condition, were transferred to the provincial hospital.



With water levels in the Mekong River reaching their highest levels in 30 years, riverside residents such as this man in Nakhon Phanom's Tha Uthane district found themselves paddling over terrain they would normally cover by motorbike.

themselves as smokers, 52.8% admitted to smoking cigarettes that were either sweet or had artificial fruit flavoring. Most of these cigarettes are available on the Internet.

In a bid to prevent young people from purchasing these cigarettes, Khun Vikul said the Thai Health Promotion Institutes's director, Dr Hathai Chittanont, had sent an official letter urging the ICT Ministry to shut down all websites selling illegal cigarettes.

Poonsak Suwanrat, director of the Excise Department's Prevention and Suppression Division, said the agency had tried to entice the owners of these websites to meet officials, but to no avail.

"If you find anybody selling these illegally flavored cigarettes, call our 1713 hotline. We will arrest them as quickly as possible," he added.

**Pupil protest.** About 500 students of Yothin Burana School in Nonthaburi rallied inside the Parliament compound on August 14 to protest a plan to relocate Parliament to the plot where their school is now located.

The students refused to disband until met by Parliament President Chai Chidchob, who explained that the students would be allowed to study at their school until their new school is built about two kilometers away.

The construction of the new school will be completed in two years.

But the students said they want to remain in the current location for fear that the environment of the new school would be unsuitable for studying.

The students complained that Parliament did not hold a public hearing to listen to opinions of parents before deciding to relocate the school.

**Malpractice law enacted.** Some 20 victims of medical malpractice are seeking ways to get compensation from medical service providers under the new law.

Preeyanant Lorsermwattana, the head of the medical malpractice victims' network, said the new law allows patients to receive compensation from negligent medical service providers or doctors for a period of up to one year after the victim files a lawsuit with the civil court.

In the past, when plaintiffs filed a suit with the civil court they had to prove the medical malpractice was caused by a doctor or medical service provider, a complicated process because most doctors failed to provide evidence that could prove professional error.

Under the new law, medical service providers have to prove that the error was not caused by them. If they cannot

do so, the court will order them to pay compensation to the victim as soon as possible.

**Fruity fags.** The Information and Communications Technology Ministry should shut down the 6,000 or so websites selling cigarettes laced with artificial fruit flavors because makers are using the tactic to lure young smokers, said Dr Vikul Visansest, head of the Health Department's Dental Health Division.

Speaking at the seventh national Cigarettes and National Health conference, organized by the Thai Health Promotion Foundation, he cited a government study of 350 teenagers aged 13 to 15. Of the 10% who identified

**Synchronization.** Thailand's National Institute of Meteorology on August 14 denied reports that Thailand's standard time would be put forward by half an hour.

Institute director Pol Maj Gen Pian Tothamrong said the institute simply required that any organization using its computer as part of its public service set its computer time based on the clock of the institute.

The directive of the institute will take effect on August 23, he said.

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

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**K**oh Samui's main road leading to the airport was closed down recently after a dramatic car accident caused a major fire.

The accident happened at 7:30 am on August 9 when the driver of a pickup truck ran into an electricity pole outside the 7-Eleven store in Ban Rak.

Residents of the area had a slight lapse in electricity service when the accident first happened, alerting them to a possible problem.

The driver, said to be intoxicated and arguing with his girlfriend at the time of the accident, hit several parked motorbikes but no one else was injured at the time.

Soon after striking the cement pole, the resulting damage caused the pole to collapse onto the truck crushing it and further causing an explosion, witnesses reported.

An inferno broke out in the 7-Eleven and Bangkok Bank, causing smoke to bellow into the air, which could be seen from several areas of the island.

Workers of the 7-Eleven store reacted quickly, rescuing a customer who was just entering the convenience store at the time of the accident.

One witness described the following:

"There was one woman who was on fire. Her hair and legs were burning. A man came out of the shop and wrestled her to the ground to extinguish the flames."

The same man then drove the woman to hospital on the back of a motorbike. She remains in serious condition. No one else was reportedly injured in resulting fire.

Crowds gathered as several fire trucks responded to the blaze but were unable to bring the fire under control. The 7-Eleven and neighboring bank were completely razed. Police had to close the street in both directions while the situation was brought under control and electricity was restored to the area.

The driver of the truck fled the scene but is now said to be in police custody.

**More brands call Samui home:** Koh Samui's high-end investments are still coming in fast and furiously.

While the rest of the world economy seems to be running from the impending dark cloud of



A 7-Eleven shop and a branch of the Bangkok Bank were incinerated in the fire that followed the truck crash.

# Dramatic crash destroys shops

recession, Koh Samui is still welcoming numerous well-known brand names to the island.

The latest in the string of luxury biggies is Nikki Beach club and MBK group. The two leaders have announced plans to expand to Koh Samui.

Miami's famed Nikki Beach Club is set to open one of its hip and trendy beach clubs in the Lipa Noi area of the island in December of this year with further plans to build 16 luxury beach and garden villas. The venue will have a pool and terrace area and will host an Ultra Lounge VIP club.

MBK group has also announced plans to launch a mega project in Bophut. The group – most known for their Bangkok department stores – has plans to build a large high-end resort and villa project aimed at the foreign

market. The project is expected to be complete in five years at a cost of about 1 billion baht.

The announcement is part of the group's developments in Phuket, Pattaya, Bangkok and Samui, which will include hotels, golf courses and resorts at an overall estimated cost of 10 billion baht.

The island is fast becoming known as a prestigious destination among the world's elite travellers due to brand names such as Four Season's, Conrad, W hotels and other big names in the resort and villa industry popping up on Samui.

**Police nab thieving bus staff:** After investigations of reported theft on some of Samui's most travelled bus routes, police finally arrested three people.

Prachaup Namyong, 47, a driver and Noppadol Rangapiit, 23 and Mongkhol Arunchot, 39 – both conductors – were arrested after tourist police raided the Bangkok to Samui bus.

Police were forced to initiate further inquiries after several foreign tourists and Thais had reported losses when travelling in similar situations.

The investigations, led by Police Col. Viset Kataphan from Surathani Tourist Police, ended with a raid of the bus that Prachaup was driving.

Police revealed that out of 45 passengers on the bus, 10 of them had items missing from their luggage totalling almost 500,000 baht in foreign currency and valuables.

The three were questioned and confessed to the crime, add-



FROM THE  
GULF OF  
THAILAND

By Max Rogers

ing that they had been doing similar thefts for some time, usually while customers slept.

Kataphan stated that out of the many reports of theft on such journeys passengers are not usually willing to file charges due to the inconvenience.

It is hoped that this recent sting will eliminate some of the problems but also reiterate that tourists and people travelling on such journeys must be responsible for their possessions.

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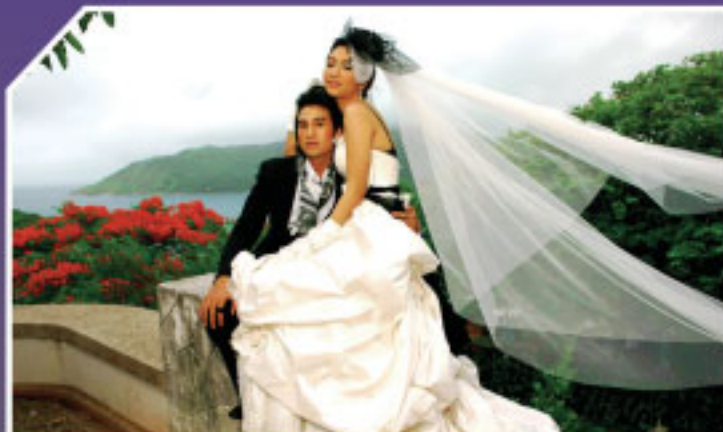
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# A 'Blue' movie in Phuket

By Akbar Khan

International stars and movie directors are once again using Phuket City and tropical backdrops around the island as locations for a movie shoot. This time, production of the action adventure *Blue* is being done by a team of American, Indian and Thai directors.

Thailand's Narula family have brought the best of the Mumbai film industry to Phuket for an epic action movie. Rajpal Narula's Benetone Films have brought dozens of African actors to Phuket and converted streets such as Soi Romanee to make them look like Nassau in the Bahamas, where the movie is supposed to be set.

The movie is a treasure-hunt action adventure and is being directed by Indian director Anthony De Souza. The movie is sure to generate global interest as a stunts and effects unit from Hollywood is working alongside the Thai and Indian production crew. The script was written by American writers Joshua Lurie and Bryan M Sullivan.

Down on Soi Romanee there was a Caribbean atmosphere with attention being paid to the finest details. Numerous locations around the island will be used, including a scene at an intersection with rubber plantations on all sides, Laem Phrom Thap at the Southernmost tip of Phuket and Layan beach, where a house is being built for an important scene.

The movie's credits boast "A-class" actors from India, including Akshay Kumar, who studied martial arts in Bangkok before going on to star in over 80 movies. Akshay created controversy with a recent movie shot mostly in Australia called *Singh*

Right: Director Anthony De Souza (left) with actor Zayed Khan.

Below right: Guns are, of course, an essential part of any action movie – an expert checks that the movie makers will get sufficient bang for their buck.

Bottom of page: An extra practises for his role as a busker in the background.



is *Kinng* which broke box office records by grossing 450 million rupees in the first week after its release on August 8.

There has also been some real-life adventure for some of the crew during filming. Akshay, who is a certified deep-sea diver, was injured while doing some underwater shooting for *Blue* at the site of a shipwreck. 75 feet deep in water and surrounded by 35 sharks, Akshay smacked his head against the shipwreck.

As blood poured from his wound, the sharks started to get excited and began homing in on the star. Members of the crew and other actors jumped in to save him before the sharks got too close and sent him to hospital to

be fixed up in time for the next scene.

Another stunt that didn't go quite as planned had the stunt driver of a car bleeding from the head when he hit it on the car's windscreen, which had been rigged to explode on impact.

Other stars in the movie who are well known among Mumbai movie moguls are Sanjay Dutt and Zayed Khan.

Sanjay's acting career is surrounded by controversy. His battle with drug addiction was well publicized and he spent six years in prison for arms dealing with terrorist organizations involved in the 1993 Bombay bomb blasts. He was charged with illegal possession of bomb vests and ammunition and illegal deals. The Supreme Court of India re-

cently granted him interim bail. Zayed, however, is well-known for his extreme kindness and generosity.

Many in Phuket will be dying to catch a glimpse of the two lead actresses. Lara Dutta won the Miss Universe Pageant in 2000 with an interview that received a score of 9.99 – the highest ever in any Miss Universe contest. Seeing the stunning Lara in real life, it was obvious that she should get an equally high score just for her looks.

Lara has to swim for her role in the movie but had never learned to do so until getting the part. She has also learned to dive,

as have all the leading stars of the movie.

The other lead actress is Hong Kong-born supermodel Katrina Kaif, who is half Kashmiri, half British.

With the largest budget ever for an Indian movie (estimated at more than 1,000 million rupees), there are many companies involved, making for a lot of blue language being yelled on the set.

One lady assigned to control the crowds of curious bystanders began losing her cool and started threatening them.

Another pointed and shooed people away and some of the extras hanging around said production was certainly "chaotic". This dampened the enthusiasm of onlookers, some of whom coined the phrase "Bollywood".

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# CHEAP eats

By Natcha Yuttaworawit

One restaurant rocking a different kind of stance with its noodles is Kuay Jub Champ Suphan (“noodle champ of Suphanburi”), a small *kuay jub* eatery in Phuket City with recipes all the way from Suphanburi province.

Delivering a one-two combo of taste sensations, the restaurant was originally given the name “Champ Suphan” more than 10 years ago after its founders won an award in Suphanburi for the quality of their “champion” food.

After more than 30 years dishing out superior noodles in Suphanburi, the Phuket branch of Kuay Jub Champ Suphan has been taking on all comers for four months. Orchestrating the offensive is 34-year-old Nilamai Jittham.

“I used to work for a jewelry company and I then decided that I wanted to have my own business.

“I asked about the recipes from my family in Suphanburi, who run the original restaurant, and I decided to open my own place in Phuket,” she said.

Khun Nilamai said that she chose Phuket because a friend told her that the province is full of people just gagging for a tasty noodle experience. Although there are a lot of noodle shops around the island, she is confident that her dishes weigh in a cut above the rest.

Kuay jub (35 to 40 baht) is a noodle dish made with pork entrails, tofu, boiled egg, pork, crispy pork and boiled pig’s blood. The noodles themselves are flat rice noodles and the soup is darker and more flavorful than other Thai noodle dishes.

Also on the Champ’s menu are *khao moo daeng* (rice with red pork – 35 to 40 baht) and, for something a bit sweeter, *chaoguy*, a jelly-like dessert common



A bowl of *kuay jub* and a refreshing Thai herb juice will leave you full without draining your wallet.

# Noodle lunch packs a punch

in China and Taiwan. When mixed with palm sugar, *chaoguy* is delicious and a bargain at just 15 baht.

A choice of Thai herb juices makes the perfect accompaniment to any meal. Check out the

screw pine juice, the roselle juice or the longan juice (all 10 baht) for a liquid herbal buzz.

*Kao lao kuay jub* (kuay jub without the noodles) goes for 40 to 50 baht, with a side of rice – a steal at 5 baht.

The restaurant is decorated in old Thai style, with 13 tables and an air-conditioned room if the heat becomes too much.

K. Nilamai’s shop has been certified by the Food and Drug Administration as serving up

“clean food with good taste” as part of a “healthy menu”.

K. Nilamai’s shop is open daily except every second Tuesday, from 11:30 am to 9:30 pm. For information call 076-523339.



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# Asia's yachting queen

**Gazette:** You've been coming to Phuket regularly for quite a few years. What brings you here this time?

**Suzy:** I first started coming to Phuket for the King's Cup Regatta. There were only 19 boats taking part then but that has now gone up to 45 and there are Thai and international crews participating. The real reason I'm here this year though is to do a story on sailing and spas.

**Gazette:** What's the connection between sailing and spas?

**Suzy:** The spa aspect of sailing adds luxury to the sport and attracts more women. I have had many stories to use for along time and was afraid that other magazines could not run them the way I want them run. Now that I have my own magazine I can do them with the quality of imagery that is needed in order to realistically communicate what it is like.

**Gazette:** Phuket is obviously becoming more and more popular as a destination for the sailing market. Where else do you consider as catering to the international sailing scene?

**Suzy:** Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia, as well as Thailand are fairly well-established markets in the sailing industry, which now sees Korea as an emerging sailing market, because it has the money to support this kind of leisure industry and Koreans are quickly becoming more interested in sailing.

In England, it is the height of the sailing season right now, so not many English sailing enthusiasts come here, but a lot of

**D**uring the Six Senses Phuket Raceweek, the Gazette managed to catch up with adventurous Australian Suzy Rayment – an avid sailor who has travelled the Asia Pacific region to sail in regional regattas and cover events for sailing magazines and media.

Suzy lives in Sai Kung and continues to enjoy the water-based lifestyle that Hong Kong has to offer. She is also Chief Editor of *HK Tatler Yacht Style* magazine and is married to marine photographer Guy Nowell. Here she speaks to *Gazette* Chief Reporter Akbar Khan.

Australians do. More British come for the King's Cup in November and December because it's cold and horrible in the UK at that time.

**Gazette:** You're an avid sailor yourself. How long have you been sailing and where do you consider are the best places to sail?

**Suzy:** I have been sailing competitively for 25 years in Hong Kong, which has a very active and high-level sailing scene. I belong to the Hong Kong Yacht Club which has a 150-year sailing history. The Regattas there are the best in Asia.

Also, the China Coast Regatta in October. That has both inshore (on lakes) and offshore contingents. One year the regatta is held in Vietnam, the next in Hainan, China.

**Gazette:** Sailing seems to be a sport that predominantly attracts men. How have women like yourself become more involved in sailing?

**Suzy:** Me, I just love the water. I

swim, sail, row, canoe and scuba dive. I like anything to do with water. Many sailors have parents who sail but I wasn't brought up with sailing. Yes, I am an Australian and yes, we do have a lot of coastline, but my mother could not swim. Much to her amazement, I just gravitated to the water, so it's just a personality thing. I was born in Melbourne and lived in Sydney. That's where I started learning to sail.

In the past, sailing was a gentleman's sport but now there is a classic boats revival, especially in Europe, which is attractive to women. The all-teak boats are beautiful and encourage more gentlemanly sailing. IRC (International Rule) sailing, on the other hand, is dominated by a very different type of sailor. They need to be heavy chaps and they are very radical, very hardy ruff-tufted fellas.

**Gazette:** *HK Tatler Yacht Style* is obviously a way to express your love of sailing. What is your role in producing the magazine?

**Suzy:** I am the Chief Editor of *Yacht Style*, which is only a year old, and I'm responsible for some of the writing, but I am also responsible for all the concepts, the imagery and the direction the magazine has gone. I am working with people who really love a challenge. My creative director just loves boats, so the magazine reflects that passion. We just love boating and we want to share that with everybody.

It began when I started producing *Ahoy!*, Hong Kong Yacht Club's monthly magazine, which I have been doing for the past 10 years. This has been a wonderful training ground. We have one of the biggest yacht clubs in the world with 4,000 members in Hong Kong and 6,000 members worldwide, so there is always a Hong Kong Yacht Club member racing somewhere in the world.

**Gazette:** Surely there are many boating magazines out there. How do you fare against the competition?

**Suzy:** Oh, I'm not trying to compete. Yes, there are a lot of other



'I just love the water. I swim, sail, row, canoe and scuba dive. I like anything to do with water. Many sailors have parents who sail but I wasn't brought up with sailing,' says adventurous Aussie Suzy Rayment.

boating magazines around and people see that as competition, but I don't see it like that. I just see that there is such a big market out there that we can all share, and I think that boating has changed so much; I mean, think about it. Fiberglass boats only started appearing just 50 years ago. Think about how that has changed the face of boating. In the past, we had wooden and steel boats, then we had powerboats.

The magazine also covers things like jet planes because it's *Tatler*; it is luxury. If you have the money, then you can afford it. With communication, the Internet and mobile phones, businessmen are now very mobile and have the freedom to enjoy these bigger boats and private jets.

**Gazette:** Tell us about some of the highlights during your times on the water and the developments you have seen in sailing.

**Suzie:** Well, I have won many races but some memorable ones stand out. There was one San Fernando race in very rough conditions but it was a very gratifying race. We beat a lot of hot boats, which was not easy as a

woman in such a male-dominated obsession like sailing. However, people like yachtswoman Ellen MacArthur – who broke the record for the fastest solo circumnavigation of the globe – have wiped the floor. I mean, she is a tiny British woman standing just five foot five tall.

On the old classic boats of the past, you needed to be big and strong just to lift the sails, but

'In the past, sailing was a gentleman's sport but now there is a classic boats revival, especially in Europe, which is attractive to women. The all-teak boats are beautiful and encourage more gentlemanly sailing.'

boats these days have more equipment to make sailing easier, so in fact you don't need to be a big hunky male to sail anymore.

Modern boats are light and fast. You need more intelligence to run them. Men are better at using their grunt to get out of difficult

situations, but women are better at anticipating things like say when the winds are strengthening or the wind direction is about to change. Mind you, there are both men and women that are good at it.

I've had to climb up the mast to repair sails whist in a storm, with the boat rocking from side to side. It doesn't phase me. I used to sail against my husband when I was younger, but nowadays we sail together; we are a bit more chilled.

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# Happily Ever After

## Phuket weddings special



Ellis Potter and Valentyna Trach from the UK were married at Laguna Phuket's *Chapel-on-the-Lagoon* on June 28.



Ampaporn Chaimusik and Ciaran O'Hara were married at Phuket Ballroom of Royal Phuket City Hotel on August 10.



Jason Robertson and Nicki Arnold of South Africa were married on July 11 in an outdoor ceremony at Mom Tri's Villa Royale in Kata Noi, Phuket.



Meena Bumalayu and Chanawat Madianim were married at Phuket Ballroom of Royal Phuket City Hotel on August 9.

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# This week



**MUDDY FOR MERLIN:** Managing Director of the Merlin Phuket Group Nantana Wongsutayanont (center) with some of the 200 hotel staff members who got their hands dirty to help replenish mangrove trees at Mu Dong mangrove forest in Phuket on August 10.



**HIGH STANDARDS:** American Standard B & K (Thailand) executives Marketing Director Krit Matatratrip (right) and Marketing Manager Suda Heamsaman (left) stand on ceremony at Siam Indigo Restaurant & Bar on August 8 for the launch of the company's latest bathroom hardware branded IDS – Ideal Design



**THE BEEF:** David Warmoll (2nd from left) of Jack's Creek, producers of certified Wagyu Beef in Queensland, Australia; Chef Cameron (grey shirt) of Rockfish Restaurant and staff from Choice Foods enjoyed a Wagyu tasting extravaganza at Mom Tri's Boathouse recently. About 35 Chefs from Phuket's top hotels and restaurants joined the tasting followed by a dinner



**ECO-EDUCATION:** Around 117 students along with their teachers from the 5 schools in the Mai Khao District participated in this year's Environmental Awareness & Solutions Project at Sirinath National Park Nature Education Centre in Tachatchai. The 2-day workshop was organised by the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation and JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa. Students learned about the importance of coral, trees and plant species and looked at ways to prevent mismanagement and depletion.



**HELPING HAND:** President of the Phuket Reporter Club Thongthuan Sukmuang (3rd from right) and reporters thank the director of Bangkok Hospital Phuket, Doctor Kongkiat Ketpetchara (center), for the hospital's support in providing a venue for a seminar



**SUPER SIX:** Phuket-based art teacher Kru Pla (center) founder of children's drama and craft school Act & Art put on a Superheros Art-Venture course for bored kids during the international curriculum half-term break from August 4 to 15. Children aged between four and nine years old took part in the daily classes, adapting their superhero characters through art and drama to put on an end-of-course performance.



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# Captain fails in his bid to secure Phuket

## LOOKING BACK

By Anand Singh

In the course of its long and exciting history, Phuket has hosted many prominent foreigners. The 18<sup>th</sup> century in particular was a golden age for European sailing and expedition.

The Spice Islands – a group of islands east off the Bay of Bengal – became a potential source of tremendous wealth for European traders, those seafaring nations competing with each other to secure the rich resources of the region.

During this period, European explorers and traders came to this region to chart the unknown territories, as well as to secure monopolistic trade ties with the local rulers.

Of all the traders and explorers who came to this region during the golden era of sea trade, Captain Francis Light is possibly the most controversial.

Capt Light is best remembered as the founder of the British colony of Penang. His son, Colonel William Light, founded Adelaide in Australia.

Capt Light had a long association with Phuket and his long-time ambition was to acquire it as a British colony. He actually came pretty close to successfully achieving this goal.

Capt Light arrived in Phuket in 1772, during the reign of King Taksin. The Siamese kingdom had finally been pieced back together for the first time since the destruction of Ayudhaya by the Burmese a few decades earlier.

Thalang, the main town in Phuket, came under Siamese dominion once again and King Taksin, reigning from the new capital of Thonburi, appointed Phraya Surintraja as Governor of Thalang in 1774.

Phraya Surintraja was different to Thalang's previous governors.

He had come across many Europeans in his time and had a decent grasp of their culture and business habits.

He also had good knowledge of commerce and trade. He met Capt Light and the pair soon became well acquainted.

A letter written by Capt Light in 1787 explained how he had helped the governor regain control of the island when it temporarily fell to the Malays from Kedah.

As a result, the governor was in debt to Capt Light, who soon became a favorable character, well liked by the locals and even recognized by King Taksin, who conferred upon Light a Siamese noble title, making him a Phraya, a title equivalent to a Lord.

Capt Light was therefore known as Phraya Ratcha Capitan, a name by which many Siamese chronicles of that period refer to him.

During that time, the British East India Company was looking for a trading base in this region. Capt Light was keen to make Phuket the trading base for the East India Company.

In one of his letters the Lord Warren Hastings, Governor-General of India, Capt Light recom-



Captain Francis Light failed in his attempt to secure Phuket for the British East India Company. If he had succeeded, the *Phuket Gazette* might never have been founded as the island's history would have taken a very different route.

mended making Phuket a trading base for the company.

In his letter, Capt Light mentioned to the governor-general that Phuket had many good harbors, ideal for ships to anchor all

year-round. The island, he said, could be defended without using much manpower. The soil was rich and fertile and the weather made the island ideal for growing food.

The only downside was that rice production was low each year as the locals were reluctant to grow food, choosing instead to dig for tin. As a result, many fields were left untended and the

locals bought their rice from Kedah and Marid.

Light also noted in his letter that Phuket had a lot of land, of which a good deal was covered with forests. Timber and fresh water could be found all year round.

Timber was an important raw material, especially for repairing ships that sailed into port after long voyages at sea.

Capt Light concluded that it would take up to seven years to establish a trading base in Phuket for the East India Company, including the time it would take to negotiate a deal for the handover of the island from the Siamese, clear parts of the thick tropical forests, establish a settlement and secure adequate self-sustaining food supplies for the population.

He went on to finish his letter by adding that the people of Thalang, who were fed up with being maltreated and enslaved to their Siamese overlords, were desperate for new masters.

Capt Light failed in his attempt to secure Phuket for the East India Company.

If the deal had gone through, the island's history would have taken a very different swerve.

Look out for the next installment of "Looking Back" to find out what happened next.

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# THE VIRTUAL WORLD OF TODAY'S WHIZ KIDS

The lifestyle of many of Thailand's youngsters is one that embraces technology. To them it feels natural and they are comfortable manipulating it to their advantage.

We are not talking about the rows of hypnotized boys in shop houses converted into on-line gaming venues playing shoot-em-up games, but those who are up to date with the latest technological advances in computer science and the virtual world of graphic animation.

What maybe surprising too many is that many of the most promising students of graphic animation are female and that despite embracing everything technological, they maintain a strong connection with their traditional roots.

Last week (August 14 to 17) Phuket's whiz kids celebrated their shared passion for the virtual worlds of video games and graphic animation at Central Festival as they took part in the Third Phuket Animation Festival 2008.

They also had the chance to get professional animation tips from the best in the industry working at studios such as Monk Studio, Zurreal Studio and Kantana Animation Studio.

The annual festival is organised by the Phuket branch of SIPA (Software Industry Promotion Agency) and aims to encourage youngsters to make the most of their creative talents in the world of computers by awarding them for creating animated characters and stories.

The fanfare of the four days was hi-tech. As well as screenings and prize-giving ceremonies, there were competitions for the best virtual-world lookalike.

Many of the 150 animation entries were based on an ecological theme and contained save-the-environment messages.

Others brought technology and tradition together by celebrat-



ing Thai history and folklore.

Animated entries for the Short Animation Contest came in from 14 provinces of Southern Thailand and were divided into three categories: primary-school entries, high-school entries and entries from university students.

The winning primary-school entry for the Short Animation

Contest was "Save Energy" by Ubonrat Chaipiban, who received a 5,000-baht cash prize. Second place went to Saowapa Ngoensithong for her work "Tree Subside Global Warming" and third place was awarded to Tanawat Sermjit for his animation named "Whistle Sign".

The High School entry win-

TOP LEFT: A futuristic opening to the animation contest.

GAMING FAN: Maria Giuletta Consentino (above)

LEFT: Teams take part in the Live Animation Contest.

ners in the Short Animation Contest were "The Yee Peng Tradition" by Kongpon Klinhom, who received an 8,000-baht cash award.

Second place went to Saranya Pakdee for her work "The Wonderful New Year Day". Third place went to Tanabat Pahsaeng for his work "Out Space Energy".

Winners overall in the Short Animation Contest were Supparuek Polsawas for his work "Kawee Pandin" (Poet of Reign). He received a 20,000-baht cash award for his creativity and a patriotic choice of subject matter.

Another animation that made a special impression on judges - which included Siripon Mektanatip, Manager of the SIPA Phuket Branch - was Chiewwit Pattanasukhapan's "The King's Grass".

Third place overall went to Krittaporn Chatreesakul for his short animation "Battlefield Combat".

There was also a Live Animation Contest in which teams of university students talked in front of cameras with a green screen in the background, while the other contestants in their team used graphic animation hardware to turn the presenters into virtual figures - real time.

Narin Songrong, Songwut Faseen and Pattinee Kraikajornkitti from Prince of Songkhla University were the winning team in this division, receiving 100,000 baht in prize money.

Also celebrating the virtual worlds that these upcoming animation artists work and play in were entrants in the Cos-play contest in which contestants dressed as their favorite virtual character.

The *Gazette's* own Youth 'n Asia columnist Maria Giuletta Consentino won first place and 5,000 baht for her gun toting get up. Second place went to Saroporn Promsorn and third place to Kanokwan Ladawijitkul.



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# Got your happy bag handy?

By Semacote Suganya

In the past, many people in Thailand viewed condoms as a symbol of lust, something that should be kept in a secret place, not talked about or shown openly.

But nowadays, in part pushed on by the decades of anti-Aids activism of Mechai Viravaiya, the man known across the country as "Mr Condom", these rubber prophylactics are no longer a shameful thing.

Both the private and public sector alike are promoting condoms as safe, fun and easy to use – the government-sponsored billboard seen on some Phuket roads with the cute, smiling cartoon condom accompanying a message about safe sex is just one example.

An informal *Gazette* survey in the Phuket City area asked 10 single women and 10 single men, aged 25 years and up, whether

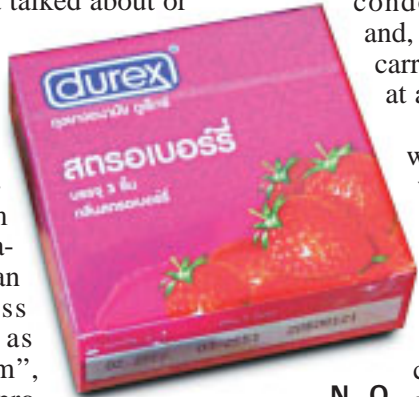
they carried condoms with them or not. The results show that men appear to have more fully embraced the idea of being ready for action at a moment's notice.

Seven out of 10 men had condoms with them and, on average, they carried two condoms at a time.

Out of the women, only two were toting condoms in their handbags. One woman said that she liked to carry them "just in case", especially since sometimes her prospective loverboys get a little too liquored-up prior to the act and forget to bring a condom with

them. She said it was important to protect herself.

Condoms are readily available, not only in pharmacies but also in supermarkets and convenience stores, in all sizes, colors, textures... and tastes. Of the different sizes, 49 mm and 52 mm are the most common. Mixed fruit, chocolate, "cool", orange and flower are just some of the



**NO SHAME HERE.** Condom makers have spiced up their products with a variety of colors, textures, sizes and tastes. Strawberry is popular, apparently.



**DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY.** This billboard says, "For safety, use condoms... Best wishes from Wichit Municipality and the Phuket Provincial Health Office."

flavors available. According to a 7-Eleven cashier, strawberry is the most popular.

But even though condoms are as easy to buy as a pack of gum these days, there's still a bit of timidity surrounding the transaction for some.

Chanchai, a 32-year-old Thai man, said he felt more comfortable buying his condoms at a pharmacy, since he was too shy to pick them up at a convenience store. "The pharmacist will always give advice," he said, "and this another reason that I like to buy at the pharmacy."

A foreign resident, Mike, 40, said he is willing to buy his condoms anywhere, but he uses a "crowding out" method to decrease the level of embarrassment at the cashier counter. "When I go shopping at Boots or a supermarket, I'll buy a lot of other stuff and put the condoms together with all the stuff. When the cashier gives me the bill I just pay and just ignore the fact that I'm buying condoms."

When the cashier is male, Mike said, he feels no shame, but admitted that he is a bit shy when buying from a lady cashier.

Among the younger set, some are lucky enough to have parents who quietly step in to make sure that the eager novices have a condom at the ready. Phubeth, 18, said his first condoms were given to him, indirectly, in a first-aid box at home.

"My father placed them in the first-aid box a long time ago," he said. "I am lucky that I have a parent who understands his child and is open about it, unlike other parents who see condom use as a shameful thing and think that their child is behaving badly [for having sex]."

The mother of a 20-year-old girl agreed that parents should remain open minded. Chayaporn, 45, said, "I'm not worried about my daughter having condoms, but I am worried about what someone might think seeing my daughter carrying condoms to school – they may think that she is flirtatious or spoiled."

"Many Thai parents stick to tradition and do not want to be open about it. But for me, I'd rather help protect my daughter before it's too late."

"You can help your children's body grow but their mind and their heart belongs to them," she said.

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**BEHIND  
THE  
WHEEL**  
By Jeff Heselwood

# Eco-friendly hybrid bridges the gap

**T**oyota intends to produce a hybrid version of its highly successful sedan, the Camry, here in Thailand, starting next year. Production of the Camry Hybrid at TMT's Gateway Plant will start in 2009 with an annual production target of 9,000 vehicles.

"Thailand is the first Asean country to build hybrids. As the Camry has received a warm welcome from Thai customers, we are sure these customers will be satisfied not only with the product, but also with its environmental performance," said TMT President Mitsuhiro Sonoda at a joint press conference in Bangkok with Siam Toyota Manufacturing Co Ltd, also attended by Thai government officials.

Toyota aims to sell at least one million hybrid vehicles annually as early as possible in the 2010s and is working to establish a worldwide optimal hybrid vehicle production system that reflects market needs.

The Toyota Prius was one of the first hybrids to come to market and more than a million have been sold worldwide to date. Now there is a raft of other models in the pipeline.

Contrary to popular belief, hybrids have been around for almost 100 years, but it is only concerns for the environment and the high price of oil that have made them fashionable today.

Switch on BBC or CNN



Toyota has high hopes that more than a million of the hybrid version of its Camry sedan will be sold in the next few years.

almost any day and the talk is of hybrids – vehicles powered by a combination of a gasoline engine and an electric motor. Bill Ford

says Ford is committed to producing a whole range of hybrids by the end of 2008; Toyota and Honda are to ramp up production

to meet unprecedented demand; and the Germans – Volkswagen, BMW and Porsche – are collaborating on future hybrid technology.

The only person who feels it is a little premature to embrace this philosophy wholesale is Renault-Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn, who said, "It does not make much of a business model." Mr Ghosn believes the future is in the all-electric vehicle, not a hybrid.

Nissan intends to develop an ethanol car in Brazil in the next two years, a fuel-cell vehicle about the same time and to go on working toward producing a 100% electric vehicle within the first half of the next decade.

The Toyota Camry Hybrid features a 2.4-liter gasoline engine delivering a modest 147bhp (108kW), but also a permanent magnet synchronous electric motor that produces 105kW of additional power.

Simply put, at low speeds the electric motor is generally used, while under hard acceleration both power sources will be active; for highway cruising the gasoline motor will be used to optimize fuel economy. As well as the electric motor giving the gas engine a boost, the system

incorporates regenerative braking to charge the onboard batteries under deceleration.

Safety features are as for the standard Camry, with dual front airbags, side bags, full-length air curtains and a driver's knee airbag. There are also three-point seatbelts for all seats.

The Prius was initially considered a radical alternative and nobody – least of all Toyota – expected it to be such a huge hit. The market for hybrids grew by 35% in 2007, or more than 340,000 vehicles. By 2010 the demand for hybrid cars is expected to account for at least 5% of all passenger vehicle sales.

The Camry has become the best-selling sedan in the US in the last few years and the introduction of a hybrid version was seen by many observers as a means of cashing in. Opinions are divided on hybrids. In the short term they offer reduced fuel consumption and lower emissions, but from production to destruction, or from its gestation to its demise, it actually consumes more energy than a conventional motor car. Perhaps Carlos Ghosn is right.

The Toyota Prius was one of the first hybrids to come to market; more than a million have been sold worldwide to date.

Jeff Heslewood can be reached by email to [jhc@netvigator.com](mailto:jhc@netvigator.com)



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Phuket Gazette



# EVENTS CALENDAR

## Upcoming events on the island

### Until September 26. Muhammad Rojana-Udomsat Exhibition.

Catch an exhibition by Muhammad Rojana-Udomsat, a famous Thai painter with a 28-year painting career. His works have been shown in Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, China, Taiwan and Indonesia. The exhibition at Art Rendezvous Gallery in Phuket City will remain open until September 26.

Contact Patrick Bois for details. Tel: 076-219095. Email: art.rdv@gmail.com Website: www.art-rendezvous-gallery.com

### August 24 and 31. PC Group Therapy - Chalong.

Is your Internet connection driving you nuts? Ready to throw your PC out the, uh, window? Need advice on where to buy a computer, or get one repaired? Join *For Dummies...* author Woody Leonhard for his weekly Group Therapy sessions from 10 am to midday. They're free.

Novices most welcome - no experience is necessary. Bring your questions, bring your computers, bring your mothers-in-law and your worry beads, and let's see if we can sort things out.

For directions to Sandwich Shoppe Chalong, see the website. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

As always, from 10 am until midday at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong.

Contact Woody Leonhard. Tel: 089-1960940. Email: woody@khunwoody.com Website: www.khunwoody.com

### August 30. The Andaman Players present...

A Night at Royal Phuket Marina. Les Anges and Skippers introduce an evening of comedy theater with the Andaman Players. Dinner will be served at Les Anges, followed by performances at Skippers of the two short comedies *Night in a Bar Room and Adjoined*.

The event is sponsored by Les Anges, Skippers and the *Phuket Gazette*.

Tickets are available from Les Anges and Skippers for 1,500 baht.



### SEPTEMBER 29 TO OCTOBER 7. PHUKET VEGETARIAN FESTIVAL.

This festival is an annual event held during the ninth lunar month of the Chinese calendar, which normally falls in late September or early October. Though the origins of the festival are unclear, it celebrates the Chinese community's belief that a strict diet of "vegetables only" will purify mind and body and constitute merit-making.

Sacred rituals are performed at all Chinese temples in Phuket. The processions from each temple show spectacles of strict vegetarians, known as devotees, ostensibly possessed by gods, piercing their tongues, cheeks and other parts of the anatomy with sharp implements. The devotees apparently feel no pain and show no sign of real injury.

For more information contact Peter or Crystal. Tel: 081-9680738, 086-2820567. Email: peterw@royalphuketmarina.com

### September 7. PC Group Therapy - Patong.

From 10 am until midday at Woody's Sandwich Shoppe in Patong.

### September 13. SDF Tails at Twilight Annual Fundraising Bone a Fit.

The Soi Dog Foundation will hold its annual fundraiser "Tails at Twilight Annual Fundraising Bone A Fit" at the Evason Phuket & Six Senses Spa.

It will be a private beach party extravaganza with raffles, auctions and a prize draw.

The ticket price of 2,000 baht includes a buffet dinner, free-flow beer and wine, non-stop entertainment, and lots of fun at the beautiful venue.

For tickets contact Cristy. Tel: 085-4734636. Email: cristy@soidog-foundation.org Website: www.soidog-foundation.org

### September 16. Punchline Comedy Club Live Stand-Up Comedy.

The Punchline Comedy Club in association with the London Comedy Store presents a night of international standup comedy. In true comedy tradition, the night of laughter is brought to you by an Englishman, an Irishman and a Welshman: Greg Davies ("Superb! Controls the audience with such flair! Hilarious too!" - *The Daily Telegraph*), Neil Delamare ("One of the funniest things you'll see at the Fringe this year." - *Edinburgh Festival Magazine*) and Rhod Gilbert ("Rhod Gilbert makes me laugh like a pitiless idiot" - *The Scotsman*). Tickets are 960 baht in advance, available at Woody's Sandwich Shoppes (see www.khunwoody.com for locations), or 1,200 baht on the door. A night of fun-filled laughter guaranteed.

Contact Pete for info. Tel: 081-9565650. Email: info@phuketcomedy.com Website: www.phuketcomedy.com

### October 9. Wine Tasting at Wine Connection Chalong.

Wine Tasting with the Chilian Winery TerraMater. Includes tapas buffet and live band. 500 baht. Free for club members. From 6:30 pm until 9:30 pm.

For more information contact Pascal at Tel: 087-8896074, or email him at fb.phuket@wineconnection.co.th

### October 11. TriBallistic Malaiwana Triathlon Race 4.

The fourth and final race will consist of:

- Senior Olympic distance (1.5km swim, 40km cycle, 10km run)

run) • Senior sprint distance race (750m swim, 20km cycle, 5km run) • Junior race (200m swim, 6km cycle, 1.5km run) • Splash 'n' dash (50m swim, 1.5km cycle, 750m run)

There will be an awards party in the evening. In the event of bad weather the swim will be canceled and a duathlon will be run for each race (run, cycle, run).

Online registration is available at www.triballisticclub.com

For more details contact Shaun Boulter. Tel: 089-5902014. Email: shaunboulter@triballisticclub.com

### October 23. Chulalongkorn Day (Public Holiday)

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

### November 12. Loy Krathong Festival.

One of the most beautiful festivals in Thailand. It is traditionally performed on the full moon night of the 12<sup>th</sup> lunar month.

A *krathong* is traditionally a banana-leaf cup containing flowers, a candle and incense sticks that is set afloat in a canal or river.

The idea is to worship the river's goddess and at the same time to float away any bad luck.

### November 19-22. Phuket International Sportfishing Tournament 2008.

Registration at Captain Hook on November 19 from 6 pm onwards. Fishing days are November 20, 21 and 22, starting at 8 am.

Free food and beer for all anglers. For more information, please contact Uwe Schitteck. Tel: 081-7195766. Email: uweschitteck@yahoo.com

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## ON THE MOVE

**Geev Andre Bahrampoori** has been appointed Executive Assistant Manager of Amari Coral Beach Resort & Spa, Patong. He was previously the Operations Manager at Mantra Restaurant & Bar, Amari Orchid Resort & Tower in Pattaya. Mr Bahrampoori has also worked with Marriott International, SV Schweiz and Swissair, and he was an officer with the Swiss Air Force.



**Neil Taylor** has been appointed General Manager of the Radisson Plaza Resort Phuket Panwa Beach, which is scheduled to open late 2008. Mr Taylor is originally from Scotland with more than 30 years' hospitality experience in the UK, Oman, Dubai, Philippines and the Maldives. His most recent posting was as General Manager at Baan Taling Ngam Resort & Spa on Koh Samui. In addition, between 2004 and 2006, he played a pivotal role in the opening of the Kamalaya Koh Samui.



Bangkok-native **Yossapatra Chullobol** is the new General Manager of Phuket Center Apartment. His more than 30 years of experience in the hospitality industry includes management positions at Chiang Mai Orchid, Little Duck Hotel, Rimkok Resort Hotel, Hinsuay Namsai Resort Hotel in Rayong, Phupiman Resort in Nakhon Ratchasima, Phufasai Resort in Petchabun, the Sea Breeze Jomtein Pattaya and, most recently, the Phowadol Resort and Spa in Chiang Mai.



# US economy not out of the wilderness yet

The recent rise in the value of the US dollar against most major global currencies reflects many realities.

The first is the fact that the US was ahead of the rest of the world on the current slowdown and most of the bad news is already factored into the price, i.e. a "cheap" US dollar and lower asset prices, together with slow economic growth and a well-publicized credit crunch, as well as falling commodity prices after reaching new highs.

Now, just one year after the start of the credit crunch, realization has spread that many economies are slowing significantly.

The European Central Bank decided in early August not to raise interest rates and, as far as a Central Bank President can be open, its President Jean Claude Trichet acknowledged a rapidly slowing Euro Zone.

The Bank of England, Bank of Japan, Reserve Bank of Australia and other members of the global central banking community are signaling that their first priority is assisting slowing economies as opposed to fighting inflation.

Currency markets understand "central-bank-speak" and are noting that most countries are facing a worsening economic outlook.

This means that the trend (as long as inflation is contained and, so far, it seems as if this is the case) is downwards, which

means lower interest rates.

Unless another factor enters the equation, the US has already reached a bottom in this interest rate cycle. Therefore, after whatever delay is required until the economy shows more signs of life, the next move in interest rates will be upwards.

Many countries will have to cut interest rates. Therefore, currency markets are simply anticipating future economic trends. It is likely that we have seen the low point of the US dollar in this cycle. The US still has to face major issues and this is going to be a difficult economic environment.

The tax refunds to the American public have, undoubtedly, already contributed the maximum to the economy. In the second quarter of 2008, gross domestic product (GDP) rose at an annualized rate of 1.9%, below trend growth, but still a positive figure.

More importantly, what do future growth patterns reveal? There is still considerable concern among analysts and economists that the next few quarters could be problematic.



**STILL SHOPPING IN CHINA:** Chinese retail sales, announced in mid-August, were up 23% year on year. Picture by Pubert shows a mall in Dalian

The importance of low interest rates, even if the banking environment is somewhat impaired, should not be underestimated. It will eventually pull the economy on to a faster growth track. However, there is quite a lot of economic water to flow under the bridge before we reach that stage.

At the time of writing, oil has fallen more than US\$30 from its July 14 peak. It is now difficult to find an analyst who will publicly admit to thinking of US\$200 a barrel before the price plunge.

However, I am skeptical that oil prices will be able to remain below US\$100 for any meaningful period of time, as supply and demand will intervene. China is one example of strong economic growth, but there are a significant number of others that are of importance to the overall global economy.

The latest US trade figures reflect a decrease in the deficit, mainly due to increased US exports. This "weak" dollar is now proving beneficial, although it has caused imported inflation. It is a complicated "old world". China is now feeling the effects of in-

flation and that is a completely different component from US inflation.

Until early 2007, America was, effectively, importing deflation on its imports from China. The revaluation of the Chinese Yuan, combined with inflationary pressures in China, has turned it into "importing inflation".

The Chinese government has tried to contain inflation with numerous increases in interest rates and almost as many requirements for banks to increase their level of deposits (capital) with the country's central bank, the People's Bank of China.

The government is facing an ongoing boom similar to being at the controls of a train, which, if not carefully watched, will become uncontrollable. However, this train (the Chinese economy) needs to continue its rapid progress and currently it is not short of fuel.

It has the world's largest foreign exchange reserves and continued trade and current account surpluses. Foreign investment is still growing very rapidly and by early August it had reached more than US\$40 billion for this year alone.

It was recently estimated that Taiwan had well over US\$40 billion in Mainland China investments. With recent warmer political relations, substantial increases are expected. Taiwan may be small, compared with China, but in a similar fashion to Hong Kong it can buy well above its weight. It is Taiwanese know-how that is the real treasure being transferred.

Chinese retail sales, announced in mid-August, were up 23% year on year. This was above consensus estimates by a huge percentage. This is also excellent news for many foreign manufacturers and retailers. Strange stories about China as a market emerge from many sources. One recently was a televised interview on CNBC of Rick Wagoner, chairman and CEO of General Motors (GM).

GM owns the Buick brand and it was to GM's surprise that this marque is very popular at the mid-high level in China. The figures he divulged and the growth in sales were so strong as to have GM genuinely excited for not just a market, but a future (unspoken) pillar of the company.

An economic boom is in full swing and the stock markets are down around 60% from highs of 2007 – these are some of the conflicting signals that investors have to negotiate.

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## MONEY TALKS

By Richard G Watson

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## Langham to develop all-villa resort



**KALIM:** Luxury hotel operator Langham Hotels International announced on August 15 that it has signed a management contract for an all-villa boutique resort at Kalim Bay, putting the luxury hotel operator on track to operate at least five properties in Thailand within five years.

Scheduled to open in early 2010, Langham Place Miora Resort + Spa, Kalim Bay will comprise 78 villas including penthouses set on a hilltop location overlooking Kalim Bay.

The designer of the project is Hawaiian-American Clint Nagata of Blink, Bangkok, who has developed a number of major hotel and resort projects throughout Asia-Pacific.

Each villa will feature apartment-style amenities including private bars and an entertainment center. Private plunge pools will feature retractable floating dining tables as well as daybeds and barbecue grills.

Penthouse villas with roof terraces will have pools with bubble beds as well as sail roofs and tanning lawns.

The resort will also feature a cantilevered swimming pool that extends from the hill to create an infinity-style effect with a spa located directly below.

Dr KS Lo, chairman of Langham Hotels International said, "We're delighted to have signed a new management contract with The Miora Development Company, which further establishes our footprint in Thailand."

Daragh Connelly, managing director of The Miora Development Company said, "The Langham Place brand matches our exciting vision of a designer boutique hotel that seamlessly connects with our modern guests to deliver a fun and engaging experience."

# RPM unveils new convention center



**By December, RPM will add a conference center three times larger than any existing Phuket facility to its ever-expanding mixed property and marina development.**

By Janyaporn Morel

**KOH KAEW:** A 2,500-square-meter exhibition and conference center is set to open at Royal Phuket Marina (RPM) on December 1, giving the island its first large-scale convention facility.

The Royal Phuket Marina Exhibition & Conference Center's first event will be the annual Phuket International Marine Expo (PIMEX) on December 4 to 7, a boat show that has been taken over by Informa Pcl, the largest publicly owned organizer of conferences in the world.

Informa, which stages more than 10,000 events annually, is also in a joint venture with RPM to develop its conference center.

Will Morris, Informa Yacht Group CEO, said that Informa was delighted to extend its global business commitment and presence in Phuket.

"As one of the world's premier tourist destinations, this island paradise has the potential to become a leading international venue for conventions and expos," he said in the August

5 announcement of the joint venture.

"Phuket's economy is booming, tourism is at an all-time high and the island is a natural magnet for growing international demand for conventions and exhibitions," said Gulu Lalvani, RPM's founder. "I'm confident that Phuket will be placed firmly on the international convention and exhibition map."

Mr Lalvani said that about US\$20 million is being invested for the first phase of the conference center, a price tag that does not include the land price, which was not disclosed. The center is expected to be a destination for wedding ceremonies, as it will be able to hold about 2,000 guests at a time, he added.

The second phase, which will be developed a year later, will cost some US\$50 million and will add another 7,500sqm of space.

Once it is in operation, the center is envisaged to host one or two high-profile events every month. Mr Morris said that the facility is targeting local exhibi-



**'I'm confident that Phuket will be placed firmly on the international convention and exhibition map.'**

- Gulu Lalvani

tions such as spa events, antique shows, motorcycle events, car shows and also trade shows for hotels, restaurants or diving businesses.

"But beyond that we want to attract any international con-

ferences that can happen elsewhere and we want to bring the events here. We also want to attract other exhibitions and weddings, so it's a very wide group of events that can be held here. It will have local, regional and international events," he said.

Mr Gulu added that Phuket has been in need of a convention center for some time.

Meanwhile, two government-sponsored conference-center projects remain stalled by bureaucratic wranglings and have yet to break ground.

In October last year, the Treasury Department (TRD) announced that an International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC) would be set on Treasury land in Mai Khao.

Then, last month, it was announced that the project needed "prompt action" since Pitak Direksoonthorn, director of the TRD's State Property Administration Office, said she wanted the ICEC approved by Cabinet before she retired in September. At the same time, it was announced that the ICEC would instead be sited on Treasury land in Tah Chat Chai, next to Sirinath National Park.

As for the 100-billion-baht Ao Phuket mega-project, which includes the building of a convention center and marina on reclaimed land off Saphan Hin in Phuket City, the government of Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej approved the plan in early-May.

Worasi Rojanapanit, director of the key Designated Areas for Sustainable Tourism Administration, the government body put in charge of the project, was later blasted by local individuals and groups in a community town hall meeting held on May 29 to gauge public opinion of the project, which has been in the works for more than 20 years.

Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit told the *Gazette* that, since the July announcement, no progress has been made on the ICEC, adding that a conference center was a welcome addition to the island, whether it be a government or private sector project.

VITAL STATISTICS:			
NEW COMPANY REGISTRATIONS HOLD STEADY			
Type	July 2006	July 2007	July 2008
Limited company registrations	129	100	138
Limited partnership registrations	20	35	22
Limited companies changed	289	324	276
Limited partnerships changed	30	39	47
Companies de-registered	10	14	13
Partnerships de-registered	13	6	6

Source: Phuket Provincial Business Development Office

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# HEAD TRAUMA

Are you one of those people who obsesses about the imperfections of your body? Do you spend sleepless nights agonizing over your big nose, huge bottom, fat thighs, weak chin, hairy chest (women), bald head, beer gut, love handles, cellulite or acne.

Well, if you do, you can always take comfort in the fact that, however hideous you think you are, or indeed actually are, there is always someone out there more tragically afflicted than you, as this disturbing extract from my soon never-to-be published autobiography *Hey, what about me?*, demonstrates:

As a young boy, what I wished for most of all in the whole world was to have a smaller head. Its exaggerated and oddly angular proportions, coupled with a forehead you could comfortably land a small aircraft on, lent me more than a passing resemblance to Frankenstein's Monster.

My mother, ever the nurturer but clearly oblivious to all the empirical evidence, would reassure me, telling me that the rest of my body would soon catch up and that a large head was the sign of superior intelligence.

As I grew older, but not noticeably more intelligent, my head gradually morphed into a more oval shape until it resembled a cross between the Elephant Man and the aliens from the movie *Mars Attacks*. To compound my misery, the rest of my body never did catch up, but lingered in a 'Woody Allen-on-a-hunger strike' condition, straining conspicuously under the oppressive weight of my hypertrophic head. Before long, my mind was filled with fear and doubt. I needed answers.

In *Mars Attacks*, the aliens were all instantly killed when exposed to the music of Slim Whitman, causing their heads to explode inside their little helmets.



The truth, though too shocking to contemplate was staring me in the face. I had to know for sure. So I gathered up all my pocket-money and set off for my local music store.

Final Vinyl was a shabby establishment populated by a lugubrious assortment of chain-smoking hippies, all slumped indolently around the sales counter, I surreptitiously sidled over to the Music for Cheese & Wine Parties section and began rifling through the collected works of Slim Whitman. Mr Whitman was clearly a workaholic and had written easily enough songs to kill aliens everywhere.

Suddenly, out of nowhere, a gaunt, cadaverous hippie with lank matted hair and rapacious acne appeared in a haze of patchouli oil. "Looking for any-

thing in particular?", he enquired, knowingly. "Er... Slim Whitman", I coughed. "...for my grandma". "Which album are you looking for?", he chuckled, squirming with delight at my obvious discomfort. "The one that killed the aliens", I replied with suspicious urgency. He gazed intently at my heavily perspiring forehead; all of it. He then plucked a heavily dog-eared copy of "The Best of Slim Whitman (1952-1972)" from the middle of the stack and pressed it to my chest. "This should do the trick", he whispered with a nefarious sneer and then, in the rustle of a Rizzla, he van-

ished as quickly as he had appeared.



I scurried over to the checkout and unloaded the contents of my jumbo-sized Winnie-the-Pooh pencil case on to the counter. As the hippie-cashier glumly surveyed the gleaming assortment of some of the smallest coins ever minted, I bolted for the door, jumped on to my tricycle and sped home with Slim

Whitman stuffed down my trousers".

Before putting Mr. Whitman to work, I considerably wrapped my head in aluminum foil so as to minimize the blast radius in the

event of an explosion. By now, I was sweating more than Pavarotti, partly from the anxiety over my impending extinction and partly due to the fact that my head was now covered in aluminium foil.

As Slim Whitman began to croon about some fat hispanic woman with large feet I started to feel dizzy and nauseous. Never having attended a Slim Whitman concert, I had no idea if this was normal.

Two minutes in and Slim Whitman started yodeling. It was agony. As the lights began to flicker on and off, my sister's goldfish leapt out of his bowl, landed on the carpet and was promptly eaten by our cat who then started to

choke violently before falling unconscious into the fire-place which was still hot from last night's cheese and wine party.

Asphyxiating from the smell of burning cat and on the verge of passing out from being lightly basted under the aluminium foil, I lunged for the record player.

As I grabbed the stylus with my trembling, sweaty hand, an electric current shot up my arm, through my body and into the aluminium foil. My hair started to sizzle and smoke. It smelled not unlike the cat, which was now flaming brightly in the hearth.

As I passed out, I heard my mother call from the kitchen, "Is that Slim Whitman, dear? Oh, I do like Slim Whitman. We'll have to play that at next week's cheese and wine party."



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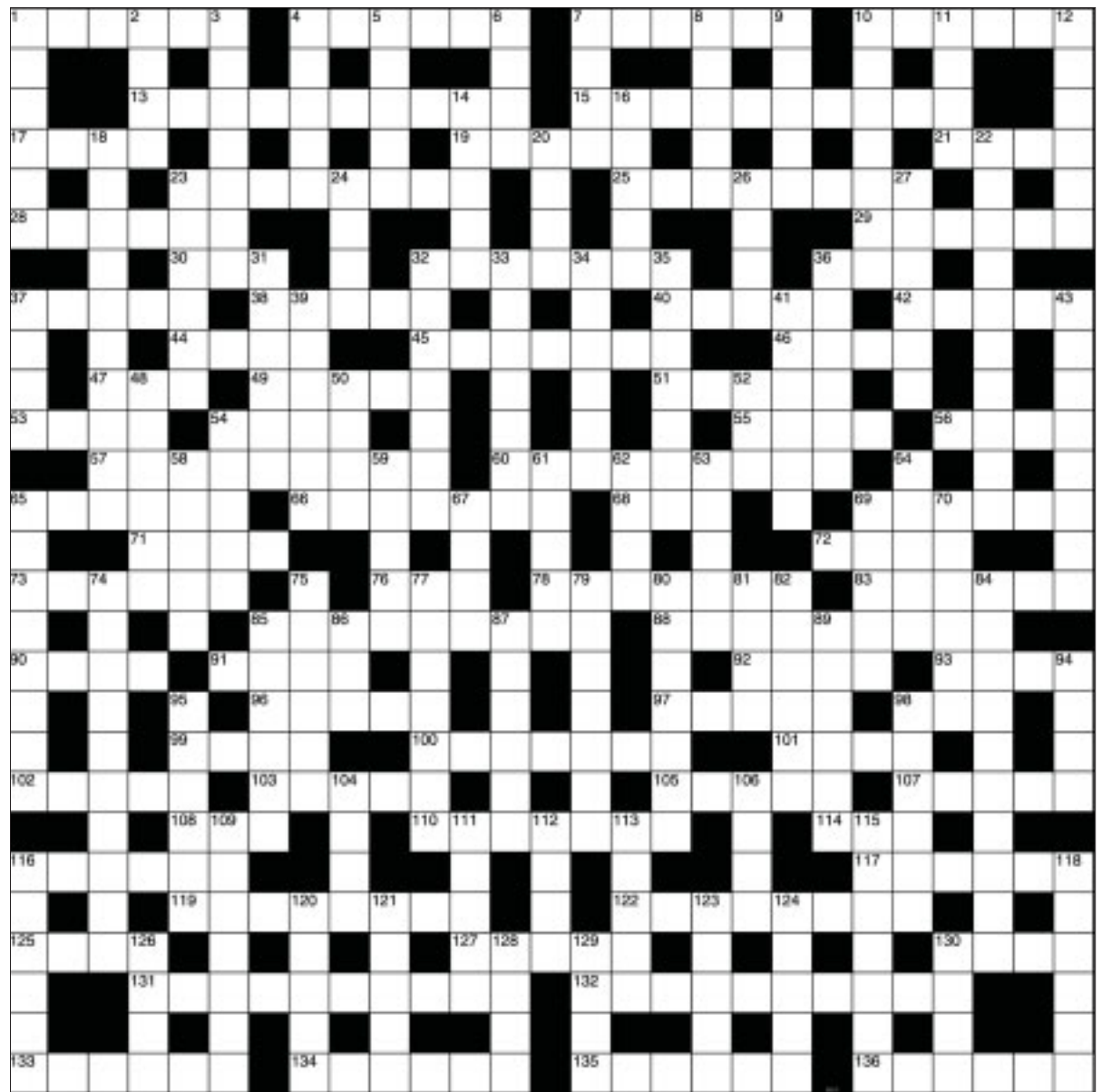


# PUZZLES

## Hidden Words

Hidden in the grid are at least 25 names of celebs commonly known by only one name. 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.

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



# The BIG Crossword

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**Across**

- |                                       |   |                               |  |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Advertising motto                  | 76. Argentina's... Peron                | 3. Closest                    | 67. Be ahead                             |
| 4. Actress, ...Lumley                 | 78. Reaches destination                 | 4. Tired & bored              | 69. Breaks sharply                       |
| 7. Obscure (judgment)                 | 83. Communion tables                    | 5. Loft                       | 70. International charity club           |
| 10. Desired                           | 85. Procreate                           | 6. Pimples                    | 74. The Fab Four (3,7)                   |
| 13. Furthermore (2,8)                 | 88. Allure (3,6)                        | 7. Bay                        | 75. Funeral car                          |
| 15. Animal with spine                 | 90. Coffin stand                        | 8. Up to that time            | 77. Tennis strokes                       |
| 17. Female servant                    | 91. Mare's offspring                    | 9. Trooper's sword            | 79. Second court hearing                 |
| 19. Brawl                             | 92. Flans                               | 10. Enfeeble                  | 80. Isles                                |
| 21. Star, ...Winslet                  | 93. Country, Costa...                   | 11. Search for                | 81. World fair                           |
| 23. Migraine                          | 96. Roam stealthily                     | 12. Rely                      | 82. Canonized people                     |
| 25. Alleviated                        | 97. Make reparation                     | 14. Prophetic signs           | 84. Estranging                           |
| 28. Pokes                             | 98. Cereal grass                        | 16. Spooky                    | 85. Lassoing                             |
| 29. Caught in the act                 | 99. Frangipani garlands                 | 18. Manufacturing plants      | 86. Arab body (1,1,1)                    |
| 30. And so on                         | 100. Jubilation                         | 20. Jeans pioneer, ...Strauss | 87. Voluntary (work)                     |
| 32. Had ambitions                     | 101. Loyal                              | 22. Make brief                | 89. Looked intently                      |
| 36. Repetitive strain in jury (1,1,1) | 102. Peru beast                         | 23. Listened to               | 94. Wine, ...spumante                    |
| 37. Pondered                          | 103. Jittery                            | 24. Excited                   | 95. Held responsible                     |
| 38. Dutch city, The...                | 105. Thick                              | 26. Chilled                   | 98. Refashioned                          |
| 40. Cowboy show                       | 107. Florida resort                     | 27. Delicate                  | 104. Pealed                              |
| 42. Nephew's sister                   | 108. Food enhancer                      | 31. Church, the Sistine...    | 106. Prying person, ...parker            |
| 44. Historical periods                | 110. Jockeys' seats                     | 32. Charged with bubbles      | 109. Trapping                            |
| 45. Comprehend                        | 114. Forensic ID check, ...test (1,1,1) | 33. Talk idly                 | 111. Slant                               |
| 46. Brewer's grain                    | 116. Lava, ...rock                      | 34. Hoists (flag)             | 112. Actor, James...                     |
| 47. Free (of)                         | 117. Peculiarity                        | 35. Silt-removing boat        | 113. Dismiss (from school)               |
| 49. Public square                     | 119. Harming                            | 36. Bakes in oven             | 115. Observed                            |
| 51. Small drops                       | 122. Child's friend                     | 37. Chinese dynasty           | 116. Acting wordlessly                   |
| 53. Dour                              | 125. Soft pulp                          | 39. Dormant                   | 118. Former Palestinian chief, ...Arafat |
| 54. Apple skin                        | 127. ...corporal                        | 41. Imperial realm            | 120. Whereabouts excuse                  |
| 55. Ceremony                          | 130. Poultry products                   | 43. Stretches of land         | 121. Improper                            |
| 56. Mother                            | 131. Came (from)                        | 48. Obstruct                  | 123. England's royal racecourse          |
| 57. Ornamental shoulder-piece         | 132. Household gadgets, ...appliances   | 50. Type of saxophone         | 124. Join (of traffic)                   |
| 60. Attentive audience members        | 133. Hunting canine (3,3)               | 52. Wrath                     | 126. Outlaw, Robin...                    |
| 65. Me                                | 134. Detain during war-time             | 54. Swells, ...up             | 128. Yemen port                          |
| 66. Dogs, French...                   | 135. Gloss                              | 58. Know-all, smart...        | 129. Prisoner's room                     |
| 68. Irish group (1,1,1)               | 136. One who fasts                      | 59. Tall structure            | 130. Model, ... Macpherson               |
| 69. Warning sounds                    |   | 61. Singer, ...Hayes          |  |
| 71. Disobey                           |   | 62. Layer                     |  |
| 72. Data                              |   | 63. Gullible                  |  |
| 73. Early Mexicans                    |   | 64. Firearm                   |  |
|                                       |   | 65. Rissole                   |  |

**Down**

1. Mariner
2. Grille

Solution on next page

## su | do | ku

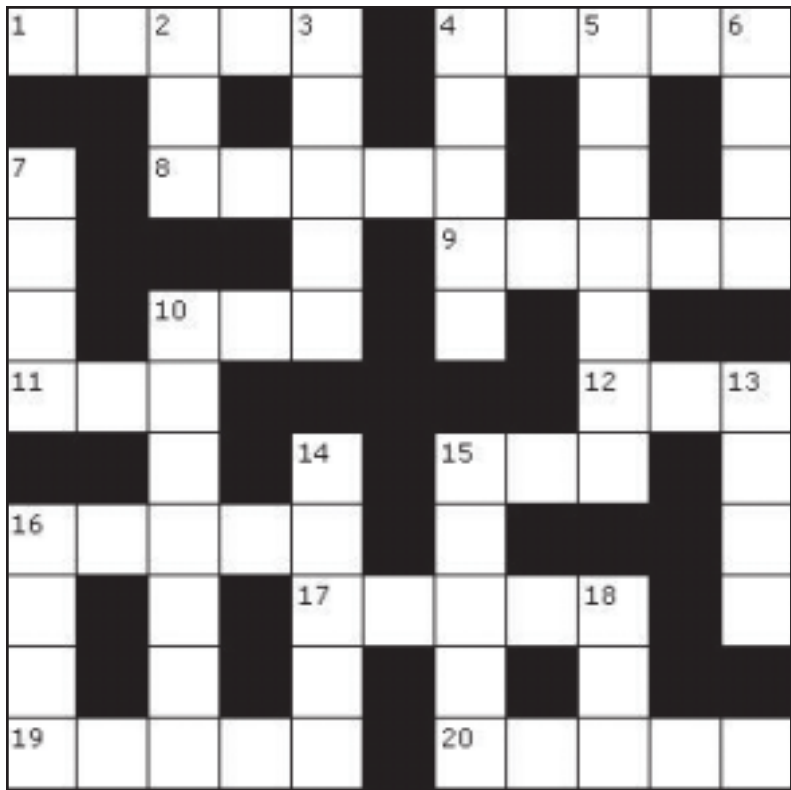
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Solution, tips and computer program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

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

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

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Across</b>      | <b>Down</b>        |
| 1. Snap            | 2. Tree            |
| 4. Boot            | 3. Respect         |
| 8. Dirty           | 4. Herb            |
| 9. Small hill      | 5. Jinxed          |
| 10. Phone operator | 6. Compassionate   |
| 11. US agency      | 7. One over two    |
| 12. Barrel         | 10. Flying craft   |
| 15. Young man      | 13. Crowd          |
| 16. Raw fish       | 14. Frogman        |
| 17. Man of god     | 15. Breakfast meat |
| 19. Write on this  | 16. Pass           |
| 20. Cold           | 18. Hip hop        |

Solution below

## Get your brain in gear with the

# MONSTER QUIZ

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1. What game was devised by Dr James Naismith?   | 7. Which famous dancer sought political asylum in Paris in 1961?                 | 14. What kind of garment did Madness sing about on the 1980's hit record? |
| 2. What type of foodstuff is crubeens?   | 8. Who was Richard Nixon's first vice-president?                                 | 15. Which country owns the Lofoten Islands?                               |
| 3. Which is the only sign of the zodiac to start and finish with the same letter?        | 9. How many hours are in one week?   | 16. Where is the Irish Derby run?   |
| 4. Which international airline uses the tagline, "Every time feels like the first time"? | 10. How many umpires are there in a baseball game?                               | 17. Who lives at 1313 Mockingbird Heights?                                |
| 5. What was Ferdinand Porche's best-selling car design?                                  | 11. In <i>Peter Pan</i> , what is the name of the Indian girl who rescues Peter? | 18. Who was West Germany's first chancellor, from 1949-1963?              |
| 6. The name of which moisturizing cream means "Snow White" in Greek?                     | 12. What sport combines shooting with cross-country skiing?                      | 19. In which city was Martin Luther King Jr assassinated?                 |
|  | 13. Who solved the murder in Agatha Christie's <i>Death on the Nile</i> ?        | 20. And in what year?   |

Answers below

The Monster Quiz is provided by John Aldous, Quiz Master at the Green Man Pub. He can be contacted at Southern Wholesale Meat, procurer of local and imported products. Email: info@swmeat.com

# Puzzle Solutions

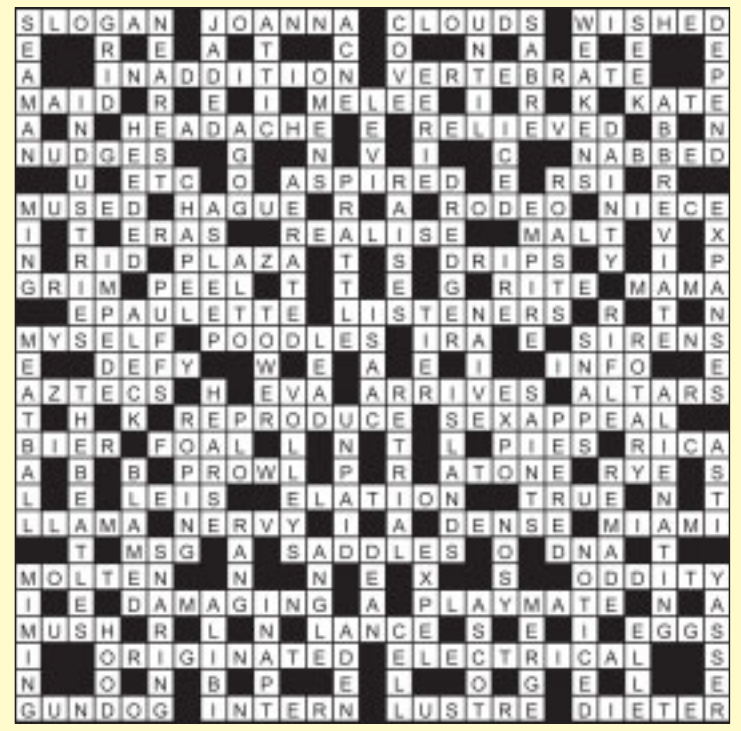
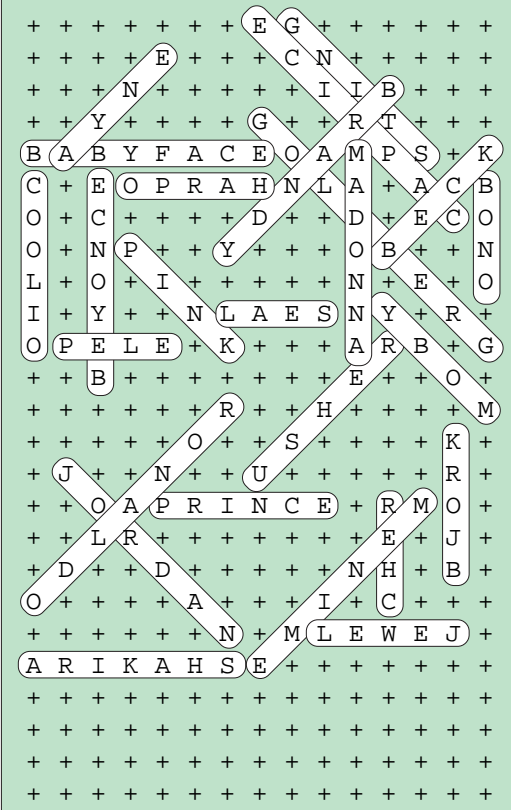
### Solution to this week's Quick Crossword



### Monster Quiz Answers

- Basketball
- Pigs feet
- Sagittarius
- Virgin
- Volkswagen Beetle
- Nivea
- Rudolf Nureyev
- Spiro T. Agnew
- 168
- 4
- Tiger Lily
- Biathlon
- Hercule Poirot
- Baggy Trousers
- Norway
- The Curragh
- The Munsters
- Konrad Adenauer
- Memphis
- 4th April, 1968.

### Hidden Words SOLUTION



### Solution to this week's BIG Crossword

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

### Solution to this week's Sudoku puzzle



There were only a couple shelves of books in my childhood home, filled by my parents as members of the Book of the Month Club before they bought a television set. In pride of place was *Up Front* by Bill Mauldin, the cartoonist for *Stars and Stripes*, the enlisted men's newspaper during World War II.

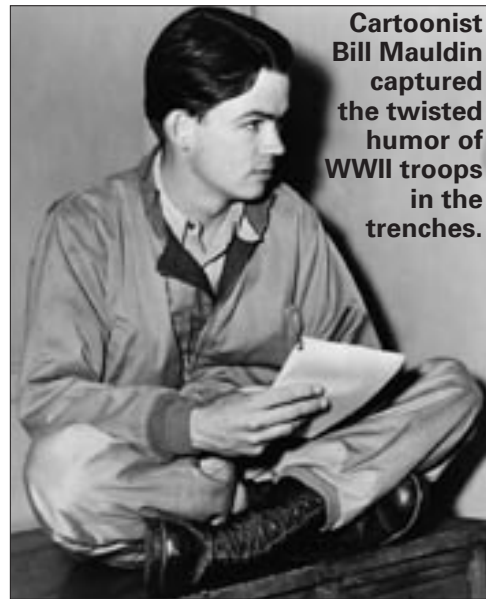
My father had been an infantry sergeant and filled me in on some of the jokes I didn't get, like the cavalry officer mournfully putting a pistol to his broken-down jeep. Or Willie weighed down with an enormous backpack and useless equipment like a gas mask saying to another soldier: "Don't worry, you'll be able to follow our trail." Meaning: the junk would get discarded along the march.

Mauldin went on to produce many more books and some brilliant editorial cartoons against McCarthyism and segregation, but he is best remembered for his creation of Willie and Joe, two ragged, unshaven, woebegone soldiers on the front line in Italy. *Bill Mauldin* (W.W. Norton, New York, 2008, 370) is his biography, written by Todd DePastino and subtitled "A Life Up Front".

Mauldin had a hardscrabble Depression childhood on a mountaintop apple orchard in New Mexico. His family had been pushing at the edge of the American frontier since 1732. His grandfather "Uncle Billy" had been a cowboy on the great cattle drives of the 1870s and had fought Apaches as an army scout.

His father had been gassed in World War I and was an ornate, though mecha-

# The Veterans' Hero



Cartoonist Bill Mauldin captured the twisted humor of WWII troops in the trenches.

cally gifted drunk. His mother was flighty and prone to disappearing for days. When Bill Mauldin was 15 he took off with his brother Sid to seek his fortune in California. While Sid was tall and movie-star handsome, Bill was elfin with a jug-eared kid's face. Always keen to draw, he took up cartooning seriously but made little money.

Two years before the war, he joined ROTC and found military life to his taste. He joined the 180th Infantry Regiment of the 45th Division, which was largely made

up of well-educated American Indians from Oklahoma.

He based his hook-nosed "Willie" character on a Choctaw sergeant whom he idolized. He described him as having "the eyes of a turkey buzzard, a broken beak, a slit mouth, a lantern jaw, a deadpan sense of humor, a degree from the University of Oklahoma, a talent for memorizing epic poems, and a conviction that there would never be peace with the white man until it was legal for Indians to buy whiskey".

Mauldin became a stickler for accurately drawing the equipment of infantry soldiers and capturing their mordant humor. His outfit was shipped first to Algeria, then took part in the invasion of Sicily and Salerno.

The campaign up the boot of Italy was a slow slog from mountain ridge to mountain ridge in cold rain and thick mud. Mauldin became a one-man army on motorcycle and jeep, capturing life up front. Some of his captions have entered the language, like Willie saying to Joe as bullets whiz by them in a foxhole: "I feel like I'm a fugitive from the law of averages."

He took on the pampered arrogance of staff officers, aided and abetted by the omnipresent MPs. This made him unpopular with the brass but adored by the GIs. But he also admired front-line officers who shared the miseries of their men.

One cartoon has a disheveled Willie and Joe playing cars with an unshaven officer in a sand-bagged bunker and Willie asking: "By th' way, what wuz them changes you wuz gonna make when you took over last month, sir?" And another has Joe carrying on his back a lieutenant with a bandaged foot away from the field of battle: "Don't mention it, Lootenant. They might have replaced ya with one of them salutin' demons."

At the close of the war, 23-year-old Bill Mauldin became the youngest Pulitzer prize winner in history for a cartoon captioned: "Fresh, spirited American troops, flushed with victory, are bringing in thousands of hungry, ragged, battle-weary prisoners. (news item)."

The cartoon shows slump-shouldered German troops trudging through the mud and rain, escorted by an equally dirty and downhearted Joe.



## Off the SHELF

By James Eckardt

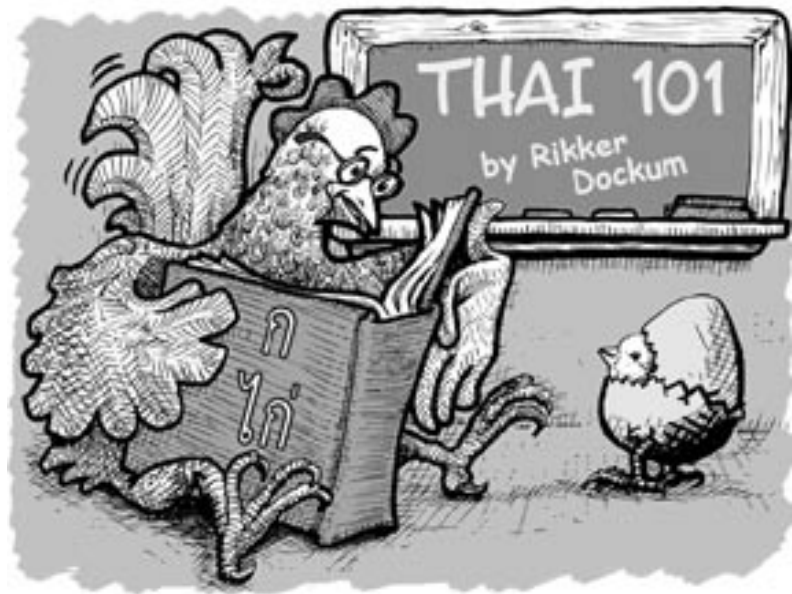
# Pigs and Bombs go hand in

This week I'll give you a break from my normal spiel on the linguistic nuts and bolts of the Thai language and do something a bit lighter. If you've spent any amount of time in Thailand, you're bound to have noticed that Thais have very colorful nicknames. Common Thai nicknames include อ้วน (Ooan, meaning fat) and หมู (Moo, meaning pig). I know at least half a dozen people namedแดง (Daeng, red).

In Thai culture, a person's nickname is generally chosen by the parents at birth and is used throughout their life. Thai nicknames are different from legal names. The legal name usually comes from Pali and Sanskrit words, with careful attention given to attach an auspicious meaning. Often parents will ask a trusted monk to choose the name for a child on their behalf.

Nicknames, on the other hand, have their own logic. Ooan was probably a podgy baby, while Moo was likely born in the Year of the Pig and Daeng may have had a ruddy complexion at birth. My wife's nickname is เก้า (Kao, the word for nine) because she was born at 9 am on the 19th day of the 9th Thai month.

Nicknames are an interesting part of Thai culture. Thais have a fondness for changing their given names, often for astrological reasons. My mother-in-law changed her name the year she retired. At the advice of a fortune teller, an aspiring Thai weightlifter changed her name from Junpim Kuntatean to Prapawadee Jaroenrattanatarakoon before going on to smash an Olympic record in the 53-kilogram women's clean-and-jerk and return home with a gold medal.



While some Thais are known to change their formal names many times in the course of a lifetime, nicknames usually stick. Sure, I know people who have changed their nicknames, but I know more who have changed their legal name and kept the nickname. The nickname is so integral to Thai culture that longtime acquaintances may know each other only by their nickname.

In recent decades, though, a new trend has developed. More and more Thai nicknames are coming from English. First, a few popular ones. I would be surprised if you don't know anyone with one of these names.

For boys: แบงค์ (Bank); เบิร์ด (Bird); กอล์ฟ (Golf)

For girls: โบว์ (Bow) ก๊อ (Gift); โรส (Rose)

When you first run into some of these nicknames, it can be comical. But after a while, you don't even bat an eye when you run into a person named Cartoon or Fluke. There's a certain perceived cachet to English names. English is cool. It's different. No matter how many Banks there are, there are still boatloads more Thai people named Moo and Daeng. So it's a way to be unique.

Maybe too unique. I've run into some very, well, creative nicknames. I knew a fellow who worked as a baker and I thought for a long time his son was named East, until one day he corrected me to say no, the boy's name is Yeast (ยีสต์). It was a word he knew through his profession and he liked the sound of it.

Another time, I met a Mus-

lim man who had given his son the nickname God (กอด). He was proud of the name and saw it as a sign of his strong faith in his religion. I don't even want to think of how that would go over in my conservative American hometown if this kid became an exchange student there.

And it's not just Thailand. When I was in the fourth grade, a boy named Percy moved into my town. He had emigrated from China with his parents and we were in the same class at school.

My best friend, who lived next door to the family, asked Percy why he chose that name. My friend swore that the response was that he liked Pepsi

and Percy was close to Pepsi. My nine-year-old mind thought for sure my friend was pulling my leg.

Well, now that I've lived in Thailand for a while, I'm inclined to believe him. I've met more than one Pepsi. I've also met เบ็นซ์ (Benz), เฟิร์สท (First), สต๊อป (Stop), ไทเกอร์ (Tiger), ฟิวส์ (Fuse), เบียร์ (Beer), มินท์ (Mint), ไอซ์ (Ice) and many more. I've heard of such names as มาเฟีย Mafia and ไฮเนเกน Heineken.

Gwyneth Paltrow has a daughter named Apple. If she ever comes to Thailand, she'll fit right in.

Rikker Dockum writes regularly at [thai101.blogspot.com](http://thai101.blogspot.com) and can

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## Leadership adrift in disaster prevention

There is an old expression that goes, "You fail to plan, you plan to fail." The expression certainly applies to Thailand and its Indian Ocean neighbors in their collective failure to recognize the threat of, let alone take steps to prepare for, the tsunami that claimed hundreds of thousands of lives on Boxing Day morning, 2004.

The one country in the region that was spared the direct impact of the waves was Myanmar, which had the geographic fortune to lie due north of the fault line.

That is not to say that the Burmese people were not affected, of course. Up to half of the more than 1,000 unidentified corpses recovered after the disaster are thought to have been those of migrant Burmese workers living in coastal areas of Thailand.

Then, the cruelest of wake-up calls hit the tsunami-spared Irrawaddy Delta region of Burma on May 2 in the form of a storm surge generated by Cyclone Nargis, which claimed at least 130,000 lives.

Unlike the residents of the Mississippi Delta Region as Hurricane Katrina approached, the Burmese in the Irrawaddy Delta received little or no advance warning, thanks to a lack of planning by the criminal cabal running that country.

The likelihood of another large tsunami hitting Phuket's shoreline any time soon is statistically remote, but that is no justification for the dismally slow efforts by regional governments to work with the US-funded and co-ordinated Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program in giving the region the end-to-end warning system it needs to prevent needless recurrence of huge death tolls from such disasters.

Funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented from August 1, 2005, the 559-million-baht program involved numerous agencies with specialized expertise and technical resources.

Unfortunately, by the time the program ended in March this year, the planned array of 22 state-of-the-art "tsunameters" that was to form the backbone of the system had not been deployed – not even close.

Of the two that had been deployed, one is inoperable after allegedly being vandalized by fishermen. The other, launched from Phuket amid great fanfare in December 2006, is in dire need of routine maintenance, but the Thai agencies responsible cannot get their act together to provide it.

As the governments of Myanmar and Indonesia are unlikely to do it, it is time for the Thai and Indian governments to take the lead in carrying out the IOTWS plan.

– The Editor

Do you have an opinion you want to share?  
Email [editor@phuketgazette.net](mailto:editor@phuketgazette.net)

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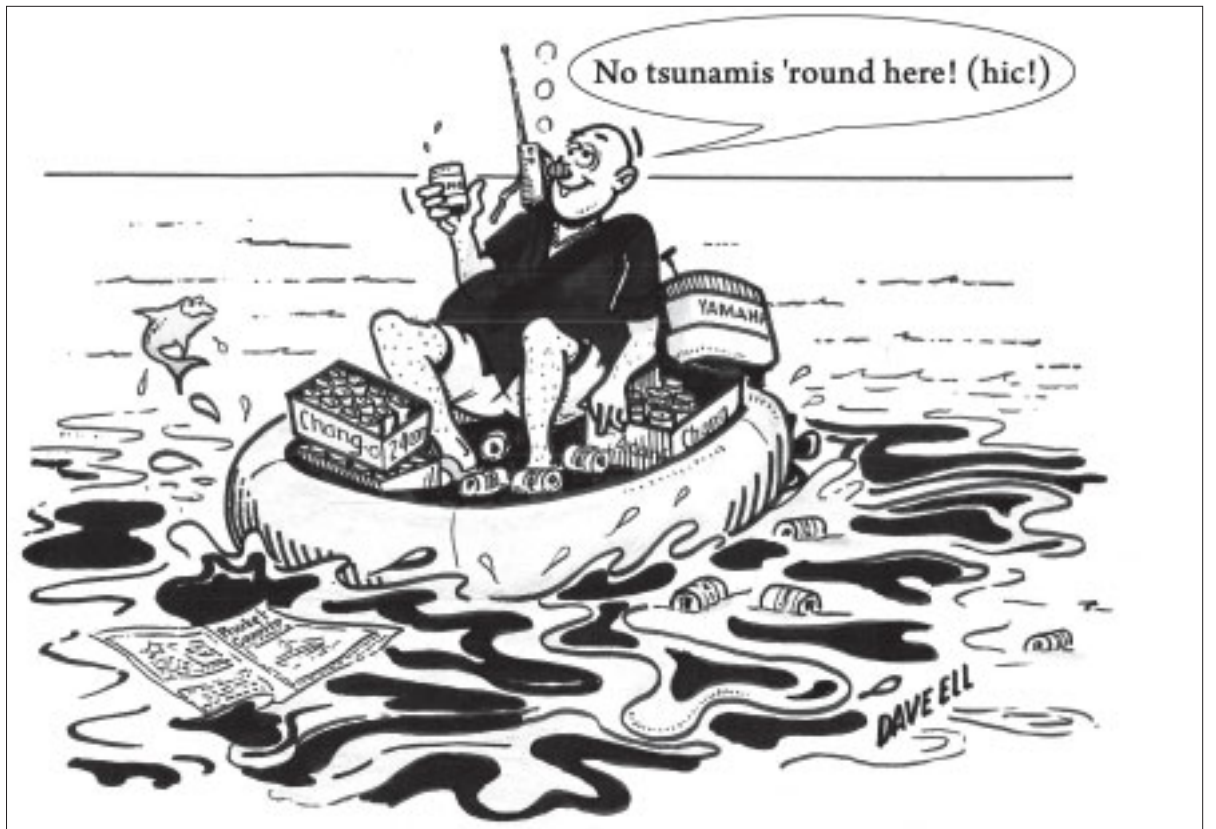
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## Letters

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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 so pricey?

In reading the August 19 story on the *Gazette* website, I'm happy to learn that police are taking measures to fight violent crime in Rawai.

But perhaps having been here too long and allowing my cynical nature to take over, I can't help but raise my eyebrows at the price tag for the closed-circuit TV installation.

It says in the story that 32 CCTV units will be installed in the area at a price of 20 million baht. I'm no security expert, but, in doing the math, it works out to a figure of 625,000 baht for each TV. These must be some pretty outstanding pieces of technology, I'm thinking.

"No budget" is always the reply to the question of a lack of a police presence. Yet in working out the numbers, if you hired 32 policeman at a salary of 20,000 baht a month, then the 20 million baht would cover all of their salaries for more than 2.5 years.

I don't know about other people, but I'd feel much safer riding my motorbike at night down a road with a policeman standing by than having the area being filmed by a stationary camera.

If I were attacked, a camera could only record the event – not a great deal of help during the moments I'm being pulverized and robbed by a bad guy.

The story also says, "An independent contractor is now being sought to install the cameras." Again, call me cynical, but I smell a bit of cronyism here.

Perhaps I should remain open-minded, but I can't help but wonder if there isn't a CCTV guy

out there who might soon be receiving that big favor he'd been promised.

Susan  
Chalong

### Fabulous toys for yachtie boys

The *Gazette's* front-page story last week [August 16-22 issue] about the seizure of several guns and hundreds of rounds of ammo aboard the luxury motor yacht *Meditation* piqued my curiosity. How ironic, I thought, to have a boat with such a peaceful name turn out to be a vessel for instruments of death.

Anyway, I searched the web for more information about the yacht and I turned up this tidbit on a charter booking website: "The yacht is equipped with full toys and diving facilities to ensure a fabulous vacation."

The listed price for a week's crewed charter was US\$58,000. It was not mentioned, however, whether the price was inclusive of all those fabulous weapons, too.

If so, I guess it might make fishing for large marine life a whole lot more exciting.

TG  
Phuket City

### School's out, corruption's in

Every week I read about the problem of English language skills in Thailand: the difficulty of finding qualified English language teachers, the lack of up-to-date teaching materials, the scarcity of properly thought out curricula.

While on a short break we visited Koh Sukorn, a small island in the Andaman Sea off the Trang coast. The island's population is

about 95% Muslim, 5% Buddhist. The people on the island are desperately trying to develop tourism, but what is really holding them back is the lack of English language skills. We spent about three months on the island in 2007 and got to know a lot of people. Eventually we took the plunge and decided we would like to live on the island and teach English.

We found the ideal site for a school. It was originally a small resort. We renovated one of the bungalows and set about converting the restaurant into an English language school. By April last year we had nearly 100 students ranging from three to 70 years old. We were teaching about 30 hours a week each. A friend from the UK had given us money to buy 20 desk chairs for the school. We were getting offers from teachers to come and teach for free. Now it all goes wrong. The scourge of Thailand raises its ugly head.

The scourge I'm talking about is corruption. We are seen by certain people as an easy target for extortion. We are viewed as rich, possibly stupid, farangs. The demands for money increase, then come the threats of violence. We are now back in Chiang Mai, where we have lived for the past five years. The school has been closed. We now have time to reflect on our situation. We invested about 4 million baht of our own money in this venture. We have worked hundreds of hours for no return. The people on Koh Sukorn who wanted to learn English to improve their lot have lost the opportunity of free language lessons, free text books and a supply of native English-speaking teachers.

David Wenman  
Chiang Mai

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.



# High level of drug crime is a major concern

I would like to address the drug situation in Phuket. We are a tourism province, which means that we are a prime target for drug dealers who want to sell narcotics to tourists. According to statistics released by Phuket Provincial Police, most drug arrests are made for *ya bah* (methamphetamine) and marijuana. Other drugs being spread around the island at the moment include cocaine and *krathom* (an indigenous plant that acts as a mild stimulant), which is a drug favored by poor youths.

After a number of arrests, police have shared the results of their investigations and deduced that drugs imported into Phuket come from all over Thailand. Drugs are being transported by post, car, public transport, boat and so on.

Most drug users in Phuket are tourists, service workers or laborers. The areas that have the biggest drug problems are in communities that serve as entertainment spots, where a lot of people go for unlawful purposes.

In Muang District, drug stats have shown that there are problem areas in Karon, Rawai, Rasada and Talaad Yai. In Thalung District, areas of concern include Cherng Talay, Pa Khlok and Srisoonthorn. Kathu District has a lot of problems in the Patong area.

The most common drugs of choice for foreign tourists in Phuket are *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) and ecstasy. Some visitors to Phuket seem to think people are free to use drugs as they please. This is not the case.

## The Governor's Letter

After five years as vice-governor and two years as Phuket's top bureaucrat, **Phuket Governor Niran Kalayanamit** has seen it all. Concerned about the drug use and other crime in Phuket, Gov Niran is looking at ways to clean up the island. Also high on his list of worries is the lack of financial support Phuket receives from the central government for development projects.



We are working hard to reduce drug use in Phuket and we have set up a number of committees to respond to the problem. We have asked the leaders of each local community to keep an eye out for drugs in their respective areas.

**Crime on the rise.** As long there are poor people in Phuket and as long as there are social and drug problems, there will always be

crime. Statistics show that crime is increasing, with some cases related to drugs. When drug addicts run out of money they sometimes steal from people in order to get money to buy more drugs.

Statistics also highlight that there has been an increase in crime in general this July compared with July last year. As an example, I recently received a police report about a group of youths who were arrested for

stealing 40 catch basin covers at Baan Para School to sell to a secondhand shop. I have spoken to the commander of Phuket Provincial Police, Pol Maj Gen Apirak Hongthong, about trying to rectify the problem.

I have told police to be especially vigilant around Tha Chat Chai, which is the door into the province and the point where people bring guns and other items into Phuket.

A lot of people ask VIPs to try and get them gun licenses. The VIPs then come to me and ask that I sign the license for someone to carry weapons, but I have not signed a single one since I have been governor because there would be a lot more crime on the island if I did that. People must never trust anyone who asks for money or gold in exchange for a gun license because I will never sign it.

**Talking taxes.** Dr Pisit Leeahtam, head of the Macroeconomic and Finance Workgroup National Economic and Social Advisory Council, came to Phuket on August 11 to help us find a solution to development issues.

I told him that Phuket has many problems, but receives no support from the central government.

Dr Pisit suggested that we look into setting up some sort of new special tax, such as increasing the restaurant service charge from 10% to 12%.

However, to do this we would have to amend laws and have to discuss at a national level because any changes would also affect Thai tourists who visit Phuket.

We successfully campaigned to have megastores register locally so that they are also taxed locally, with the money raised being used for local development. This also means the megastores do not need to register their companies in Bangkok if they open a store in Phuket.

I told Dr Pisit that Phuket should become a special economic zone. If Cabinet agreed, it would mean more central government funding for development on the island.

**Budget bust.** The tourism industry has been affected by the reduction in domestic and international flight routes, especially by low-cost airlines.

I have heard a lot of complaints from Thai people about how difficult it is to travel between Bangkok and Phuket because there are so few tickets available.

Also, when tickets are available they are very expensive. Flights on domestic routes sometimes cost more than those on international ones.

It is better that this has all occurred during low season. It seems as if it hasn't had too much of an impact on tourism, but we will have to wait and see what happens during the coming high season.

## Are my motorbikes subject to import duty?

I will be retiring to Phuket sometime soon and have in my possession two motorbikes that are not complete. In other words, they cannot be used because they don't have engines and are being rebuilt as time permits.

When I import my goods, I expect that they will still not be in an operating state, therefore, please advise whether or not I need to pay customs duty on importation.

John Howlett  
Qatar

**K. Paisaan, a Songkhla Customs officer, replies:**

When the motorbikes arrive in Phuket, then, upon submitting the correct documents, they can be kept here for six months and then must be taken out again.

Although Phuket Customs inspectors are authorized to calculate import taxes they have little experience as Phuket is not a destination for scheduled cargo carriers.

To import second-hand bikes a license is needed from the Commerce Ministry and Phuket does have a branch. Permission depends on your residence status here and the tax payable would depend on the documentation, book value and depreciation.

For those without experience importing goods, consulting an established customs broker can make the process much more smooth. Disassembled vehicles do fall into a lower tax bracket as do second-hand vehicles. There would, however, still be some duty payable.

## Issues & ANSWERS

Want to know how to get something done? Then this is the forum for you.

Submit your queries or suggestions to us and we'll ask the appropriate people to respond to them.

Write to: The Phuket Gazette, 367/2 Yaowarat Rd, Muang, Phuket 83000. Fax 076-213971, or submit your issue at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)

## Work permits in Khon Kaen

My Thai wife and I are in the process of having a 24-room dormitory built. Will I need a work permit to help run this and, if so, how do I get one?

Graham Meyrick  
Khon Kaen

**Janya Yingyong, an officer of the Work Permit Section at the Phuket Provincial Employment Office, replies:**

Any foreigner who wants to work in Thailand must have work permit. In your case, you will have to contact the Employment Office in your province and apply for a work permit there. That office will explain to you all the documents they require from you.

You must hold a non-immigrant O visa issued on the basis that you support a Thai family or a non-immigrant B visa (business visa) before applying for a work permit.

Also, your wife's business must be registered at your local provincial business development office.

**The Gazette notes:**

The Khon Kaen Provincial Employment Office is located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Khon Kaen Provincial Hall, Government Center Rd, Muang, Khon Kaen 40000. Tel: 043-300732, 043-300749, 043-239010. Fax: 043-300732, 043-300749. Email: [kkn@doe.go.th](mailto:kkn@doe.go.th) Website: [www.doe.go.th/khonkaen](http://www.doe.go.th/khonkaen)

Niran Kalayanamit,  
Governor of Phuket

— Compiled by Sangkhae  
Leelanaporn



# TALKING HEADCASES

Some time ago, three of the most prominent intellectuals in Bangkok were discussing the American presidential candidates. They're all experts on politics, all certified rednecks and their eloquence was being fueled by soothing draughts of fermented liquids.

I joined the conversation with Tex and Bubba Hogwaller and a new arrival on the Bangkok scene, Shagwench McSlyme:

**Bubba:** Shag. Got a question for ya. How'd you ever get an awful name like Shagwench?

**Shag:** Mah daddy was a retard. He wanted somethin' that sounded classy and British. Thought it went well with our family name. Messed up mah love life from an early age. As soon as women hear mah name, they won't go near me.

**Tex:** So who's yer favorite candidate fer president, Shag?

**Shag:** I liked the little guy, but he dropped out. What was his name? Kucinich?

**Bubba:** Americans would never have elected Kucinich. He's too short.

**Shag:** Well, shoot, Hillary and Obama are front-runners and she's a woman and he's black.

**Tex:** We'll have a woman president and a black president before we ever have a short one.

**Me:** I keep trying to tell people, but

nobody listens: Obama is not black. He's half black and half white. That makes him mixed. And the whole country is mixed, so he's the ideal candidate.

**Shag:** Ah'd never vote for Obama. His middle name is Hussein, his last name sounds like Osama and he's a closet Islamic terrorist.

**Tex:** What does his first name mean, anyway? Barack. Sounds like a Bronx cheer.

**Bubba** (swigging his beer): It's supposed to be Barracks. His daddy was a soldier, only he couldn't spell.

**Me:** Man, I have never heard such stupefying ignorance in all my life. You've been reading the baloney that's been circulating on the Internet. "Barak" is Arabic. The Hebrew equivalent is "Baruch". It means "blessed".

Obama isn't even a Muslim. And if you won't vote for somebody just because you don't like his name, Shag, how many votes do you think you'd get, with your name?

**Shag:** Only mine and mah daddy's. Even mah momma don't like it.

**Me:** Anyway, Obama's real name is Alfred. He's such a splendid fellow they've named a state after him.

**All:** Whut?

**Me:** Sure. His name is Al Obama, and the state is Alabama. It should be Alobama, but it's a redneck state and rednecks can't spell.

**Shag:** Ess, you are about two seconds away from bein' brained with a beer bottle.

**Bubba:** Shoot, you cain't brain Ess because he ain't got no brains.

**Tex:** Ah like John McCain. He was real good in them *Die Hard* movies. Got awful old awful fast, though. Hair's gone white and he's lost his New York accent.

**Me:** That was John McClane, not John McCain. Played by Bruce Willis. Don't confuse the two of them.

**Bubba:** Well, ah could vote for McCain. Just keep Hillary away from the White House.

**Me:** Now, what's everybody got against Hillary?

**Tex:** She's a woman. You don't want no woman fer commander-in-chief. She'll want to dress the troops up in pink pinafores.

**Bubba:** The guy ah really like is Huckabee. Shoot fire, he's a preacher. You cain't do better than have a preacher for president.

**Me:** Huckabee seems like a nice guy, but he wants to bring America back to the Bible.

**Bubba:** Well, shoot me a coon dog, what's wrong with that?

**Me:** Nothing, if you don't mind melting the Statue of Liberty down for scrap metal.

**All:** Whut?

**Me:** Read your Bible, boys. Thou shalt not make any graven image. The Statue of Liberty is a graven image. So are the faces on Mount Rushmore and all our coins and currency. If the country is serious about going back to the Bible, all of those have got to go. We'll also have to stone adulterers and if your son rebels against you, you have to stone him, too.

**Bubba** (musing): Y'know, ah've always wanted t'do that to the li'l devil on certain occasions. His momma wouldn't like

it, though.

**Tex:** Maybe we could go back to the Bible selectively. Get rid of all that turn-the-other-cheek and love-ye-enemies business an' stone everybody who steps outta line.

**Me:** It's always inspiring to hear true piety being injected into American political discourse.

*S. Tsow can be flamed at [stow@yahoo.com](mailto:stow@yahoo.com), except when he's savoring the true piety that infuses American political discourse.*



## In The Stars

by Isla Star

# No time for complacency, Virgo

**VIRGO** (August 23-September 23): Where business is concerned, this is no time for complacency. Sagittarius is hot on your heels and is ready to poach useful contacts. Those of you who have been finding it hard to vacate your beds in the mornings should buy a louder alarm clock. If you are due to celebrate a birthday during the week ahead, the coming year promises better luck in love. Wear the color lemon to encourage brighter energy.

**LIBRA** (September 24-October 23): Some of you may need to accept less than you had hoped for this week. The job opportunity you have been working towards is highlighted, but some compromise regarding conditions will be necessary. Someone born under the sign of Taurus would like to spend some quality time with you; expect a romantic approach this weekend. A dream you have early next week could provide some clues to a financial dilemma.

**SCORPIO** (October 24-November 22): The stars suggest that the final week of August will offer a calmer environment. It appears that you have had to make a difficult personal decision recently, but life now promises to become more fulfilling. A work opportunity could come out of the blue and, although this will probably involve more travel than you would like, it would be wise to consider carefully. Wear the color lotus pink to encourage tranquility.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 23-December 21): Many of you will be riding the crest of a wave this week. Love affairs are positively highlighted and a romantic trip away this weekend could be the icing on the cake. Money matters are also well starred; an investment you made earlier this

year is about to become fruitful. A Leo friend's need for advice could cause some worry mid-week. If you're not sure whether your pearls of wisdom will be well received, say nothing.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22-January 20): Your personal life is subject to swings and roundabouts during the final days of August. You could find that the sandal is on the other foot this week. There are signs that you are about to land in the same situation as someone close to you. If you found it hard to show sympathy to this person, don't expect much understanding now. The number 9 can bring some good fortune next Thursday.

**AQUARIUS** (January 21-February 19): You like to believe that the world is always your oyster, but this is sadly not the case this week. Responsibilities at work and home will require your undivided attention, but much can be achieved by focusing on these matters. Where work is concerned, a colleague shows an unexpected side to their character and a heated exchange could take place on Monday. Wear the color cucumber green to encourage a calm attitude.

**PISCES** (February 20-March 20): You could feel stuck between a rock and a hard place this week,

but your skills in seeing what is profitable should enable you to choose which way to go. Money matters will still require astute handling during the coming weeks – delaying extravagant travel plans until later in the year is recommended. Romance with Capricorn has the stars' seal of approval, but a liaison with Virgo is due to fizzle out.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 20): The only real problem for you this week will be deciding how much you really want a new business deal to get off the ground. A Gemini appears determined that you should pay more than is fair and a battle of the wills is forecast to take place. Tuesday is the most auspicious day for important talks. Wear the color cranberry red to encourage wisdom.

**TAURUS** (April 21-May 21): If you feel that certain events are spinning out of control, it's time to say what you really feel. Your trait of not wishing to upset others needs to be put aside during the final week of August. Financial luck is growing and should culminate in an agreement being finalized at the end of this month. Singles are forecast to meet a lively Libran this weekend.

**GEMINI** (May 22-June 21): Where business is concerned, your intuition is not the most reli-

able tool this week. Those of you who want to be sure of success are advised to pay more attention to facts and figures than to your emotions. Romance continues to blossom under helpful astral conditions – Sunday is the perfect day to share your hopes and dreams for the future. The number 7 can bring good fortune later in the week.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 23): An enterprising Leo acquaintance is about to propose an interesting scheme. Those of you who would like a change of career could be ready to take this bait. Last-minute travel plans are highlighted during the final week of August and family may not approve. Those who are single are advised to accept a social invitation this Saturday as an attractive Aquarian is waiting meet you. The color avocado green can encourage confidence.

**LEO** (July 24-August 22): You will be brimming with good ideas this week and at least one of these holds promise for the future. The only drawback could be lack of physical energy and this is the ideal time to focus on a better balance. You are reminded that burning the candle at both ends can be a temporary lifestyle, but a healthier diet should be more permanent. The number 3 can be lucky next Thursday.

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I've wanted to do this for years. Last week, I finally got three ADSL lines working, side-by-side, at my home office in Patong. It's a "hot swappable" configuration – I can pull the plug on one ADSL connection and plug in another in less than a minute, without rebooting any computers or changing any settings.

That's a great triply-redundant combination for someone like me, who lives and dies by my Internet connection: if one ADSL line falls over or starts to run slow, I can swap out a different connection in no time at all. Granted, sometimes all of the ADSL lines off the island seem to die simultaneously, but (recently, anyway) those times seem to be few and far between.

With the way prices have been falling, and performance has increased, it's also relatively affordable. Most of all, from my perspective, having three hot-swappable Internet connections lets me test real-world international Internet speeds across a level playing field.

You can see the results of my testing in the graph on this page. What you see are international Internet download speeds, measured in K bits per second (Kbps), using the Speakeasy test to San Francisco. You can check your Internet connection against my speeds by going to Henry Habermacher's Phuket Internet Speed reporting site: [live-access.com/PhuketInternet.aspx](http://live-access.com/PhuketInternet.aspx).

There are several stories behind the numbers.

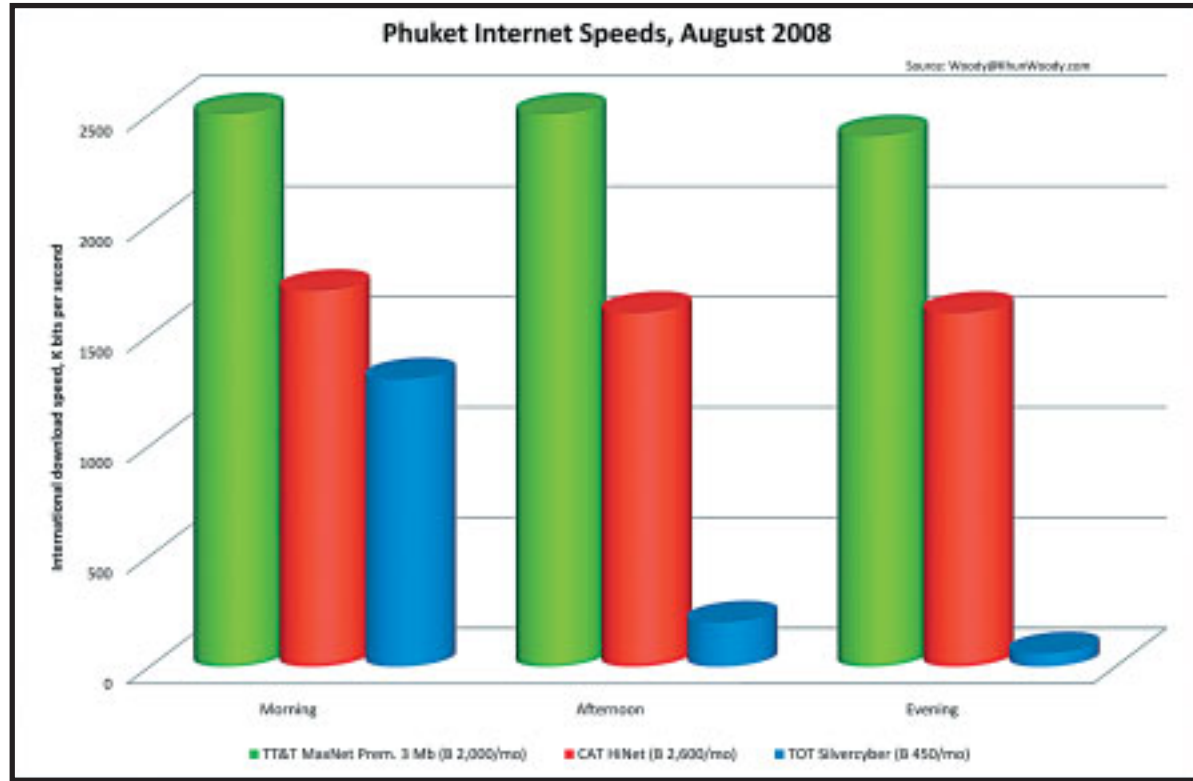
Setting up TOT's 450-baht-a-month Silvercyber service drove me nuts. I went to the TOT office in Central Festival and asked to have the Silvercyber service added to my existing TOT telephone line.

I was delighted to discover that I already had Silvercyber service – I'd been paying for it for years, but never used it. With the service already activated, all I had to do was install a router. And therein lies the rub.

I decided to buy a wireless router from TOT so I could get all-TOT service if the Wi-Fi system ever died. I bought a Dlink DSL 2640B router there at the TOT office in Central Festival, for a rather pricey 4,200 baht. I had the techs at the office set it up right there.

It took about an hour to get the settings right, but by the time I left the TOT office, the wireless router was connected properly to my Silvercyber account. I watched as the technician tested it and got the Internet running.

# TT&T zips ahead in the ADSL race



TT&T's MaxNet Premiere 3 Mbps line runs out ahead in this side-by-side comparison of ADSL speeds. TOT's Silvercyber is showing oversubscriber blues.

I took the router home, plugged it in, and... you guessed it... nothing. The power light came on. The LAN lights came on. But the ADSL and PPP lights blinked and went dark. There was no ADSL connection.

I called TOT tech support in Bangkok. They had me do all sorts of things that couldn't have possibly solved the problem. Finally, they suggested I take the router back. So, a couple of days later, I walked back into the TOT office in Central Festival and asked to get the router fixed.

The technician plugged in the router and it didn't work. He pushed and pulled on the plugs, checked the settings. Saved and rebooted. About 15 minutes later – for reasons I don't understand – it suddenly started working again. The ADSL light came on, and Internet response was snappy. I took the router back home and... you guessed it again... it wouldn't work. Again.

I called TOT support and

they sent out another technician. He knew what he was doing – took the router through all its paces, reset, rebooted, repeated all the appropriate incantations, and he couldn't get it to work either. He called somebody, then told me to wait about two hours and try again.

I waited and tried. It still didn't work, and I gave up for the weekend. On Monday, I called TOT again, and was informed that the entire ADSL system was down (not true, it turns out), and I should call again on Tuesday if it still didn't work. Of course, it didn't work on Tuesday either.

I didn't have time to futz with it, so I just left it hooked up and forgot about it. The next day I took off on a four-day business trip. When I came back, it was working. Go figure.

My TT&T installation went a heckuva lot better. The same day that I originally asked TOT for an ADSL line, I went to the TT&T office at Central Festival and asked for MaxNet Premiere 3 Mbps service.

CAT HiNet line to connect to the Speakeasy speed test site. It's particularly odd because the CAT HiNet line at my Sandwich Shoppe in Patong – less than a kilometer from my home office – connects to Speakeasy, no problem. So the speeds I report here are, of necessity, an amalgamation of measured download speeds from various sites.

The TOT speed test results surprised me. I never expected a 450-baht line to deliver 1,300 Kbps. That's almost fast enough to watch a YouTube clip with just an occasional zap or zing.

Unfortunately, TOT's huge slowdowns in the afternoon and evening surprised me, too. If you look at the speeds other folks have posted on the Phuket Internet Speed reporting site, there are some who have major problems with dropped TOT connections, but most TOT Silvercyber and Goldcyber customers are seeing reasonably good speeds.

I attribute my exceptionally poor mid-day times to the fact that I'm using an old line, which is probably attached to a port that's being used by a hundred other customers.

I'll keep testing my hot-swappable array for a couple of months. But unless there's an enormous change, and TOT and CAT decide to get back in the ball game, I'll drop them both. I don't think there's any doubt who offers the best package.

Woody ([www.askwoody.com](http://www.askwoody.com)) has written several dozen computer books, including a bunch "For Dummies". He's also a Contributing Editor at Windows Secrets Newsletter, a Microsoft MVP and a bagel fanatic.

## KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER

### PC Group Therapy

Join Woody and other Windows victims at his Sunday morning PC Group Therapy sessions, co-sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. On August 24 and 31, the PC group convenes at the Sandwich Shoppe in Chalong, one km north of Chalong Circle next to Wine Connection.

Then on September 7, it's back to the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong, next to Andaman Beach Suites and BYD Lofts. Sessions are designed to help everybody – even (especially!) complete computer novices – and they're absolutely free. Driving instructions at [www.woody.info](http://www.woody.info)

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By Scott Mallon

# 'Poor defense' gives Thai a 50/50 chance

BEIJING: The Olympic Games are in full swing – and so am I. Somehow I manage to get credentialed to cover the Olympics. As a journalist, it's a thrill. As a photographer, there's a smorgasbord of worthy subject matter to shoot.

For the first couple of days, I was in awe of just what a massive spectacle the Olympics really is. People from all over the planet are gathered in the name of sport – in a relatively small area – and they're all getting along. It's about as good as it gets here and the Chinese have so far managed to put together a truly unforgettable event.

Each day I wake up at 6 am, take thirty minutes to prepare for the day, and then make my way to the security check. It takes about 15 minutes to get from the hotel to security, then another five minutes to scan my ID card, empty my pockets and then put my gear through the x-ray machine before getting the green light to enter the bus. It takes about thirty minutes to arrive at the press center, during which time I relax in a half sleep.

Once at the MPC (Main Press Center), I grab some coffee and a quick bite to eat and head downstairs to the Photo Workroom. For the next five hours I review my photos, filing the good and deleting the bad. Then it's time for lunch. Lunch is a five-minute ordeal, four minutes ordering and the other minute inhaling a burger or anything else that strikes my fancy. If there's any spare time, it's spent running errands, like finding out who to speak to about interviews.

Then it's back to the photo workroom, where I decide upon the lens of the day. Generally, I check-out a spare camera, and a 400mm lens, then use one or two of my own cameras, a 24-70mm and a 70-200mm lens. So I've got a camera, a two-foot lens and a monopod thrown over my shoulder, a backpack with batteries, two other cameras, two or three other lenses, water, towel, cell phone, energy bar for a snack, and anything else I can think of.

It takes another 30 minutes

to get to Workers' Gymnasium, where all of the boxing takes place. I get a locker, get a laptop lock, and put what I don't need in the locker. I lock up the laptop, make sure all my lenses are clean, then get an escort to the photo stand. On some days, I'm lucky and there is room, so I'll get to shoot ringside for a few bouts. Before this happens though, I need to turn in my standard photo vest and get a special ringside photo vest. There are only six spots issued for ringside photographers; Getty, AP, AFP, and the IOC are normally provided priority positioning. Only if one of these agencies decides not to attend are other photographers allowed ringside.

When shooting a pro fight, even a world title fight, you normally contact the promoter or the press department and ask for the credentials. Most of the time, it's relatively easy. The Olympics are a different story however: everyone is checked, rechecked and then marched through security.

Once at the venue, the work day begins. There are 10-15 four-round fights per session, most of which go the distance. The first begins at 1:30 pm and the last ends at 11:00 pm, making for a marathon of boxing – especially as it lasts two weeks. When the show is over, I gather my gear and hop onto the media bus. Thirty minutes later I'm back at the media center. Then I make a decision whether to go back to the hotel or to work. If I go to the hotel I go to sleep; if I want to work, I'll stay for a couple more hours, then catch the bus back to the hotel.

It's draining, it's hectic, and lugging around 30 kilos of gear is hard on the body – but it's worth it. Dragging around the gear is hard on the feet. And my feet are killing me...blisters and bruises cover my feet and remind me



Surat Thani native Worapoj Petchkoom celebrates after winning his bout against a dejected Jahyn Vittorio Perrinello of Italy.

with pain with every step I take.

As I write this, the second round of the boxing has just begun and it will be interesting to see how it unfolds. Besides the Thais in the tournament, my own favorite so far is Ukrainian heavyweight Oleksandr Usyk. He trashed his Chinese opponent and looked fantastic doing so. He was one of the few first-round fighters who really seemed to enjoy himself in the ring. Although his opponent was little more than a punching bag, Usyk's technique and confidence in throwing punches make him a favorite in the competition.

It's been years since I've watched amateur boxing. Frankly, I think it was the headgear that originally put me off, but after the Evander Holyfield debacle in the Los Angeles Olympics, amateur boxing just hasn't been the same. However, I've been pleasantly surprised with Olympic boxing. Quite a few of the fights have been action-packed, others have been outright toe-to-toe brawls. Only a small percentage could be described as sloppy and/or uninteresting.

Thai fighter Non Boonjum-

nong saw his Olympic dream come to a screeching halt when he dropped a narrow decision (11-10) to Hosam Adbdin of Egypt. The Egyptian was eminently beatable, but Boonjumnong's pensive ring demeanor cost him the bout. Adbdin moves on to face Carlos Banteaux Suarez of Cuba. Suarez skated by Billy Joe Saunders, out boxing the Brit to win a 13-6 decision.

Boonjumnong's older brother, Manus (64kg), totally outclassed his Japanese foe (8-1), Masatsugu Kawachi to advance to the quarterfinals, where he'll meet Serik Sapiyev of Kazakhstan.

Sapiyev looked sharp in blowing out Johnny Sanchez 22-3, and should provide a stiff test for the Thai. "We've fought a few times before," said Boonjumnong. "He's a difficult one. He throws many punches but his weakness is his poor defense, so I will say I have a 50/50 chance."

[Manus went on to win the bout 7-5, guaranteeing himself at least a bronze and a place in the history book as the first ever Thai

to win medals at two Olympics – he took gold at Athens. – Ed]

Using his superior hand and foot speed, US fighter Demetrius Andrade improved upon his first round performance and dismantled Andrey Balanov of Russia to win a 14-3 decision.

"He's thirty-two and it's very difficult for him physically to fight against the young American boxer," said Russian boxing coach Alexander Lebzyak. "It was a predictable result, but Russia still has seven boxers and we're in good shape."

Bradley Saunders of Britain, the first to score a knockout in the tournament, is out after losing to Alexis Vastine of France. "It's amazing what pressure does," said UK coach Terry Edwards. "Over-eagerness and the brain goes out the window."

"It's a big weight off my shoulders," stated Saunders. "It's my job, my training, boxing all the time. So now the weight's off my shoulders. I just want to relax, rethink a little." Vastine moves on to meet rugged Mongolian fighter Munkh-Erdene Sepahvandi.

In the fight of the night, Johnny Joyce of Ireland dropped a heartbreaker to Cuba's Felix Diaz by judges decision. Trailing 7-4, Joyce came back to even the score 11-11.

In the end though, the judges felt Diaz deserved the victory. "I wasn't expecting him to be as strong (as he was)," said Joyce. "I tried to get away but he was strong. He was always in my face. He should have been given a warning." Diaz now moves on to meet Morteza Sepahvandi of Iran.

Thailand's boxers have huge financial motivations to win; gold medal boxers are given at least ten million baht, silver medalists win seven million, and bronze medalists win three million baht. On top of this, medalists are also giving another three to five million baht from the private sector. Next up for Thailand, Sailom Adi (57 Kgs), Pichai Sayota (60 Kgs), and Worapoj Petchkom (54 Kgs).

Scott Mallon is a Bangkok-based boxing writer and photojournalist.



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# Triathlon already a sellout - with 3 months still to go

**BANG TAO:** With more than three months still to go until the Laguna Phuket Triathlon 2008 on December 7, the "Race of Legends" has already sold out.

Some 750 athletes and about 50 teams of participants rushed to secure their places through online bookings for the 15th annual Laguna Phuket Triathlon after dates for the international competition were announced, leading to about 900 people set to compete in this year's event.

The event comprises a 1.8-kilometer swim, a 55km cycle ride and a 12km run. There will also be the usual 6km fun run, which is still open for entries, plus a new addition: a race especially designed for children - details of which are yet to be announced.

The race will include athletes swimming the first 1,200 meters in the sea before sprinting 100 meters across the beach to swim the last 600 meters in a lagoon.

For the 1.8km swim, athletes will swim an initial 1,200 meters from the Laguna Beach Resort before sprinting 100m across the beach and finally diving back into the water for a 600m lagoon swim.

The cycling route will take competitors from Laguna to the north of the island, while the run will lead the athletes round the Laguna area.

This year's event is supported by the like of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, THAI Airways International and, of course, the *Phuket Gazette*.

For more information, visit [www.laguna-phukettriathlon.com](http://www.laguna-phukettriathlon.com).

## O-ran wins Cherg Talay half-marathon

**CHERNG TALAY:** Cherg Talay Municipality held the fourth annual Cherg Talay Half-marathon on August 10, with athletes running around the island in three events: a half-marathon, a 13-kilometer mini-marathon and a 3.5km fun run.

Runners set off at 6 am from the start point in front of the Cherg Talay Municipality Office.

The event was held to mark the birthday of HM Queen Sirikit to promote active and healthy lifestyles in Phuket and to deter youths from turning to drugs.

The route saw athletes run to the Laguna Beach Resort and back, with more than 200 competitors, Thais and foreigners, joining in the fun.

The top three in the fun run received trophies, while first place in the half-marathon and mini-marathon also won 2,000 baht, with 1,500 baht for second place and 1,000 baht for third.

### RESULTS

**Males:** Half-marathon: 1.O-Ran Leelasillapasan; 2. Jarin Sae-Ong; 3. Sitthipong Chengla.

Mini-marathon: 1. Pornsak O-ran; 2. Sattawat Chupak; 3. Sompong Paen-Chu.

Fun run: 1. Dusit Tongyam; 2. Banterng Sermsuktor; 3. Wasan Namjaisuk.

**Females:** Half-marathon: 1. Leonie Plaistowe; 2. Duongruethai Sommarak; 3. Wanna Chartpirom.

Mini-marathon: 1. Leena David; 2. Nanta Ong-Sakul; 3. Yanaporn Tang-Anan.

Fun run: 1.Thanyanuch Upatsing; 2. Kittiya Kongmai; 3. Kannika Lerk-Kam



**WATCH OUT, BEIJING:** Four colorful young cheerleaders from different cheering squads pose for a group photo at the 2008 Kajonkiet Games sports day for kindergarten students, held at the Saphan Hln Gym 1 on August 15.

## PATONG DARTS LEAGUE

### Queen Mary move ahead

**PATONG:** Tony of Piccadilly was the hero once again for still-undefeated Piccadilly. In a 6-4 home win against Shakers, he hit two 140s in the beer leg then closing out the game with a X10.

Shaun and Josh saved important points for Shakers, winning their singles and doubles.

The points helped Queen Mary move back into first place by one point after they beat Simply Red 8-2.

Mick of Queen Mary closed his singles from 81 (T15, X18) and closed the beer with one dart: X20. Joy of Queen Mary took high score with 140.

Market Bar got the best of Beach House winning 6-3 win, but Beach House took the beer leg. Geordie of Market Bar and Justin of Beach House split high score with 140.

Dogs Bollocks came back with a 6-4 win over Celtic and Sick Buffalo did the same to Hilltop.

Send match notes to [darts@phuketgazete.net](mailto:darts@phuketgazete.net)

**August 12 results:** Simply Red 2 Queen Mary\* 7; Piccadilly\* 5 -Shakers 4; Beach House\* 3 Market Bar 6; Hilltop 4 Sick Buffalo\* 5; Celtic\* 3 -Dogs Bollocks\* 6; Offshore = bye (\* = winner of beer leg).

**Standings:** 1. Queen Mary (70 points); 2. Piccadilly (69); 3. Market Bar (64); 4. Offshore\* (63); 5. Sick Buffalo (61); 6. Shakers (54); 7. Beach House (52); 8. Dogs Bollocks (48); 9. Celtic (42); 10. Hilltop (41); 11. Simply Red (36) (\* = have had bye week).

**September 2 matchups:** Queen Mary v Shakers; Piccadilly v Hilltop; Offshore v Celtic; Simply Red v Market Bar; Sick Buffalo v Beach House; Dogs Bollocks = bye (home team first).

## Whack it with the right racquet

**F**or a child just getting into tennis, choosing the right racquet is unfortunately not quite as easy as choosing which pencil case should go with which stationery set.

Far too often I'm confronted by the sight of adults playing with junior frames and young children using full-size adult racquets. The adults tell me that they like using a light frame while the kids have been told that a bigger racquet will grant them ungodly power with which to smack a ball into orbit.

There is a lot to consider when it comes to buying the right racquet. Junior racquets are generally designed to help absorb the impact of the ball, making the effect more forgiving on the child's undeveloped, weaker arm.

Adult racquets are made so that the frame bends and vibrates, causing a lot more stress on the player's arm than would occur when using a kid-dies' racquet.

Some junior racquets are made using the same materials as the top adult racquets, but these frames don't sell well due to being expensive and having such a short lifespan as children tend to outgrow them so quickly.

Equally, some full-size racquets have been designed to be very forgiving for tall children who are still growing and need a flexible frame. The questions is: when is the right time to change frames? Usually when the forgiving bend becomes a vibration due to how hard the ball is being hit.

The length of the racquet should be linked to the child's height. The frame composition is down to the strength of the player and the weight and balance is down to personal preference and playing style.

It is always worrying when

I see a young child using a full-size frame. I understand that it looks cute and that it can be impressive to see the youngsters playing from the baseline, but you have to look closely and think proportionately. How would you do wielding a tennis racquet the size of a double bass on a tennis court the size of a football pitch? Doesn't sound like a whole lot of fun really, does it?

I'm not sure how long I would be able to cope in such a scenario, so just imagine how a seven-year-old feels. Come to think of it, it would actually be pretty funny to watch parents and coaches playing with racquets proportional in size to those they make their children and students

use. It would be like playing table tennis with an acoustic guitar.

Children who use full-size racquets tend to find themselves picking out shots from the

baseline early because of the power they can generate. This baseline play causes a lot of balls to be played above head height, thus leading to extreme, awkward handling of the racquet.

If you try to hold a tennis racquet out to one side of you at about your head height, you will soon see that it is easier and more comfortable to place your wrist under the grip with your fingers on top rather than with your wrist on top and fingers underneath.

As you grow and the ball becomes lower to you, the next logical step is to drop your elbow to reach the ball, rather than to move your hand and wrist around.

*Darran Ferre is a 17-year, full-time tennis pro based at the Indigo Pearl resort. He has worked around the world with players of all ages and abilities. He can be contacted at email: [darranferre@hotmail.com](mailto:darranferre@hotmail.com)*

**On the court**  
By Darran Ferre

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Construction Update

by Janyaporn Morel

# Shopping Center to be reborn as serviced apartment complex

One of Phuket's oldest large retail outlets, Phuket Shopping Center, is getting 70-million-baht in renovation work and is scheduled to re-open in October as a 69-unit serviced apartment complex.

Located on Rassada Rd in the downtown Phuket City, Phuket Center Apartment will be a five-story block occupying the former Phuket Shopping Center building, which shut its doors to the retail business a year ago after 20 years of operation.

The block will comprise 12 suite rooms on the fifth floor, 44 studio apartments on the third and fourth floors and 13 smaller units on the second floor intended for rental on a daily basis. The suites, studios and daily rental rooms will have usable areas of 60 square meters, 30sqm and 20sqm, respectively.

Phuket Shopping Center director Boon Yongsakul, whose family also owns the Phuket Boat Lagoon Resort in Koh Kaew, said work on the project is being carried out by Boat Lagoon Civil Co Ltd.

The decision to renovate the property and reopen it as an accommodation establishment reflects the current economic realities in Phuket's retail sector, which has seen massive investment and growth in outlying areas such as the bypass road. This has come at the expense of downtown Phuket City, formerly the island's retail center, he said.

K. Boon decided to use the



The colorful curve of the Phuket Shopping Center, which will reopen in October as Phuket Center Apartment.

property's central location to diversify into the accommodation market, which he said has greater demand and long-term potential for sustainable profits.

"We think the market for serviced apartments in Phuket is expanding. When we compared the performance of our hotel business at the Boat Lagoon with our

retail business we decided not to keep the shopping center in this location," he said.

Planning work on the project began about two years ago and the renovation work is now about 80% complete, he said.

In addition to the apartment units upstairs, there are also 20 commercial units for rent on the

ground floor to provide services to apartment residents. These will house a laundry service, art gallery, tour and ticket agents, a taxi service, souvenir shops, beauty salon, Internet cafe and restaurant. All 20 units are already occupied or reserved, he said.

Each apartment will offer services and facilities including a

key card entry system, high-speed wireless Internet access, refrigerator, kettle, minibar, kitchenette, TV with cable connection and room service.

"We will also have a 24-hour security system with CCTV, elevators and convenient car parking for apartment residents," he said.

The building renovation retains the original Sino-Portuguese design that won an award for outstanding architecture in 1982, he added.

"The renovation has been a challenge. We didn't have to start from scratch, but we had to ensure the new design matched the old one. Most of the renovation work was done on the interiors. For the exterior we have chosen a bright and attractive color scheme, but done in such a way that people will be made to remember that it was once a shopping center," K. Boon said.

Serviced apartment rates will start at 1,000 baht per day, ranging up to 20,000 baht a month for suites. K. Boon believes the project's central location will ensure a steady supply of tenants in the main target group: working people, especially foreigners with jobs in Phuket City.

"We are not worried about competition from all the condominiums that are being built in the town, as they cater to long-term residents while our project is targeting more short-term tenants and tourists. I think our project will meet all of their needs and requirements," he said.



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**PROPERTY RESALE**

Properties for sale within Laguna Phuket

<p><b>1 Laguna Townhome I THB 23 M</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-storey Townhome</li> <li>• 4 beds 3.5 bath</li> <li>• 25 sqm private pool</li> <li>• on golf course, enclosed laundry</li> </ul>	<p><b>2 Laguna Townhome I THB 22 M</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-storey 3 beds Townhome</li> <li>• 25 sqm private pool</li> <li>• enclosed laundry</li> <li>• on 8th hole of golf course</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 Laguna Townhome II THB 24 M</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-storey Townhome</li> <li>• 25 sqm private pool</li> <li>• on golf course</li> </ul>	<p><b>4 Dusit Thani Pool Villa THB 39 M</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-storey Townhome</li> <li>• 2 beds • rooftop pool</li> <li>• guaranteed rental return</li> </ul>
<p><b>5 Laguna Residence I THB 39 M</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-storey detached house</li> <li>• 4 beds 3 baths</li> <li>• 48 sqm pool • on golf course</li> <li>• guaranteed rental return</li> </ul>	<p>For more information on these and other properties, please call: <b>+66 (0) 76 362 333</b> or email: <a href="mailto:resale@lagunaresale.com">resale@lagunaresale.com</a> <a href="http://www.lagunaresale.com">www.lagunaresale.com</a></p>

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Home of the Week

Rawai

# Designed to be right down to earth

Once in a while you see something new and challenging. Sometimes you are not quite sure if it's right or wrong, but then time decides for you, and what was once laced with indecision becomes almost pioneer-like and edgy.

Seeing the wonderfully down-to-earth design of this three-bedroom house on a 320-square-meter plot in Rawai offers one of those moments.

The accompanying pictures of this property will no doubt do this abode more justice than these words, but you have to see to understand what this exquisite house is striving towards. It's eco-friendly design of high ceilings and tremendous air flow means there is no need for air-conditioning, and the roof-terrace with a sloping cover offers majestic sea-views over Rawai.

Inside the grounds of this property, you are greeted by a large paved area dominated by the 6x4.5m swimming pool in the midst of a little vegetation provided by a number of potted plants, small trees and a small waterfall that creates a tranquil, back-to-nature ambiance. The



Look Ma, no aircon: The house is designed to take full advantage of natural airflows.

private pool is surrounded by spacious seated areas and a sizable car-port.

Inside this special home, the design comes into its own. The open-plan area comprises a lounge and dining room with a

separate fully-fitted modern kitchen, all with timbered ceilings and white porcelain floors and walls. The lounge is equipped with a classy dark wooden settee and coffee table and large cinema-style television screen.

You can't help but be drawn to the wooden split level spiral staircase.

Two of the three bedrooms are ensuite and all are equipped with dark wooden decked floors and built-in wardrobes.

The master bedroom owns a chic bathroom with white tiling throughout. It has a bathtub surrounded by windows covered with wooden blinds to ensure privacy, while allowing air to circulate.

The roof terrace offers sweeping views over the hills and the sea in the distance. The sloping cover is angled to create maximum shade while allowing the breeze to flow through unobstructed. This is a spacious area, ideal for relaxing the day away in a hammock.

There is also a separate maid's room and a large study or office area, making working from home a very pleasant experience. This property is available freehold

The property has its own fresh-water well and is just two years old. It's available freehold with Chanote title and comes with an established company for 12.5 million baht.

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Decor

by Natcha Yuttaworawit

Bangkok native Tanipol Chiewsanguan, managing director of Nakalina Phuket, recently launched the second branch of Nakalina after the success of the furniture company's flagship shop on Koh Samui, which opened last year.

Nakalina has its roots in a property project, The Nakara, that Khun Tanipol developed on Samui in 2006. It was his involvement in that project and his resultant interest in furniture design that led K. Tanipol to open the store.

Most of the furniture is imported from Indonesia and China, with some from Chiang Mai and Bangkok.

There are indoor and outdoor items available, but the style focuses on the lifestyle of people living in Phuket or on Samui. The styles differ to what you would find in a Bangkok house.

"Before I opened the first branch, I researched a lot about customers' behavior and tastes when it comes to choosing furniture," he said.

Houses in Bangkok do not need much space, whereas a house on a tropical island is for relaxation and enjoying the climate. Materials are therefore based on nature and merging with the surrounding environment, explained K. Tanipol.

Items in the collection of furniture offered at Nakalina may look expensive, but they are not. The prices are reasonable for Thais and foreigners alike, added K Tanipol.

A rattan swing would suit any environment in which there are children. Made of all-natural materials, a variety of cushions can brighten the swing up and complement the mood of any given room.

A daybed made of rattan, leather, bamboo and water hyacinth is durable and curvy, making it a suitable candidate for a subtle centerpiece or else a side attraction of a room's layout.

Another item made of rattan and water hyacinth is a coffee table – a simple, yet effective item to fill up space in a living area without overpowering the space.

"I visited Phuket many times before I opened the second branch. I think that before you do something like opening a shop you must learn about the local lifestyle in order to determine exactly what customers want," said K. Tanipol.

"The design work on the furniture is modern, but not too much like you see in some furniture stores.

"I also chose not to focus only on Thai designs, because Phuket already has so many shops selling Thai-style furniture. Each piece at Nakalina is comfortable and functional," he added.

With a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Purdue University, K. Tanipol worked as a structural engineer in Chicago for two years before returning to Thailand to read his master's degree MBA program at the Sasin Graduates Institute of Business Administration, Chulalongkorn University.

Items can be made to order and free delivery is offered to Phuket, Samui and Bangkok.

Nakalina is on Chao Fa West Road. The store is open daily from 9 am until 6 pm. For more information call 076-248545 or email tanipol@nakalina.com Website: www.nakalina.com



DINGBATS, ANYONE? Products in the Nakalina store are predominantly made of natural materials, giving each item a subtle appearance in tune with Phuket's natural elements.

# BACK TO BASICS



Left: a fully rounded life demands an appropriate chair.



Right: Seating and decoration in Nakalina's new branch...



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# Bali supply surges ahead

In the not so distant past the Bali brand name was all that was glitter and gold in tropical Asian destinations. A mere whisper of the magical phase evoked images of swaying palm trees, exotic voyages and was revered in the same way as Hawaii, Tahiti or even Rio as a place on nearly everyone's must-see-in-a-lifetime list.

Then came the Asian currency crises; the fall of longtime strongman Soeharto, ethnic riots, volcanoes and bombs, all of which took their toll on tourism and commerce. Time has passed and Bali – in a similar way to Phuket's handling of its own crises such as the tsunami and plane crash – has erased much of the damage to its reputation and appeal to visitors.

For market comparables, Phuket has experienced a medium-term growth spurt over the past 10 years, and now sees its hotel inventory close to the 40,000-hotel-room mark with more than 600 properties. Bali, by comparison, has over 20,000 hotel rooms with close to 200 properties.

Based on tourist arrivals, Phuket in 2007 surpassed the five million mark, while Bali came in at just above 3.5 million. Average annualized market-wide occupancy for hotels traded roughly at the same band width of 65-68%.

Fundamentally, Bali is unlike Phuket, as there remains a large number of non-tracked tourism establishments in Bali, particularly individual luxury villas and smaller pool-villa estates that command premium room rates and trade premium rates compared to standard hotels.

Geographically Bali has seen movement over the years in

**Bali's Gending Kedis, in the up-market Jimbaran area, is one of the many mixed-use investment properties coming online to compete with properties in Phuket.**



much the same way as in Phuket, from the early tourist bungalows in Kuta and Sanur – one to the master-planned destination resorts of Nusa Dua (Bali's version of Laguna Phuket) – onto the upmarket Jimbaran Bay.

Today, premium developments such as the ultra-luxury Bvlgari resort have chosen the Bukid area due to the availability of larger tracts of land there. There is also a push to other parts of the island for emerging projects. Land, as always, is a significant part of the overall development scenario. With many of these projects now being mixed-use developments or hotels with either investment units or residential villa estates, sheer size mat-

ters; hence a shift in new products offered within these micro markets.

Driving around Bali after being in Phuket – or any other popular Asian destination, such as Koh Samui or Langkawi – is like déjà vu. Sprawling billboards and construction sites are everywhere. International hotel brands, real-estate marketing firms and service companies attached to the industry are also sprouting up everywhere.

Limited infrastructure is hard pressed to keep up with growing electrical loads, roadways are choked and garbage is piled by the roadside. Sounds all too familiar, eh?

Going down for a sunset

cocktail at the legendary entertainment venue Ku De Ta proves to be an eye opener with faces you'd not often see there.

As Phuket relies heavily on its easy door-to-door access and markets with Hong Kong and Singapore, Bali plays host to a larger European and North American contingent. The Seminyak and Legian districts are more like Spain's Ibiza than say Surin or Bang Tao, which are more slanted towards a continental cosmopolitan crowd.

Talk to hotel or property developers though, and the first words that roll off their tongues are, "Phuket is our model". Phuket is revered because of its success in establishing high- and medium-end properties, sales numbers, and for pioneering mixed-use (hotel and residential) products.

What is surprising though, is

**Talk to hotel or property developers [in Bali], and the first words that roll off their tongues are, 'Phuket is our model.'**



## PROPERTY WATCH

By Bill Barnett

the lack of operating synergies between the two markets, especially in key-growth areas, such as villa management and rentals.

This is pegged to change shortly. Larger firms are now talking about creating offices here and they acknowledge aiming to attract the same type of tourists and customers that travel to both destinations.

If anything, the villa and non-traditional condo hotel market here is poised to become a key part of the mainstream accommodation supply line very soon.

With the similarities between Thais and Balinese, I have always liked Bali. The edge between the two is certainly in quality of infrastructure. Phuket has international schools and a solid hospitality industry, marina and golf-leisure facilities, and of course, remarkable world class cuisine.

It's well worth taking a trip down to Bali to experience what our distant neighbor is doing as competition heats up amidst worries on shrinking worldwide growth. From the look of things, Bali is doing a lot of things right and in its own unique style.

*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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### PATONG HOME

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### B2.3M HOUSE NEAR BEACH

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### MISSION HILL LAND

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### 3 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHROOMS

52sq wah, quiet area, Khao Khad. Chanote. 2.9 million baht. Tel: 084-8528096.

### KARON SEAVIEW



Located between Centara Karon Resort and Seacret Cliff Resort. 10.5 rai with Chanote. Very good location for business (hotel & resort). Asking price: 250 million baht. No agents. Please call: 087-2709093 or email a.pueng@gmail.com

### NEW HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT

2-story house. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, True TV, Internet. 300m from Heroines' Monument, toward Pa khok. For sale at 3.7 million baht, rent: 25,000 baht/month. Tel: 087-2646808, 083-1743880.

### TOP SEAVIEW LOT

2 rai, Yamu hills. Chanote, gated, good road, 11.5 million baht. Tel (local): 080-5358767. Tel (US): 0011-760-7808584. Email: phuketone@gmail.com

### SALE/RENT, KAMALA

Single house near beach, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen. 4.2 million baht. Tel: 086-2773318.

### HOUSE IN KATHU

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### VILLA & LAND

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### FOREIGN FREEHOLD

condominium in Rawai, 250m from the pier. 580,000 baht. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

### NEW HOUSE NAI HARN-RAWAI



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### KATA BEACH

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### ON THE BEACH

2-bedroom apartment in North Patong. Foreign freehold, top floor, swimming pools. 9.7 million baht. Tel: 086-2765117. Email for photos. Email: jihshand@gmail.com

### NEW HOUSE

in Srisuchart Grand Villa 3. 47.5sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, some furnishings. Located in Phuket City, near Tesco-Lotus. 2.8 million baht (negotiable). Contact to view. Tel: 087-2770978.

### KHAO LAK INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Land beside Kempinski hotel, Khao Lak. 5.5 rai. Chanote. 50 million baht total (negotiable). Contact Gak. Tel: 081-840-2448.

### 1.5 RAI IN PASAK

Laguna area at 6.5 million baht. Chanote title, square-shaped plot, good location, road and utilities access. No agents please. Tel: 081-5399269.

### 2-STORY HOUSE

5.5 million baht. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 72sq wah with some furniture at Villa Samkong. Contact K. Nan. Tel: 081-6779837. Email: knahniesz@hotmail.com or okika\_j@hotmail.com

### BUNGALOW IN CHALONG



Newly refurbished, 3 bedroom, bungalow on 65sq wah. Brand new modern kitchen and bathroom. Covered parking and landscaped garden. Price: 4.2 million baht. Tel: 089-9222800. Email: meen443\_40@hotmail.com

### AO POR LAND FOR SALE



150 rai, Nor Sor 3 Gor, sea view. From 2.5 million baht per rai. No agents. Please contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

### QUICK SALE

Land on Soi Haad Surin, 2.5-minute walk to Surin Beach. 996sqm. 6 million baht. Tel: 087-8836112.

### LOCH PALM VILLA

at Baan Suan. Lovely villa with large plot including pool and sala. 20.9 million baht. Tel: 081-9241447.

### LAND IN PATTAYA

52sq wah land in a nice village. Company and Chanote. Price: 1 million baht. Tel: 085-159-0597.

### 50-RAI LAND, CHANOTE TITLE

Phang Nga, 8km from city center, 30 rai of powered, licensed factory for meat + fish, walk-in fridge and freezer 8,000 hardwood trees planted on 20 rai. Genuine sale. Tel: 087-2694083.

### 2-STORY HOUSE, RAWAI

160sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 40m from beach. Price: 1.7 million. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

### PERFECT LAND

Nearly 2 rai at Bang Tao. Very good location for business. Price: 18 million baht. No agents. Tel: 086-9442065, 087-6899679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com

### NICE PLOT

near Layan Hills Estate and pool villas project. Chanote title and road access on 4 sides of the plot. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 081-5399269.

### NEW CONDOS IN PATONG



Best location, deluxe condos, fully furnished, ready to move in. Top Western quality. Two rooms: living room with pantry kitchen, bedroom, big bath. 67sqm, pool, garden, car park, 24-hour security. TV. Internet, safety box. 3.6 million baht (70,000 euro). Lotus Residence. Contact Peter. Tel: 081-8928526. Email: info@phuket-besthomes.com Website: www.phuket-besthomes.com

### KHAO KHAD, AO MAKHAM



Chanote. 16 rai with panoramic view near Ao Makham, towards Cape Panwa. Wide road access direct to the site. 6 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-5399269. Email: talayjan@yahoo.com

### NEW TOWNHOUSE

in Than Thong 7 estate. 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished. 19 sq wah. Central location on Chao Fa East Rd, opposite Villa California. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 087-2770978.

### LAND AT NATAI

near Khao Pilai Beach. 20 rai with Chanote title, only 1.7 million baht per rai. 300m from the beach, road, electricity access. Urgent sale. No agents. Contact by phone. Tel: 081-5399269.

### PERFECT LAND FOR SALE

on the main road to Cherng Talay and Surin. 43 rai, 1 ngan, 85sq wah. For sale by owner. 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-9562406. Email: phatsarar@gmail.com

### 3 BEDROOMS, 2 FLOORS, SEA VIEW

Relocating to Canada. Breathing sea view, private pool, exclusive location in brand new development. Completion date: December 8. Prestigious multi-million-dollar neighborhood. Priced privately below listing. Email: stephancookca@yahoo.ca

### PATONG SEA VIEW



Luxury apartments with best view over Patong. Tel: 083-1736521. Website: www.patong-view-talay.com

### LAND AT PA KHLOK



49 rai, nice flat land. Chanote, 2.5km from Heroines' Monument. Price: 1.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 083-1802143.

### HOUSE NEAR BIS

2-story house with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, ample parking space and nice landscaping. Total area: 336sqm. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 089-7247073. Email: jutima021@hotmail.com

### RANONG LAND

Beautiful land for sale around Ranong and Koh Phayam. Tel: 66-77-862468. Email: phuketjon@csloxinfo.com For further details see: www.mistymountainresort.com/ranongrealestate.html

### KRABI SEA VIEW, AO NANG AREA

Chanote land: 3.5 rai (5,600 sqm). Quiet area next to forest zone. Great sea view. This land can be yours for 8 million baht a rai. Don't wait for next year. It will be 9 million baht a rai in 2009, then 10 million baht per rai by 2010. Only 150m from the sea and within 400m of access to boats. Tel: 086-7866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

### FOR URGENT SALE

24sq wah. Chanote, 3 bedrooms, 2 sitting rooms, 2 bathrooms, double story. Asking price: 3.5 million baht. Owner is leaving country. 109/21 Pisit Goronee Rd, Patong. Contact Imran. Tel: 076-345027, 089-7298852.

### KOH SAMUI SEAVIEW LAND

Hillside sea view on Koh Samui. Size: 3,200sqm (2 rai). Chanote. Tel: 02-2771992, 083-6113020. Fax: 02-961-0072. Email: pharawee@yahoo.com For details visit www.lovesamui.com

### LAND, HOUSE & HOTEL FOR SALE

House: 220sqm, 10 million baht. Karon hotel: 40 rooms, 120 million baht. Patong. Contact Ms Mam. Tel: 089-7798270.

All classifieds in these pages are

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# Property Gazette

**LAND AT CHERNG TALAY**



for sale. 15 rai, very nice view of hills and village, with Chanote title. Must see. Asking price: 80 million baht. No agents. Tel: 085-8888915. Email lamai.thepheerat@gmail.com

**PARICHART VILLAGE, CHALONG**



35/20 Soi 1. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons, some furniture, 50sq wah, garden. For sale at 4 million baht or for long-term rent. Must see. Contact Nina. Tel: 087-6899679. Email: tasuwan@hotmail.com. No agents.

**KAMALA SEAVIEW LAND**

6 rai with Chanote. Can be divided. All with good sea view. Road, water & electricity supply. Priced from 6 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

**LAND AT RAWAI**

Very good location, 1 rai, B4.3m. Also have one house for sale in Rawai, 100sq wah, B3.3m. Tel: 084-6268105.

**BRAND-NEW CONDO**

Great location near Tesco and Big C. Pool, gym, fully furnished with washer, dryer, fridge, aircon and TV. 45sqm, corner unit with 2 balconies. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 087-277-0978. Email: koyangle99@hotmail.com

**SEA VIEW, NAI THON BEACH**

11 rai, Chanote at Nai Thon Beach. 700m from sandy beach. 7.5 million baht/rai. Tel: 089-7298365.

**LAND, VILLAS & CONDOS**

Freehold, any size, Phuket. Tel: 081-5395454, 087-284-9541. www.phuket-no1.com

**HIGH-END POOL VILLA**

220,000 euros. Tel: 076-381351, 081-8920750. Fax: 076-280094. Email: gunther@nirvana-phuket.com For further details, please see our website at www.picasaweb.google.com/gunther2551/klaushaus

**SPECIAL PROMOTION SALE**



11 big new luxury villas in Kamala with private pool. Modern Thai-Balinese style. 24-hour security in a gated community. Exclusive location a few minutes from beach and town center. Built in natural surroundings on flat land with a very good hill view. Chanote. 4 bedrooms. Fully fitted modern kitchen. All bedrooms with separate bathrooms and built-in cupboards. Jacuzzi. Rooms have aircon. Freehold or leasehold. 2 show homes fully furnished. Ready now. From 21 million baht. Contact for more information. Tel: 076-279289, 086-2742308. Email: kamalaparadise@yahoo.com Website: www.kamalaparadise.com

**LAND FOR SALE**

One rai close to Laguna. Chanote title. Also 3-floor shophouse on bypass road. Contact for more details. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

**KATA BEACH VILLA**

New, 6 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, pool. 20 million baht or rent. Tel: 081-0918908. Email: stein\_dokset@hotmail.com

**BRAND-NEW SINGLE HOUSE**

for sale at Baan Suan Loch Palm. Area 480 sqm, 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. 10.5 million baht. Tel: 087-2799500.

**HOUSE, LAND**

1 rai, beautiful, green, quiet. 2 bedrooms, living, 2 bathrooms, garage. Price 3 million baht. Tel: 084-8406055.

**HOUSE, NAI YANG**

for sale, airport area, 800m to beach, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, new, 300sqm. Tel: 080-5358767, 0011-780-8584 (US). Email: phuketone@gmail.com

**2 HOUSES**

for sale. 2km from Heroines' Monument, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, aircon, near swimming pool, security. 2.3 and 3.1 million baht. Tel: 083-1036578.

**82-RAI WATERFRONT**

Beautiful land next to the sea on Koh Racha Yai. 10 million baht per rai. No brokers. Tel: 081-9786700.

**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

**LAND, 2,532SQM, AO POR**

Chanote, main road near airport, Misson Hills golf. Front has free space; 200sqm used. Net sale price: 6 million baht. Tel: 081-3670991.

**SHOPHOUSE**

3-floor shophouse on the bypass road next to the Chevrolet dealer. Contact me for more information. Email: jgkg24@hotmail.com

**HOUSE FOR SALE**

Brand-new house just built, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool, furnished, huge aquarium. 4.9 million baht ono. Financing available. Tel: 084-6268105.

**RAWAI VILLA WITH POOL**

Brand new, 3 bedrooms, salt-water pool, steam sauna. 650sqm land, 220sqm villa, Chanote, outstanding, double walls, tropical garden. Must see, great price. Finance or trade is possible. 5% commission for agents. Tel: 085-7831890.

**12 RAI OF VACANT SEAVIEW LAND**

in Kata area. Serene, peaceful atmosphere of the surrounding environment and local community. Beautifully surrounded by hills and wonderful sunset views overlooking Chalong Bay. Ideal for housing, resort, hotel or condominium project. Only 8 million baht per rai. Tel: 089-8116191.

**KAMALA LAND: 1,400SQM, B7.5M**

900m from beach and Kamala center. Electricity & water. Chanote title. Tel: 076-292596, 086-2678477. Email: tourmiechristian@hotmail.com

**LAND IN KATHU**

Fabulous elevated block opposite national park in Kathu. 1,360sqm. Nor Sor 3 Gor. Comes with architect's plans for house and building permit. 6.4 million baht. Tel: 089-6498703.

**LAND IN KAMALA**



Flat land from 1 rai up to 51 rai. Good road, electricity supply. Only 2 minutes from beach and center. Prices from 9.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

**BEAUTIFUL NAI YANG LAND**



9.5 rai, beachfront. 5 minutes to Phuket Airport. Asking price: 120 million baht. Chanote. Must see. No agents. Contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

**VILLA FOR SALE**

in Bangjo, 10 minutes to Laguna, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, swimming pool, fully furnished, 13 million baht. Tel: (Eng): 081-8976984. Tel: (Thai): 089-6995136.

**HOUSES, KARON**

Karon Beach. 2 houses, both have 2 bedrooms and each on 107sq wah plot with garden. Tel: 084-5292037.

**Rawai house**



3-4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms at Rawai Beach high-end building materials and furniture. Asking price: 220,000 Euro. Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

**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.

**SEA VIEW IN KAMALA**

Small plots, 1 rai. Very good sea view. Road, water & electricity supply with Chanote. Priced from 7.5 million per rai. Tel: 087-6050365. Email: tim@kamalaparadise.com

**LAND PLOT, 2.3 MILLION BAHT**

900sqm land plot with underground electricity and water supply in quiet, secure community next to Mission Hills Golf Course. For sale at only 2.3 million baht. No agents please. Tel: 081-2712825.

**SEA VIEW IN KAMALA**



Small plots from 1 rai up to 100 rai with very good sea view. A few minutes from city center and beaches. Chanote, road, electricity & water supply. Priced from 6.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2742308. Email: kim@kamalafalls.com

**CONTEMPORARY VILLA**

4 bedrooms with terraces, 6 bathrooms (master with double Jacuzzi), 4m x 12m pool with Jacuzzi, living room, dining room, Western kitchen, maid's room, solar hot water, sala, built-in BBQ, parking for 3 cars, electric gate and nice tropical garden on a 1,606sqm plot with more than 400sqm of living area. Good price. Tel: 081-9707019. Email: nisaya19@yahoo.com

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# Property Gazette

**KAMALA TOWNHOUSE**



near Phuket FantaSea, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, car park. 3.2 million baht, negotiable. Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

**PANORAMIC SEA VIEW**



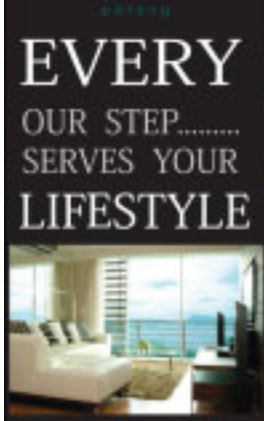
Karon land for sale. 15 rai, Chanote title. Hillside, panoramic sea view, quiet area. Very good location for business. 15 million baht per rai. No agents. Please contact by email: allservices29@gmail.com

**LOOKING FOR JOINT VENTURE OR SALE**



Resort in Chiang Rai situated in a beautiful place in natural surroundings including lychee trees and 2,500 Arabica coffee trees. Convenient location in the middle of Chiang Rai, just a 25-minute drive from airport, 35 minutes from town, and 20 minutes to tourist attractions. Comprises 23 guestrooms and 1 conference room. 50 rai at 39 million baht (negotiable). Contact owner's representative. Email talayan@yahoo.com for more details.

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Tel: (66) 076 342 696 Website: www.thebaycliff.com Email: sales@thebaycliff.com

**LAND PLUS PROJECT**



Sai Yuan, Nai Harn, 3 rai. 5 min to beach, near spa, tennis, riding. 5-star architect. For 12 pool villas. Only 18.5 million baht. Super investment. Buy shares in an established company and start now. Tel: 081-8447408. Email: viktoys@loxinfo.co.th

**2.5 MILLION BAHT, CHEAP HOUSE**



2-bedroom house in Baan Maneekram, fully furnished, cable TV, aircons, ADSL/phone. Has existing tenant on long-term rental. Tel: 076-264692, 086-2812115. Email: natasha223@gmail.com

**NICE HOUSE LOTS**

1- and 1-rai Chanote lots near Mission Hills Golf Course and airport. Nice views, peaceful. 1.15 to 2.05 million baht. Full price. Tel: 086-9421930.

**LUXURY TOWNHOUSE, KATA**  
Fabulous 3-bedroom townhouse with a separate 1-bedroom apartment with private entry downstairs. Best sea view in Kata. Price: 16.5 million baht. Tel: 089-6498703.

**PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB**



Duplex renovation project directly on 15<sup>th</sup> fairway for sale. Reduced price. See www.fairway15.com for full details. Tel: 081-8941994.

**THE WHITE HOUSE VILLA**



for sale (27.5 million baht) or for rent. The White House Villa is one of the finest tropical pool villas in Patong. Best location for nightlife and touring Phuket. Located high on the hill above the Amari Coral Beach Resort at the south end of Patong. No agents! Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

**PATONG SEA VIEW**



Tall house in a residential neighborhood: Baan Suan Kamnan. Hillside location at the south end of Patong Bay. Next to the Bluepoint viewpoint and on the way to Tri Trang and Paradise beaches. Chanote title and foreign freehold house with pool. 4 bedrooms. Stunning views. 30 million baht. A super location and value for your money. House just renovated. Call Edwin. Tel: 086-7866350. Email: buurmanb@hotmail.com

**HOUSE IN KATHU**

2 stories, 3 bedrooms, car park, pond, 330sqm, ADSL, partly furnished, good location. 3 mins to Central. Price: 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-8954112.

**EUROPEAN VILLA: 6.9 MILLION BAHT**

Kathu, near Loch Palm Golf Course & British International School. Fully furnished. 3 bedrooms, Wi-Fi. Jacuzzi, garden. Tel: 089-8961265. Email: seeyaagain@gmail.com

**100 RAI OF SEAVIEW LAND**

in Kamala. Perfect for resort. 7.5 million baht per rai, has Chanote. Tel: 085-7839062.

**2 HOMES, 2 BLOCKS**

Chalong tropical views. 3, 4 bedrooms, pools. 5.5, 8.5 million baht. Tel: 086-2817605. For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-house-land.com

**FAMILY HOME, KATHU**

In managed estate, 3 bedrooms, fully furnished. Only 7.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

**NICE LAND, RAWAI**

Half a rai in peaceful residential area, hill view, concrete road. 3.8 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 087-2790001.

**EXCEPTIONAL BARGAIN**

House located in desirable and secure estate for sale at 6.9 million baht. 3 bedrooms (2 en-suite baths), 3 bathrooms, living room, study, kitchen/dining, storage/laundry room. Verandas up and downstairs, fitted furnishings, ADSL & True TV. Fenced garden approx 500sqm, use of estate clubhouse and swimming pool nearby. Tel: 084-8439579. Fax: 076-323-421. Email: somlerdee@yahoo.com

**KRABI LAND**

10 rai, 20 minutes from Ao Nang, Krabi. Chanote title. 600,000 baht per rai. Tel: 084-8502499.

**HILLSIDE LAND**

2.5 rai, hillside with road access in Thalung, nice plot, good view. Only 3 million baht. Contact Warapon. Tel: 084-1914618.

**BRAND-NEW SHOPHOUSE**

Cherng Talay, on main road to Heroines' Monument. Only 5.5 million baht. Tel: 085-7839062.

**BEACHFRONT, 5.9 MILLION BAHT**

Beautiful piece of land opposite Yacht Haven Marina. Ready to build on. Road access, water, electricity. 7 rai with more than 180m of beach frontage. Quick sale. Only 5.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-3430777.

**SHOPHOUSE**

for sale on the bypass road next to Hino and Chevrolet dealership. Tel: 081-3707-953. Email: jkgk24@hotmail.com

**KHAO LAK RIVERFRONT LAND**

2 rai about 5km from central Khao Lak. 1.3 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-2811945. Email: mike@ethailand.com

**CHALONG TOWNHOUSE**

3.5 million baht, 1 minute to Chalong Pier, 34sq wah, 2 stories, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, unfurnished, 3 telephone numbers. Nice, quiet & safe area. Contact Kay. Negotiable. Tel: 076-236590, 081-8955628. Fax: 076-236590. Email: kay.boon@hotmail.com

**TRADITIONAL THAI HOUSE**

Big garden, very quiet area. Tel: 083-1036578. Website: www.oriental-realestate.com

**SALE/RENT, KAMALA**

Single house near beach, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen. 4.2 million baht. Tel: 086-2773381.

**KOH YAO YAI**

2 rai, water, electricity. Chanote. Price: 500,000 baht per rai. Also, 3.2 rai sea view, 2 million baht. Tel: 081-892-8208.

**HOUSE IN KAMALA**

132sqm, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished. For sale at 2.2 million baht, or can pay 750,000 baht over 3 years. Tel: 081-5377137. Email: khunapp@hotmail.com

**LAND IN NAI HARN**

1/3 rai: 2.9 million baht. 1/2 rai: 3.74 million baht. Also house for rent/sale. 25,000 baht per month. Sale: 5.6 million baht. Tel: 081-3709661.

**WOODLAND HOUSE**

Largest lot: 1,320 sqm. Private corner villa, 5 bedrooms, 2 stories with open loft. 52 million baht. Infinity salt-water pool, large sala, guest house, 10 min walk to BIS, 28.5 million baht ono. Tel: 089-6527818. Email: kevindad@netvigator.com

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# Property Gazette

## Properties For Rent

### PATONG TOWER CONDO - A BEAUTY



Beautiful Patong Tower beach condo with stunning 2800 panoramic views of the sea, hills and town. Large outdoor patio and wraparound balcony. Comes completely renovated, with Internet and washing machine. Available now. Tel: 011-86-13816-344147. Email: txxzt@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at [www.patongtowerrental.com](http://www.patongtowerrental.com)

### NEW SHOP FOR RENT

154sqm, very good location, special for restaurant. Entrance to Laguna, Cherng Talay. Tel: 081-0915919.

### HOUSE FOR RENT, THALANG

3-bedroom, 2-bathroom house for rent immediately at Pa Khlok, Thalang, 800m from Heroines' Monument (located at Baan Suan Neramit 5, Moo 8). Fully furnished, ADSL, laundry, garden, kitchen fitted with Fagor oven. 23,000 baht/month or 21,000 baht/month for 1-year contract. Call 081-8512280 (English/Thai). Email: dennis.mo@hotmail.com

### NICE TOWNHOME

for rent, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished. Tel: 086-7426989. Email: jayhero@msn.com

### NEW RAWAI POOL DUPLEX



1, 2 or 3 bedrooms. 10,000 baht per month. 300m to the beach. ADSL. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

### SINGLE HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 60 sq wah. Fully furnished, in front of Meaju Garden Place Project. Aircon in big bedroom. For rent: 20,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-6912526.

### PATONG TOWNHOUSE

for rent. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, in great location with aircon. 35,000 baht a month. Tel: 076-512117. Email: denelson3395@yahoo.com

### GOLF COURSE VILLA

Beautiful home at Phuket Country Club with full furniture, pool, sala, gardens. Only 65,000 baht a month. Tel: 081-9241447.

### TOWNHOUSE RENTALS

3 bedrooms, fully furnished, near BIS school. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-9241447.

### SEAVIEW APARTMENTS

Patong, on the hill (80m high), 1, 2 and 3 bedrooms, fully furnished luxury apartments for rent. Terrace. Internet (ADSL), car park, lift, room service, laundry. Restaurant and pool. Tel: 076-296888. Email: contact@prince-edouard.com

### NICE AND COZY HOUSE FOR RENT



Furnished and excellent location, 5 mins from Rawai & Nai Harn beaches. 162sqm. 2 bedrooms with private bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. 3 aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage-collection service. Please contact K. Nui. Tel: 087-3830936.

### STUDIO APARTMENT KAMALA

Aircon, True TV, near beach, pool, kitchen, private car park. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-8500568.

### KAMALA BEACHFRONT VILLAS

Fully furnished to high standard. Western kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and dining areas. Large balcony overlooking pool and landscaped garden. Stunning sea views, only meters from the beach. Privately gated, parking and storage. True TV and ADSL. Includes daily cleaning and washing, pool and gardening service. Rent: 75,000 baht/month. Contact K. Suchada. Tel: 084-8436837. Email: suchada\_villas@hotmail.com Website: [www.phuket-island-homes.com](http://www.phuket-island-homes.com)

### B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, car park. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-6923163.

### 35,000 BAHT PER MONTH



Rawai pool villa. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, ADSL, near the beach. Tel: 086-9408914. Email: rawai1@yahoo.com

### THE WHITE HOUSE VILLA



for rent or sale (27.5 million baht). The White House Villa is one of the finest tropical pool villas in Patong. Best location for nightlife and touring Phuket. Located high on the hill above the Amari Coral Beach Resort at the south end of Patong. No agents. Email: png.phuket@gmail.com

### BUILDING ON BYPASS

5 units, 5 meters wide, for rent at 30,000 baht/month. Bypass road. Contact Khun Chen. Tel: 081-3269495.

### NANAI 2 PATONG TOWNHOUSE

37/3 Nanai 2, newly furnished, cable TV. Internet. 22,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-270-5374. Email: orcella@phuket.ksc.co.th

### BUDGET LEASE/SALE

Sale: 1-unit shophouse, 3 stories, with Chanote. Lease 3 yrs: 20-room guesthouse, bars, shops, storage 75sqm, disco space with stage 450sqm. Tel: 076-292782, 089-0035765. Fax: 076-292782. Email: delsonrobin@yahoo.com

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Best seaview unit, 2 bedrooms, furniture, True TV, pool. 48,000 baht/month. Tel: 087-0789707.

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New, 2 bedrooms, phone, cable TV, furnished. 15,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-8928208.

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New commercial building with residence, 4 bedrooms/3 bathrooms. The first floor is appropriate for a business. Tel: 081-3497656. Email: vfarisfaris@hotmail.com

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Phase I houses for long-term rent or sale. Very private with mountain view, 2 bedrooms, living room, bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished, Sat TV, ADSL, UBC.

Contact: 089-7243669 [www.baanpauana.com](http://www.baanpauana.com)

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for rent. 1.2km from Central Festival near Suan Luang public park. 140sq wah, 3 big bedrooms, 3 big bathrooms, 2 bathtubs, 1 maid's room, 6 aircons, European kitchen, garden. Call Mongkol. Tel: 084-0628040.

### HOUSE NEAR SUAN LUANG



1.5km from Central Festival near Suan Luang public park. 65 sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 bathtub, 5 aircons, European kitchen, garden. Call Mongkol. Tel: 084-0628040.

### RAWAI FLAT

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3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, air conditioning, 1 living room. Brand -new house opposite water works. 5 mins to Surin Beach. Tel: 081-8937031.

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2-bedroom, furnished home for rent. Phone line, True TV, aircon. Tel: 089-6521473.

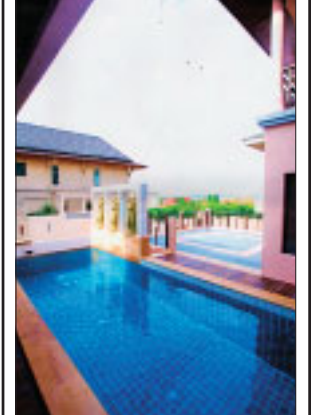
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Good area in Phuket City. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, hot water, 3 aircons, kitchen, phone line, 3 car parking spaces. 15,000 baht/month. One month deposit. Tel: 081-7973138.

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only 10 mins from British International School, amazing sea views, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, maid's room, big garden, swimming pool, security, quiet location. 80,000 baht/month. Tel: 086-2796283.

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# Boats & Marine

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## 17.5-METER DIVING BOAT



For sale or charter. Width 4.5m. Diesel engine, 320hp generator at 20kw. Capacity: 30 people. Great buy. Price: 490,000 baht. Tel: 081-9680571.

## 2004 RIVIERA 40 (47FT)



This proven sport fisher has been fitted to the highest specifications for comfort and safety, ensuring peace of mind for you and your passengers. Thailand registered so the options for this boat are unlimited here in Thailand. Contact Simpson Marine for full details. Tel: 076-239768.

## 2007 SEA RAY 195

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## MUSTANG 2800 SPORT CRUISER

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## MERCURY MARNIER 200 HP X 2

Mercury Marnier 200 HP 2-stroke outboards EFI. Price: 300,000 baht each obo. Tel: 087-1107620. Email: andrew.gar@hotmail.com

## SKI/WAKEBRD BOAT

19ft, fiberglass, 300 HP Mercruiser, tower tow, trailer + many extras, must sell quickly. 240,000 baht. Contact for more details. Tel: 086-2697138. Email: tye\_cotter@yahoo.com.au

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This is a proven blue-water cruising yacht from the well-known CCYD boat yard in Italy. She has just undergone a recent yard period. Her large accommodation volume and detailed woodwork make this a very attractive cruising yacht at a very attractive price of only 140,000 euro. For sale for the first time in 17 years. Contact Simpson Marine for full details. Tel: 076-239768.



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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 Paulsen  
Mobile: 081 881 3237  
tel/fax: 076 206 260  
email: yacht@leemarine.com

Pattaya Office  
Ocean Marina Jomtien Beach  
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Mobile: 0817679408  
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# Island Job Mart

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## SEA DOO JET BOAT

1997, 4.7 meters, model speedster, twin 2 cyl. Rotax 85 hp, newly rebuilt, never used engines. Seats 5, fast, clean, ready for action, mooring cover, canopy, galvanized trailer. Tel: 086-2786112.

## 33-FOOT WOODEN HULL

in perfect condition, 10 years old, 2 engines, Yamaha V6, 200hp, 250 hours, 900,000 baht. Contact Jano. Tel: 083-5905464.

## BUSINESS FOR SALE

52-foot charter yacht, successfully run by couple in Phuket for 10 years. Price: US\$95,000. Tel: 081-677-1641.

## FAMILY SAILING DINGHY

4.52m/15ft. Easy sail for husband-wife, parent-child combos. Outstanding stability and fiberglass hull. Designed to be sailed by a man and a woman. Can deliver exciting performance without using spinnaker or trapeze. Small class on island, so can race. Four hours free tuition with sale. 125,000 baht. Wind comes free. Tel: 081-539-9560. Email: oystcove@loxinfo.co.th

## CATAMARANS FOR SALE

10-meter sailing catamaran, no interior, ready to sail, 580,000 baht. 20-meter power catamaran, not finished, 1.4 million baht. Tel: 087-4618089.

## SPEEDBOAT BUSINESS

Thai-registered, 12.9-meter speedboat in excellent condition. Takes 22 pax + 3 crew. Twin Yamaha 200hp V6 engines and 7 different inflatables to make it all fun for your customers. Comes with life jackets and snorkeling equipment, a registered company, a Thai captain and one boat boy. Price: 1 million baht. Tel: 081-8914381. Email: patongshakers@hotmail.com

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## WANTED Hotel Manager

Savisalo Properties Co Ltd is opening a new high-class bungalow-resort in Khanom, Nakhon Sri Thammarat. Building will start on September 2008 and the resort will be open for customers in August 2009.

Employment will start in September-October 2008.

**Hotel Manager responsibilities:**

- Staff supervision
- Staff training
- Supply and Service Provider relationships
- Customer Service
- General Management tasks
- Continuous Business Development of the resort

**Requirements:**

- Fluent in written and spoken English and Thai (other languages ++)
- University/higher education degree in Hotel and Tourism field)
- Former experience in Hotel Management
- Good understanding of Western and Thai culture
- Good people skills
- Creativity and Initiative

Please post your application and resume (CV) via email to: [atte.savisalo@savcor.com](mailto:atte.savisalo@savcor.com) and [atte3000@hotmail.com](mailto:atte3000@hotmail.com)

**ASIA MARINE**  
Phuket-based yachting company looking for its Base Manager.

- Applicant should already live in Thailand and have similar experience in this field.
- Command of Thai and English language a definite plus.
- Must supervise boat's operations and serve customers.
- Job based in Yacht Haven Marina.

Please submit your resume with picture to Mr Olivier Payen.  
Email: [marine@asia-marine.net](mailto:marine@asia-marine.net)

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(Phuket branch)

We are currently seeking

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- Accommodation
- Salary upon experience (first 3 months 70% + accommodation) (after 3 months 100% + accommodation + commission)
- Working time - 9:30am to 5pm
- Phuket

**Phuket Spa**

We are currently seeking

**Administration Manager 1 position**

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Please send CV, recent photo and references to:  
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[kennyasumoto@gmail.com](mailto:kennyasumoto@gmail.com)  
Tel: 076-352013, 081-8937162 Fax: 076-352133

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RPM Health Club is seeking a young, energetic individual who would like to learn about health & fitness and become a world-class club instructor and trainer.

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**Easylink Phuket Company Limited**  
24-hour operation  
Looking to fill the following top positions

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**Qualifications:**

- \* Thai national, male or female, 30 years plus
- \* Good command of spoken and written English
- \* Computer literate, Microsoft Office, Word, Excel
- \* Managerial skills, staff control, team builder
- \* Pleasant personality, self motivated, enthusiastic
- \* Must be flexible with work schedule, energetic
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Email your application and resume in Microsoft Word with passport photo plus current and expected salary to The Managing Director.  
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for this dynamic expanding business. Thai national. Hours, salary negotiable. Contact K. Lilly. Tel: 084-8512176. Email: [info@ladypie.com](mailto:info@ladypie.com)

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- SOME YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN SPECIFIED FIELDS
- MUST BE ABLE TO WORK IN KRABI

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56 Moo 5, Tambol Koh Yao Noi,  
Amphur Koh Yao, Phang Nga 82160  
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**SPA THERAPISTS**, full time, starting not later than September 1.

**SPA THERAPISTS**, temporary, starting not later than September 1 and working until end of November.

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**SPA RECEPTIONISTS**, therapist's background, starting October/November.

We offer a great team and excellent benefits including a 5-day working week, service charge, good basic salary and high commission for therapists.

If you don't mind to work hard, have good English skills and want to be on top, please contact our Human Resources Department today.

Also looking for **TRAINING MODELS** (1 male and 1 female) to act as guest substitutes when we train our therapists from September to November.

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electrician. Simpson Marine Phuket (SEA) Ltd (Service Department) dealer requires a qualified tradesman to act as marine electrician and air-conditioning service technician. Applicant must be fluent in English and hold relevant trade qualifications. Salary and remuneration package based on experience and qualifications. Inquire in person with CV to Simpson Marine (SEA) Ltd, Boat Lagoon. Tel: 076-239-768. Email: [greg.dick@simpsonmarine.com](mailto:greg.dick@simpsonmarine.com) Please visit our website: [www.simpsonmarine.com](http://www.simpsonmarine.com)

### WAITERS WANTED

Waiters (20 positions) wanted for new Phileas Fogg restaurant in Kata. Good salary. Qualifications: English speaking, male or female 21 to 35 years of age. Please contact Mr Johnny at 087-2723228. Email [johnny.steendy@yahoo.no](mailto:johnny.steendy@yahoo.no) for interview.

### DRIVER WANTED

Eden Divers needs a Thai driver to make pick ups, wash equipment and help prepare diving tours. Contact Andy. Tel: 085-7654677.

### BAY VIEW, ARAYABURI RESORTS

Bay View, Arayaburi Resort and Arayaburi Residences on Phi Phi Island are seeking qualified, experienced candidates with a positive attitude for the following positions (based on Phi Phi Island): Resident Manager, Marketing Manager, Front Office Manager, Restaurant Manager, Reservation Supervisor, Construction Site Manager, Foreman. Tel: 076-304000, 083-5088782. Fax: 076-304007. Email: [thiti81@yahoo.com](mailto:thiti81@yahoo.com) Please see our website at [www.phiphibayview.com](http://www.phiphibayview.com)

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TLI are currently looking to hire the following English-speaking Thai staff for our expanding Phuket office: Horticulturist, Landscaping Supervisor, Sales Executive. Please provide full resume including qualifications, photo, references and expected salary. Tel: 076-620099. Fax 076-620098. Email: [ben@tropical-landscaping.com](mailto:ben@tropical-landscaping.com) For further details, please see Tropical Landscaping Internationals at [www.tropical-landscaping.com](http://www.tropical-landscaping.com) or [www.phuketlandscaping.com](http://www.phuketlandscaping.com)

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Looking for a job. Good computer skills. Speak and write 5 languages. Please contact for more info. Tel: 086-2741482.

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# Tout, Trader & Trumpet

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New real leather Valeo belt for sale. Good for weight lifting. I have S and L size. Made in Pakistan. Tel: 080-6985021. Email: phuketdolphin@hotmail.com

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### YAMAHA PIANO

Baby grand, black, 3 years old. Tel: 089-2121254.

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### SEWING MACHINE & OVERLOCK

- Bernina 1000 Designer sewing machine, Swiss made, 10 years old, excellent condition, 6,000 baht.

- Bernette Overlock 134DL, Swiss made, 8 years old, excellent condition, 5,000 baht. Tel: 076-285307, 087-265-8801. Email: ruckzuck98@hotmail.com

### SIERRA WIRELESS AIRCARD

4,000 baht, call after 2 pm. Comes with CD software. Not for Vista; XP is OK. Tel: 076-296351, 081-0862772. Email: thewizardofrockandroll@gmail.com

### 40-INCH PLASMA TV

6 months old. 22,000 baht. (60,000 baht new). Please contact for more details. Tel: 085-0300612.

### KINGSIZE MATTRESS AND ANTI-MITE

Kingsize Carnation mattress with Anti-Mite. Size: 6'6"x5'6" (1.83m x 1.98m x 15cm). Used only with cover and only for 3 months. For sale because it's too hard for me. Pick up in Rawai. Only 1,000 baht. Tel: 083-3902970. Email: bastelman1@hotmail.com

### SELLING ALL CONTENTS

of a nightclub/disco and furniture for 4 bedrooms. Sofas, tables, coolers, aircons, water pumps, sound and lighting equipment, visual effects systems from the best factory. Everything is new. Used only 6 months. Contact Paul. Tel: 084-6455971. Email: paul.phuket@gmail.com

### PANASONIC LCD

projector. Watch DVDs/football on 100-inch white wall with 2m screen. 35,000 baht. Call Ian. Tel: 086-2680042.

### AIR CONDITIONER

We have a 13,000 BTU Sapphire air conditioner for sale. About 3-4 years old, serviced annually. 10,000 baht. Come take it away. Tel: 076-330967, 081-8920474. Fax: 076-330990. Email: john@siamdivers.com

## Bulletins

### LIVE STAND-UP COMEDY

Punchline Comedy Club presents live international stand-up comedy at the Holiday Inn Resort in Patong on Tue 16th Sept 2008. Three top comedians booked by the London Comedy Store. See. Please contact via by email: info@phuketcomedy.com Website: www.phuketcomedy.com

### MONEY TO GIVE AWAY

up to 1 million baht for you if you sell my house. Tel: 081-8916412. Email: flamingoklaus@aol.de

### 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 Email: carol.fryer@pivc.info) or K. Sue (Tel: 087-2776948. Email: sue.arnulphy@pivc.info).

### ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Mission Hospital Phuket City Wed and Sun 7 pm  
Bangkok Hospital Phuket 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 or email info@aathailand.org phuketaa@yahoo.com

### WENDY AND TALITHA

We are back from South Africa and would like to get in contact with our friends in Phuket. I lost all email addresses, so please email us at wendytalitha@yahoo.com

### TO ALL FILIPINOS

I am here to help you. Call Emelda. Tel: 084-3050963.

## Business Opportunities

### PATONG SHOPHOUSE

Cheap cheap cheap cheap. Bangla area. 4 floors, 6x4 MTR. No agents. Tel: 081-0787743.

### GUESTHOUSE FOR LEASE

Beachfront guesthouse for sale & for lease. Shophouse for lease & for sale. Tel: 089-6503389.

### OPPORTUNITY TO OWN

your own massage and spa shop from 2.7 million baht. Complete turnkey operation, successful track record. Contact Simon. Tel: 084-3047700

### INTERNET/COFFEE/GAMES

Internet, coffee, computer games, bicycle rental. Sale includes registered Thai Ltd Co. Good location, steady income. Tel: 076-333280, 086-2771046. Fax: 076-333280. Email: jvfcoltd@aol.com

### LOOKING FOR AN INVESTMENT

in Phuket & Phang Nga. Seaview land/house. Tel: 081-5399269. Website: www.jan-property.com

### BARS, GUESTHOUSES

Bangla, Nanai. Many business opportunities at janpropertyphuket.com

### RESTAURANT

Well-established restaurant and bar. Live entertainment venue in premium Patong location. For sale at 14 million baht. Genuine buyers only. Tel: 083-1736521, 084-0782753.

### BOOKS FOR SALE

Many language books and about 5,000 used books with bookshelves. Quick sale: 350,000 baht. Please contact K. Pui. Tel: 084-1705552.

### GO-GO BAR, PATONG CENTER

for sale at 5.5 million baht. Tel: 081-0833231.

### SWIMWEAR BOUTIQUE

Highly profitable bikini & clothing store, open two years. Great location in Kata. For sale as fully operational. All stock and fittings, supplier details. Brand name, good reputation. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 089-0200128. Email: boutiquephuket@yahoo.com

## Agents for Classified Advertising

### PHUKET

**Julapan Stationery** Tel: 076-282254

Chao Fa East Rd (next to Siam Commercial Bank)

**Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** Tel: 076-282403

Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chao Fa East Rd

**K.L. Mart** Tel: 076-280400/3

Patak Rd, Chalong Fax: 076-280403

**Earth Language School** Tel: 076-232398/9

Phang Nga Rd, Phuket City Fax: 076-232398

**Sin & Lee** Tel: 076-258369

Thalang Rd, Phuket City Fax: 076-211230

**Taurus Travel** Tel: 076-344521/2

Aroonsom Plaza Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong Fax: 076-344523

**41 Minimart** Tel/Fax: 076-324312

Srisoonthorn Rd, Cherng Talay

**Deli Supermarket** Tel: 076-342275

Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd, Patong Fax: 076-344314

### Property Information Center [PIC]

2nd Fl, Central Festival (in front of Siam Commercial Bank)

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# Tout, Trader & Trupet

**GUESTHOUSE/BAR**  
available in excellent Patong location. Contact Kevin. Tel: 084-7300190.

**ELEGANT SHOPHOUSE**  
Bargain: 4-story shophouse with Chanote. There is a fully equipped restaurant on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors. Fully furnished apartment on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors. Value: 6.7 million baht. Now priced at only 5.5 million baht. Have to move out. Tel: 081-8915602.

**INVESTMENT + INCOME**  
In chicken farm project. 8 rai of land, 15-hour drive from Phuket. 100,000 baht guaranteed. Email for info and details. Tel: 087-2781784. Email: bourlis@hotmail.com

**PUBLICATION FOR SALE**  
Unique quality, fun to run. Start now to take high season profits. Company holds one foreign work permit. Price: 2.1 million baht. Tel: 085-5744414. Email: nim@c-publishing.com

**SKY STEAKHOUSE.NET**  
Well established steakhouse including accomodation and all equipment, 3-year lease, for rent. Price: 2.8 million baht. Tel: 087-2656089.

**5 PREMIUM HOTELS**  
for sale freehold. Outstanding locations in Patong. Prices starting from 150 million baht. Contact Simon. Tel: 084-3047700.

**NICE SHOP, KATA CENTER**  
Shop for rent near bar zone. 5m x 15m. Change hands: 250,000 baht/6,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-3826479.

**NANAI GUESTHOUSE**  
for sale. 28 rooms, over 300 sq wah. 67 million baht. Contact Tuang. Tel: 081-7970679.

**GAMEFISHING BUSINESS**  
Boat and company for sale. Ready to fish. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-1247528. Email: sailfish263@yahoo.com

**BAR IN BANGLA**  
Well-placed bar already making good profits. 2.9 million baht. Please call for more info. Tel: 084-7300190.

**SHOP/OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT**  
In front of Club Med hotel, 15m from hotel main gate on main road. 4m wide by 12m long. Rent for 25,000 baht per month. No key money. Tel: 081-4154883. Email: robin khap@gmail.com

**COFFEE LOUNGE**  
2-story shophouse set up as coffee lounge and ice cream parlor with Internet services. Rent: only 13,000 per month, including business premises & accommodation. All recently renovated. All house furniture & business inventory included in the price of 1.4 million baht - all you need is your suitcase. Currently has a 3-year renewable lease, no key money required. Tel: 076-342338, 084-6976840. Email: terryballphuket@gmail.com

**DOUBLE BAR**  
for sale. 3-year renewable lease, air conditioned, music system. Tel: 080-7179353 (Eng), 085-7917579 (Thai).

**BAR AVAILABLE FOR LEASE**  
Excellent location. Nanai Road. First 18 months' rent already paid 1.8 million baht will secure this business. Contact Simon. Tel: 084-3047700.

**GUESTHOUSE/BAR**  
Central Patong, long lease, great value for money. Long and short-term guests. Good returns. Quiet soi, short walk to beach. 3.9 million baht ono. Tel: 087-3836505. Email: property.thai@hotmail.com

**BOUTIQUE GUESTHOUSE**  
Center of Patong. Excellent price: 1.29 million baht. Tel: 086-1588752. www.theplacetostayphuket.com

**BIG SPACE SHOWROOM**  
Big showroom space for rent on main road to Patong. Across from go-kart track in Kathu. 15m x 21m (315sqm). Renewable lease. Key money: 1.5 million baht. Monthly rent: 15,000 baht. Lease: 4 years + 3 years. You won't find showroom space this big anywhere else in Phuket. Tel: 083-3888028.

**BAR AVAILABLE**  
Soi Sea Dragon, Bangla. Good location, owned for 7 years. 3 rooms, 1<sup>st</sup> floor has good customer base, renewable lease. 2.25 million baht. Please contact Jan. Tel: 076-323831.

**SHOP, KATA**  
good location, with or without stock. Low rent, bargain price. Thai contact: 089-5748884. English contact: 081-0804702.

**SWIMWEAR BOUTIQUE**  
Highly profitable bikini & clothing store, open two years. Great location in Kata. For sale as fully operational. All stock and fittings, supplier details. Brand name, good reputation. 2.5 million baht. Tel: 089-0200128. Email: boutiquephuket@yahoo.com

**CONSTRUCTION CO LTD FOR SALE**  
Due to ill health in the family, we must return to my home country and sell our construction company in Phuket. The company is fully set up (good inventory) and running with future projects to be completed. Previous price was 6.85 million baht. Please contact via by email: info@jntech.biz

**RESTAURANT IN KAMALA**  
  
The name of the restaurant is Nang Friendly Restuarant. Reason for sale: owner moving to Hua Hin. Selling price is 800,000 baht, but if you want to make a quick deal we can offer a discount for you. On the main road, easy to see on the left hand side if you come from Patong. Contact Rodjana and Thomas. Tel: 089-8847964.

**26-ROOM GUESTHOUSE**  
for lease near Jungcelon. Includes company and long lease. Immaculate decor. Just 3.7 million baht. Contact Simon. Tel: 084-3047700.

**BAR IN BANGLA**  
Well-placed bar already making good profits. 2.9 million baht. Tel: 084-7300190.

**Business Products & Services**

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An interesting website helps your business. Contact us for a quality website. Tel: 083-4499574. Email: extra\_sp@hotmail.com

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25,000.- + 5,000.-	One year visa for age 50 years or over - Thai bank book Change visa from TR, P.30 to Non-Immigrant O visa				
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Tel/Fax: 076-263475, 076-264476, Mobile: 081-8929960

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# Wheels & Motors

## Saloon Cars

**SUBARU 1800 GLF-5**  
Metallic blue, very good condition, recently spent 50,000 baht to recondition engine, battery, petrol pump, alternator. Service receipts available. Price: 80,000 baht. Tel: 080-7179353. Email: wblueboyo@aol.co.uk

**SLK MERCEDES 200**  
1997, green. Perfect condition. 98,000km, full insurance. Asking 1.5 million baht. Tel: 087-2849690. Email: fullmoonbeach@hotmail.com

**FOR SALE NISSAN SUNNY 1,800**  
VIP Neo, leather, gold, 40,000km, 1-year full insurance, 4 years old. 495,000 baht. Tel: 089-8540277. Email: djxav@loxinfo.co.th

**VW PASSAT 1996**  
New Toyota 2-liter engine just two months old, automatic, runs on LPG and gasoline, new aircon. Price: 250,000 baht ono. Contact Noo (Thai and English). Tel: 081-5378508.

**VOLVO 740GL: 120,000 BAHT**  
4-door saloon in really good condition. Toyota 1JZ engine with automatic gearbox. Tel: 084-6764261. Email: bigmeister2000@hotmail.com

**URGENT SALE, MIRA**  
Year: 1994. Price: 74,000 baht. Beautiful and in excellent condition, light gray, economical, new tires, CD player, aircon. Tel: 084-1841856.

**TOYOTA ALTIS 1.8**  
Silver, 2004, one owner, 72,000km. New 1st-class insurance. 640,000 baht. Tel: 087-0789707.

**HONDA CIVIC 2007**  
Bargain of the year. Black, 1.8cc, 14,000km. 745,000 baht for quick sale. Has more than 2 years' warranty and is 230,000 baht below original price. Tel: 087-1612928.

**HONDA CIVIC 2007**  
As new, only 6 months old. Low cost. New: 893,000 baht. Bargain at 800,000 baht. Has 2 years on warranty. Tel: 087-1612928.

**1956 CHEVROLET**  
2-door, V8, auto, power steering, power brakes, fully restored and modernized. 600,000 baht. Tel: 086-2778461.

**VOLVO FOR SALE**  
Volvo S80 Sedan. 2.9L gasoline engine, automatic transmission. Year: 2002. Mileage: 161,000km. Color: dark green, metallic. The car was imported by the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok and has recently been used by the Consulate General of Sweden in Phuket. The vehicle is in good condition and the engine was fully serviced in 2007. 700,000 baht or nearest offer. Tel: 076-380000. Email: h.hamrin@gkphuket.in.th

**DAIHATSU APPLAUSE**  
1994, 16-valve, blue book, very good condition. 75,000 baht. Tel: 089-5902539.

**TOYOTA COROLLA**  
Aircon, CD player, electric windows, central locking, new brakes. 85,000 baht. Tel: 084-3046723.

**MERCEDES-BENZ 2007**  
Vito Limousine. Set up for hotel use. Massage chairs, DVD and TV. 20,000km, 2.6 million baht. Tel: 085-7831890.

**2003 CHEVY ZAFIRA 2.2**  
Eight seats, leather, black, new tires, TV and stereo, good condition. 520,000 baht. Tel: 081-5402561. Email: kokonate@hotmail.com

**TOYOTA CAMRY 2003**  
Black, 94,000km, 2.4-liter engine, 800,000 baht. Tel: 089-8733952. Email: bigmanfox@pacific.net.sg

**1996 AUDI A4 AUTO**  
  
1.8L, 190,000km, dual airbag, new aircon, transmission, brakes, radiator. Only 190,000 baht. Tel: 081-4760380.

**NISSAN FOR SALE**  
Station wagon, 1999, green, new wheels. Insured until August. Tel: 081-7281887.

**MITSUBISHI LANCER**  
Champ 3, 1992, top model, digital odometer, no rust, new tires, disc brakes, silver. Urgent sale at 79,000 baht. Tel: 083-2525509.

**OPEL CORSA FOR SALE**  
Beautiful, in excellent condition. Blue, fully insured. 180,000 baht or nearest offer. Tel: 087-2781583.

**CHEVROLET OPTRA LT SS**  
2006 model. Metallic black, 32,000km, one-year warranty. Just serviced, excellent condition. 450,000 baht. Tel: 076-528016, 089-2262612. Email: jim@jimmarsh.net

**CLASSIC BMW 2002**  
1974 black. All original. Driven daily. New tires. CD player. Taxed. 150,000 baht. Tel: 086-9488139.

**MAZDA 323**  
5-door, cheap, 49,000 baht. Good condition, aircon, stereo and lots of new parts. Contact Sunny. Tel: 083-2525509, 084-1841856.

**FORD LASER TIERRA SV**  
Great condition, service history. Black. 4 years old. Call for details. Tel: 089-2167220.

**CHEVROLET ZAFIRA**  
  
2.2 Sport. Only 40,000km. All checks done regularly. Non-smoking driver and passengers. Bought for 1.4 million baht. Selling for 780,000 baht (negotiable). Tel: 081-7975764. Email: dennis.mo@hotmail.com

**NISSAN SENTRA**  
1995 model, 1,600cc, good condition. 120,000 baht. Tel: 081-5775719. Email: perigor2000@yahoo.com

**CHEVROLET COLORADO**  
Automatic 2006 top model. First-class condition. 375,000 baht. Tel: 084-4413633.

**2000/01 NISSAN NV WINGROAD**  
2 owners, like new, 47,500km, service history, alloys. MP3, new tires, battery, brake pads. 240,000 baht. Tel: 076-239432, 086-2708727. Email: crob58@gmail.com

**2008 ISUZU DMAX**  
Like new, 18,000km. 2-door, silver. 180,000 baht and take over payments. Tel: 087-2095174.

**AMAZING MAZDA PICKUP**  
25D Fighter, superior cab seats 5, low mileage, low running cost, in great condition. Tel: 085-6927961. Email: office67@gmail.com

**ISUZU D-MAX 4-DOOR 2004**  
2.5 manual, 96,000km, CD/DVD player, radio, TV screen. 475,000 baht ono. Good deal. Tel: 081-3873809.

**2007 CHEVROLET COLORADO**  
4-door, common rail, 3,000cc, tax, insured. 395,000 baht. Tel: 084-4413633.

**TOYOTA PICKUP FOR SALE**  
Black, 4 doors, in perfect condition, 13,000km. August 2007. 690,000 baht. Tel: 087-8860448.

**1988 MITSUBISHI**  
Aircon, stereo, 5 speed. Asking: 75,000 baht. Please call for more details. Tel: 081-3709661.

**TRUCK FOR SALE**  
Toyota Tiger D4D 2004, manual, great condition. Asking price: 290,000 baht ono. Tel: 084-6268105.

**2003 TOYOTA TIGER**  
  
54,000km, manual, 6" suspension lift, aluminum wheels, 7-speaker stereo, well maintained. Asking 415,000 baht. Tel: 081-8941994. Email: tomkat@phuket.ksc.co.th

**PICKUP FOR SALE**  
Ford Ranger 2.5 turbo, four-door with gull door at rear. Tax and insurance. Only 50,000km. Lightly used. 360,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 081-5399560.

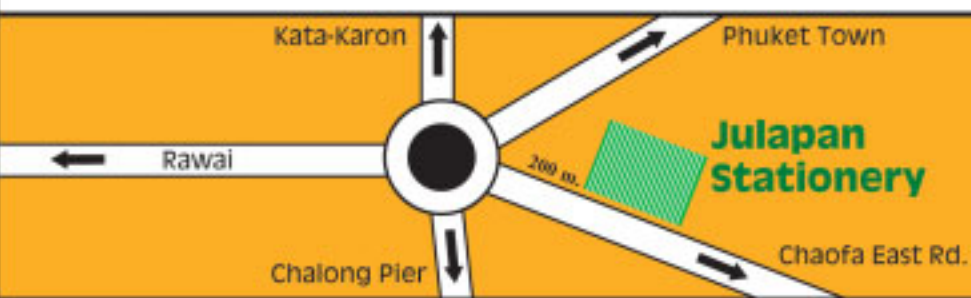
**2000 RANGER XL PICKUP**  
Maintained, CD player, aircon, runs and looks great. 219,000 baht. Call 086-2699145 for more information.

**1994 CAR FOR SALE**  
Mitsubishi 4-door. Aircon, CD stereo. Nice car. Asking price: 100,000 baht. Please call for further details. Tel: 081-3709661.

**CHEVROLET PICKUP**  
2007. New model, 13,000km. Looks and drives as new. 399,000 baht. Contact for details. Tel: 084-4413633.

**2005 MITSUBISHI STRADA**  
4 doors, aircon. 30,000km. Manual, insured, service book. 285,000 baht ono. Contact for more details. Tel: 086-272-7636. Email: rewopnadia@hotmail.com

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# Wheels & Motors

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**2005 VIGO 4 DR 4X4**  
Like new, 61,000 km. Silver, auto, quiet. Gas 2.7 liter. 625,000 baht. Tel: 087-2095174.

**LANDROVER SWB STATION WAGON**  
Ready to "RAID". 2.5 diesel turbo. 250,000 baht. Tel: 086-6826882. Email: amnuay\_r@yahoo.com

**2006 MAZDA BT-50 4X4 TDI**  
In excellent condition. Only 18,000km. 5-speed, all options. 525,000 baht or trade for 4-door automatic car of similar value. Tel: 081-5350202. aadams007@yahoo.com

**TOYOTA TIGER 4WD**  
December 98, owner's manual, silver, 73,000km. Very good condition. 280,000 baht. Tel: 081-0855765. Email: beat19@loxinfo.co.th

**TOYOTA FORTUNER 2006**  
43,000km, metallic gray, fully serviced, 3.0 diesel. One owner, excellent condition. Price: 800,000 baht ono. Tel: 089-5902014. Email: shaunboulter@triballisticclub.com

**MAZDA TRIBUTE**  
Only 3 years old, 45,000km, fully serviced, gold, 700,000 baht. Tel: 086-2772691.

**MITSUBISHI TRITON**  
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**YAMAHA MIO AUTO 17,500 BAHT**  
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**BMW MOTORBIKE FOR SALE**  
650cc, good condition, Price: 190,000 baht. Tel: 085-7845712.

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