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# Phuket Gazette

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## DOOMSDAY SPECIAL



Governor Tri Augkaradacha has promised to resign if the premonition comes true.

### 'Phuket will sink' D-Day arrives for rumors

SINCE the massive earthquake struck off Sumatra on April 11, prompting a tsunami warning, and the 4.3 Richter quake on April 16 and the ensuing aftershocks, Phuket has been engulfed by rumors that the island will sink into the sea today, April 28, 2012.

Governor Tri has dismissed the rumors, and ordered a police investigation into who started them (see page 3), and the key people at the center of the rumors have denounced the claims as outright bogus (see pages 4-5).

Meanwhile, the rumors have scared Thai tourists from visiting Phuket (see page 9), and airlines have voiced their confidence in Phuket Airport evacuation procedures (see page 10).

While enjoying such engrossing reading, the *Gazette* wishes one and all a happy, safe weekend.

# Saving Mt Mayhem

## Officials race to repair Patong Hill road as heavy rains arrive

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE Highways Department hopes to begin shoring up one landslide-prone section of the road over Patong Hill in June, but work on another section of the same road will have to wait until at least next year.

Sathaporn Sornchana, deputy director of the Highways Department office in Phuket, told the *Gazette* on Tuesday that the plan to reinforce a section of Phra Barami Road, on the Patong side of the hill, is still awaiting final approval from the Highways Department in Bangkok.

"We are following this project closely. We hope to gain final approval and begin work as soon as possible in this fiscal year," he said.

Once approved, his office would have one month to find a contractor to undertake the work, which would be scheduled for completion within 150 days, Mr Sathaporn said.

Under such a time frame, the work would take place during the rainiest months of the year in Phuket and be completed at or around the beginning of the next high season for tourism.

The project site would be a stretch of road on Phra Barami Road eastbound, the breakdown



Patong Hill Road torn asunder in October last year. Photo: Ulf Mikaelsson

lane of which dramatically slid away during heavy rains last October. It was subsequently patched with a temporary cover, but fears of another landslip in the area are a major concern, even more so after the recent seismic activity in the area.

Funding for repairs will be covered under the government's budget for emergency repairs for flood damage, although the real

cause of the slide was hillside development in the area along Soi Kuan Yang that exposed the base of the road to erosion. Rubber plantation and zinc-roofed homes in a temporary workers camp still occupy downslope areas.

The site is well known to Phuket commuters as it runs along the stretch of road about 100 meters west of the San Chao Phor Suea (Tiger God Chinese

Shrine) at the top of the hill, where local commuters typically sound their horn to pay respects to the local spirits that are believed by some to dwell there.

The project would cover a 200-meter stretch of road, extending 60 meters downslope. Workers will bore steel galvanized "soilnails" and install PVC drainpipes into the ground beneath the road to prevent further erosion. When completed, the exterior surface would be covered with "shotcrete" (sprayed concrete), with exposed areas further downslope at lower gradients covered with anchored erosion control mesh.

During construction, the 200 meters of road will be closed to traffic for about five months, Mr Sathaporn said.

His office is also waiting for an additional 5 million baht in funding approval to conduct "permanent" repairs to a section of Phra Barami Road further to the west where a large sinkhole opened up in the middle of a lane in August, 2009, he added.

On the Kathu side of Phra Barami Road, where a landslide toppled power poles and caused a 100-meter section of road near the Patong City sign to slump in Oc-

*Continued on page 3*

## Failed tsunami warning towers spark full test

By Orawin Narabal

AFTER two weeks of waiting for official requests to inspect tsunami warning towers that failed to sound the alarm on April 11, Chutichart Boonchuwit will bypass the bureaucratic hurdle and go ahead and have the towers tested.

Mr Chutichart, who is the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Ministry representative tasked with ensuring that the tsunami warning towers in Phuket are operational, told the *Gazette* on Tuesday that he was notified on April 18

that six warning towers failed to sound the alarm.

"The Phuket office of Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM-Phuket) informed me that tsunami warning towers at Kata Noi, Chalong, Nai Harn, Kamala, Patong and Ao Yon all failed to sound the alarm, or failed to function properly," he said.

"On April 19, I inspected the towers at Patong and at Ao Yon. The tower at Patong worked well, but the tower at Ao Yon did not sound the alarm very loudly. I think it is because the tower is on a hill and might

be too high for people to hear clearly," he added.

As for the warning towers at the remaining locales – Kata Noi, Nai Harn, Chalong and Kamala – Mr Chutichart said he will no longer wait for confirmation from the local DDPM officers for those areas that the towers need to be tested.

"I will go ahead and make plans for them to be checked anyway. Actually, right now I am not sure exactly how many towers are working or not, so I will have all 19 tsunami warning towers in Phuket checked to make sure they are working," he said.



DEADLY SERIOUS: Mr Chutichart has asked for all 19 tsunami warning towers in Phuket be tested. Photo: Sampawat Wannasangkam

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## This Week



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Monday



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# Soi Bangla go-go bars void of lewd behavior

OFFICERS from the Anti-Human Trafficking Division (AHTD) of the Royal Thai Police and Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC) on April 20 inspected go-go bars in Soi Sea Dragon, off Soi Bangla in Patong, but failed to uncover any evidence of lewd behavior.

Twelve officers from the AHTD Region 5 and ISOC, commanded by AHTD Region 5 Deputy Inspector Pol Lt Anan Nitirangsarn, raided seven go-go bars, including Exotica and the Candy Club a-Go-Go at about 10pm.

The raid was to target clubs showing "nude shows" and lewd acts such as "ping-pong shows" and to arrest any club operators allowing such activity.

Before the raid commenced, officers asked media in attendance to wait at a restaurant on Phra Baramee Road, so that the targeted venues remained unaware of the impending operation.

Once the raids started it was about half an hour before officers allowed the media onto the scene at Soi Sea Dragon.



The raid found nothing illegal in Phuket go-go bars. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

At the scene police were observed questioning employees outside the bars. Inside, officers found only dancing girls on stage, dressed respectably in bikinis.

It was evident to the media that the shows were all completely hidden from outside view within the various establishments.

- Atchaa Khamlo

# Seized: B21mn of illegal diesel

CUSTOMS officials seized 47,000 liters of smuggled diesel hidden on board two Taiwanese boats off the east coast of Phuket last Sunday.

Officials estimated the total value of the smuggled diesel seized at 21 million baht.

The two boats, *Ching ChunFa 168* and *Chi Tsai 16*, were seized one to two nautical miles north of Taphao Yai Island, on April 22, said Rakop Srisupa-at, director of the Royal Thai Customs Investigations and Suppression Bureau, who was in Phuket to announce the haul.

He explained that the raid on Sunday followed his office receiving a tip-off that fishing boats near Phuket were selling smuggled diesel.

"There are about 100 legally registered tuna long-line fishing boats operating in Thai territorial



Rakop Srisupa-at symbolically pours some of the smuggled diesel. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

waters off the Andaman coast.

"We learned that several boats in the area had been modified to smuggle diesel. It was very difficult to spot these two boats in

particular, since they look like regular fishing boats with all the necessary fishing equipment," he said.

Arrested in the raid were the *Ching ChunFa 168* captain Wang Yap Yu and his three Indonesian crew members, as well as the *Chi Tsai 16* captain Huang Chiang-Hsieh and his three Taiwanese crew and four Indonesian crewmen.

"Phuket Customs officials have taken them into custody and they will be prosecuted," Mr Rakop said.

The raid was part of an ongoing anti-smuggling crackdown ordered by Thai Customs Director General Somchai Pulsawas, Mr Rakop explained.

However, the number of smugglers selling illegally imported diesel is on the decline, he added.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

## New Phuket Bus Terminal opens

THE Phuket Bus Terminal 2 finally went into operation on April 21, more than 28 months after completion of the structure.

"I think the first day has gone well so far," said Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) chief Teerayut Prasertpol.

Mr Teerayut estimated that about 70 per cent of the public is already aware that almost all inter-provincial buses will operate out of the new station, which is located on Thepkrasattri Road southbound in Rassada.

PLTO officers were posted at the station to monitor operations and give information for first-time users.

Passengers unaware of the change who arrived at the old

Phuket Bus Terminal 1 on Phang Nga Road in Phuket Town were instructed to take the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization "Pink Bus" or *pho thong*, which connects the two stations at a fare of 10 baht.

"The first outbound bus for Trang left at 5am. The first inbound coach arrived from Bangkok early this morning," Mr Teerayut said.

He added that measures were in place to get arriving passengers to their final destinations by a variety of public transport options, all at fixed prices.

"All prices are clearly displayed on large board, so passengers will know they are not being ripped off and overcharged," he said.



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## 'Atlantis of the East'? Not on Gov Tri's watch



Wiroj Suwanwong filed the complaint on the behalf of Gov Tri at Phuket City Police Station.

IN THE face of widespread rumors of Phuket becoming the "Atlantis of the East", Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha has jokingly declared that he would be happy to resign his position if the island sinks into the Andaman Sea.

"Rumors are rumors," Gov Tri said. "I don't think Phuket will sink. In fact, I'll stake my position as a guarantee. If it happens, I will be happy to resign as governor."

On a more serious note, Gov Tri's office has filed a police complaint against any individuals found to have created doomsday warning leaflets or posting internet claims that Phuket will be destroyed by a natural disaster on April 28.

The complaint was filed at Phuket City Police Station by Wiroj Suwanwong, chief of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation office in Phuket Town.

Any person convicted of spreading rumors or disinformation that cause people to panic is in violation of Article 384 of the Criminal Code and can face up to one month in prison, a 1,000 baht fine, or both.

Gov Tri said he was concerned that the doomsday prediction had damaged Phuket's reputation.

"These rumors have caused panic among the people who live in Phuket and it is bad for Phuket's image," he added.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Home alone: Boy, 12, escapes as blaze engulfs slum

A 12-year-old boy escaped from his house on Tuesday morning, as fire broke out in the poor Soi Kingkaew community in Rassada, destroying two homes.

Suriya Inkaew was home alone while his mother, Gaysorn Yungyeun, was out collecting recyclables from trash to make a living.

"I woke up to a strange sound, and when I opened my eyes I saw the house was on fire, so I ran out as fast as I could and shouted for help," said Suriya.

Soon after he ran out of the house, flames consumed the building and spread to the house next door.

Officers at Rassada Municipality, notified of the fire at 7:55am, quickly responded,

arriving in numbers with firemen, who took 20 minutes to extinguish the blaze.

However, ashes and rubble were all that remained of Suriya and Ms Gaysorn's home.

Plueng Srisattabun, the 77-year-old owner of the house next door that was also destroyed by the fire, said he was not home when the fire broke out.

"I went to temple early this morning, so there was no one at my home when the fire started," he said.

Mr Plueng said he suspected an electrical short started the fire.

However, police and fire investigators have yet to determine what started the blaze.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong



Ashes and rubble were all that remained of the homes after the blaze. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

# Snake show arson attack leaves guard comatose

By Atchaa Khamlo

A SECURITY guard at Phuket Healthy Nutriment and snake show in Chalong remains unconscious in hospital after being knocked out by attackers and his workplace being set afire early Monday morning.

Anuchit Chaithongngarm, 25, was in a coma at Vachira Hospital Phuket after being hit on the back of the head with a heavy object, said Kongpol Phanuek, chief engineer at Phuket Healthy Nutriment on Tuesday.

"The doctor said he has a blood clot in the brain," explained Mr Kongpol.

Mr Anuchit was knocked unconscious at about 1:30am, but woke up at about 4am and managed to use a pair of scissors to cut the tape that bound his hands and legs. He then called the police, Mr Kongpol said.

Due to the dark windows, it wasn't known that the Phuket Healthy Nutriment shop on the usually quiet Soi Ta-ia in Chalong was set fire to until staff arrived to open the building at 8:30am.



The arsonist poured fuel down the hallway and set the shop aflame. Photos: Phuket Healthy Nutriment CCTV

"Even though our property wasn't seriously damaged, the shop will have to close for a week, which will cost us about 10 million baht," Mr Kongpol said.

The costs include expected income, damages, salaries and so on, explained Mr Kongpol.

The incident was investigated on Monday afternoon by Chalong

Police, Tourist Police and officers from Region 8 police headquarters in Surat Thani.

"They suspect that the arson was motivated by business conflicts," Mr Kongpol said.

However, the company has been in operation for 20 years and did not have any problems with other companies, Mr Kongpol explained

Since the attack, four more CCTV cameras were added to the eight already in use. Mr Kongpol also said that there will now be two guards on duty.

Though the security guard company Mr Anuchit works for will pay for his treatment, Phuket Healthy Nutriment gave some money to his family, Kongpol added.

## Patong Hill Road makeover

From page 1

October last year, there seems to be little hope that landslide prevention work will begin in fiscal 2012.

Mr Sathaporn said responsibility for this section of the road was consigned to his office from Kathu Municipality only on April 2.

No project plan for landslide prevention work has yet been drawn up by either Kathu Municipality or the Highways Department and the period to apply for funding under the emergency flood repair budget for fiscal 2012 has already closed.

Looking to the future, many officials see the long-term solution as tunneling through Patong to create a new four-lane road. An in-depth study was conducted by Patong Municipality and Cabinet

recently assigned the project to Transport Ministry's Expressway Authority of Thailand (EXAT).

Several groups of foreign investors have shown interest in the project, which EXAT Governor Ayyanat said would take about six years and six billion baht to complete.

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# Pampered pup feeds on woman's breasts

A WOMAN in Lampang province hit the headlines after it emerged she was breastfeeding her pet poodle.

Amphawan Bunyarak, 42, told reporters she had breastfed her two-year-old dog "Makrood", whose name means "Kaffir Lime", every day since he was born.

The animal-crazy woman's house in Sala subdistrict is full of creatures, including chickens, geese, cats, dogs and birds.

She said she loved each and



every pet as if it were her own child. When one of her animals dies, she gives it a full Buddhist funeral ceremony.

But Makrood is her favorite. Every night before he sleeps, the

dog starts barking and howling.

If Ms Amphawan refuses to breastfeed him, the dog continues to carry on – and eventually she gives in.

Ms Amphawan said that she knows her breasts make Makrood happy because he wags his tail while suckling on them. The pampered poodle then falls asleep in her lap.

A demonstration of the feeding was shown on several Thai television channels.

# Indecent proposal turns deadly

A MAN in Khon Kaen was kicked to death by his best friend after making an indecent proposal regarding his wife.

On the evening of March 27, Suraphon Rattalat, 53, went to the home of 39-year-old Sathit Phonsee in Nongko subdistrict. The pair, good friends for seven years, had planned a drinking session.

After becoming quite drunk, Mr Suraphon leaned over and asked Mr Sathit if he could have sex with his 51-year-old wife, Chamnong Siribat, who was also present.

Less than impressed with the proposal, Mr Sathit flew into a rage and started punching and kicking his old friend, then stomped on his head.

When the police arrived, they found Mr Sathit waiting to hand himself in beside Mr Suraphon's body. Mrs Chamnong was standing nearby, sobbing.

Rescue workers rushed Mr Suraphon to Kranuan Hospital. His injuries were so severe that he was transferred to the better equipped Khon Kaen Hospital, where he later died.

Mr Sathit confessed to an initial charge of assault.

# Rumors

**RUMORS that the Pearl of the Andaman will be destroyed in a cataclysmic natural disaster on April 28 have spread like wildfire, and local officials have responded in classic Phuket style: by planning a number of events and parties on that date.**  
**The Gazette's Chutharat Plerin and Kritsada Mueanhawong report on how it all got this crazy.**

FOLLOWING widespread reports of Phuket's imminent demise, the mother of Thailand's most famous transgender celebrity held a press conference last Wednesday (April 18) to deny that she was possessed by spirits so that she can warn people that Phuket was destined to sink into the sea on April 28.

Such rumors have been most widespread in Srisoonthorn subdistrict, beneath which a 4.3 Richter earthquake struck on the afternoon of April 16. The initial jolt was followed by a series of low-intensity tremors that stirred a sense of apprehension among many residents of the area.

The source of the rumor appears to have been a posting on Facebook under the name "Chany Jane", whose true identity remains unknown.

The information was quick to jump from the internet to a considerably less high-tech media: printed leaflets that were widely distributed in coffee shops and other local businesses in the Srisoonthorn area, which geologists have pinpointed as the center of the tremors.



**Srisoonthorn Mayor Worawut Songyot urged people to heed only information that is released through official channels.**

### JANE'S WORLD

ACCORDING to initial postings by Chany Jane, the spirits of Phuket's two famous Heroines Thao Thepkrasattri (Jan) and Thao Srisoonthorn (Mook) channeled spirit mediums to implore the public to vacate Phuket before April 28, at which time the island would be destroyed by some form of natural disaster.

According to Ms Jane's Facebook posting, Mrs Suwaphat Petcharat was one of two middle-aged women who began "acting strangely" at a well-known private hospital in Phuket on April 16, the

same day that the first and largest of the recent quakes to hit Phuket struck.

Mrs Suwaphat was purportedly possessed by the spirit of either Mook or Jan, while the other unnamed woman was possessed by the spirit of the other. The cryptic warnings, which did not specify

which women was possessed by which spirit, referred to Mrs Suwaphat only as "the mother of Nong Poy".

Nong Poy is Treeda Petcharat, a famous transgender actress and model who is widely credited with having changed stereotypes about transgender people in Thailand.

Born male, the native of Phang Nga underwent gender re-assignment at age 17, then went on two years later to win the Miss International Queen pageant, the transgender equivalent of Miss Universe, says Wikipedia.

Now 25 years old, Nong Poy has since gone on to a successful show business career and is virtually a household name in Thailand.

Her mother, Mrs Suwaphat, who appeared at the press conference with her husband Akachat Promsri, rejected outright the information posted on Facebook by Chany Jane.

She was never possessed by spirits and wasn't even at the hospital referenced on the day of her alleged possession, she told reporters.

### CREATIVE WRITING

"THIS is total falsehood. Please do not be fooled by these rumors. On April 16, I was home in the morning, then I met a client at midday and went back home right after that," Mrs Suwaphat explained to reporters on April 18.

As this edition goes to print, officials across the island were scrambling to prepare special activities on April 28, including one at Phuket International Airport to welcome the first planeload of passengers from Bangkok on that day.  
 Another large event is also being planned in Baan Bangmakham, Srisoonthorn Village 2, near the center of the seismic activity.  
 Not to be outdone, many bars and nightlife venues were gearing up for a big weekend of partying. For the most up-to-date information, visit [PhuketGazette.net](http://PhuketGazette.net)

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# of seismic proportions

"In the afternoon, my husband and I joined some other friends and went out to have *somtam* [spicy papaya salad] together. It was one of my friend's birthday," she said.

"After I heard about the internet rumor, I called a friend of mine who works at that hospital. Nobody there had a clue about what had been posted," said Mrs Suwaphat.

"We received many calls from people asking about it. Even our relatives were affected by the rumor because people kept calling them to ask about it.

"I did not post anything online [that day] to stop the spread of the rumor because I was busy," she explained.

"I never imagined it would spread so quickly and cause so many people to panic," she said.

However, Mr Akachat said the family had no intention of trying to take legal action against the poster. "We have not considered filing a criminal complaint or anything like that. We do not know the poster. She is just a girl. She had no way of knowing what would ensue after posting those comments," he said.

Chany Jane is rumored to be a student at a local university with a talent for "creative" writing.

Mrs Suwaphat and her husband Akachat, Nong Poy's father, said they feared the public might think they were trying to draw attention to themselves.

"We never tell anyone we are Poy's parents. We have never sought fame in any way," Mr Akachat said.

"I would like to tell the poster that she does not have to apologize us. What she should do is to apologize to the people of Phuket



Suwaphat Petcharat (left) and her husband Akachat Promsri, parents of famed transgender celebrity Treechada 'Nong Poy' Petcharat, set the record straight at the Phuket Reporters Club on Wednesday, April 18.

people for what she has done," Mrs Suwaphat added.

### OFFICIAL RESPONSE

AFTER officers of Srisoonthorn Municipality heard about the rumor, they checked coffee houses and other small businesses in their jurisdiction and found the flyers disseminating the doomsday claims.

The officials paid a visit to the Bang Mad Coffee Shop in Village 8, where they found many local villagers engaged in animated discussions about the leaflets. Some were in a state of panic, others dismissed the rumors out of hand – some people did not know what to make of them.

One of the flyers appears to have been based on Chany Jane's

post. The other contained similar warnings, allegedly sourced to the bodhisattava Mae Guanyin, some time last year. The flyers did not specify how Guanyin, venerated for her compassion, relayed her warning to the world of the unenlightened.

"I have heard that there are many warning leaflets at grocery stores and coffee shops, so I decided to go visit local residents with my team. I found that many people were panicked by these warnings," said Srisoonthorn Mayor Worawut Songyot.

The mention of the highly-revered Phuket heroines and the fact that the subterranean rumblings had persisted were both factors ratcheting up tension among the locals, he said.

He tried to explain the situation

people who heard the rumors were not taken in by them, he added.

### WORLD GONE MAD

SOMSAK Kapapana, owner of the Bang Mad Coffee Shop and also assistant village headman of Srisoonthorn Village 8, told the *Gazette*, "A person came in and gave me the two leaflets, so I kept them at my shop. Many people came to read them. Some were terrified by the information; others refused to believe it.

"Many elderly women panicked after reading it, especially the references to Mook and Jan, the two heroines worshiped by many villagers," he said, adding that he didn't believe the rumors.

Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada also advised people to check the source of any news and to trust information released by the government.

"No matter what happen, we can guarantee that we will be there to inform you if something goes wrong," he said.



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## Revised tsunami warning protocol needed: Expert



Mr Lertsin: April 11 was total chaos.

LERTSIN Raksaskulwong, director of the Environmental Geology and Geohazard Bureau under the Department of Mineral Resources, on April 23 called for the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) to revise its procedure for issuing tsunami warnings.

At a meeting to review Phuket's tsunami-response procedures, Mr Lertsin said, "The events of April 11 were chaos. They asked people to evacuate tsunami-risk areas immediately after announcing the earthquake.

"With any earthquake more than 7.5 Richter, they need to clearly announce that the earthquake has happened before going to the next step of announcing a tsunami watch alert and [if necessary] an evacuation order," he added.

Mr Lertsin said that he was asked previously about the tsunami warning buoys. "The tsunami warning buoys are still working, but people failed to act on them," he said.

The geology expert dismissed rumors that an impending earthquake, predicted to strike on April 28, will "sink" Phuket.

"The base of the island is solid granite from hardened lava. It's truly strong. So it is impossible for an earthquake to sink Phuket," Mr Lertsin said.

— Atchaa Khamlo

# Adding Russian to the mix

## Russian language warning sought for Phuket tsunami sirens

By Orawin Narabal

PHUKET officials will ask the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) to add Russian language to the spoken messages played by its 19 warning towers along Phuket's coast.

Preedee Aengseng, Communications Officer at the Phuket office of Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM-Phuket), told the *Gazette* that the request will be made on May 16, when NDWC officers come to Phuket to conduct a training session for local DDPM officers and members of other emergency-response organizations.

"This would enable more tourists to understand the tsunami warning message, aiding any evacuation required and possibly saving lives in the event of a tsunami," Mr Preedee told the *Gazette*.

The request is the result of the confusion that reigned at Phuket beaches during the tsunami scare on April 11, when the warning towers along the Andaman seaboard sounded the alarm to evacuate.

In the aftermath of that evacuation, the *Gazette* received several reports of large groups of Russian tourists bewildered as many did not speak English, Thai or any of the three other languages the warning messages were played in.

Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office director Bangornrat Shinaprayoon voiced her support for adding Russian to the recorded message.

"Adding Russian would be good because it would help Russian tourists to understand what is going on when the alarm



"So, just what are we meant to be doing?" was a question on many people's mind following the tsunami warning alert. Photo Atchaa Khamlo

sounds," she told the *Gazette*.

Ms Bangornrat pointed out that Russia was currently Phuket's second-largest source for tourists visiting Phuket, second only to China.

"Last year we had 340,000 tourists from China visit Phuket, and 270,000 tourists from Russia," she said.

However the decision whether to add Russian rested with the NDWC, she added.

However, NDWC Deputy Director Thavorn Charoendee told the *Gazette* that he prefers not to add any more language segments to the existing message, which already takes 3 minutes and 26 seconds per cycle.

"It will be too long. I want the warning message in Thai and English only. If you miss hearing the message in your language the first

time, you have to wait minutes until the message is replayed in your language again," he said.

"If this happens, people will waste time standing around and listening, trying to understand what the message is saying, instead of evacuating the area," he told the *Gazette*.

"In fact, I am thinking about making the siren sound [that starts the warning] longer. Whatever language you speak, when you hear sirens you know something is wrong and that an evacuation might be necessary, especially if you see other people leaving," Mr Thavorn said.

The five languages chosen when the message was prepared in 2005 reflected the most common languages spoken by tourists visiting Phuket at the time, he said.

## More tremors worry locals

THE fourth and largest tremor on April 20 hit Phuket at 3:10pm; a 3.3 magnitude tremor clearly felt across the island with a large sonic boom clearly heard at the offices of the *Phuket Gazette*, about eight kilometers southeast of the epicenter, near the municipal market in Thalang.

Three other tremors were recorded by the Thai Meteorological Department (TMD) earthquake monitoring station that day, however they were all less powerful.

Srisoonthorn Municipality sent out a "confidence building" team early that morning to calm local villagers following the 3.2 Richter event at 2.43am.

Srisoonthorn Mayor Worawut Songyot said while the quakes scared many people, others were just carrying on with normal life.

"The aftershock scared many people, especially the elderly. However, the earthquake monitoring center will watch the situation closely. There is nothing to worry



Mayor Worawut (right) inspecting damage to a villager's house.

about," said Mayor Worawut.

"Regardless, I will visit villagers with my team to cheer them up and see if any damage occurred," he added.

Thalang District Chief Naruenart Supattarapateep, the previous day, called community leaders and village headmen from all subdistricts to a meeting at Thalang District Office to discuss how best help to villagers affected by the 4.3 Richter scale earthquake on April 16, which had its

"At that time most Russians visiting Thailand chose to visit Pattaya, not Phuket. That's why Russian is not one of the languages," he explained.

Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) President Somboon Jirayus told the *Gazette* that the PTA received many complaints that tourists were confused by the warning message.

"What we need is for the siren to be louder and clearer. This is much more important than which languages are used," he said.

"Also, there are two recorded messages: one announces the evacuation order and the other rescinds it," he said.

Currently, both messages are preceded by similar siren sounds.

"The sirens [used in the warning and the cancellation] need to be different to avoid any confusion. When tourists hear the first alarm, they move away. But when the second message is played to announce that the evacuation order has been called off, they think it is the first message being played again," he added.

The cancellation message lasts 2 minutes 44 seconds. As with the warning alarm, the cancellation message starts with a siren sound followed by spoken messages in Thai, English, German, Chinese and Japanese, all repeated once, and ending with a repeat of the siren.

The spoken message in English reads, "Attention, please! Attention please! The situation is back to normal. Please continue to rescue the victims".

Although the duration and tones used in the cancellation siren are different from those used in the tsunami warning, overall sounds are very similar.

epicenter at Baan Lipon and Bangkok Moo 2 Srisoonthorn, Thalang.

Chief Naruenart said the earthquake on April 16 was not just felt in all six Thalang subdistricts. It scared many people, but only caused minor damage, he said.

Thalang District Office is accepting applications from residents whose houses were damaged and want assistance from Phuket Province to help cover the cost of repairs.

"So far residents from 104 homes in the Srisoonthorn area and 10 in Pa Khlok have registered. We are now inspecting other areas of Thalang, including our own office, which has developed quite a few cracks," he said.

Chief Naruenart requested community leaders to inspect damages in their areas of responsibility and submit reports back to him for submission to the Phuket Governor.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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# 'House of Porn' shocks nation

## AROUND THE nation

THOSE who say politics is a dirty business may feel vindicated following events in Thailand's House of Representatives during a session earlier this month.

In the middle of a parliamentary debate, a pornographic image suddenly appeared on a large screen in the House of Representatives, causing reactions among MPs ranging from shock to amusement.

The brouhaha took place on April 18, while an MP was making a speech during a debate on constitutional amendments.

Suddenly, an image of a young woman, naked from the waist down and sitting in a provocative

pose, appeared on monitors.

The session was stopped after an MP complained about the lewd visual.

The incident was initially blamed on hackers.

However, it turned out that the embarrassing image had appeared as a result of a technical glitch. Technicians accidentally switched to the wrong screen, inadvertently displaying the pornographic picture to the assembled MPs.

But that wasn't the only porn in Parliament that day. Later during the same debate, a photographer snapped a photo of young MP Nat Bantadnan looking at another revealing image on his mobile phone. The photo taken of the naughty MP was promptly circulated on Facebook.

The politician, son of former Democrat Party leader Banyat, has since apologized for his conduct.

He claims a friend sent him the picture as a prank and that he was

Since Mr Chalerm had not been investigated... forcing the resignation of Mr Nat would constitute a double standard.

- MP Jeh-aming



MP Nat apologized after being caught viewing porn on his phone during a parliamentary debate. Photo: The Nation

trying to delete it.

The Pheu Thai Party has called for Mr Nat to resign.

Democrat Party leader Abhisit Vejjajiva said the party would not investigate the young MP, saying that the House committee on eth-

ics should do so.

Democrat Party MP Jeh-aming Tohtayong said there should also be an investigation into the conduct of Deputy Prime Minister Chalerm Yoobamrung, who has been accused of being drunk dur-

ing a parliamentary session in late February.

Since Mr Chalerm had not been investigated over that incident, forcing the resignation of Mr Nat would constitute a double standard, said Mr Jeh-aming.

# Meat dogs found alive

THAI police have rescued almost 900 dogs from the dinner table in the latest seizure of canines being smuggled abroad to be eaten.

On April 21, officers rescued 630 dogs from a warehouse in Mukdahan's Wan Yai District, later finding another 250 caged dogs in a wooded area of Muang District.

After receiving a tip-off that dogs' wails could be heard coming from the warehouse, located on the Mekong riverbank, police found 42 cages, each containing at least 15 dogs.

They suspected dog smugglers were keeping them there for transport over the river into Laos.

Police also received word that caged dogs had been abandoned in a wooded area in Ban Soon Mai.

Along with Mukdahan veterinarian Narong Rattanatraiwong, they went to investigate and found



Dog seized by police in previous raids in Thailand. Photo: Soi Dog Foundation

11 cages, each containing at least 10 dogs, scattered in the woods.

Police believe that after being alerted to the warehouse seizures, dog smugglers changed their traf-

ficking route, but ran into a dead-end and abandoned the cages.

Mukdahan officials, having no facilities to support the dogs, sent them to a center in Buri Ram.

# Democrat in the red zone

THE Democrat Party has won control of a parliamentary seat in the Central province of Pathum Thani for the first time in years in a by-election that saw voters desert the ruling Pheu Thai Party.

Democrat candidate Kiatisak Songsaeng defeated Pheu Thai's Somchai Rangsiwattanasak in Pathum Thani Constituency 5, Lam Luka District, on April 22.

Pheu Thai spokesman Prompong Nopparit said his party was beaten because only 30 per cent of eligible voters voted and public sentiment had turned against the government for its

handling of last year's floods.

The party also lost control of the local Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) to an independent candidate.

In a Facebook post, Korn Chatikavanij, the Democrat former treasury minister, thanked voters for supporting his party and said the results of the by-election should teach a valuable lesson to the Pheu Thai Party.

"This should serve as a signal for the Pheu Thai Party not to be obsessed with solving problems for Thaksin and ignore addressing the plight of the people," he said.

"On the contrary, Dr Kiatisak has been very diligent in helping people affected by floods even though he lost in the general election. If the Democrats want to beat Pheu Thai, they have to sacrifice as Kiatisak did.

"This victory of ours in a 'red' stronghold is remarkable," he said.

Democrat Party leader Abhisit Vejjajiva thanked voters for the victory, saying the party had not had an MP in Pathum Thani for a long time.

He cited the public being fed up with politics as the reason for the low voter turnout.

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# Where speculation meets superstition

THERE never seems to be a dull moment covering the news in Phuket, and the rumor-mongering that followed the recent seismic activity has been particularly captivating.

A basic review of facts: an 8.6-magnitude earthquake off the coast of Sumatra on April 11 prompted the National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC) to issue an evacuation of tsunami-risk areas. A total breakdown in mobile phone networks, coupled with a second quake and the glaring failure of the state-run media to convey timely information led to unnecessary confusion and fear.

Despite the chaos, there was only one casualty: a Dutch tourist who died of apparent blood loss in his hotel room after refusing to seek medical treatment for a head wound received in a motorbike accident.

On April 16, the first and strongest earthquake struck in Thalang with a magnitude of 4.3 on the Richter scale. Although no evacuation was ordered, this triggered a second "unofficial" evacuation in some areas that put many people at unnecessary risk once again. Still, no loss of life was reported and property damage was relatively minor, even near the epicenter.

The series of much smaller tremors that followed continued to keep people on edge. This set the perfect atmosphere for rumors of Phuket's imminent destruction to spread virally across the internet, eventually finding their way into print in the form of leaflets distributed in Thalang (see pages 4-5).

The *Phuket Gazette* understands the human propensity to fear the unknown and appreciates that the advent of seismic activity where it has long been dormant is bound create some apprehension.

The reality, however, is that no person can accurately predict where and when an earthquake will strike – a fact that any seismologist would be quick to confirm.

Doomsayers have been part of the lunatic fringe from time immemorial. In this case we suspect their numbers may have been supplemented by real estate speculators seeking to cash in on ignorance-based fear. With skyrocketing land prices on the island, and the superstitious nature of many of those who hold it, the recent tremors may have provided the perfect opportunity for speculators to spread disinformation in order to snatch up valuable real estate at "clearance" prices.

If this were indeed the real motivation, the *Gazette* finds it particularly repugnant the bodhisattva Guanyin, venerated by many Thai Buddhists as a source of compassion, was named by some of the pamphleteers as the source of the warning.

One final word of caution for those heading out to enjoy any of the "end of days" parties taking place this weekend: never forget that our roads are where the real danger lies.



## 'War zone' blasts in Kamala

Re: *Phuket Gazette* March 24 issue, *Issues & Answers* Sounds of *FantaSea*, March 24

The music or bells [at *FantaSea*] are not the problem.

The problem is the very loud and dangerous fireworks almost every day.

And the sounds are surely more than 85 decibels. Otherwise, how can they cause houses to shake and car alarms to go off?

This is unbelievable.

My children get scared and cry because of it. It sounds like there is a war in Kamala.

At this time, when people are scared about tremors and earthquakes, I think it is not necessary to use these loud and surely illegal fireworks.

Rainer Volz  
Kamala

### Letters to the Editor

Do you have an opinion to voice?  
Email [Editor@PhuketGazette.net](mailto:Editor@PhuketGazette.net)

Sumatra earthquake, which even damaged floor and wall tiles at my house. I felt many tremors over several hours.

The Atlantis story is a bit far away from reality though. Latest science reports show that Atlantis was built on a volcanic island in Greece and was destroyed when the volcano exploded and the whole island sunk into the ocean.

Andy  
Gazette forum

in a family, but I wouldn't mind learning myself – just can't figure out where to do it.

Tina Swift  
Patong

### Phuket gaydar test

Re: *Gazette online*, *Readers' poll*, April 19

Very interesting wording with the *Gazette* poll "Overall, how tolerant is Phuket society of LGBT lifestyles compared to other places you have lived in or visited?"

Asking for what you think others might think is a topic is a bit of cop out. However, in this politically-correct world anyone could be forgiven for a similar approach.

I suppose a few follow-on questions might have been quite revealing. Something like: will you be attending "Phuket Pride" week? Or the "biggie": how tolerant would you rate yourself? In an anonymous poll those answers could be very revealing about Phuket residents. But, perhaps it's best not to incite homophobia.

Marianne Aboyne  
Kamala

### Light doesn't shine on ping-pong shows

Re: *Gazette online*, *Phuket go-go bars in Soi Bangla pass the AHTD test*, April 23

I can't admit that I visit ping-pong shows, but let's be honest, it's amazing what a body can hide.

Because the shows are circus-type endeavors, it doesn't surprise me that there was a disappearance act when the police showed up.

However, I believe it's naive to think that these touts on Soi Bangla, selling ping-pong, swamp and fish shows is going to take you to a place without the slightest bit of nudity.

Greg Kilgor  
Gazette forum

### U-can't-turn there

Re: *Gazette online*, *Buses roll out of Phuket Bus Terminal 2*, April 24

A lot of traffic now uses the U-turn opposite the bus station, even though it clearly states "No U-turn", and the safe U-turn at the traffic lights is only 50 meters further on.

I witnessed a very near miss yesterday, and it's only a matter of time before something more serious happens.

Stuart  
Gazette forum

### Foldable fronds

I am completely taken aback at every major festival in Thailand by what can be made of banana leaves and palm fronds. The creativity and elegance of the *krathong* last year stunned me, but even for Songkran there were hats woven out of palm fronds, not to mention little two-dimensional animals and toys.

It's really an amazing feat. I'm sure that the knack for folding fronds is something passed down

### Glorified tractors, threat on the road

Re: *Gazette online*, *Phuket pickup crash: Thalang trembles*, April 22

The problem is that these glorified tractors (pickups) are being marketed as sports cars.

Every commercial featuring these high cog, ancient spring/suspension jobs, shows them doing power slides and uses words like "power" and "turbo".

[This is done] so the local hillbillies think they can outrun any other car, and that they have a sharp handling vehicle.

Christian  
Gazette forum

### Didn't Atlantis explode?

Re: *Gazette online*, *Phuket to be 'Atlantis of the East'? Not on Gov Tri's watch*, April 23

I am resident in Kamala and we faced several aftershocks from the

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# Earthquake aftershock shakes up Thai tourists

## FIRST PERSON

THE earthquake and aftershocks in Phuket were fairly small. Foreign tourists didn't seem to be worried about the situation. They still enjoyed their time here doing all the usual activities.

There were some hotel booking cancellations and early check-outs, but only a few. At the moment we don't really feel that there has been a negative impact in the foreign tourism market.

However, the earthquake seems to have affected Thai tourists and local residents.

The earthquake terrified many local residents, as well as Thai tourists, since this is something new for us. Phuket has never had an earthquake before that I'm aware of – and I was born here.

Officials need to disseminate information about earthquakes, and what to do when they occur, to both locals and tourists.

I want everyone to understand that the earthquake on Phuket was very small. Phuket is not located along the ring of fire or in a high-risk area like Sumatra or Japan.

It's important to understand that earthquakes happen all over the world, not just in Phuket. For instance, Greece, Turkey and Italy have been having earthquakes for many years, yet people there still live their lives normally.

I have heard that the rumors of Phuket sinking on April 28 have affected tourism a little bit, especially among Thai and other Asian



**Somboon Jirayus, 49**, is president of the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA), a position he has held for two terms, totaling four years. A Phuket native, he is also the owner of Merlin Group, which has four hotels located in Phuket and Phang Nga. Here, he examines the aftershocks being felt in the tourism industry following the recent earthquake and current rumors that Phuket will sink on April 28.

tourists. Those who had already booked rooms have cancelled their reservations and there are almost no new reservations from Thai or Asian tourists since the rumor began to spread.

Normally, right after Songkran is the peak period for Thai and Asian tourists to come to Phuket. However, right now there are 20 to 30 per cent less of them than last year because of the earthquake and the rumors that the island will sink.

This past weekend [April 20 to 22] Phuket held a very big event, Phuket Bike Week 2012. However, I learned that some tourist had cancelled their trip to Phuket. For example, a small hotel with 20 rooms was fully booked for Bike Week 2012, but because of the earthquake and the rumor 12 of the rooms were cancelled.

The rumors have scared some of our hotel employees. They resigned and went back to their hometowns. Most of them live in

different provinces and are still under the care and custody of their parents or guardians. Their parents are scared that something bad will happen to their children, so they asked them to come home, away from Phuket.

Many of the hotel employees who have been working in Phuket for a while and are independent or married, did not resign. They understand the situation and have just asked for a one-week holiday at the end of the month, so they can spend time with their families.

However, if the rumor gains more momentum there is a chance that even these people will start to resign.

I would like the government to come up with a good warning system in order to build tourists' confidence in the safety measures being taken. Once the tourists feel confident in our ability to keep them safe, they will start to return to Phuket.

# Phuket's golden rule



Phuket's special – cringe. Image: Fred the Oyster

A GOOD friend of mine, a fellow American who lives in Bangkok, came to visit me in Phuket over the Songkran holiday. Even though he had lived, studied and worked in Central Thailand for the better part of a decade, Phuket was new territory to him.

Due to associations with expensive, overcrowded mass tourism and the infamous reputation of the so-called tuk-tuk mafia, my friend had judged Phuket long before ever coming here.

My friend, who has long been ingrained and cultured to the "Bangkok way", was a prime candidate for culture shock – one that is specific to the island.

In this respect, most expats and Thais coming from Bangkok or elsewhere in Thailand are vulnerable to this malady. Phuket culture shock can be a miserable experience, and will quickly ruin a perfectly good holiday if you don't nip it in the butt early.

The most obvious symptom is when one insists on comparing Phuket with "normal Thailand". Examples include: "But in Pattaya they..."; "In Bangkok, you can..."; "In Chiang Mai, this would only cost...," and "This would never happen in..." *et cetera ad nauseum*.

Comparing and contrasting is not the problem; it is the impossible expectations and subsequent cringing forehead lines that arise from doing so. But it is possible to avoid this misery if you remember Phuket's golden rule: Phuket is Phuket. It is not Bangkok, Chiang Mai or Pattaya.

Phuket residents, operators and officers alike have their own way of doing things here, and considering the amount of money that the province generates for the country, we in Phuket feel entitled to being "special", to say the least.

Once you accept this reality and

## Island View

By Steven Layne

Do you have an opinion to voice? Email [Editor@PhuketGazette.net](mailto:Editor@PhuketGazette.net)

stop expecting Phuket to be like any other place – in Thailand or elsewhere – you'll quickly find a lot of your "culture shock" troubles disappear.

But of course my friend had to learn the hard way.

After his first day at Nai Harn Beach, he found himself in a sour mood after paying 500 baht for a ride back into town. After all, he argued, the same trip in Bangkok would only have cost... cringe.

On his second day, he only narrowly escaped by his reckoning being murdered by a Patong tuk-tuk driver after a dispute ... cringe again... if only he had remembered the golden rule.

I reminded my friend that – luckily for us Americans – more Koreans prefer Phuket over Bangkok.

The result is trans-Pacific flights back to the US via Seoul from Phuket can be up to 10,000 baht cheaper than flying out of Bangkok, Singapore or anywhere else in the region.

Indeed, Phuket is special.

## Issues & Answers... ..asking the questions that affect you...

### Darn that discotheque

I am a resident of Baan Rungravee, a housing development just off Airport Road.

At the corner of the entrance to our neighborhood and Airport Road are a few karaoke clubs. The problem is they are outdoors and play their music very loud late into the night.

I have even heard them as late as 3:30am. Is there some way the sound can be turned down after midnight?

light sleeper  
Sakoo

### Saek Phummarin, Chief of Sakoo Patrol Office replies:

Tah Chat Chai Police Station, in corporation with Phuket International Airport, sends officers to patrol around the airport area at 12:30am and 1:30am daily.

The police officers allow karaoke bars and restaurants in that area to stay open until 1am.

However, after midnight, those shops must turn down the volume of the music and stop

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

Submit your issue at

[www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers](http://www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers)

selling alcohol. Although our officers do carefully check the area, some places stay under our radar. We are sorry for any inconvenience.

Please contact us at 089 729-1045 and tell us the location and the names of the disruptive karaoke bars so we can investigate the matter.

### Night bar with a side of extra loud music

Where do I file a complaint about a karaoke bar along Baan Don Road, close to Cherng Talay

Police Station? The bar is open seven days a week with live music and terrible voices screaming every day until 2am in the morning.

Tonic  
Cherng Talay

### Sumet Kitvej, Chief of Public Health Department, Cherng Talay Municipality replies:

Since that area is so close to Cherng Talay Police Station, officers generally patrol it, so I don't believe it should be the cause of too much noise. However, if there is an issue please call or come into the Cherng Talay Municipality Public Health Department and give us the name of the karaoke bar and its location.

Once a complaint has been filed, we will send staff to investigate. If we find that the karaoke is causing too much noise, we will warn them and ask the owner to fix the problem.

If the noise continues, we will have to close the bar. You can call us at 084-8502459 or 076-324440.

# Hanging on the line

Who is responsible when telephone lines are hanging so low that cars get stuck and are ripping the lines down, as is happening in Soi Sermasuk, Rawai all the time?

We been without a telephone connection and internet for four days – bad for our business!

Horst Lakits  
Rawai

### CAT Telecom Customer Service in Phuket, Cable Operation Manager Peeraphan Wisuthwatcharakul replies:

We have not had a report of this problem – thank you for informing us.

I will have our team inspect the low cables in Soi Sermasuk, Rawai. If they are CAT cables we will have them fixed.

If not, we will contact either TOT, DTAC or AIS, because these companies have their own code written on the cables.

However, if it is a local TV cable



Cables along Dibuk Road, Phuket Town. Photo Chutharat Plerin

we cannot check it because this kind of cable does not have a code written on it.

If you have any problems related to CAT cable, please contact CAT Phuket at 076-216 861 ext 4214.

# HKT part of B4bn upgrade

By Atchaa Khamlo

AEROTHAI, the state enterprise that operates air traffic control at airports throughout Thailand, including Suvarnabhumi and Phuket International Airport (HKT), will spend 4 billion baht on upgrading its computer and communications network.

The upgrade to replace outdated equipment will be privately funded, said Aphinun Vannangkura, Aerothai Vice President for Air Traffic Management.

"The upgrade will introduce more computer systems into the process to help guard against any human error," he said.

The project involves establishing a central communications



**READY FOR TAKEOFF:** Aerothai's communications network upgrades will increase air traffic safety at Phuket Airport. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

center in Tungmahamek, Bangkok, which will relay data to and from Aerothai's major regional centers in Chiang Mai, Haad Yai, Phitsanulok, Hua Hin and Phuket.

"The most important aspect of the upgrade is training our officers to use the high-technology equipment. After the training,

which will be rolled out to different divisions over 15 months, we should be able to switch to the new system by about October 2014," Mr Aphinun said.

The comprehensive upgrade is expected to allow officers at HKT, who control air traffic within a 48-kilometer (30-mile) radius, to

better manage air traffic safety.

HKT's sole runway can currently cope with 30 flights per hour, and on average sees about 200 flights arrive or depart each day. However, the number of flights arriving and departing HKT has grown dramatically in recent years, from 31,170 in Fiscal 2006 to 57,697 in Fiscal 2011.

"Many companies in Europe and America are interested in the upgrade project, but it's not easy for them to meet our tough and complete requirements," said Phuket Aerothai engineer Wanlop Piromit.

"Once we have the new computer system and our staff are trained, our officers will go to train other air traffic control officers abroad," Mr Wanlop added.

## 'Sting operation' feeds demand

WHITE jellyfish are the latest cash catch being sought off Krabi's shores as demand swells in the market for exotic seafood exports.

Thai media reported last week that local merchants had set up 13 tents along the Nong Talay shore in Krabi to buy catches of *Maeng Gaproon Lot Chong* (*Lobonema smithii*) a white variety of jellyfish in high demand in overseas markets.

Larmsak Chanchooklin a 36-year-old jellyfish merchant from Ranong said: "This type of jelly fish is found in the waters off the six Andaman provinces."

"A few days ago I heard they caught a lot of jellyfish in the area. When I arrived about 10 merchant tents had already been set up.

"We pay about six or seven baht for each jellyfish and each merchant buys some 2,000 to 6,000 jellyfish per day.



**STICKY SITUATION:** The local price of jellyfish is 6 to 7 baht per fish.

"That's more than a million baht a day in circulation. We take the jellyfish to sell at Mahachai market in Samut Sakhon province [in Central Thailand]," Mr Larmsak explained.

"From there the jellyfish are exported to other Asian countries where they are in demand



**A TALE IN THE STING:** Fishermen in Krabi seeking white jellyfish.

throughout the year, including in China, Japan and Korea. Jellyfish in Krabi are very big and high quality," he added.

Fisherman Somsong Sawek, 29, said: "I used to catch fish at sea but the income was not so good.

Since I started catching jellyfish instead of fish I'm earning

a few thousand baht a day."

"You can only catch jellyfish off the Krabi coast three months of the year from March through to May and this year there are almost 200 fisherman here. It's a good income to support our families." Mr Somsong said.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

## Airlines confident in evacuation measures

FOLLOWING the 8.6-Richter earthquake off Sumatra on April 11, several airlines have expressed satisfaction in how officials handled the subsequent emergency evacuation of Phuket International Airport (HKT).

Thai Airways representative Jitrapong Narongwanich said that all airlines that use Phuket Airport remain confident in the evacuation procedures that were initiated.

Thanaporn Taebunpakul, representing the Association of European Airlines in Phuket, also confirmed that no scheduled flights from Europe had been canceled.

HKT Director Prathuang Sornkham said that about 1,500 passengers were evacuated to the Phuket Air Catering facility, located 1,400 meters from the main terminal, which took about 45 minutes.

"No one was injured and all their belongings were safe. Our work impressed the passengers a great

deal," said Mr Prathuang.

The Phuket Air Catering facility sits 20 meters above sea level.

The evacuation was not without problems, however. The breakdown in mobile phone networks was identified as the single biggest obstacle, as officials were able to relay information only by two-way radio. The evacuation order set in motion an automatic three-hour closure of the airport, causing a traffic jam at the entrance as vehicles were not allowed entry.

"We hold an evacuation drill every year. Every airline is confident in our evacuation procedures and no scheduled flights have been canceled," Mr Prathuang said.

He added that the main HKT terminal, built 30 years ago, can withstand damage in the event of an earthquake of up to 5.0 magnitude centered under the airfield.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

### In brief...

#### Commerce ministry to import tons of palm oil



**Boonsong Teriyapirom**

TO HELP ease shortages of palm oil, 10,000 tons of the commodity has been ordered from neighboring countries.

Boonsong Teriyapirom Thailand's Minister of Commerce (MoC said that the shipment, set to arrive in May, would help keep the liter price to be steady at 42 baht.

Thailand has 150,000 tons of palm oil on reserve now, which cannot meet demand. The imported oil can last for 3 weeks, after which more locally produced palm oil will continue to supply the market, he said.

Minister Boonsong assured farmers that prices will not drop to the point of causing problems for local producers. If the initial lot does not cause problems for domestic suppliers, the MoC plans import an additional 30,000 tons.

Thailand is the world's third largest producer, following Indonesia and Malaysia.

— *ASTV Manager Online*

#### B2bn approved for farmers' subsidies

THE National Farmers Assistance Committee this week approved more than 2 billion baht in subsidies to shore up the prices of certain agricultural goods. The measures will affect pineapples, shrimp, pigs and eggs.

The committee also suspended a project to subsidize the falling price of red onions after rotten stockpiles of the commodity were discovered.

Boonsong Teriyaphirom, Commerce Minister, said the government would set up a special panel to investigate the red-onion case, which resulted in more than 324 million baht in losses for the country.

He said the government would not approve a new budget to subsidize red onions, as it wants a clear explanation of what went wrong with the original project from the agencies concerned.

Of the 2bn baht, 1.59bn baht would be for purchasing 200,000 tons of pineapples at 4 baht per kilogram. The pineapples would be used for processing into canned pineapple, feed meal and fertilizer.

The government will also provide soft loans for pineapple farmers worth 15mn baht.

— *The Nation*

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# Imports face duty scrutiny

IMPORTERS of luxury cars, wine, liquor and tobacco face heightened financial scrutiny with the implementation of a new post-audit system, Thailand's Customs director-general has warned.

As initially reported in *The Nation* last week, the Customs Department has stepped up its campaign to crack down on tax evasion of luxury and duty-heavy imports.

Director-General Somchai Poonsawat said that the department planned to audit importers of luxury cars to investigate whether they paid all due taxes.

His department has already audited approximately 50 firms, he said.

Some car importers, particularly in the gray market (legal but unofficial channels), have declared prices much lower than they actually are in order to evade taxes, according to the department.

Somchai said authorities had to obtain substantial evidence before they could col-

lect more tax from these importers, so the department might first let them gain import clearance.

"We will then implement a post-audit to find irregularities," he said.

The move follows the last week's Cabinet approval of a proposal by the Commerce Ministry to ban the imports of used car bodies and other used spare parts.

The ban was slated as a measure to prevent grey-market imports in which importers import individual components of



**HEAVY DUTY:** Used spare parts will be a lot harder to come by with the new ban. Photo: TwoWings

a car into the country, and then assemble the car domestically, avoiding heavy duties.

Excise tax on imports of complete luxury cars is between 180 and 300%.

Previously about 800 to 900 used-car bodies were imported every month, but recently that number has dropped to about 200 to 300 per month, Somchai said.

Somchai went on to point out that importers of other products such as wine, liquor and tobacco that are subject to high import tariffs and excise taxes were also

suspected of evading tax by declaring understated values.

In response, the department has invested in three new patrol boats as it steps up its campaign.

Foreign government subsidies on oil and gas make them cheaper in those countries, which encourages smuggling, he said.

Earlier this week, two trawlers carrying 47,000 liters of illegally imported diesel were seized by Phuket Customs. The loot was valued at 21 million baht.

In light of recent crackdowns on a number of bars and restaurants in Phuket offering Baraku or Sheesha – flavored tobacco smoked in large water pipe – Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha affirmed that the operators had imported the tobacco products illegally.

These violators will be subject to the maximum penalties as prescribed in the Tobacco Products Control Act (1992), he said. – *The Nation / Phuket Gazette*

# Auto industry flourishes in Q1

SALES and production records were set by Thailand's automobile sector in March, with production output topping out at just under half-a-million vehicles, nearly 60% of which were reported sold.

Surapong Paisitpatanapong, Spokesman for the Federation of Thai Industries' (FTI) Automotive Industry Club last week revealed sales and production figures for the month and first quarter (Q1).

He said that 190,000 new cars were produced in March, making it the sector's highest output in a single month since 1961, when the country first commenced commercial automobile production.

The figure equates to an 11% jump year on year (y-o-y), and 13% increase month on month (m-o-m).

All in, the sector output 499,000 new cars in Q1, an increase of 6% from Q1, 2011. Of these, 279,000 (56% of production) were sold, a 17% increase on year.

Just in March, 110,000 (60% of production) were sold, equating to a 21% increase m-o-m, and 19% jump y-o-y.

The sector also produced a total 283,000 motorbikes or mopeds in March, and 823,000 in Q1, an increase of 5% y-o-y.

During March alone, 190,000 (67% of production) of new motorcycles produced were sold, compared with the sale of 519,000 (63% of production) total in Q1.

According to a report in *The Nation*, commercial vehicles which include one-tonne pickups showed a 36.7% increase on year to 70,168 units.

One-tonne pickups alone showed a 40% increase to 61,737 units.

Vudhigorn Suriyachantanant, vice president of Toyota Motor Thailand, attributed the improvement to brisk demand and automakers' success in boosting production capacity.

The passenger car segment showed a decrease, as Honda Automobile (Thailand), the biggest

player in the segment, has not yet resumed normal production. Its flood-affected facility in Ayutthaya was just reopened late March.

So far this year, exports of automobiles, parts and spare parts are on the up.

Mr Surapong said that in March, a total of 89,800 Completely Built-up (CBU) automobiles were exported, equating to a combined value of 42.1 billion baht.

He added that there were a total of 220,000 CBU automobiles exported in Q1, a drop of 5% y-o-y, which he attributed to delays caused by flooding at the end of last year.

The value of engine exports in March was 2.43bn baht, new parts at 14.6 bn baht, and spare parts at 1.51bn baht.

Value of all automobile exports (excluding motorbikes and parts) for the month was 60.7bn baht, and about 100bn baht in Q1.

Q1 engine exports were valued at 6.8 billion baht, new parts at 38.4 bn baht and spare parts at 4.6 bn baht.

All in, Q1 automobile exports were valued at 152bn baht, a 1% y-o-y increase

Of March's exports, 68,200 bikes were valued at 2.5bn baht, while outgoing new parts were valued at 996mn baht, and spare parts at 60mn baht.

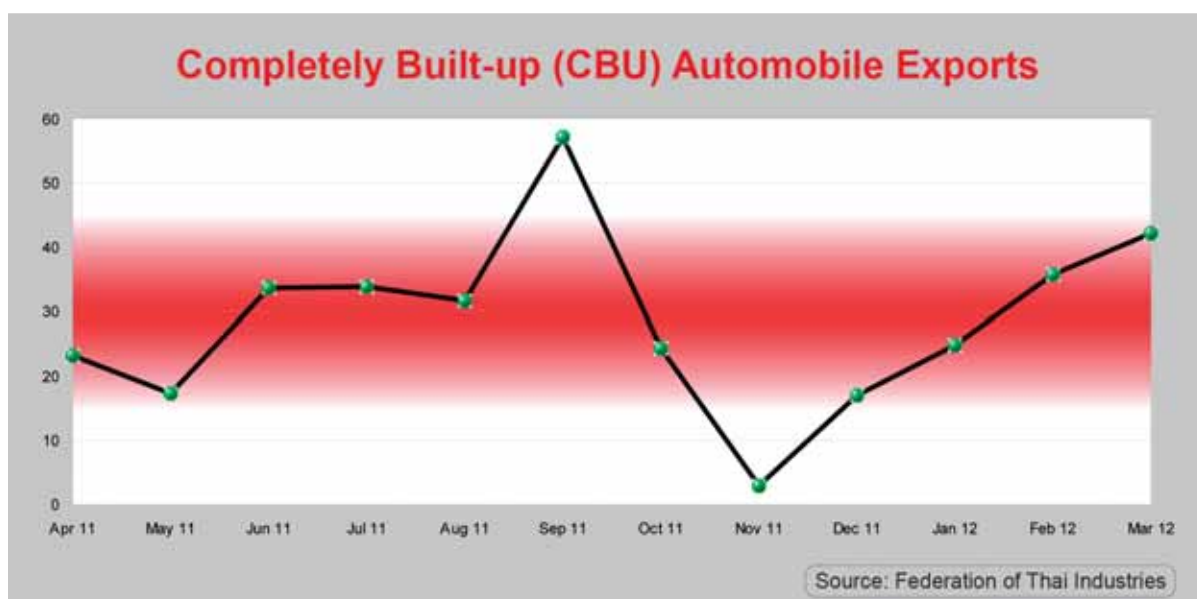
Of Q1's exports, 228,000 bikes were valued at 7.76bn baht, with exports for new bike parts valued at 3.1 bn baht and spare parts at 171mn baht.

The total value of exports for motorbikes, parts and spare parts in Q1 was 11bn baht.

Thailand's Automotive Industry club predicts that there will be 477,000 automobiles produced in the second quarter.

This target would equate to a 39% increase y-o-y, while the group's target of producing 653,000 motorbikes would equate to a 10% increase y-o-y.

– *Phuket Gazette*



**BEYOND RECOVERY:** Exports of Thai-manufactured automobiles plummeted during the massive flooding catastrophe of late last year, but have since revived above and beyond expectations. IMAGE: Gazette graphic

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# Don't be evil, AIS



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

THIS week I have a bunch of news – and a warning or two – for computer users in Phuket.

Google's new Country Manager for Thailand, Ariya Banomyong, will speak at the next IBAP meeting, on May 11. Mr Ariya represents the new guard of IT professionals in Thailand. Eminently qualified, he speaks four languages fluently, holds two master's degrees, one in math and IT from the University of Marne-La-Vallée, France, and the other a master's of science in management from the London School of Economics. He also knows his way around a keyboard.

Since taking the job last July, Mr Ariya has pre-

sided over some amazing Googlifications in Thailand. I wrote about Google Street View in last month's Live Wire. It's a phenomenal tool for everyone in Phuket. The Google Crisis Response page for the floods last year came up quickly and stayed updated accurately. In February, Google launched the "Google Engage" program, which brings local Google support, seminars and consulting experts to Thai businesses struggling with AdWords and other Google products. Last month we even had the first Thai interviewee – Bangkok music producer Boyd Kosiyabong – for a Google+ Hangouts session known as Think Digital 2012.

Google Thailand, cooperating with the government's Office of SME Promotion and Kasikornbank, rolled out a "Thai Business Go Online" project last year, which helped 50,000 Thai businesses get on the internet – 40,000 of them with their own, free, websites and 3,000 baht of AdWords credit, free, as well. Google's predicting 100,000 participants by the end of

this year. There's no doubt that Google's helping Thai businesses get their online act together.

All of this evolves against a backdrop of continuing problems and controversy at "Don't be evil" headquarters in Menlo Park, California. Between surreptitious gathering of personal data and controversial privacy practices, Google's come into a lot of fire lately. (Full disclosure: I think at least one of the major complaints is completely overblown, see [infoworld.com/t/internet-privacy/surprise-google-cookies-behave-themselves-unlike-facebooks-174101](http://infoworld.com/t/internet-privacy/surprise-google-cookies-behave-themselves-unlike-facebooks-174101).) Of course, Larry and Sergey probably don't consult Mr Ariya before

implementing the more controversial policies, so our speaker's in the clear.

You're all invited. This event should be one of the techy gatherings of the year.

## 'The Thai Business Go Online project last year helped 50,000 Thai businesses get on the internet'

It's on Friday, May 11, at A2 Resort. (From Central Festival, go north on Bypass Road and just beyond Keehin make a U-turn. A2 is about 250 meters ahead, on the left. Or use Google Maps for driving directions. I did.) Registration is at 6:15, with the program starting at 7:10. There's a donation at the door: IBAP members are 200 baht, non-members 400 baht, students (age 12-17) 100 baht, which includes a light buffet and beverages. Good idea to get there early if you want a seat.

### Speaking of evil and AIS...

A friend of mine – one of the Sunday morning computer clinic crowd – sends an interesting tale about his pre-paid AIS account:

"I recently went through 300 baht of phone service in 10 days. 300 baht usually takes me over a month. Couldn't figure out why.

I routinely receive a "News Plus" SMS message, in Thai, from AIS. I delete it – I don't read Thai and even if I did, I'm not interested in AIS promotions. After a visit to the AIS office in Phuket Town, I learned that I'm



YOUR BALANCE IS GETTING LOW: It is a good idea to check your bill for any surprises. Photo: Gail

being charged 9 baht per minute for calls and 9 baht per received SMS, including the News Plus advertisement.

At Telewiz in Big C, I was told I could not get those News Plus calls blocked. At AIS Phuket town, I was told I could get them blocked but it would take two to three days.

While there, I was offered a promotional plan for pre-paid access of 1.5 baht per minute. Signing up for the plan costs 30 baht. The only downside is that cancellation dates for top-ups on the plan are shorter: 300 baht expires in 45 days, 500 baht in 75 days, 1,000 baht in 150 days and 1,500 baht in one year.

So for the princely fee of 30 baht, I reduced my cost per minute by 7.5 baht."

Mobile phone companies in Thailand have promotions all the time. Remarkably, some of those promotions apply to pre-paid accounts, as well – which means you qualify for the promotion even if you don't have a work permit or retirement visa.

Here's another friend with a different trick, for extending cancellation dates:

"I just checked my pre-paid balance at DTAC and had 117 baht with 208 days validity. With DTAC, you can buy time – that is, you can pay to increase the number of days of validity, up to a maximum of 365 days. I tried to buy 180 days for 12 baht, but I couldn't as that would take me over the maximum of one year of validity.

So I bought 90 days for 6 baht, then 30 days for 2 baht and finally another 30 days for 2 baht. My balance now is now 107 baht, with 358 days validity."

### And one more:

"My AIS account was charged for MP3 music downloads from a Thai website. I'm very sure I never downloaded any MP3 songs and absolutely not from a Thai website.

I looked back at my bill and the first month I was charged 500 baht, the second month 900 baht.

I contacted AIS and they immediately blocked the service and refunded the spent amount on my next bill. They said it was a service mistake, but I wonder how it could've happened. Can a third party just charge my phone with something I never ordered? There must've been a security breach at AIS.

By the way, this happened immediately after I switched my account to 3G. And yes, I've had antimalware software installed on my phone since day one."

A word to the wise: check your phone bill!

### 4G coming to Thailand?

The Nation reports that TOT is upgrading its wireless system from HSPA to HSPA+. That may sound like alphabet soup, but it's a very good sign – and not because of the claimed speed advantages. "This upgrade will improve mobile broadband services for the 7.2 million TOT customers and increase download speeds to even 42 megabits per second (Mbps) compared to the current 7.2 Mbps," says TOT.

Yeah, sure. HSPA+ is definitely better than HSPA, TOT's old network technology, but the new network won't be six times faster, I guarantee.

If you've been following my columns on 3G, you know that CAT already has an HSPA+ network. Since both TrueMove-H and DTAC use the CAT network, they have HSPA+ too. So in some respects TOT and AIS (AIS uses the TOT network) are just playing technological catch-up.

Here's why TOT's move to

HSPA+ is a "Real Big Deal". They're using Nokia-Siemens to upgrade their towers to HSPA+, and the equipment Nokia-Siemens is installing can be upgraded in place to a technology called LTE. LTE is a Real Big Deal – it's a legitimate "4G" product that could revolutionize the

way we get Internet in Phuket.

In the States there are marketing and BS wars about 3G and 4G, with lawsuits flying every which

way – but there's an emerging winner. PC World just performed a nationwide study that showed that AT&T's "4G" LTE service has the fastest wireless internet access in the US, with average download speeds of 9 Mbps. Yes, that's the average. Yes, that's three or four times faster than our fastest international download speeds in Phuket. Yes, that's for a wireless service.

Several industry observers feel that LTE is so fast it's going to displace wired ADSL, just as mobile phones displaced land lines years ago. Based on the numbers I've seen, that could happen. Maybe.

*Seth Bareiss holds computer sessions on every-other Wednesday afternoon, from 1 to 3pm. If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, drop by one of Seth's free afternoon sessions, or come to one of our free Sunday morning roundtables at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Details in the Events Calendar. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.*

*Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Shoot him mail at [Woody@KhunWoody.com](mailto:Woody@KhunWoody.com), follow him on Twitter@PhuketLiveWire, or "Like" his page at Facebook.com/SandwichShoppe.*



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# Eurozone: bond yields tells the story

## Island Investor

By Anthony Lyman

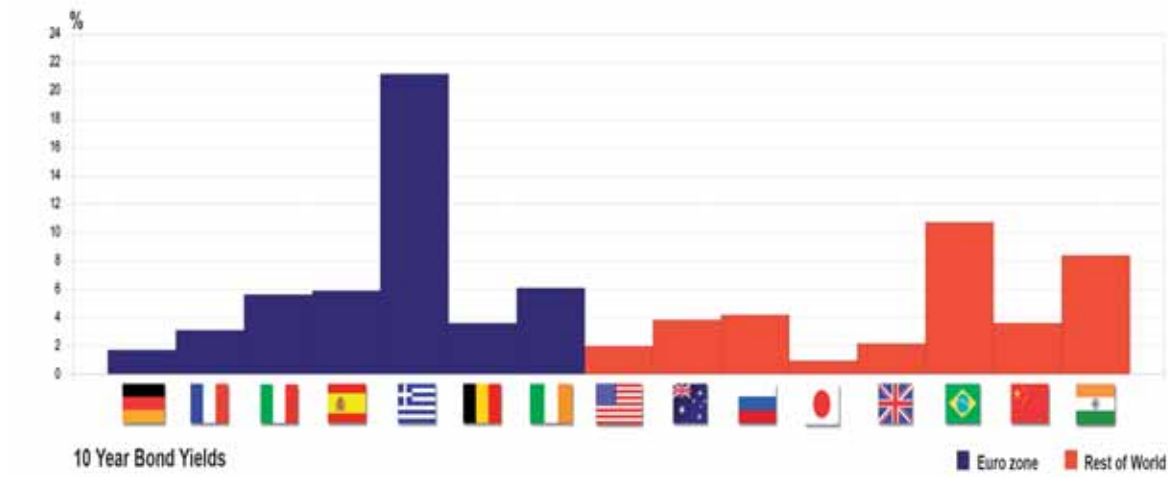
ONCE again the woes of Europe have given the financial markets a bit of a battering.

I can remember a time when you could wake up, turn on the news and listen to happier bulletins. First Greece, Portugal, Ireland, Italy and now Spain. Where is all this going to end? I fear this could be here for the long haul, so we pose the question of whether the Euro will survive at all.

Recently there has been more talk of, instead of bailing countries out, whether it would be more prudent if these countries were not members of the Euro at all. I mentioned several weeks ago that one of the main ways to observe a particular economy's financial security is to view the country's government bond yields.

A typical bond yield of around 7% is deemed to be the dreaded "straw that breaks the camel's back". However anything near the 6% region means you are in serious trouble. So let us take a glance at some of the current bond yields of the Euro Zone compared to the rest of the world at the time of writing.

Upon first view, the signs do not look too promising for the Eurozone countries as the yields keep edging closer and closer to the 7% level.



The same conclusions could be drawn for Brazil and India. However there could not be a larger contrast between the growing economies of Brazil and India and the struggling economies of the Eurozone. Brazil remains an attractive proposition moving forward as does India.

Back to Europe, the signs are not looking too good for the foreseeable future and the problems Spain is now facing will no doubt have a domino effect and pull world markets down further. So why has this happened? The main factor behind this seems to be the European Central Banks (ECB) version of Quantitative easing, otherwise known as the Long Term Refinancing Operation (LTRO).

This came in response to last year's Eurozone panic when bond yields of Spain and Italy were climb-

ing once again. The idea was that the ECB would allow banks across Europe to borrow as much as they wanted over a three-year period at a knock-down rate of 1%.

The unspoken deal was that they would re-invest this money in the bonds of troubled countries: Spain and Italy in particular. So if you are able to borrow money at 1% and re-invest it at 5%, this would seem a good deal right?

What investors see is that the Spanish Banking and property sector is in dire straits and that these banks must be sitting on huge amounts of unrealized losses.

However, the Spanish Government will probably bail these banks out, should push comes to shove, so investors stop lending to the Spanish Government, meaning bond yields start to rise.

The ECB cannot be seen to be printing money so they lend Spanish banks money at rock-bottom prices so that they can buy Government debt, which in turn brings down bond yields. Still with me?

What has recently happened, however, is that while it is all well and good that Spanish banks are buying this debt, no-one else is! If we take the recent Spanish bond auction failure this shows it put into action. Another problem is that the ECB loans are not free. Spanish banks have to pledge assets to get this.

They do not have to hand these over but the ECB has a claim over the assets which doesn't leave much left for creditors should a bank find itself in deep water. This means raising money from other sources becomes more expensive. It's a merry go round which all points

towards bad news for Europe.

Going forward, Europe will no doubt continue in its current trend and the problems Spain is now facing means that this whole saga will continue for the next 12 months at least.

The good news is that if we look at the broader picture, Latin America and Asia remain an attractive investment proposition and with continuing reliance on oil and gas there are some growth areas that can still be identified if you have the stomach for market volatility.

No doubt many investment funds and pension funds will have risk exposure in Europe and, as I always say, these need to be reviewed as often as possible as you would not want your portfolio pulled down with the European financial woes.

A rebalancing act of existing investments could be needed and there is no time like the present to look at what you have. Financial advice is readily available and a review of what you have could prove to be very beneficial over the long term.

Anthony Lyman is a Senior Financial Consultant for the Montpellier Group. For more information on the UK budget or UK pension plan reviews contact [Alyman@montpeliergroup.com](mailto:Alyman@montpeliergroup.com) or follow him on twitter @AnthonyLyman.

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# China leads the way



## Aviation

By Alastair Carthew

CHINA, like elsewhere in the world these days, looms as a large influence on Phuket's future aviation and tourism growth because of increased wealth in China, the island's attractiveness and the explosion of China's airline industry in recent years.

Within five years Chinese tourists could be arriving on Chinese designed and built aircraft.

But first, the current situation.

A recent *Phuket Gazette* poll that asked the question: "Which of the following inbound markets holds the highest growth potential for the Phuket tourism industry?" tells the story. The results showed 48 per cent of respondents thought it was China, followed by Russia with 24.9 per cent and ASEAN countries, India, Eastern Europe and the Middle East making up the rest.

Of the 44 airlines servicing Phuket, four are from mainland China (China Eastern Airlines, Hainan Airlines, Shanghai Airlines, Sichuan Airlines) one is from Taiwan, China Airlines and one from Hong Kong, Dragonair.

In 2011 Phuket had 227,431 arrivals from China, a 112 per cent increase. Counting the 40,438 Hong Kong visitors (Hong Kong is, after all, part of China) the visitor arrivals from this area dwarfs the next biggest groups by nationality, Australians (172,000) and Russians (160,000).

China has already appointed a consul to Phuket to handle these numbers which begs the question: how will the Chinese airline industry meet increased demands put on it, not only to popular tourist destinations like Phuket, but world-wide?

If the past 30 years of year-on-year double digit growth (apart from two years) in China's aviation industry is any indication the answer is, easily.

This growth has been mainly

domestically driven, and there are signs that it is slowing as the Civil Aviation Administration of China [CAAC] is reviewing its forecast of 10 per cent growth in 2012.

China's international travel market to places like Phuket is still in its infancy, but growing quickly. One forecast, by respected Australian aviation analyst Center for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA), said there could be 77 million international passengers by 2020, 32.3 million more than in 2010.

That's a lot of Chinese tourists heading our way over the next eight years or so.

China's commercial aircraft fleet continues to grow to meet the demand. In 2011 there were 1,745 commercial aircraft flying in China, with 148 new aircraft being added. Most of these are single aisle and domestically focused, but increasingly, Chinese airlines are being encouraged to purchase larger, double aisle aircraft such as the new Boeing B787 "Dreamliner" and Airbus A380 double decked Jumbo, to meet the international travel demands.

There is now also the distinct prospect of China producing its own domestic commercial aircraft. The Comac C919 (pictured below) is a planned 168-190 seat narrow-body airliner with its first flight expected to take place in 2014 and deliveries scheduled for 2016. It is intended to compete with the Airbus A320 and Boeing's B737 aircraft, as it could easily fly direct from Beijing to Phuket. Currently, the B737-800, operated by Hainan Airlines, flies to Phuket directly from Beijing, and has a maximum range of 5,765 kilometers, whereas the distances between the two destinations is 3,996 kilometers.

So by 2016, the *Year of the Monkey* in the Chinese calendar, we could not only see a huge increase in Chinese visitors to Phuket, but they could well be arriving on a Chinese designed and built aircraft.

**'Within five years Chinese tourists could also be arriving on Chinese designed and built aircraft.'**

Alastair Carthew





MADE IN CHINA: Analysts predict as many as 77 million international passengers by 2020. Pictured is a model interior of the Chinese built Comac 919. Photo: Stéphane De Wolf



Air China hostesses primping for inspection at Beijing airport. Photo: Cory Doctorow




**Culinary Happenings**

**Friday 25th May**  
**Francis Coppola Wine Dinner**

Another great wine dinner at the Boathouse Wine & Grill. Guest speaker Ms Emily Putnam from Francis Ford Coppola Winery in the US will be with us for one evening only where Jean-Noel Lumineau's delicious French cuisine will be paired with some of Francis Coppola's best wines. « Sofia » Sparkling Blanc de Blancs, Chardonnay Director's Cut 2009, Zinfandel Director's Cut 2008, Pinot Noir Director's Cut 2008 and Cabernet Sauvignon Director's Cut 2008 will accompany the 4 course dinner.

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# Making a manta-stic dive

## Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

DIVE companies like Sea Bees can guarantee a lot of aspects of their trips. They can guarantee a high-quality breakfast, good equipment and knowledgeable staff, but what they cannot guarantee are those precious and glorious sightings of roaming mega-fauna, like manta rays.

Every diver last week may have spotted the sweeping black wings of a manta ray in the distance or the iconic dorsal fin of a prowling shark, but even that is no assurance that either would be spotted the next day.

On board Sea Bees' futuristic looking and custom built catamaran, *MV Stingray*, I try not to think about the mantas as we pull away from the dock and head towards Koh Bon.

Koh Bon, renown for its charismatic mega-fauna, is part of the Similan Islands National Park, despite being almost 20 kilometers north of Island Nine.

After a 55-minute first dive, I'm unsure of the need for a second. We had spotted ornate Blue Dragon nudibranches, a white-tipped reef shark and two manta rays. Admittedly, the mantas had kept their distance, but the dive had been a text book checklist of what to see.

We splash in for our second dive, and follow the vertical wall to the step-down ridge of the island, searching for nudibranches and other small delights.

It sails in out of the blue. Manta rays don't swim, they glide through water on their massive "wing span", averaging six meters.

It swoops in below us, like the shadow of a giant bird. An entire school of corbia, groupies to the rock-star manta, cluster and cling to the alien-looking life form and hide un-



CLOSE ENCOUNTER: A school of corbia follow in the wake of a large manta ray in the waters off Koh Bon, Similan National Park. Photo: Andrea Filippozzi

der its 'wings' (pectoral fins).

The manta makes one pass, then elegantly turns back towards us, this time moving

ing up, closer to us. After several passes it disappears.

Stunned by the close encounter and desperately wanting more, we swim on.

Suddenly, there are two mantas, one following the other. They turn together chasing each other, like children playing tag.

All the divers floating there are

awestruck. We're like a school of lame corbia, too slow to do anything but fantasize about being on the massive wings of the mantas.

They are playing.

They sweep, below our fins, their great wings outstretched. I spin as it passes just five meters below me.

I turn and one of the manta rays flies out of the abyss at me.

I can see between its gently curled cephalic lobes to its mouth, where imperceptibly small teeth are hidden. There is no fear, not only because this harmless crea-

tures mostly feeds on plankton, but because of its eyes.

There is an intelligence in its eyes, a playfulness as it comes within three

meters of me and then turns away.

It's time to go. The mantas are still putting on a show as we ascend for our safety-stop.

For the better part of forty minutes the mantas stayed with us.

Now, floating in the open blue, away from the step-down ridge we wait to surface, the whole time peeking down, still searching for them.

"The best dive of the season!" exclaimed Andrea Filippozzi, our instructor, as we hit the surface.

On the dive boat, even away from the customers, I can see the instructors' smiles glowing, as they publicly and privately gloat about having just partaken in the best dive of the season – something that's never guaranteed.



Sea Bees' custom built catamaran, *MV Stingray*. Photo: Sea Bees

Photo: Andrea Filippozzi

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## Manta facts:

- There are two types of manta rays: Reef Manta Ray and Giant Oceanic Manta Ray.
- Largest recorded manta was 7.6 meters across.
- They feed on plankton and fish larvae.
- They have the largest brain-to-body ratio of their closest relatives: sharks, rays and skates.
- They frequent "cleaning stations", where small fish clean away parasites and dead tissue.
- Mantas are known to occasionally jump completely out of the water, possibly as a way of communicating or playing.



# Friday night is curry night

## On the Menu

By Marc Mulloy

ALTHOUGH Thailand has some of the best curries in the world, there is another land of fiery curries that is guaranteed to bring a tear to the eye and water to the mouth – the great subcontinent of India.

Words like *Masala*, *Tandoori*, *Dal* and *Gosht* conjure up images of steaming bowls of saffron colored, aromatic, spicy curries, smothering generous chunks of potatoes and meat, which can be poured over rice or mopped up with warm *Naan* bread. You see what I mean about making the mouth water?

This is a suprisingly delicate cuisine and is almost impossible to recreate at home, unless you are native to these lands. The only way to fully appreciate the food is either to visit an Indian restaurant or home, or book a flight to India.

Even then, once you're there, you will only be able to order a few of the main dishes and end up wondering if the lamb would have been a better idea than the chicken – unless of course it's a buffet.

There are some things about an Indian buffet that other buffets just can't match when it comes to flavors, variety and – let's face it – the sheer quantity of delicious food available.

Phuket is now fortunate to have such a buffet every Friday evening, at a very reasonable 449 baht per person.

The buffet in question takes place at "Les Anges" at the Royal Phuket Marina, which has already established itself as one of the finest dining establishments on the island, with its spectacular location right in the center of a fleet of gorgeous yachts.

Les Anges has featured Curry Evenings before, but now has two new chefs and a new menu, which will be launched on May 4.

Chef Paddam and Chef Ron are of Indian and Nepalese descent and the authenticity of the cuisine is apparent with the first mouthful, which happened to be a soup of sorts when we visited. The dish, which goes by the name *Aaj Ki Dal* (fresh lentils of the day), was not too spicy, not too salty, not too thick but bursting with flavor.

Next up we tried the *Bhuna Gosht* (braised lamb), which is a personal favorite. *Bhuna* is not a recipe but a process similar to

braising where the meat is slowly simmered with saffron, cinnamon and other spices, giving it a complex flavor and rich texture. This is slow-cooked but quickly eaten.

As this was a buffet, my plate also contained a large dollop of *Murgh makhani* (butter chicken) which is not to be confused with *Chicken Tikka masala*, which looks similar but is a totally different dish hailing from the UK.

This dish has Punjabi origins, and, of all the spices added to the dish, it is the dried fenugreek leaves that give the characteristic flavor. Also on the long table were appetizers such as *Onion Bhajia*, *Vegetable Pakora*, *Saffron Pullao Rice*, *Aloo Gobhi*, *Aloo Masala*, *Papadams*, *Cucumber Raita* and *Mixed Pickles*.

For dessert we had a few balls of *Gulab Jamu* (an Indian dessert of solid milk balls soaked in rose water syrup). Sweet!

As all dyed-in-the-wool expats know, the best beverage with a curry is ice-cold beer, and Les Anges has extended its Happy Hour from 5pm to 9pm for diners who take part in the Indian Buffet. This means two-for-one, or fifty per cent off, drinks – yet another reason to make Friday night Curry night!

*Les Anges Curry Nights are from 7pm to 10 pm every Friday at RPM. Call Murat on 081-797 3364 or visit royalphuketmarina.com. Note that special discounts are available for large groups.*



NAMASTE: Chef Paddam and Murat with their all-you-can-eat Indian buffet.



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# Teachers too tested to teach

## In the Classroom

By Eric Haeg

ANYONE who intends to teach in Thailand's primary and secondary schools long-term better be aware of the Teachers' Council of Thailand (TCT) and their requirements for obtaining a teaching licence.

While it's possible to teach for a few years on a temporary teaching permit to teach, don't expect to teach legally for much longer while relying only on your TESOL certificate and your Western looks.

In 2006, the Teachers' Council of Thailand (*Khurusapah*) passed their latest set of requirements for obtaining a teaching licence.

The decree states that teachers must be at least 20 years old, hold a degree in education or in other related fields accredited by the TCT, not possess any of the prohibited characteristics pursuant to section 44 of the Teachers and Educational Personnel Council Act B.E. 2003 and possess professional standards of knowledge and experience.

The first requirement is straight forward and the fourth requirement pertains to the Thai Language, Culture and Ethics

Course, as well as having at least one year of teaching experience.

The third requirement is ambiguous because the 'prohibited characteristics' are defined as, having improper behavior or immorality, being an incompetent or quasi-incompetent person, or having been sentenced to imprisonment which may bring dishonor upon the profession. Clear as mud?

Without defining what constitutes improper behavior, immorality, incompetence and dishonor, teachers are left hoping that common notions

regarding these issues overlap those held by the TCT.

Ambiguity aside, it's the second requirement that deserves the most attention and can be viewed as an issue of the haves and the have-nots.

In order to automatically qualify for the teaching license, an applicant must fit into one of the following

categories, hold an accredited degree in education or a related field, hold any accredited degree and a post-graduate diploma in education with at least one year of study, or hold a degree and a teaching licence from abroad, hold a teaching licence from abroad without a degree but submit proof of teaching experience.

If the applicant fits one of these

**'In light of so many reports of exams riddled with repeated ambiguities, grammatically incorrect questions and duplicate answers, it doesn't take an Einstein to understand why so many test takers fail.'**



**OUTCLASSSED:** Foreign teachers are finding it difficult to remain in Thailand after a few years because of the Teachers' Council of Thailand's ambiguous testing procedure. Photo: Vistare Foundation

requirements they are exempt from taking the TCT's Professional Knowledge Tests (PKT). However, if the applicant simply holds an accredited degree, life is not so simple and will require the teacher to take the PKTs.

The tests are comprised of nine disciplines, which are spread out over four distinct sections. Each section, taken separately, contains 150 multiple-choice questions with five possible answers and must be passed with a mark of 50 per cent or higher. Tests have typically been held twice a year across Thailand.

While 50 per cent seems a low benchmark, one must consider the ambiguity of the questions asked. Here's a question from Section 4 of the PKT: Who is responsible for ensuring that children attend school? (a) mother

(b) father (c) parents (d) both a and b (e) the village head.

Surely answer (c) should read "guardian", otherwise answers (c) and (d) are exactly the same. This is but one example of a test taker's pain when deciphering what the TCT deems a "correct" answer.

In light of so many reports of exams riddled with repeated ambiguities, grammatically incorrect questions and duplicate answers, it doesn't take Einstein to understand why so many takers fail.

The TCT recently published the results of their ninth round of testing and the numbers are fairly alarming, none more so than only three of 127 persons passing Test II. These numbers are similar to previous pass rates for this test. One would think that after having repeatedly seen

such poor results, test writers would consider the necessity of revision, yet no indication of such action has ever been noted.

Of course the tests aren't free and sitting each section costs 1,030 baht. Total revenue from the last tests administered was nearly 500,000 baht (nearly 1 million annually). With more and more schools coming into compliance with licensing for foreign teachers, TCT's revenue from these tests is bound to rise.

Hubris, ineptitude, greed, what ever, the reasons for the tests' difficulty matter not.

What does matter is a timely revision of the tests so that well-meaning, hard-working teachers spend less time worrying about their PKT scores and more time educating their students.

## New Uni Scholarships

FOR the first time, the renowned Stenden Rangsit University has introduced a unique scholarship program to Thailand.

The full or partial academic scholarships are open to outstanding Thai students to help reduce the financial burden and give students a chance to join the International Hotel Management program in Bangkok with a Double Bachelor's degree upon graduation (Thai and Dutch Bachelor of Business Administration).

Students who meet all criteria can apply for the scholarship program starting in September 2012.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants should be students in their last year of high school with exceptional study results and a strong motivation to study International Hotel Management. The scholarship can last for the entire period of schooling, depending on the study results. "With this initiative

Stenden strives to make high-quality, international education more accessible to Thai students," General Manager Maureen van der Meché explained.

With all subjects being taught in English and professors from around the world, Stenden offers an international standard of education. Students come from all over the world to study International Hotel Management in Bangkok.

Stenden Rangsit University is part of a global network with campus sites in The Netherlands, South Africa, Qatar and Bali. With identical curricula of International Hotel Management at any of these campus sites, Stenden students can conveniently study abroad and gain even broader international experience.

With global industrial networks, students can also do their internship abroad and achieve a

double degree with a study abroad at Stenden campus in the Netherlands.

"As the industry expands, graduates are working in a wider spectrum of positions than ever before. Not only hotels, resorts or convention centers, but also retail, banks or consultancy agencies await the skills from graduates of Hotel Management studies," said Maureen van der Meché.

Stenden Rangsit University's International Hotel Management program offers four intakes per year. The scholarship program is open for the September admission only. The application deadline for the scholarship program is July 1, 2012.

For more information contact: Jorrit van der Woude at [Jorrit.van.der.woude@stenden.com](mailto:Jorrit.van.der.woude@stenden.com)  
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# Local gurus get in on the Fitness Fest

THE Phuket Health & Fitness Festival, from May 11-13, is certainly in good shape with even more speakers confirmed for presentations in the last week.

The festival program includes three concurrent seminars, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, as well the keynote presentation by Dr John Hinwood on Sunday afternoon. Between seminar presentations, a number of health and fitness related activities and displays will be hosted at Serenity Terraces Resort & Spa, Mangosteen Resort & Ayurvedic Spa, and Atmanjai Wellness Center.

“Most Phuket residents are not aware of the impressive array of world-class health and fitness practitioners that are right on their doorstep,” Michael Massey, the spokesman for event organizers, the Rawai NaiHarn group, told the *Phuket Gazette*. “We are very happy that Phuket-based experts, Tim Robins, Sylvie Yaffe, Ocean Bloom and Tobi Warzineck, have committed to this festival.”

Tim Robins, who lives in Phuket, is Thailand's only certified Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) and Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) therapist. He has been using NLP and EFT for over 9 years, working with members of royal families, celebrities and business leaders from around the world. Mr Robins believes that NLP and EFT differ from counseling and psychotherapy, which he says focus on judging and analyzing the past, because they focus on making real-time changes within each session.

“By working with the unconscious mind and with the body's meridian energy system it is possible to let go of dysfunctional and un-supportive thoughts and feelings in a very short period of time, in a pain-free and ‘effortless’ way. So, for example, if you know you need to exercise and you want to start to exercise, but you don't, then a session of EFT can cut through the underlying beliefs and thoughts that are preventing you from making the changes you wish to make.”

Raw food consultant, Sylvie Yaffe, has lived in Phuket for the last 11 years and is a consultant at Good Karma Thailand Health Food Store. Passionate about healthy eating, she is a graduate of the Matthew Kenney Acad-

emy in the USA, the only classically structured raw and living foods educational centre in the world. Her aim is to educate people about the importance of making healthier food choices, and paying attention to ingredients.

“Because of my own relationship with food, I've always been interested in health and nutrition.

I eat an 80 per cent vegetarian diet, and about 50 per cent raw food, which is a plant-based diet consisting of nuts, seeds, fruit and vegetables, with nothing cooked over 42 degrees Celsius. It is guilt-free and every ingredient has nutritional value.”

— Michael Massey

In 2010 she hosted a standing room only workshop with celebrity raw food chef, Ani Phyo, in Phuket. It was so popular, she recognized the need for an easily accessible health food store in Thailand and so opened the Good Karma All Natural online store.

It is generally believed that Thailand does not have the same types of products as those found at health food shops overseas. Local products are often labeled as healthy and nutritious, but still contain sugar, high levels of sodium or worse still, MSG, she says.

Ms Yaffe discovered that there are, in fact, a lot of great products here in Thailand. They are just spread out and not centralized, including such specialties as organic soy sauce, sugar free dried fruit, petroleum free shower gel, trendy new grains and raw nuts and seeds. Good Karma All Natural has unified them into one location and added the convenience of online shopping.

Canadian born athlete Ocean Bloom will lead morning group yoga sessions at the festival, on both Saturday and Sunday. She brings a refreshingly sensible, holistic and personalized approach to total health and fitness. Her programs have produced many athletic champions and supported countless individuals in accomplishing their personal health and fitness goals.

After winning several world championship fitness competitions, Ms Bloom traveled to Asia to study Yoga, Ayurveda, Martial Arts, Meditation and Thai Yoga Massage in order to design her signature “boot camps.” She has over 25 years of experience in theater, film, dance, yoga, gymnastics, martial arts, and over 14 years as a fitness competitor, fitness model, nutritional consultant and international speaker.

In addition to the morning yoga classes she will also present a seminar on Hard Core Training during the festival.

Tobi Warzineck is a spiritual consultant and counselor and is the founder of the Phuket Medi-



Tim Robins is Thailand's only certified Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) and Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) therapist.

ation and Retreat Center. He has taught meditation in Phuket on a daily basis since August 2009. He also works as a spiritual consultant and life coach for spas and detox centers, such as the Evason Six Senses Spa and the Atmanjai Wellness Center.

He began his spiritual path in 2002, when he entered the Center of Higher Tibetan Studies in Switzerland. He spent nearly 7 years in and close to an authentic monastic environment studying Tibetan Meditation, Language, Philosophy and debate as well as Rituals. During this time he also undertook several meditation retreats under the guidance of some of the great-

est contemporary masters of Tibetan Buddhism. He continues his studies under them today.

During the festival Mr Warzineck will present a class discussing the Theory of Meditation.

Tickets for the festival are available from the following local businesses; 91.5FM, Serenity Terraces, Vijitt Resort, Mangosteen Resort, Friendship Beach Resort. The regular ticket price is 2,200 baht for admission to presentations and seminars and the festival party at Serenity Terraces on Saturday evening. The early bird ticket price is 1,900 baht. For more information, contact Michael Massey on 08 1412 5652, or visit rawainaiharn.com.

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# Murder among the witless oafs

AMBER Dermont's *The Starboard Sea* (St Martin's Press, New York, 2012, 308pp) is proof positive that you can cobble together a first novel about a handsome, rich, brooding teenage hero and his glamorous friends in a posh WASP boarding school and throw in a suicide, a murder, sailboat races and a hurricane and still be boring.

The year is 1986, the boarding school is Bellingham Academy on the Massachusetts coast and the narrator is Jason Prosper, scion of old wealth. He has been expelled from the elite Kensington School and consigned in his senior year to Bellingham.

"Most of us who found ourselves in Bellingham had been kicked out of better schools for stealing, or having sex, or smoking weed. Rich kids who'd gotten caught, had been given a second chance, only to be caught again then finally expelled... Because the school catered to thieves, sluts, and dope fiends, it was understood that additional transgressions would be overlooked. If you could pay, you could stay."

Prosper's ostensible crime at Kensington was breaking the honor code by cheating on a cal-

## Books

By James Eckardt

culus exam. The real reason was a scandal, which Prosper spends 40 pages coyly brooding about before letting the reader in on his secret. His roommate Cal had committed suicide by hanging himself. Cal was his best friend since the age of four. The two of them were further linked by a passion for sailing.

The problem was their friendship turned physical and they were in bed together in their room, when who should walk in but Prosper's father. After that, Prosper gives Cal the mean and silent treatment. After that, Cal commits suicide.

At Bellingham, Prosper's new set of rich friends - Race, Taze, Kriffo, Stuyvie - are witless oafs. Race, the son of marina owners, has the saving grace of being keen about sailing. The sole bright point about Bellingham is that four years ago the academy turned co-ed and Prosper soon encounters the novel's sole intriguing character: Aidan.

Her Californian mother had been an "orange grove heiress" and Hollywood insider. In Aidan's room

hangs a pair of Fred Astaire's dancing shoes and one of her three prospective fathers was the actor Robert Mitchum. She, too, has transferred from a more prestigious school and Prosper's friends warn him that she is "damaged goods" after the violent conclusion to a lesbian romance with her married art teacher. She is tall and thin, sharp-featured, with a mop of curly red hair, an eccentric dress sense, a mordant wit and a secretive air.

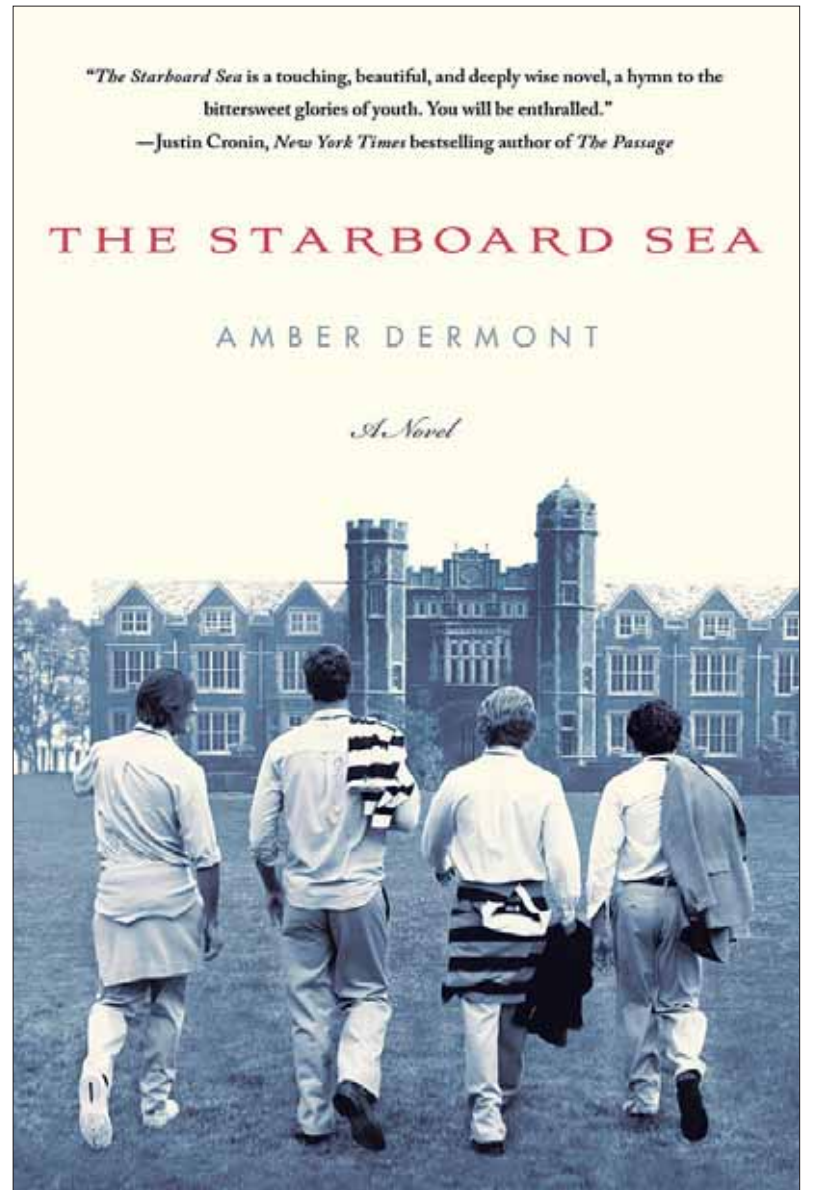
The two find a sanctuary from the rest of the school in a locked reading room where Prosper plays the piano for Aidan and she teaches him about poetry. Slowly they reveal more and more about themselves, culminating in their confessions one night aboard a yacht that has been hauled ashore before a forecasted hurricane.

There is supposed to be a hurricane party the next night at Race's beachfront mansion but Prosper sleeps through the storm. Four days later, he is on the beach watching Sikorsky helicopters winch away three stranded yachts. Pinned beneath one is Aidan's crushed body. The official cause of death is ruled suicide.

The dean and headmaster produce a suicide note for Aidan's mother who arrives from California. Prosper falls into more brooding again.

"I couldn't help but compare Cal's and Aidan's deaths. Together

**'Because the school catered to thieves, sluts, and dope fiends, it was understood that additional transgressions would be overlooked.'**



**ALL A'BORED:** Amber Dermont's witless WASPs fail to ethuse, despite murder, suicide and a spot of iffy weather.

they were like a pair of binary stars, two lights so close and so bright they blended into one."

But it slowly dawns on Prosper, through clumsy clues that his friends drop, that Aidan had met her death at the hurricane party at Race's house. Prosper resigns himself to the fact that the rich never pay and ends his tale with more sloppy sentimentality about stars:

"I wanted to sail under our

shattered constellation. Aidan and Cal, my fellow privateers. The two of them giving off more light, more warmth than I deserved."

In her Acknowledgements at the end of the book, Amber Dermont thanks all the writer's workshops she's attended, along with 56 individuals. This is the equivalent of a playwright taking multiple curtain calls after a lousy play.

## Film

### The Avengers

**Director:** Joss Whedon  
**Starring:** Robert Downey, Jr., Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Hemsworth, Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy Renner, Samuel L. Jackson  
**Genre:** Action  
**Phuket Release Date:** May 1

SUPERHERO origin stories tend to tread a ponderous path, especially when the hero or heroine in question has a vast and devoted following. Should the director dare to step an inch away from the well-trodden canon, he can be assured the sufferance of ten thousand sharpened blogs prodding at his posterity.

Joss Whedon may have actually found the formula to avoid such a painful ride: let a bunch of other directors do the origin stories then pick up the baton once the heroes reach team-up time.

Whedon, who also took the scriptwriting lead on *The Avengers*, has a fairly hefty following of his own, built on such successes and *Buff the Vampire Slayer* and *Firefly*. It seemed unlikely he would be able to screw up something as by-the-numbers as *The Avengers*.

But as wham-bam and wonderous as the movie's set pieces are, Whedon takes one easy path too many by resurrecting Loki - Thor's nemesis - as this outing's principal baddie.

Didn't Thor dispatch that naughty fellow last year without even breaking a sweat? Why on earth would it take a whole bunch of the world's top heroes to deal with him this time around?

Only Jeremy Renner, in an understated performance as the marksman, Hawkeye, brings anything new to the ensemble cast. But, really, do "understated" and "Marvel superhero" belong in a sentence together, let alone a multi-million dollar movie?

Note to Mr. Whedon: We go back to watch the repeated ex-



cursions of Messrs Bat, Spider, Iron, and their ilk, not only because we enjoy our heroes, but to see how they are challenged by a new panoply of baddies with a fresh range of nefarious abilities.

The *Avengers* is fun and Downey jr gets all the best lines, but isn't that what we have come to expect? No surprises here.



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# Saksri Kerdphol

YOU may have seen her photos in the society and lifestyle pages of local papers and magazines, and she is indeed known for her sense of style and fashion.

Having had a long and established career in the hospitality business, Saksri Kerdphol now brings her expertise and grace to bear on the island's new automobile enterprise. As general manager of Autoexpress Dot Com, Saksri explains that her role includes running PR events, taking care of publicity and heading what she refers to as a "formidable sales team".

Therefore it comes as no surprise to learn that since its opening, in December last year, this dealer and importer of top-of-the-range European cars, has already sold 170 cars.

When asked if the sales spikes were due to her flamboyant and magnetic personality, she answers: "I don't think so, but I do make people feel at home and treat customers as friends. Apart from that I know very little about the technical specifications of a car!"

Saksri, who was born in Ayudhya, hails from an illustrious family of renowned professional musicians and entertainers, and statesmen. Her father heads a musical ensemble patronized by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, who occasionally plays with the band. An uncle was bestowed a title

## THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

of 'national artist' for his services to the music tradition and is an iconic folk singer, well-known throughout the country. Her grandfather, Gen Saiyud Kerdphol, was the Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Army in the early 1980s.

Part of Saksri's childhood was spent in Ayudhya where she grew up with the tunes of traditional music being played and rehearsed most of the day. The annual family celebrations would be graced by folk opera (*likae*) and Thai musical ensemble (*pipat*) competitions. In this atmosphere, Saksri learned to dance and fostered a love for music.

In contrast to this background, steeped in tradition and heritage, Saksri was sent to a Christian school in Bangkok at a time when Western culture, notably of the US kind brought over by the presence of the American soldiers during the Vietnam War, was making a presence in Thailand. Saksri's sense of style and fashion seems to have stemmed from that period.

"In my teens I loved clothes and in some way I was a fashion vic-

tim. I would sport anything from a Twiggy to an Afro hairstyle and learned to rock 'n' roll and got away with dressing up wildly. I was definitely part of the swinging Bangkok scene then," recalls Saksri.

Her marriage to a Dutch hotelier brought her to Phuket where she raised four children and entered a hospitality career working for top hotels on the island. Being a people person, Saksri enjoyed relating to clients and the glitz and glamor that comes with the hotel business. It suits her personality, she says.

After a period of following her ex-husband on his work assignments to various parts of the world, she came back to Phuket to start a wine dealership. Today, apart from being GM at Autoexpress, she heads California Wine, a company dealing in international labels, and is, according to Saksri, the largest distributor in the region.

Yet, she refutes loudly the suggestion of being a Phuket socialite. "I got where I am today because of honesty and modesty. To quote my friend, what you see is what you get with me. I am very down to earth and just an ordinary working mum."

Today, Saksri still practices her lifelong passion of dancing and music to relax and unwind. She lives in Rawai with three of her children, is single, but "in a relationship."



### About Thai Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Thai Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket as an *international* community, and, often, for having made those contributions through successful social and/or working relationships with foreigners. This implies some foreign language skills and an interest in interacting with different cultures. They are people who in our experience help make the lives of expats far more enjoyable here than might be the case without them.








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## Gazette Coverage for Phuket Events

YOUR EVENT												
Pre-event story 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Pre-event story 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Post-event	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓		
Advertising, full color	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓				
Events Flyer – every week !	✓											
'What's On' page x 1	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓				
Website Events Calendar, every week until event closed out !					✓	✓	✓					
PGTV – Daily spot – 30 sec					✓ (1)	✓ (1)					✓ (2) (3)	
PGTV – Post event – 1 min of News footage					✓ (1)	✓ (1)					✓ (2) (3)	
Radio promotion – Spots / Mentions / Interview					✓							✓
Tickets Sales Promotions	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓			✓

\* THAI; Emirates; United; China Airlines; Air France; Delta; Lufthansa; Singapore Airlines; Cathay Pacific; Dragonair and Vietnam Airlines.

\*\* The Gazette Online enjoys the highest Google traffic and 'page importance' rankings of any website in or about Phuket.

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**Phuket Gazette**

Contact K. Jane, Events Manager:  
Kanjana@PhuketGazette.net

# WHAT'S ON in Phuket

**April 23 - 29, 6:30-10pm: Phuket Fish Market at DiVine Restaurant Thanyapura**

Thanyapura's DiVine Restaurant gets adventurous by setting up the first indoor fresh fish market. This month Chef Moo features the best fresh fish from the Phuket sea. Choose your favorite fish and have our experienced chefs prepare them as you wish; grilled, steamed or fried to your delight with your favorite sauces. Available for dinner from 6.30-10pm daily.

For reservations, please call DiVine Restaurant at 076 336000, ext 5070. Email: dining@thanyapura.com or visit www.thanyapura.com.

**April 28 to June 9, 7-8pm: New Exhibits by Somrak Maneemai Mom Tri's Villa Royale Gallery**

New work from famed Thai artist Somrak Maneemai. Somrak's latest work "Lost in the Clouds" will be exhibited at the gallery. Somrak, who has a Masters in Fine Art from Silpakorn University, has had his work displayed in Australia, Thailand and in private collections worldwide. His previous work "Red Gallery" was praised by the New York Times, which also commended his Rawai Art Village's work for its originality. Somrak also runs frequent art

workshops for school children around Phuket and teaches adults and children privately.

**April 28, 5-10:30pm: Seafood Chill and Grill at RE KÁ TA Seafood Beachfront Restaurant**

Every Saturday a seafood chill and grill. Enjoy a succulent seafood BBQ while listening to DJs spinning cracker tunes. 1,500++ baht per person for food only and 1,800++ baht per person including one bottle of wine for two.

**April 28, 8:30pm: Salsa Night at Royal Phuket Marina**

After the overwhelming success of our Salsa Evening and by popular demand, we are delighted to invite you to our next Salsa Event at the Royal Phuket Marina. Dance the Cha-cha, Bachata, Samba & Rumba with the sound of DJ live on the boardwalk outside "Les Anges". Entrance is free and the dress is colorful. For all reservations and inquiries please contact Anna & Didier on 084 051 7455 or Mr Murat (Events & Group Manager) on 081 797 3364.

**April 28 - 29, 5-9pm: Weekend Market Phuket Boat Lagoon Marina, Koh Kaew**

Buy, sell and barter on an ever

## Columbia Trail Masters Phuket

This event marks a new sports experience for Phuket – trail running. The Columbia Trail Masters Phuket is the second episode of the 2012 Columbia Trail Masters Thailand Championships. The first occurred in January in Kao Mai Keaw forest in Chonburi, and the third will take place in July in Kao Kieaw, Phitsanoulak. The Phuket event, based at the magnificent new Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club, will comprise of a 21 km half marathon, a 10km run and a 3km fun run for children and adults who would just like to be with them for the enjoyment of it. A post-race lunch will follow the trophy presentation ceremony at about 10:30am. If taking in the stunning green scenery off-road on soft-earthen trails and making new friends appeals, then this is an event you should not miss.

### Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club May 6, 6:30am-12:30pm

Organized by AMA Events and hosted at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club, this event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, *The Nation*, and *PGTV*.

expanding extensive variety of goods, food, etc. Or simply relax and enjoy the vast assortment of other fun stuff we are putting together for all ages. Nobody has more fun than at the soon to be number one Weekend Market & Meeting Place in Phuket! Located within the conveniently situated Boat Lagoon, with easy access, Toilet facilities and lots of free parking. Individual cover boot (2x2m) with power facility available for rent in dedicated zone areas, 100 baht per day introduction rate. Contact 088-7680471

**April 29, 10am-3pm: Beachfront Brunch at RE KÁ TA Seafood Beachfront Restaurant**

Every Sunday a Beachfront Brunch. Enjoy a decadent beachfront brunch buffet while

listening to the tunes from our in-house DJ and relaxing over a glass of sparkling wine. 1,200++ baht per person for food only, and 1,500++ baht per person with a bottle of wine for two. Come with 4-7 diners and pay 1 less; come with 8-10 diners and pay 2 less and so on.

**May 1, Labor Day**  
Public holiday.

**May 2, 6pm-1am: Tex-Mex at Two Chefs Karon**

Now we start with our very popular weekly Tex-Mex again. Every Wednesday we present for you the biggest Tex-Mex buffet on this island. This year we also have a free flow option for you. As every night, our Two Chefs house band will be there to entertain us. All this for only 495 baht, and for 795 baht you can drink as much as you want from our free flow options. For more info, please visit us on the web.

**May 4, 7-10pm: Indian Night at**

**Les Anges Royal Phuket Marina**  
Phuket's best Indian buffet is back with a new chef and a new menu. Every Friday, starting on May 4. Special promotion at just 449 baht net with a 10 per cent discount on drinks! Reservations are recommended. Call Mr Murat at 081-797 3364.

**May 5, Coronation Day**  
Public Holiday

**May 5, 12-3pm: Saturday Brunch at Two Chefs Kata Center**

Every Saturday we are setting up our brunch buffet, filled to the limits with home made delights. In our smoke house, we smoke all of our fish and meats by ourselves, and in the bakery we we bake all our bread. With very well trained chefs and a Swedish head chef, we can promise you that you won't leave hungry or thirsty. All this for only 395 baht, and if you add an extra 300 baht you can choose to drink what you want from our free flow alternatives. For more information please visit TwoChefs.com.

### Phuket Afternoon Computer Clinic

Is Windows driving you nuts? Looking for a good internet connection? Need to know how and where to get your PC repaired, or your confounding questions answered? Drop by the new Afternoon Computer Clinics, hosted by Woody Leonhard and Seth Bareiss. Bring your computer. Bring your questions. Bring your sense of humor and let's see if we can solve your PC problems. Second and fourth Wednesday of every month, 1-3pm, at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Sponsored by Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the *Phuket Gazette*.

Free Computer Clinics at  
Sandwich Shoppe Chalong - May 9, 16, 1-3pm  
Sandwich Shoppe Patong - May 2, 1-3pm

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**IT'S IN THE BAG:** Actress 'Bowie' Athama Chiwanichphum was in town to help launch Tesco Lotus's cloth bags. From left: Actress 'Bowie' Athama Chiwanichphum; Charkrit Direkwattanachai, Head of Public Affairs Tesco Lotus; Deputy gov Boonchai Cheeparanai; and the Operations Director.



**HOSPITAL TRENDS:** The International Conference on Trends in Emergency, Trauma, and Disaster Nursing was held at Bangkok Phuket Hospital on April 25.



**GREEN DAY:** The Imperial Adamas Beach Resort, Phuket organized a green event on April 22 called "The Imperial Serve the Earth" General Manager Mr Elyes Ben Brahim and his Management team organized the beach cleaning day together with hotel guests.



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**SIXES MIXES:** Phuket Sixes after party at St George's River included Mark Dowsing, Matthew Devlin, Anthony Sinclair, Jacqui Breen, Rebecca Gray, Daniel Brightwell and Emily Arthur all from Sidney.





# Phuket Big Bike Week 2012 roars



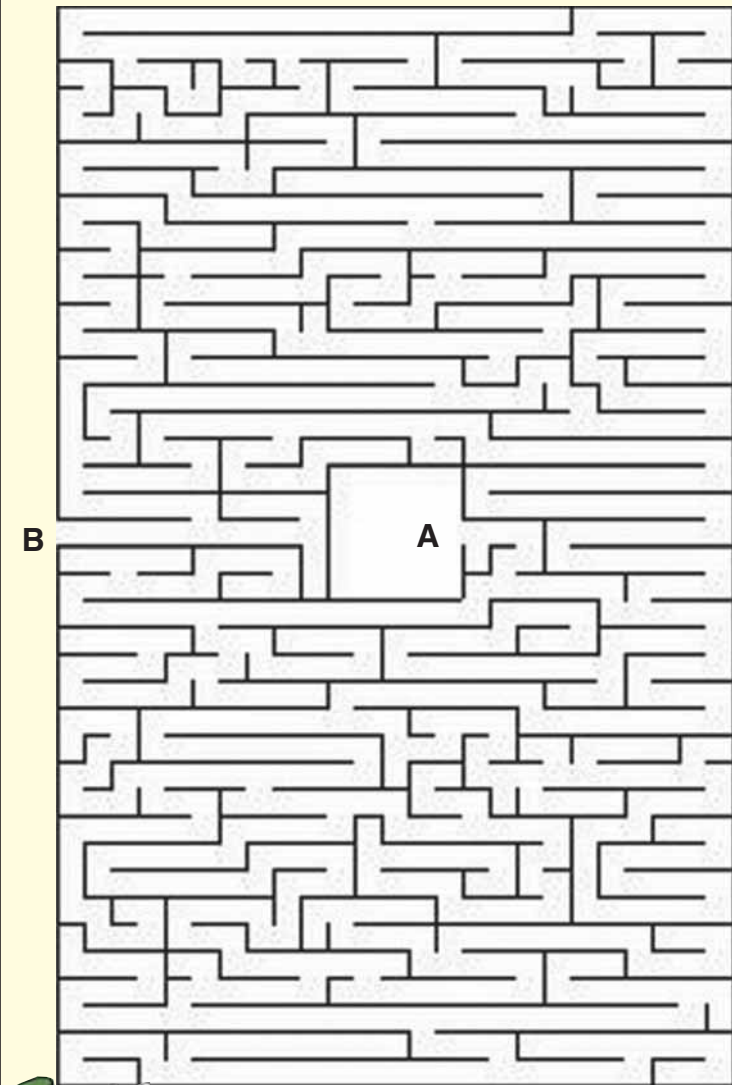
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A Gazette staff member completed this maze in 17 seconds. Can you can beat their time? Make your way out of the maze.



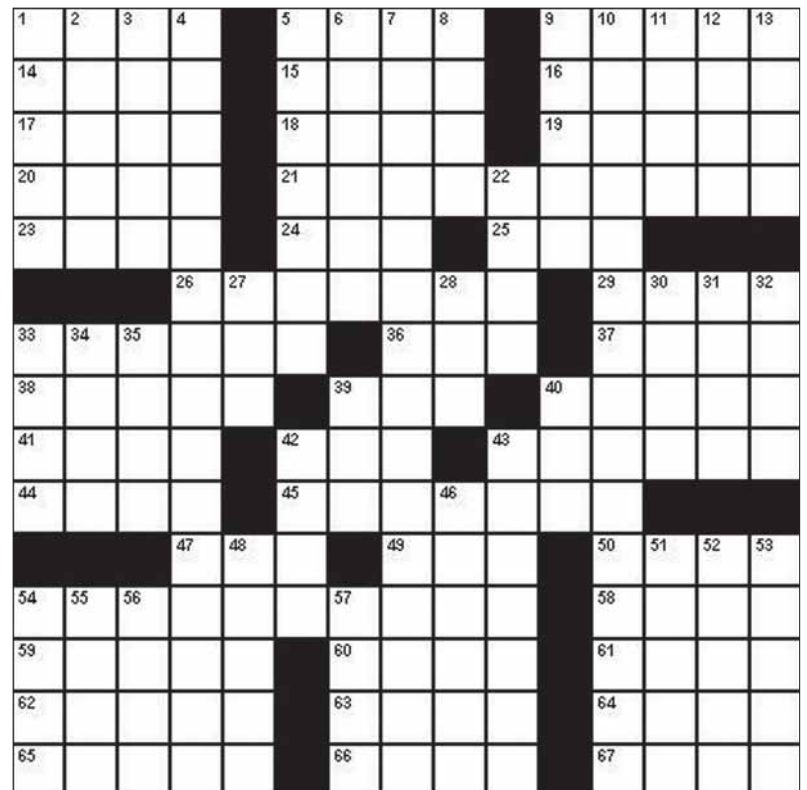
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**Across**

1. Colleen
5. Playwright Henley
9. Melts together
14. Baseball family name
15. Mogul capital until 1658
16. Beethoven dedicatee
17. Diamond cover
18. Fly
19. Book of maps
20. URL starter
21. Ill-omened
23. Authenticating mark
24. CIA forerunner
25. Code-breaking org
26. Blue books?
29. Overlay with wood
33. Pollen producer
36. Pull laboriously
37. Opposite of ecto-
38. British buddy
39. Cheer for Manolete
40. Computer key
41. Atop
42. Bearded beast
43. Boards
44. Bloke
45. Climbing rose
47. Big brute
49. Acknowledgment of debt
50. Res \_\_\_ loquitur
54. Luminiferous
58. Stupid person
59. Russian revolutionary leader
60. Le Roi d'Ys composer
61. Forearm bone
62. Ready \_\_\_
63. French summers
64. Jokes
65. Honeybee
66. Nothing more than
67. Formerly, formerly

**Down**

1. Wood strips
2. Having wings
3. A bit, colloquially
4. Adding vitamins, say




5. Large woodwind instrument
6. Self-centered person
7. Cause light to pass through
8. Last name in spydom
9. Exploits
10. High-speed separator
11. Farm structure
12. Biblical birthright seller
13. Cong. meeting
22. Glitch
27. Actor Fernando
28. Billiards rod
30. Tolkien tree creatures

31. Logical beginning?
32. Bereft
33. Complacent
34. Record with a VCR
35. Lots and lots
39. \_\_\_ roll
40. Extra-wide shoe size
42. Diver Louganis
43. Sugar
46. Hot water tank
48. Florence's \_\_\_ Vecchio
51. Like some bears and icecaps
52. Pop pieces
53. As \_\_\_ resort
54. Trudge
55. German Mister
56. \_\_\_ account (never)
57. K-6


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Crossword answers on page 41


**TAURUS (April 21-May 21):**

 A productive end to the month is forecast for those born under the end of Taurus. The stars indicate that a burst of fresh energy will make it possible to accomplish all that you set out to do this week. Those celebrating a birthday during the coming days will become more grounded in the year ahead. Sunday is a glowing day for romance. Your lucky number this week is three.

**GEMINI (May 22-June 21):**


 Geminis should find it easier to see what is really going on in their lives this week. Your tendency to sweep the truth under the carpet has been preventing progress, but the month of May will bring a reality check. A power struggle with a fire sign midweek will leave you both with better understanding in the world of work. Number eight can bring good fortune for Geminis at the end of April.

**CANCER (June 22-July 23):**


 This is an auspicious week for Cancerians to show what they know where work is concerned. Another water sign is forecast to suggest a scheme that could float your boat, but a quick answer will

be called for. May will be a month to take some calculated risks, and the stars promise to back your moves. Hot days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday. The number two looks promising this week.

**LEO (July 24-August 22):**


 The stars suggest that your initial reaction to news received this week may be the wrong one. Another person's loss should prove to be your gain by the middle of May. Leos who have recently fallen in love with an earth sign are advised not to make commitments too quickly, as infatuation can get in the way of seeing what is really happening. Number seven is special for Leos this week.

**VIRGO (August 23-September 23):**

 Virgoans are likely to make a promise they won't be able to keep this week. If this is concerned with work, the stars show that you will find it difficult to wriggle out of the situation without losing face. Fortunate days for money matters are Sunday and Monday. In the realm of romance, playing it cool may not be the best approach with a water sign. Your lucky number this week is nine.




**LIBRA (September 24-October 23):**

 Where finances are concerned, a wake-up call is forecast for those born under the sign of Libra at the end of April. A quick response should ensure that you keep your head above water – Tuesday is the most auspicious day to take care of business. A romantic relationship with another air sign needs your attention this weekend. The stars show that number one can be important for Librans.


**SCORPIO (October 24-November 22):**

 Those Scorpios who have been preoccupied with a health issue will be glad of advice from a fire sign this week. The stars advise that May is an ideal time to make changes to your lifestyle, with focus on more exercise. Your luck in love remains high – expect to be showered with compliments from another water sign this weekend. Scorpios are forecast to see that number four is fortunate this week.


**SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21):**

 Things aren't quite what they seem for Sagittarians this week. Where work is concerned, this is not the right time to stray from a trusted path. The stars also advise that financial transactions are subject to mistakes being made midweek. False flattery from a water sign should be simple to spot and will make you wary of this person. Number three is lucky at the end of April.

**CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20):**


 The area of finances stays well-starred until the middle of May, but hard work could be taking its toll, both mentally and physically. Capricorns who have been feeling out of sorts could plan a getaway after an invitation comes from another earth sign. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, a fire sign starts to give you a warm feeling. The number six can bring good fortune this week.

**AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19):**


 Personal relationships fall under the spotlight as April gives way to May. Allowing sour grapes to disturb a friendship with a fire sign will be cause for regret. In the realm of romance, the stars

advise that heightened emotions may cloud your judgment where an earth sign is concerned. Wear the color charcoal gray to encourage a more down to earth outlook. Aquarians lucky number this week is five.

**PISCES (February 20-March 20):**

 The wind of change is forecast to blow your way during the month of May – Pisceans should cultivate a more open-minded attitude to take advantage of opportunities that will be available. Sizzling days for romance are Monday and Tuesday when your way with words leaves an air sign keen to hear more. Wear the color scarlet to encourage prosperity. Number four has good luck written on it this week.

**ARIES (March 21-April 20):**

 The stars suggest that too many irons in the fire could cramp your style. It would be sensible to streamline work projects and concentrate on those showing most promise. Collaboration with an earth sign can lead to success, but you will have to adjust your pace. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, an earth sign falls under your spell this weekend. Number nine shines for Arians this week.

# PROPERTY Gazette

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# Disaster insurance

By Chris Hudon

IN ORDER to make disaster insurance policies available, the Thai government has created the National Catastrophe Insurance Fund (NCIF), underwritten with 5 billion baht.

For an NCIF policy holder to make a claim, the damaged property must be in an area declared a disaster by the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM). If the DDPM does not declare a disaster where your home or business is, no claim can be made.

Different properties have different premiums, calculated as a percentage of the total coverage (sum insured), increasing from the lowest (for homeowners) at 0.5 per cent, to the highest (large scale industry) at 1.5 per cent.

NCIF policies are purchased through private insurers.

Private homes have no deductible, but businesses may have a deductible of up to 5 per cent depending on the plan and insurance company involved. A deductible is the amount the policy holder is required to pay before an insurer validates a claim. All NCIF policies cover earthquakes, windstorms and floods.

If not otherwise declared a disaster, to be covered an earthquake has to

be of a magnitude of at least 7 on the Richter scale. In the case of a windstorm, the wind speed has to be 120 kilometers per hour or greater.

If you own a home or have a mortgage, you are eligible for an NCIF policy as an addition to your primary insurance.

The minimum amount insured for all home-owners, regardless of home value, is 100,000 baht, with a premium of 500 baht per year. Although inexpensive, this is not likely to cover all the damage to a home following a major flood.

Earthquake and windstorm damage can be claimed based on actual damages not exceeding 100,000 baht. That means, if you have damage as the result of an earthquake or windstorm you would have to produce an itemized list with the estimated value of all damages.

You would be reimbursed based on an insurance adjuster's assessment of that damage. Flood damage is calculated separately for homeowners and depends on the high-water mark in a flooded home. The break-



INSPECTION: Officials survey a house in Thalang following the recent earthquake. Photo: Kritsada Mueanwong

down is as follows:

All flooding below 50 centimeters will pay 30 per cent of the amount covered, so 30,000 baht. Reimbursement for flooding to a water level of 50 cm and above can be calculated by simply adding the term 'per cent' to the water level measurement.

Therefore if the water level in your home is 87.5cm, you would be entitled to 87.5 per cent of the 100,000 baht policy limit, 87,500 baht.

As a general rule, NCIF policies

for business claims are based on actual damage as reported by an insurance surveyor.

Depending on the insurance company involved, small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can take out multiple packages of up to 50 million baht but will not be paid more than 30 per cent of the sum insured.

SMEs will have a premium equal to 1 per cent of the sum insured up to 50mn baht.

Therefore, if you insure an

SME to the sub-limit, your yearly premium would be 500,000 baht.

There is no cap on the amount of insurance that can be taken out by industry but premiums rise with the total amount of insurance.

To qualify for purchasing the Catastrophe Insurance Policy, businesses must first possess a fire insurance policy or an industrial-all-risk insurance policy.

A list of insurance providers that offer NCIF policies can be found here: [www.ncif.or.th/en/ceding.html](http://www.ncif.or.th/en/ceding.html)

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# What do you do when a property deal goes bad?



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

WE DO not live in a perfect world. If we did, I would not bother writing this column, and would endlessly shuttle between my vineyard in the South of France and a ranch in the high plains of New Zealand.

But I would stop off in Phuket for breaks at my villa on the beach in Natai, when time allowed, and pick up a box full of mangoes for the road.

But there is no such perfection. For many property buyers who come to this island's shores what was expected to be their own personal heaven, turns out into a journey into hell. No ordinary flaming down under for these folks – and yes, it's worse than being jumped by a gang of tuk-tuk drivers hopped-up on M150 with a very bad attitude.

Over the past three or four years, rarely does a month pass by without an email, call or someone dropping into the office with a woeful tale about a tragic property transaction. Lately, there have been more than I can remember.

Failed launches, errant develop-

ers, contracts broken, money unreturned and often little to show for paid up property, except for some rusting metal rebars in decaying concrete.

As I sit and listen, my mind flicks over to what we can term the first deadly sin.

My mouth lets out the words: "So who was your lawyer who handled the due diligence and negotiated the contract?"

Often times the silence is so still I can hear my dog barking at home which is about three kilometers away.

Buzz, wrong answer.

Still an amazing number did have some sort of legal advice, but in the wacky world of Phuket property, where for a decade foreign buyers ruled the market, some deals have come unhinged.

In the boom days, condos were few and far between, and the gray shroud of foreign ownership as well as the relatively unrestricted leasehold structures created a plethora of ownership hybrids.

Many developers did the best they could under the legal limitations, and there remains for the most part many satisfied buyers. But this article is meant to address the other side, those who have been ripped off or taken advantage of,



TOO LATE: Hindsight is a good thing, but it is best to get lawyer to handle the paperwork. Photo: Marko Marila

and left with little but a bad taste of Phuket's brand of paradise.

For some who contact me (and after hearing their stories and seeing the documents) I can't help but feel a certain amount of loathing for the failure of some to simply stand and deliver what was promised. Goods in return for money paid.

I spoke to the legal advisor Desmond Hughes about how buyers could address defaults. He cited the Office of Consumer Protection Board (OCPB) in Bangkok which covers consumers and non-commercial investments in cases such as condos, leasehold apartments and villas.

Bangkok only covers the Metropolitan area, so in Phuket there is a local office at the Provincial Hall. Complaints can be filed by individuals whether legal advice has been obtained or not.

In the case of properties that have guaranteed returns, it remains subject to interpretation whether these are property ownership or investment issues and if the latter, then in many cases these are referred to civil action.

Another legal eagle, Jerrold Kippen, suggests a practical solution for new buyers; that contracts should include a binding arbitration clause. This allows for unbiased resolution. Having personally attended cases in Bangkok at the Thai Arbitration Institute I've been suitably impressed that the venue provides an equitable forum for buyer and developer disputes.

Kippen adds that both the Condominium Juristic Act (revised in 2008) and the Consumer Case Protection Act and Product Liability

Act (both from 2008) have technically provided a clearer solution for property buyers. But in actual fact, as in many cases with government regulations, implementation on the ground has been spotty.

Many things in Thailand are neither black nor white but falls somewhere in between.

Long time legal personality Sam Fauma said that in many cases his clients had seen little action by the Consumer Board, but suggested that the most effective course was often to file a civil court case citing the Act itself. This seemingly

has met with more success.

The bottom line at present is that the aggrieved property buyers best obtain competent legal council because the method of doing it yourself with the consumer mechanism is not overly competent at present. That given, things are changing and consumer rights are moving ahead in the country at a certain pace.

As for the search for a perfect world, if things don't work out the way you expected, the next best step is to get the best legal advice possible.

## Standing in the corrected line

This week finds me at the front of the "stand corrected line". In last week's Property Watch Column "Just Another 48 Hours" I referred to last year's summer camp shooting in Sweden. Of course, as we know this was Norway. My apologies go out to any aggrieved Swedish readers. It's a country I like, and I even used to own the world's safest car – a Volvo. There was a reader's comment about a reference to a careless Greek cruise-ship captain, which was assumed to have been the Italian master of disaster of the *Costa Concordia*. My point of reference was actually in 1991, with the Greek liner *Yiannis Avranas*. He was condemned around the world for leaving his passengers behind in a sinking ship. Yes, despite the Swedish gaff, Greece and Italy are not bedfellows in this turn of events. My number has just been called, so pardon me, I must be going...



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# Quakes did not shake the market

By Orawin Narabal

THE Phuket-centered earthquake on April 16 and its associated aftershocks will not have a negative impact on real estate investment in Phuket, the head of Phuket Real Estate Association (P-REA) has affirmed.

P-REA President Tanan Tanphaibul told the *Phuket Gazette* that the 4.3 Richter earthquake on April 16 and the numerous aftershocks that shook parts of the island for the week after, did not cause any significant property damage.

"The quakes were minor and based on small fault lines, so the damage was minimal.

"According to information from the Phuket Tourist Association, the earthquake has not had negative impacts on foreign [sourced] tourism," Mr Tanan said.

"They will continue to visit Phuket since they understand that the earthquake is a natural disaster that can occur anywhere," he added.

The thing they are more concerned about is the earthquake readiness-plan of various organizations in the province, such as

evacuation plans, traffic system coordination, and so on.

"I personally believe that the earthquake situation will not affect real estate investment in Phuket," he said.

"However, raising standards of construction in order to be more prepared for future earthquakes is an important thing that property owners need to take into consideration," Mr Thanun added.

Thanusak Puengdetch, a committee member of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce said that the number of foreign investors deciding to start businesses in Phuket is constant, despite the disaster scare.

The quake doesn't play an important role in their decision making, he said.

"However, we can only see the [lack of] impacts in the short term. But if quakes keep occurring and don't seem to be stop, the investment trends might change," he said.

Speaking with the *Gazette*, Rachen Chokprasert, Officer of Phuket Land Department echoed other officials: "The earthquake hasn't affected selling or buying property in Phuket."



SHAKEN: Some house escaped with only minor damage and others had cracks.

## Novotel's newest hotel is now open

NOVOTEL, a leading international hotel operator in Thailand and the Asia-Pacific region, has announced the opening of Novotel Phuket Vintage Park, a newly built resort located in the heart of Patong Beach, just three minutes walk from the Andaman Sea.

In one of Phuket's premier locations, Novotel Phuket Vintage Park is not far from the island's major shopping centers as well as the lively nightlife of Bangla Road in Patong.

Hervé Duprat, General Manager (GM) of Novotel Phuket Vintage Park said: "Featuring contemporary Southeast Asian architecture and modern design, this resort will appeal to guests who seek comfort and serene relaxation while just steps away from the lively activities of the Patong area, making it a perfect choice for leisure travellers".

The newly built 303-room resort has a spacious, modern, colourful design, while maintaining relaxation and comfort through services and facilities.

All rooms are fully equipped with a flat screen TV and free Wi-Fi internet access for guests who plan to work in their rooms.

Leisure guests can enjoy the 2,000-square-meter swimming pool, or indulge in a well-being break for massages, face and body treatments, or the steam room at Novotel's signature spa and fitness centre "In Balance".

Guests can enjoy the simple pleasures of all-day international

and Thai cuisine at The Square Restaurant, cocktails and snacks at The Lobby Lounge or fresh fruit juices and light refreshments while dipping their feet at the Velvet Pool Bar.

To accommodate meetings Novotel Phuket Vintage Park provides three meeting rooms and a pillar-less ballroom, which can cater up to over 300 delegates and is equipped with state-of-the-art audio-visual systems. Other hotel services include: a Kids Club, babysitting services and an iMac internet corner.

Novotel Phuket Vintage Park is the 11<sup>th</sup> Novotel hotel in Thailand and the second Novotel hotel in Phuket.

The Novotel brand has established itself as the leading 4-star brand in Thailand, offering the perfect combination of relaxation, modernity and efficiency.

For more information visit the website [novotel.com](http://novotel.com).



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# Plumeria detective work



PICK A FLOWER: Plumeria or Frangipani come in many hues and some are more fragrant than others. Photos: Forest and Kim Starr, Atamari, Craig.photog and Yimhafiz.

**Gardening**  
By Patrick Campbell

TRACKING down a plant can sometimes take you on a wild-goose chase. Plants may lack the aerial acrobatics of a goose in flight, but they have their own ways of proving elusive.

Take one species of *plumeria*. This particular variety has been in my garden for some time, not only safely grounded, but displaying its plumage. But what was elusive about this shrub was its correct name. None of my books, and nothing on the web, definitively identified it. But today, I finally got there. At least I think so...

I had known for some time that the local name was *leelawadee look-sorn*. *Look-sorn* means arrow, and certainly the foliage is arrow-like, with bright green, wavy edged leaves, very narrow at the stem joint (axil), which broadens out to resemble an ar-

row flight at the end. It is quite different from the normal *plumeria* (or *frangipani*), which has much larger oval-shaped leaves, but today, I discovered that it does have a botanical name as well – *plumeria pudica*.

*Pudica* is unique in other ways. Young plants have an erect habit: the leaves grow in alternate spirals up straight, green stems which bear no resemblance to the open, grey-branched form of *plumeria obtusa* or *rubra*, the two most common species.

However, what does mark the shrub as a member of the family is the inflorescence, a large cluster of white flowers with creamy centers, which appears at the top of the main stems.

There is another similarity. Break off one of the leaves (the shrub exhibits the same brittleness as its relatives), and it will exude a toxic, milky sap, characteristic of the genus.

Is it worth growing? Certainly. It is deservedly popular with Thai

gardeners, and does well in a container. I am currently growing two new acquisitions, one installed in a pot and the other in open ground. It will be interesting to see which fares better.

Scarce in plant centers, there is a plentiful supply of healthy specimens in a small nursery near the end of Soi Samakee Two – if you happen to live in the Chalong or Rawai area. *Pudica* is, moreover, easy to grow, the blooms last a long time and the leaves are evergreen. There is even a new pink cultivar on the market – or so my secret informant tells me...

It seems I am unable to take flight from *plumerias* today. Kars recently wrote to me to describe a disease which is currently afflicting his own *frangipanis*. He says that the undersides of the leaves are discoloring and turning brown before dropping off.

The problem, I'm afraid, is a world-wide one, and seems to afflict *plumeria rubra* more severely than *plumeria obtusa*. Red, pink and multi-colored cultivars are derived from this latter species, so I imagine these are what Kars has in his garden. *Rubra* is also more prone to leaf-drop than *obtusa*, which has more rounded leaves and normally produces only white flowers.

Plants are like people, in that their immune systems work more effectively when they are healthy. Indeed, prevention, not cure, is always a maxim worth observing.

Try feeding your plants with a phosphate rich fertilizer – say 10-20-10 – which can be obtained from the only retail outlet I know



SHOOTING STRAIGHT UP: A young *leelawadee look-sorn* also known as *Plumeria pudica* which has finally been identified. Photo: Webbaliah

that specializes in such products, situated on the old airport road a few hundred meters south of Super-Cheap. The proprietor may have in stock a liquid with a copper sulphate base, which can be applied immediately. But remem-

ber that *plumerias* do lose their leaves and cease blooming during periods of dormancy, and that *rubra* is especially prone to go quiet for a while.

It has not taken flight, it's merely taking a break.

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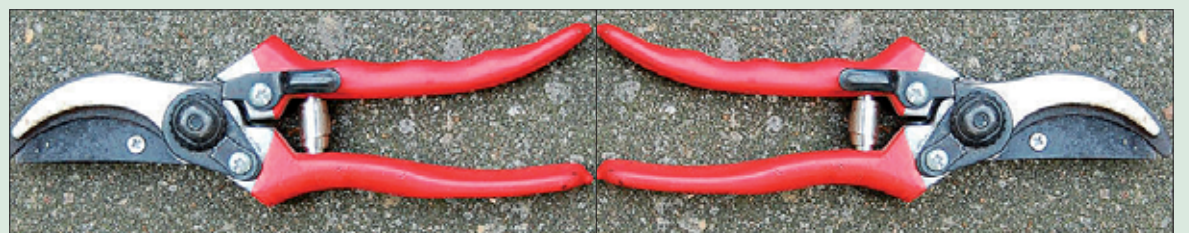
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## Tip of the week

### A little more on pruning your bush



SINCE we are considering small ornamental trees, it seems appropriate to review the topic of pruning.


With trees or shrubs, the process will generally help to maintain plant health (removal of diseased or dead branches), to direct growth (pruning out wayward branches),

to increase flowers or fruit or to create hedges or topiary.

Always cut back to a part that will continue to grow – in the case of a tree, normally to a main branch. In the case of plants that send up stems from the roots (*cannas*, *heliconias*), cut right back to the root stock after

flowering.

With shrubs or trees that feature alternate buds, make a diagonal cut with secateurs 1 to 2 centimeters above a single bud. But if there are pairs of shoots or buds on either side of the stems, make a straight cut across and above the two buds.






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### UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

A 2-bed villa in Royal Estate offering the security of a small, private, gated community complete with club house and swimming pool all beautifully maintained and well managed. Tel: 076-288560, 085-021 9536 (English). Email: mike.rossiter@ol-i.co.uk

### LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

### KAMALA HOUSE LEASEHOLD

18 years left, 300sqm, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, aircon, furnished, sundeck, carport, photos available. Price: 3.75 million baht. Rent 32,000 baht per month for 6 months rent. Tel: 084-716 0502.

### CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2fl, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more details. Tel: 089-469 1813, 086-476 9612.

### HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

### LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

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

### LAND FOR SALE

Near the main road to Baan Don-Cherng Talay. 68sq wah. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@yahoo.co.th

### 30 RAI IN TOWN

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

### HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

2.5 floors, 5 mins to town, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Good for stay! 2.85 million baht. Tel: 083-506 9155. Email: sumitra.saeatan@gmail.com

### HOUSE IN PATONG



Newly built 40sqwah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 stories, 3 beds, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 089-469 1813.

### CONDO IN SUPALAI PARK



for sale. Near Seng Ho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio 30sqm, floor 15, seaview, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.9 million baht. Ready to move in July 2012. Tel: 089-472 9118.

### TOP SEAVIEW NAI HARN



Fully developed, 1,250sqm, 40m above sea level, Chanote, additional available, construction permits. Private more information. Tel: 087-298 0200. Email: rwberger00@hotmail.com Website: www.phuket-seaview-land.com

### PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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

### VILLA PATONG

Super seaview villa in Patong with 4 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms. Freehold. Comes with Chanote title. 23.5 million baht or rent US\$500 per night. Tel: 086-982 2888 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-374882. Email: prim\_purdue@yahoo.com Website: www.youtube.com/watch?v=RS1z9EB7ii0

### RAWAI POOL VILLA

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, 8x4m pool, 400sqm land, furnished. Price: 5.5 million baht. Contact Hockey (owner). Tel: 084-852 4091.

### PHUKET VILLA SUAN LUANG

Urgent sale. 65/474, 67.5sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, car park. Price: 4.9 million baht. Tel: 081-536 5755, 089-729 6244.

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On Nanai Road. 2 storeys, 112.5sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, bathtub, built-in cabinets, kitchen, aircon and car park. 1km to Patong beach, near Bangla Road and Jungceylon. Price 5.5 million baht or nearest offer. No agents! Tel: 087-270 9093.

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### CHALONG NEW HOUSE

Sale 2.2 million baht or rent 12,000 baht/month. Contact Jai on 089-817 4864.

### PA KHLOK HOUSE FOR SALE



59sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, European kitchen. Fully furnished, with common pool. Price: 2.9 million baht. Tel: 081-719 1041. Email: teddykong0222@hotmail.com

### HOUSE IN PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR SALE



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

## Classified Advertisements

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

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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

## Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)

## Properties For Rent

### KAMALA APARTMENT



Fully furnished with kitchen, ready to move in. Starts at 18,000 baht/month. Contact Mr Joke. 088-751 3066. Email: handyman@phuketplus.co.th

### FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE



2-storey house 3 bed, 3 bath near Ao Makham. Tel: 081-892 4311. 20,000 baht/month. For further details, please see our website at <http://panwagreen.weebly.com>

### CONDO PATONG

Studios and one-bedroom apartments for rent at Phuket Place and Patong Tower. Tel: 081-892 1621.

### POOL VILLA CHALONG

Fully furnished, private pool, 3 beds/baths. Tel: 089-729 1968, 081-970 5940 (English). Email: jae.apc@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at [www.villaprana.com](http://www.villaprana.com)

### PATONG CONDO

58sqm, fully furnished, aircon, internet, cable TV. 16,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-891 3740.

### PAKHLOK BUNGALOWS

2 bathrooms, fully furnished, com pool. Please call for more informations. Tel: 081-079 7121, 086-268 8926.

### LUXURY CONDO PATONG

2-bedrooms, 2-bathrooms, fully furnished condo, overlooks swimming pool. Prefer long term tenant. Available now. Tel: 084-523 1714 (English). Email: bern@global.net.au

### KATHU CONDO

58sqm, fully furnished, aircon, internet, cable TV. 9,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-891 3740.

### PATONG

#### 1+2 BEDROOM APTS

Luxury apartments with free WiFi, maid, big pool, security, cable TV. Close to town. 22,000 baht per month and up. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

### CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, Bypass Road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2fl, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more details. Tel: 089-469 1813, 086-476 9612.

### 2-BEDROOM HOUSE, BANG TAO



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, living room, parking, fully furnished, cable TV, internet, aircons, hot water. Only 5 mins to Surin Beach, Bang Tao Beach and Lotus Cherng Talay. Tel: 089-470 7488. Email: nattamon.m@gmail.com

### KATA SEAFRONT LUXURY APT

1 bedroom, 5-star, spa, gym, ADSL, quiet with views. Great price! Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at [www.katasala.com](http://www.katasala.com)

### B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, and car park. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

### BUNGALOW, RAWAI

9,000 baht, fully furnished, kitchen, WiFi, TV. Tel: 086-279 0837. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

### HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



near Heroine Monument. furnished, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 086-607 7493.



### 4-Bedroom Villa for Rent / Sale

Fully Finished, Wi-Fi, Cable TV, Maid, Pool Cleaner, and Gardener are included. [www.PropertySeekByKMD.com](http://www.PropertySeekByKMD.com) (081) 895-7310

### HOUSE IN PATONG



Newly built 40sq wah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 stories, 3 beds, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 089-469 1813.

### LONG-TERM RENT

1-2 bedroom, furnished houses, beautiful garden, Chalong area 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311.

### ONE UNIT PATONG

One bedroom unit Patong. Fully furnished, aircon, cable TV, WiFi and power topview and quite 20,000 baht per month. Contact Phtam 082-271 4487.

### KATA HILL HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully-furnished 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, aircon, living, dining, kitchen, car park, internet and cable TV. Price 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

### CHEAP KAMALA

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, fully furnished, free cable TV and internet, 2 aircons. Long-term rent: 15,000 baht/month. Email: sak.shetthong@gmail.com

### TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW



Comer unit, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

### HOUSE FOR RENT IN CHALONG



Longterm 10,000 baht per month. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, carpark. Contact Nina. Tel: 089-729 6244. Email: ninaphuket@hotmail.com

### PATONG CONDO PRIVATE RENTAL



1 and 2 bed available, 800m to beach, fully furnished, swimming pool, gym, parking, WiFi, cable TV, parking. Tel: 085-069 0938. Email: nnorthwo@hotmail.com

### KATA PHUKET



Apts & pool penthouses. 1, 2, 3-bedrooms, few mins walk to 2 beaches, free WiFi. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

### APARTMENT ON THE BEACH

Paradise location, 1-bedroom, ground floor, Thai style with mod cons, just south of airport. Even has a real tree in the livingroom. Can be yours from 11 April to end December. Think sunrise walks/sunset strolls/swimming/seafood restaurants with your feet in the sand. All for 20,000 baht per month. Call now 087-267 5376 (English). Email: w.gabrielle@gmail.com

### LAYAN 4-BEDROOM POOL VILLA

Furnished, modern-style villa on 900sqm plot, available April, long term only. Tel: 076-391445, 084-305 4333 (English), 087-386 3388 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-391445. Email: shanya.arman@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at [www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.137135652995390.12164.137133126328976&type=1](http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.137135652995390.12164.137133126328976&type=1)

### BEAUTIFUL RAWAI VILLA

Luxury two bedroom, two bathroom pool villa in quiet inland retreat near Rawai and Nai Harn. Discounted from 9.5 million to 8.25 million baht for quick sale. Available for rent at 55,000 per month includes hi-speed internet. Tel: 084-837 9403. Email: Craighoy@hotmail.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT IN CHALONG



Longterm 6,000 baht per month. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, carpark. Contact Nina. Tel: 089-729 6244. Email: ninaphuket@hotmail.com

Let us take your ad to the top of Google with a 20% discount!



Your key to fast-track placement and easy payment for ads at Thailand's LARGEST classifieds marketplace. Hundreds of new ads every week! Like to have one?

Mail: [AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net)

# Property Classifieds

## Property Services

### RENOVATION & HOUSE REPAIRS

Renovations. House repairs. Construction. Mold decontamination. English, Swedish, German and Thai-speaking personnel. We always offer free quotations and warranty on work performed. Tel: 083-394 8337 (English), 080-141 4577 (English & Thai). Email: mattias@zionproperty.com

### PRO SERVICE AND RENOVATE

- Water leaks
- Sanitation
- Sinks
- Grease Tanks
- Water Heaters
- Sprinkler Systems
- Pressure pumps
- Water Treatment
- Piping
- Deep wells

Data Water Work Ltd., Part. Tel: 081-396 5050.

## Property Wanted

### RENTALS WANTED

We have a large number of clients looking for rental properties in the Rawai, Nai Ham area. If you have a property for rent, please contact us today on 087-620 8420. PI Rentals.

### NICE STUDIO APARTMENT

I am interested in buying a studio unit around Kata or Karon beach area. The unit should be relatively new or less than 10 years old. Email: quentin@acetone-solutions.com

### LAGUNA

Looking to buy a property within Laguna, minimum 3 bedrooms. Cash buyer ready to buy now. Email: Thaitraveller62@gmail.com

## Accommodation Available

### LONG-TERM NANAI, PATONG

Brand new rooms. Nanai/Patong. Aircon/TV. Free WiFi. Long/short-term. Tel: 085-667 2658 (Thai), 081-415 1245 (English). Email: david@papayasoft.com

### KATA BEACH CENTER

Luxury service apartments for rent. Short or long term. Suites and two bedrooms from 60-130sqm. Fully furnished, 10 minutes walk from Kata beach. Special rates. Tel: 081-828 0972. For more information email: kata\_residence@hotmail.com

### SEAVIEW NEW APARTMENTS

1 and 2-bedroom new apartments. Long and short term. Sea view, huge balcony, TV panels, WiFi, free parking. A few with pools, gym and expensive furniture. The best choice for living. Tel: 082-807 4944. Email: osa.com@me.com

### APARTMENT FOR SALE/RENT

Patong, new condo, pool, 24hr security, 7.46sqm, furnished. Special price. Tel: 089-7284005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

### 2-BEDROOM HOUSE

Aircon, fully furnished, TV, internet. June to end of August. Chalong. 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-280 1721.

### CONDO FOR SALE OR RENT

1-bedroom condo at The Trees Residence Kamala. 2 years old, modern furniture, excellent facilities. Rent long term: 18,000 baht per month. For short term and holiday rental contact owner. For sale: 4 million baht. Tel: 076-529082, 086-280 3118 (Thai). Email: paulajlaydon@hotmail.com

### HOUSE FOR RENT PATONG, PHUKET

2 bedrooms with quiet location. Tel: 089-650 5135 (English & Thai). Email: kalayap@hotmail.com

### PATONG BEACH SEAVIEW CONDO

125sqm, 2 beds, 2 bathrooms, big living room, fully furnished, 3 LCD TVs, laundry, terrace, 11th floor, pool, car park. Long-term rental at 35-50,000 baht. Tel: 081-824 1385 (English). Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

### SEAVIEW/MOUNTAIN CONDOS FOR RENT

1/2 bed/bath, furnished, Western kitchen, com pool, short or long term. Tel: 087-998 2590, 087-393 5462 (English & Thai). Email: kata4rent@gmail.com

### ROOM TO RENT LONG TERM

Pra Baramee, close to school, large room, kids bedroom, bath, toilet, hot water, kitchen. 6,000 baht per month incl elec, water, gas, cable TV. Tel: 087-265 4565 (English), 084-841 3153 (Thai). Email: waz1944@yahoo.com.au

### KATHU GOLF COURSE CONDO

62sqm, bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, balcony, quiet and green, long term. Tel: 081-824 1385 (English). Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

### KATHU GOLF COURSE CONDO

62sqm, bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, balcony, quiet and green, long term. Tel: 081-824 1385 (English). Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

### EASTER AT MARRIOTT VILLA

For rent: Easter week starting for 7 days at US\$120 per day. 2-bedroom villa in 5-star resort at Marriott Beach Club Mai Khao. Try after Saturday for remaining time as due to late ad, it might not be taken. Tel: +852-96-670611. Email: ekw60@netvigator.com

## Accommodation Wanted

### LOOKING TO BUY

Looking to buy beachfront house with Chanote. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

## Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

### BEAUTIFUL POOL VILLAS

Great selection of stunning holiday villas. Tel: 087-823 7371 (English). Email: holger saupe750@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-beachvillas.com

### KAMALA BEACH HOUSE OR APARTMENT

Private, quiet, guesthouse. 2-bedroom apartment, 2,600 baht per night. 1-bedroom house. 1,800 baht per night. Kitchen, European bathroom, aircon, TV, DVD, ADSL, parking, swimming pool. Tel: 076-385909, 087-277 5216. Email: curlyphyl@yahoo.com

### VILLA FOR RENT



Long-term rental of a 5-bedroom, 5-bathroom, Mediterranean-style, 2-storey villa set on 1,920 sqm. Living area 472 sqm with saltwater pool. Location: Cherg Talay. 90,000 baht per month for 1 year. Tel: 076-651739, 081-597 6911 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-238493. Email: damian@electrical-marine.com

### THE POINT CONDO

Daily/monthly, loft, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, pool, fitness. Rent: 30,000 baht/month. Tel: 089-795 6363.

## Household Items



### LG WASHING MACHINE

LG WF-T655LTD washing machine. Just 4 months old. For sale due to moving abroad. Price new: 5,990 baht. Now 3,500 baht or best offer. Call Erik in English or Scandinavian. Tel: 089-291 2782. Email: stobiass@hotmail.com

### NEW SAMSUNG FRIDGE

Never used. Model RT45TSRS2. Sells for 18,000 baht at Home-Works. Will sell for 15,000. Does not fit built-in cabinetry space in kitchen. Email: donn\_is@yahoo.com

### TUMBLE DRYER 17KG LOAD

Excellent condition. Ideal for large family, guesthouse or laundry. Price: 25,000 baht ono. Email: ssknightoflegend@gmail.com

### LG 9.5 KGS

Top loader, 8 months old, motor warranty 9 years and 4 months. Price new: 14,999 baht, best offer near 10,000 baht. Front loader wanted. Tel: 086-273 3095 (English & Thai). Email: patongman123@hotmail.com

## Household Services

### RENOVATION & HOUSE REPAIRS

Renovations. House repairs. Construction. Mold decontamination. English, Swedish, German and Thai-speaking personnel. We always offer free quotations and warranty on work performed. Tel: 083-394 8337 (English), 080-141 4577 (English & Thai). Email: mattias@zionproperty.com

### PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE

Renovations, house repairs, painters, tilers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, construction. Fluent English-speaking boss. Free quotes given. Contact Rin. Tel: 084-193 5124. Email: phukethome maintenance@yahoo.com

### Classified Advertisements

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

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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

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

Live in Town?  
Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at  
iTree Complete Printing Service

Simply write out your ad, pay for it and leave it with Khun Nan. Tel: 076-255425.

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're PAID!  
Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and FREE in the Gazette Online!

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Looking for land to buy?  
See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

**italasia**  
ITALASIA GROUP - THAILAND  
Phuket Branch phone 076 282561



## EXECUTIVE SALES MANAGER - PHUKET

Italasia is the exclusive Importer of Illy Coffee - Gruppo illy products and La Spaziale Coffee Machines in Thailand. Illy coffee quality and services are appreciated by Hotels and restaurants worldwide and enjoyed by consumers at fine restaurants, hotels, cafes, retail stores in Thailand and other 150 countries worldwide. Illy's culture can be described as offering an environment with perfect blend of empowered quality-minded professionals who achieve results through teamwork and innovation.

### Position Description

Our Phuket Branch has a position available for a motivated Sales Manager who has excellent relationship skills and can demonstrate an outstanding track record in sales.

### Responsibilities

To help deliver our strategy the successful candidate will be responsible for:

- Promote and represent the interests of illy Coffee
- Assist Country Manager in implementing the illy coffee business plan in Phuket
- Develop and hunt for new and strategic client opportunities;
- Achieve monthly and quarterly targets set by the Country Manager.

Skills, Experience, Qualifications and Personality Attributes

The candidate MUST HAVE the following skills, experience, qualifications and personality attributes:

### Skills & Experiences

At least 5 years related working experience; Experience in selling B2B; Experience with HORECA/F&B channels; Excellent in communication skill; Excellent selling skill; Referral from 2 previous job assignments; At least 4 years related working experience;

### Personality Attributes

A positive, results orientated and customer focused attitude; Be self-motivated and willing to work outside or normal business working hours to meet business and client expectations and objectives; A desire to take responsibility and ownership to see actions/issues through to completion; A flexible attitude.

### Remuneration and benefits

Attractive base salary, incentives and allowances; professional training from Università del Caffè - Thailand.

### Contact

Interested candidates please send CV to [illycoffeethailand@me.com](mailto:illycoffeethailand@me.com)

Preferred language for received applications: English - advanced only.

### THAI STAFF WANTED

Work on shifting schedule, can speak English, customer service. Good salary with bonus. Patong. Contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963.

### FEMALE AND MALE CREW WANTED

on live-aboard 60ft yacht based at Phi Phi. Tel: 081-891 9726 (Thai), 082-839 7701 (Eng).

### RECEPTION STAFF

Responsible Thai female needed for reception at Patong hotel. Monthly salary: 12,000 baht. Tel: 081-892 1621.

### SALES OFFICER

Required: bachelor's degree, female, good written and spoken English. Computer literate. Tel. 076-244491. Email: don1719@hotmail.com Website: [www.layantara.com](http://www.layantara.com)

### REAL-ESTATE STAFF WANTED



Looking for full-time young Thai staff, fluent in spoken and written English with real estate business experience. Tel: 084-060 7050. Please send an email with a photo to [info@moloko-phuket.com](mailto:info@moloko-phuket.com) For further details, please see our website at <http://moloko-phuket.com>

## GENESIS

THE MAGIC SPECTACULAR  
by DANZE FANTASY

Genesis is a world class show created by internationally known Danze Fantasy Productions. Located in a brand new 450-seat theatre, the business is growing rapidly and we urgently need additional talented, experienced managers to join the team. Contact: [hr@danzefantasy.com](mailto:hr@danzefantasy.com)

### Business Operations Manager

#### Experience Required:

- ▶ Degree in Business or Accounting
- ▶ Previously held senior position in a service business
- ▶ Experience in setting up business process
- ▶ Sales/Marketing experience a plus
- ▶ Must be organised and detail oriented
- ▶ Understanding of business IT programs – Quick books, etc.
- ▶ 2+ years experience in managing a Thai business/staff

#### Job Description & Responsibilities:

- ▶ Oversee operation of approximately 45 staff
- ▶ Manage Finance, HR, Box Office and Concession teams
- ▶ Drive internal process efficiency for staff, customers and suppliers
- ▶ Produce regular reporting for business owners

### ACCOUNTANT

Elite Yachting in Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket is looking for a Thai accountant with a bachelor degree and min 3-5 years experience. Good knowledge of Quickbooks, well organized and fluent in spoken & written English. Responsible for invoicing, payments, VAT, w/t, salaries, income/expense statements for yacht accounts etc. Interested. Tel: 081-978 6086 (English). Please send your CV to [jurg@phuket-yachts.com](mailto:jurg@phuket-yachts.com)

### MOUNTAIN BIKE TOUR LEADER

Seeking more bike guides to join our growing team. Must speak good English, be passionate about biking, and be a Thai national. Tel: 087-263 2031. Email: [info@amazing-biketoursthailand.asia](mailto:info@amazing-biketoursthailand.asia)

## Phuket Gazette

As the result of a major expansion in its **Classified Advertising** business due to the launch of the newspaper's Nationwide Edition, the *Phuket Gazette* seeks to add a **Receptionist** to its existing team of five.

### Qualified candidates will be:

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged at least 24
- ▶ Service-minded with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Able to work well with large numbers of advertisers, both foreign and Thai

### and should have:

- ▶ A Bachelor's Degree from a recognizable university
- ▶ A good sense of organization and respect for details
- ▶ Knowledge of basic office software

Knowledge of InDesign, PageMaker or Quark Express would be a plus.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Porniwa, Assistant Manager-Classifieds, at [Jeab@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:Jeab@PhuketGazette.Net)

### The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew  
A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-273555, ext 207 Fax: 076-615240

**Dive Supply – Phuket**  
Challenging position at our head office in Chalong:

### ASSISTANT WORKSHOP MANAGER

- Foreign national, 28+
- Technical background
- Excellent English
- Managerial experience
- Customer Service Skills
- Experience with Thai staff
- Computer literate

We offer excellent salary & benefits, permanent position  
To apply send CV, photo, availability & salary to  
[service@divesupply.com](mailto:service@divesupply.com)

## Ocean Resort Group

is currently seeking for the following positions:

- ▶ Bakery Chef
- ▶ Assistant Resort Manager

Contact Human Resources Department

Phone: +66 (0) 76-314263-69 ext 7732 or

email your CV to [hwsunwing@oceanresortgroup.net](mailto:hwsunwing@oceanresortgroup.net),

[www.sunwingphuket.com](http://www.sunwingphuket.com)

Grace Garden Management Ltd.

Grace Garden Management Co., Ltd. is going to launch a top class dining restaurant on the east coast of Phuket, The Breeze @ Cape Yamu

We are looking for competent, enthusiastic and highly qualified individuals for the following vacancies to join our business:

<b>Cook</b>	<b>1 Position</b>
- at least 3-4 years experience, fusion cooking, international cuisine.	
- be able to manage of supplies and inventory	
<b>Bar Manager</b>	<b>1 Position</b>
- 1 year experience in beverage section, control the bar system, mix drinks and create cocktails	
<b>Waiters or Waitresses</b>	<b>3 Positions</b>
All above position should be able to communicate in English Please send your CV to Human Resources Department	
222 Moo 7, Paklok Sub-district, Thalung District, Phuket 83110 Email: <a href="mailto:annie@campbellkane.com">annie@campbellkane.com</a> Tel: 089 4741268, Fax 076 529673	

Looking for a job?

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [www.PhuketGazette.Net/](http://www.PhuketGazette.Net/)

**SALES MANAGER**

Property Sales Consultant. Thai national, 3-5 years experience. Good Thai and English, proactive and organized. Computer literate, have own car and laptop. The Charm residence. Tel: 076-344499. Email: info@thecharmphuket.com

**SUCCESSFUL SALES&MARKETING**

Company requires enthusiastic, motivated individuals to join our well-established and successful team. English speaking. Full training, great commissions & startup / entry packages available. Email: jengore@hotmail.com

**NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHERS**

Brainy House is a private English-language school. We are looking for native English teachers to start ASAP. For children 6-8 years old. We offer an excellent compensation. Please send a cover letter and CV to: info@brainy-house.com Tel: 080-907 7466 (contact Sasi).

**JOBS FOR HOTEL WORKERS**

Hiring reception & housekeeping positions now. Experience preferred. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English), 086-902 8566 (English & Thai). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

**RECEPTIONIST KATA**

Hotel needs reliable Thai female. Salary: 12,000 baht per month. 2 days off a week. Tel: 081-892 1621.

**KINDERGARTEN TEACHER WANTED**

We are looking for a native English kindergarten teacher to join our team to teach 10 -12 children aged 3-6 years. Must have a minimum Bachelor's Degree or equivalent. Tel: 076-383150, 084-520 4978. Fax: 076-383150. Email: info@cra vensnurseryphuket.com

**Phuket Gazette**

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

**Administration Assistant**

The successful candidate will be a Thai national with an outgoing personality. Experience in business administration combined with good management and organizational skills is essential. A good command of written and spoken English is also important. Knowledge of PageMaker/InDesign and Office software would be an advantage.

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

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

**MY STORAGE**

Secure, Clean & Cost Effective Self Storage

MY STORAGE – Thailand's No.1 Self Storage facility located at Jungceylon Shopping Center, Patong, Phuket – is seeking a well organised and enthusiastic Facility Administrator / PA.

**Facility Administrator / PA**

- Bachelor's degree or related field
- Thai national 25 years old or older, fluent in English (written and spoken)
- Minimum of 3-5 years experience in the related field
- Computer literate with good knowledge of Microsoft Office
- Excellent administrative and communication skills required
- Bookkeeping and office management skills required
- Self-motivated, proactive, flexible and well organized
- Service-minded and must have attention to detail
- Experience in property management an advantage.

Submit your CV with recent photo and a covering letter in English to hr@mystorageasia.com or call 076 29 29 09 for further information.

Want to know more about MY STORAGE? Visit [mystorageasia.com](http://mystorageasia.com)

**italasia**

ITALASIA GROUP – THAILAND  
Phuket Branch 076 282561 - 08 66895837

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY /ACCOUNTING**

**Qualifications :-**

- Female, Thai, age 20-25 years
- Minimum 3 years of relevant working experiences in F&B industry or imported goods.
- Excellent command of English (Writing, Speaking and Translate)
- Able to work under pressure and deal with tight deadline.
- Able to handle overall office administration, Self-motivated to handle the office business.
- Computer literate with good working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel, internet.

**Job Description :-**

- Provide general administrative execution to ensure smooth operation in the office.
- Execute from the same desk general affair jobs, accounting, receptionist.
- Handle phone call from clients and receive purchase orders.
- Coordinate and monitor various activities to support the sales, accounting, logistic.
- Provide professional secretarial and all round support to Branch manager.
- Coordinate with the logistic team for the preparation of the sales orders.

**Working**  
Monday – Friday 8.30 – 17.30

If you would be part of Italiasia Group submit you CV with covering letter in English to email address: [italasiaphuket@me.com](mailto:italasiaphuket@me.com)

**SENIOR ACCOUNTANT KAMALA**

For trading company in Kamala. We seek an experienced Senior Accountant. Must know Express software, English, and understand the import business. Salary starts at 25,000 baht + transportation+ accommodation+ BUPA health insurance. Work 6 days a week. Tel: 076-322663, 086-7734538 (English). Fax: 076-322664. Email: skgf@skgf.asia

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- Bachelor's degree
- Good English
- Thai National
- Female 25-28 years old

Please send resume, photo & expected salary to [svcp@svensonhaircenter.com](mailto:svcp@svensonhaircenter.com) or call 076-249657-8

**Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:**

**CHALONG**

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

**PATONG**

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

**PHUKET CITY**

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

**CHERNG TALAY**

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

**RAWAI**

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

**KARON**

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

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# General Classifieds

## Articles For Sale

**FREEZER, FUGE TABLE**  
Sanden freezer, excl cond, 8,500 baht. Fugeball soccer table, as new, 10 baht per game, 35,000 baht. Tel: 086-283 9100.

### NEW INVICTA WATCH FOR SALE

Very large Invicta Men's 6913 Corduba Collection Interceptor Chronograph Blue Polyurethane watch, comes with box and guarantee. Tel: 076-319699. Email: sun parasol@gmail.com

**FURNITURE AND MORE**  
Furniture, sofa, TV and bookcase, chairs, lamps and more. All in good condition. Please call or email for photos. Khun Arno. Tel: 087-827 4991 (English). Email: arnyfirst@hotmail.com

**COFFEE TABLE**  
Bamboo coffee table for sale. Excellent condition. 110cm square with inset in center (for flower decoration, etc). 10,000 baht ono. Email: beijingmarcher@yahoo.com

### FURNITURE AND OTHER ITEMS

Wooden frame "L" sofa with mustard color upholstery. 16k. Modern glass chandelier 5k. Huge silver candelabra 5k. All in excellent condition. Standard Lamp 1,500. All reduced for quick sale. Email for photos at beijingmarcher@yahoo.com

### HIX HEAT PRESS DUAL PADS

I am selling my Heat Press Made in USA, very little used (about 60 t-shirts), like new. I bought it in Bangkok. Paid 125,000 baht, selling 60,000 baht. Tel: 076-283004, 086-742 3437. Email: joelvdo@hotmail.com

### 7KW. 3-PHASE WATER PUMP



Barely used (10 hours). Have 2 units for sale. Price: 15,000 baht each. Contact Margy on 089-908 7486.

### CHINESE TEA

Quality Chinese tea for sale. Contact Peter to arrange a free tea tasting. Tel: 082-278 1575.

## Articles Wanted

### FULL-SIZED USED BATH WANTED

Looking to find an old plastic or stone full-sized bath to use in a pet washing parlor - something large enough to put big dogs in the wash them. Please email gone2thedoggies@gmail.com with photo

### EXTENSION LADDER WANTED

Used 20 to 24 foot (6 to 7 meter) ladder wanted to either rent or purchase. Tel: 081-797 2110. Email: iolare@yahoo.com

## Audio/Video Equipment

### SOKEN SURROUND SYSTEM

Amp + 5 powerful speakers, crisp treble & solid bass. Paid 15,000 baht, sell 7,500 baht. Tel: 082-283 8902. Email: IIBC.Web@gmail.com

### HI-DEFINITION MEDIA PLAYER

Digital home entertainment just took a giant leap forward. Internet, Android and a Media Streamer on your TV. Bursting with features that allow you to engage with social media, Android apps, online streaming, and casual games, movies and music. Tel: 076-248698, 081-895 7097 (English & Thai). Email: hdmedia phuket@gmail.com

### GERMAN STEREO SYSTEM

Soken AMP & 5 Speaker Surround Sound, Solid Bass. Cost 16, sell 8000. Tel: 082-283 8902. Email: IIBC.Web@gmail.com

### STAGE-SOUND / LIVE MUSIC

Stage-Sound system (Live Music) for sale Incl. All audio components, made by Behringer. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-486118, 086-942 5244. Fax: 076-443137. Email: info@siam-interact.com Website: www.siam-interact.com/soundsystem/

## Bar & Restaurant Equipment

### PRIME LOCATION IN RAWAI

Refurbished for 170,000 baht. Nice bar and 5 bedrooms on three floors. Includes a lot of furniture and music systems. Tel: 087-474 0169. Email: paahlan@gmail.com

## Bulletins

### Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business  
If you want to stop that is ours  
Daily Meetings

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## Business Opportunities

### CO LTD, 2 WP, TAT, FOR SALE

Company for sale with 2 wp and TAT. 50,000 baht + costs of changing. Tel: 087-980 7570 (English). Email: malbab@gazeta.pl

### FOR QUICK SALE

Bar lounge & restaurant with attached house. 8 years on lease. Very cheap rent. In Rawai. 1 million baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 086-084 9793. Email: krokop13@hotmail.fr

### PATONG BAR FOR SALE

Popular bar, open air. Beer bar in busy tourist area, fully furnished. Urgent sale: 1.8 million baht. Tel: 081-550 7379.

### PRIME LOCATION IN RAWAI

Refurbished for 170,000 baht. Nice bar and 5 bedrooms on three floors. Includes a lot of furniture and music systems. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-474 0169. Email: paahlan@gmail.com

### PATONG GUESTHOUSE

8 rooms apartment internet cafe sale 1.2 million baht. Tel: 085-794 6530.

### SUPER BUSINESS DEAL

Prime real estate liquidation Kata beach center. Super business deal for sale. Penthouse of 300sqm on 7th floor includes building, 1 Luxury, fully furnished, 2 bedroom apartment 130sqm; plus 2 luxury suites each 60sqm. Also has pool, parking, restaurant and chanote title. 10 minute walk from Kata beach. Total package price 29.5 million baht (720,000 Euro). Legal Liquidator. Tel: 081-828 0972. Email: sbolls@hotmail.com

## COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS RENT



Chalong Pier Road. Tel: 081-891 6143 (English), 081-894 4343.

## OFFICE, BUSINESS SPACE

for rent on 5th floor of Patong Tower. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-341370. Email: i\_am\_krittapak@hotmail.com

## BAR FOR SALE OTOP

Brand-new bar for sale in OTOP market. Fully furnished to very high standard, 2 40" TV's, fridge, freezers, stock, sound system, etc. Great location with huge potential. Genuine reason for sale. Tel: 084-445 2042. Email: ian\_843@hotmail.com

## GOLF BUSINESS-PARTNER

Unique opp, 15 years trade, repeat customers, unlimited potential in Asia. Looking for partner. Tel: 087-078 9707.

## BAR/RESTAURANT IN PATONG

for sale. Nanai Rd 231, fully furnished. Price: 180,000 baht or rent 13,000 baht/month. Tel: 085-477 5935.

## RESTAURANT FOR SALE, CHALONG AREA

on Chao Fa Road, 700m north of Chalong Circle. Low price for quick sale. Tel: 080-711 5265.

## OWNER PLANS FOR RETIREMENT

Well established tourist magazines for sale. Owner planning for retirement. Interested? Tel: 081-806 2946.

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

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## RESORT FOR SALE



Well-established resort between Nai Harn and Rawai, 2 rai in a prestigious area among villas. Priced upwards of 50 million baht. Two 2-story, 3-bedroom villas, 21 bungalows, sauna, extra large pool, office, 2 bars, restaurant, laundry room, fully furnished band stand with instruments. Annual income is 6.5 million baht and up. Price: 27.5 million baht. A portion can be financed. Please contact for more information. Tel: 087-275 1700 (English).

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## WEBSITE FOR SALE

Highly professional property website for sale. Launch ready. Multi-lingual (UK, RU, DE). Can be used as real-estate-agent site or as (Phuket/Samui) portal site. Only 180,000 baht. Tel: 081-077 3548. Email: mz5005@gmail.com

## GM CURTAIN

Sells curtains, upholstery, and accessories domestically and internationally. We offer design and an outdoor service installation in all provinces around the country. We also give advice on the selection of material, equipment and all types of installation work by a well-experienced and capable team. Curtains, sofa clothes, roller blinds, wallpapers, accessories.

Address: 128/124 Topland (Radsada) Prachautid Rd., Muang Phuket. Tel: 076-610072, 081-891 8148.

## Club Memberships Available

### LOCH PALM GOLF MEMBERSHIP

585,000 baht. Tel: 081-270 5609.

### PCC GOLF MEMBERSHIP

550,000 baht, not including transfer fee. Tel: 081-270 2045. Email: nongnut100@hotmail.com

### BLUE CANYON GOLF SHARE

Blue Canyon Family Golf Share. 900,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: +46-7063-28320. Email: westgerd@telia.com

## Computers

### USED COMPUTER FOR SALE

Second hand desktop computer for sale. It's in good condition like new. CPU AMD Brisbane 4000+ 2.1GHZ (Dual Core), RAM: DDR2 2GH DD: 160GB, ODD: DVD-RW, O/S: Windows XP and Microsoft office package installed. Good for office and internet user. 5,800 baht. Tel: 080-533 5674 (English). Email: skhan0607@yahoo.com

## ENGLISH COMPUTERMAN

Sales, service, repairs, upgrades & accessories in Chalong. Tel: 076-384259, 084-625 7744 (English). Fax: 076-384259. Email: computermanphuket@gmail.com

## Fitness Equipment

### ELLIPTICAL CROSS TRAINER



New with LCD display of time, distance, speed, RPM and energy consumption. Handle with pulse meter. 12,000 baht. Tel: 089-729 1113. Email: richard\_melen@hotmail.com

## Golf Stuff

### GOLF CLUBS

Full set, Ping rapture, very good condition. 30,000 baht ono. Tel: 084-838 8878.

## Television Sets

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Satellite TV Thailand provide all sorts of Satellite TV accessories including HD systems. We ship all goods cash on delivery anywhere in Thailand. Tel: 080-694 0663 (English & Thai), 089-821 3772 (English). Email: sales@thailandpropertys.com For further details, please see our website at [www.satellite-tvthailand.net](http://www.satellite-tvthailand.net)

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### PROTON EXORA



October 2011 (6 months) only 6,000km. 7/8 seats, automatic, many options (GPS, spoilers, wheels). Price new: 920,000 baht. Now: 750,000 baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

### VW VENTO 1.8 - 133,000 BAHT

Volkswagen Vento 1997, very good condition. Pics/infos please call. Tel: 076-388478, 084-065 8036 (English & Thai). Email: pseiffert@hotmail.com

### CITROEN AND AUDI 80 FOR SALE

Audi 80, automatic, silver. Citroen Xantia automatic. Cheap cars, all papers. Tel: 076-281196, 086-637 5003, 086-045 3139. Email: roger\_sommer1@hotmail.com

### 2011 FORD FIESTA 1.6L



170,000 baht with car insurance. Paid 16 months of installments, buyer to pay the balance to finance. Car used only 27,600km. Perfect condition. Tel: 080-520 2989.

### TOYOTA MRS CONVERTIBLE-05



82,000km. Perfect condition 1.3 million baht. Tel: 089-932 5175. Email: wojid kowbengt@hotmail.com

### TOYOTA WISH 2.0 Q VSC LTD

2007 Full option, 21,000km, full Toyota service history. Any Toyota inspection welcomed. Tel: 086-032 0263. Email: hubbard.benares@gmail.com

**MERCEDES 2009 OCT**  
C kompressor, 1 owner. 6,000km. Sunroof. 2 million baht. Tel: 087-840 8163.

### HONDA ACC 3.0 VTEC 0

Jubilee model, 1 owner. 820,000 baht. Reply to nok zeb@gmail.com

### 1993 MAZDA MX5 FOR SALE

Convertible, hard top. Good condition. Tel: 076-222856, 089-866 4023. Email: manager@artandcultureasia.com

### 2009 FORD FOCUS 2.0 TDCI

36,000km, 2 years of warranty left. excellent in & out. Manual. Leather, 18" org Ford alloys. Price: 680,000 baht. Tel: 089-866 3756 (English & Thai). Email: frank@capesienna.com

### HONDA JAZZ FOR SALE

Low mileage, like new, car. 550,000 baht. Must sell quickly. Offers. Tel: 081-303 2202.

## 4 x 4s

### TOYOTA FORTUNER 2007 V 3.0



for sale. 77,000km. Auto, 4x4. In excellent condition. Serviced by Toyota Pearl. Price: 920,000 baht. Tel: 086-942 2007.

### TOYOTA VIGO 2008

4 wheel drive, automatic, diesel, 4 door, 4x4,ETCi VSC & cruise control, clear blue metallic, excellent condition, one careful owner. 65,000km. 720,000 baht. Tel: 089-474 0543, 081-271 9050.

### JEEP WRANGLER 4.0 L (REAL ONE)

Jeep Wrangler, 4L automatic. Original import from Japan. Black label, full registration, firstclass insurance. Soft top and hard top. Tel: 086-783 7873, 086-316 6976 (English & Thai). Email: thornchaya444@yahoo.com

### TOYOTA VIOS 1.5 G A/T

Black, perfect condition, 10,000km only, 13 months old 610,000 baht neg. Please contact for more information. Tel: 084-144 3756, 084-041 1884 (English & Thai). Email: marc.briant@hotmail.com

### 2005 TOYOTA FORTUNER

Metallic blue. Good condition and well maintained by one careful owner. 580,000 baht. Tel: 089-474 0543 (English & Thai), 081-271 9050 (English). Email: maj-britt@lantadiver.com

### TOYOTA VIOS J AT

07-2010,new, many extras, 32,000km, insurance. Last price: 475,000 baht. Tel: 083-645 3317 (English).

### 1985 JEEP CJ7 USA

Extremely rare rebuilt 4WD V8. Tel: 089-999 7597. Email: doc@russbo.com For further details, please see our website: classifieds.russbo.com/index.php

### MITSUBISHI LANCER 75,000 BAHT

5-speed, mint condition, runs great, tax and insurance paid. For further details, please contact Sunny on 083-252 5509.

## Motorbikes

### HONDA STEED FOR SALE

Honda Steed 400cc, 23,000km from new, good condition, regularly serviced, 145,000 baht or nearest offer. Tel: 081-294 9232 (English). Email: steen.khao pilay@gmail.com

### VESPA LXI25I 2012



As new, only 2,300km, white. Cost new: 98,000, must sell - now only 78,000 baht. Tel: 087-893 1753.

### YAMAHA FINO FOR SALE



2008. Lady owner, ridden only in Phuket Town, with green book. Asking price 23,000 baht. Tel: 084-889 2676.

### YAMAHA MAJESTY 400



2008 model, only 23,000 km, green book, excellent condition. Price: 190,000 baht. Tel: 087-893 1753.

### SUZUKI GSXR600



2007, excellent condition. 23,000km. Price: 270,000 baht. Tel: 086-476 7856 (Thai), 086-639 7984, 085-975 8960 (English).

### BMW R1200GS

Excl cond. 2007. Cost new: 1.1mn baht. Now: 645,000 baht. Also BMW F650GS Excl cond. 3 years old. Cost new: 700,000 baht. Now: 345,000 baht. Call Mike at 081-787 1752. Email: mjoneilluk@yahoo.co.uk

### HONDA CLICK

9 months old, 9,201km, serviced regularly. Automatic, white, alloy wheels. 38,000 baht or near offer. Tel: 082-812 3610 (English). Email: turne ry5@gmail.com

### KAWASAKI BOSS 175

9 years old, used daily, includes solid sidecar (now detached). Good condition. Price: 29,000 baht. Tel: 082-283 8902. Email: IIBC.Web@gmail.com

### HONDA PHANTOM

48,000km, good condition, 2-stroke, runs good, green book. Price: 19,000 baht. Please contact for more information. Tel: 080-320 0426.

## Rentals

### NEW JAZZ FOR RENT



Short- or long-term with insurance and delivery service. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketcarsrent.com

### CAR RENT

New model Honda Jazz for rent. 12,000 baht/month. Kois car rent. Tel: 080-891 7899.

### WHITE TOYOTA YARIS

For rent. 2 years old, 14,500 baht per month. For rent 3 month to 6 month maximum. Tel: 076-328218, K. Jens 085-472 1506 (German), K. Bow 084-445 4654 (Eng & Thai).

### YAMAHA NOUVO 135CC

7 months old, 5,500km, recently serviced, green book, excellent condition. Price: 39,000 baht. Email: gphol 67@gmail.com

### CAR FOR RENT

Short or long-term rent. Good condition, discount rate. Tel: 086-690 6007, 080-521 7370.

### BRAND-NEW MAZDA 2 FOR RENT



Short & long term with full insurance cover and delivery service. Tel: 076-289576 (Thai), 087-804 4014 (Eng), 087-885 5765 (Thai & DK). Email: info@kb-realestate.com

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

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All advertising must be paid for in advance.

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**Beneteau Oceanis 43 (2007)**

139,000 Euro

**Swan CR42 (2007)**

\$399,000 USD

**Grand Banks 49 (1999)**

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**Riviera 47 (1995)**

5,600,000 THB

**leemarine.com** *Riva* **FERRETTI** *PIRELLA GÖTTSCHE LOWE* **PRESTIGE YACHTS** *SEBASTIANI*

**Dealership Office**  
The Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket  
Contact: Martin Holmes  
Tel: 076 238 803  
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Crossword puzzle: **COFFEE break**

1	L	A	S	4	5	B	E	T	H	8	9	F	U	S	E	S	13
14	A	L	O	U	15	A	G	R	A	16	E	L	I	S	E		
17	T	A	R	P	18	S	O	A	R	19	A	T	L	A	S		
20	H	T	T	P	21	S	I	N	I	22	S	T	R	O	U	S	
23	S	E	A	L	24	O	S	S	25	N	S	A					
					26	E	R	O	T	28	C	A	29	C	E	I	32
33	S	T	A	M	E	N	36	L	U	G	37	E	N	D	O		
38	M	A	T	E	Y	39	O	L	E	40	E	N	T	E	R		
41	U	P	O	N	42	G	N	U	43	G	E	T	S	O	N		
44	G	E	N	T	45	R	A	M	B	L	E	R					
					47	A	P	E	49	I	O	U	50	I	P	52	53
54	P	H	O	T	56	G	E	N	I	C	58	F	O	O	L		
59	L	E	N	I	N	60	L	A	L	O	61	U	L	N	A		
62	O	R	N	O	T	63	E	T	E	S	64	G	A	G	S		
65	D	R	O	N	E	66	M	E	R	E	67	E	R	S	T		

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# All change again in Bahrain

By The Digby

THIS season seems to be a battle of the pit-lanes, with McLaren leading the pit-boo-boo stakes, but several other teams are trying hard for this inglorious title. However, McLaren kept ahead in Bahrain.

The wear on tyres was anticipated, though some teams, and in particular Mercedes, did better than expected. That is something to watch during the rest of the season.

Bahrain was a nightmare for McLaren. Lewis Hamilton suffered two horrible pit stops, which cost him thirteen seconds and eight places, and robbed him of his podium points coming home in 8<sup>th</sup> place.

Jensen Button had an exhaust failure, a puncture before finally a differential failure caused him to retire. So McLaren slumped, not on the track, but in the garage. Their pits have squandered their

early season advantage, as every team now has the chance, within the FIA rules, to test an upgrade before the next race.

Bahrain was dreadful for Williams too. Pastor Maldonado spun off with a blow-out, and teammate

defending tactics.

Michael Schumacher looked unimpressive and came in 10<sup>th</sup> for the last point. He would not have got that, but Sauber messed-up Perez's pit stop and lost them the place.

Ferrari was mediocre as expected, with Fernando Alonso getting 7<sup>th</sup> place.

At least Felipe Massa got 9<sup>th</sup> place, his first points of the season and enough to keep his seat, at least for now.

Red Bull became the fourth team in four races to win. Sebastian Vettel won and Mark Webber came in 4<sup>th</sup>. It was almost a perfect day.

Vettel was firmly instructed by his engineer to park immediately after the chequered flag, and walk back to the paddock, so clearly the car had given everything it could. Several cars were in similar condition.

Lotus had a dream day too, taking both 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places. Kimi Räikkönen took second place and



VERY BUNNY: Vettel celebrates win in classic style. Photo: AFP

Bruno Senna finally parked his car with severe vibrations, though he was never in the points.

Mercedes faded back from the limelight. Nico Rosberg came 5<sup>th</sup> and was lucky to avoid the censure of the stewards over his

F1 STANDINGS AFTER RACE 4				
	DRIVER	POINT	TEAM	PTS
1	SEBASTIAN VETTEL	53	Red Bull	101
2	LEWIS HAMILTON	49	McLaren	92
3	MARK WEBBER	48	LOTUS RACING TEAM Lotus	57
4	JENSON BUTTON	43	Ferrari	45
5	FERNANDO ALONSO	43	Mercedes	37
6	NICO ROSBERG	35	Sauber	31

might even have challenged for the win if he had not lost so much time fighting team-mate Romain Grosjean, who came in third. Kimi benefited from not making Q3, and thereby saving an extra set of tyres for the race.

Paul di Resta two-stopped to come 6<sup>th</sup> for Force India, managing to hold off the attentions of Alonso.

The leading drivers of the sea-

son are now Vettel, Hamilton, Webber, Button and Alonso. But four or five others are snapping at their heels.

In the Constructors Championship Red Bull and McLaren are well clear of the others, for now.

We now have six teams in the running, and a chance to test new equipment before the Catalunya Grand Prix on May 13.

# The business end of the season

MANCHESTER is the place to be Monday night as City and United go head to head to decide the Premiership title.

Roberto Mancini was right in his prediction, though anything less than a win for the Blues will leave them still without the top tier's honors since 1968.

Alex Ferguson still cannot believe that Everton managed to gain a draw 4-a-piece in a thriller at Old Trafford last Sunday, despite Wayne Rooney surpassing George Best in United's all-time scoring list.

The Red Devils will travel to the Etihad as favorites, though a resurgent City will certainly fancy their chances on the back of recent results.

City's two-nil away win dropped Wolverhampton Wanderers to the Championship next season, who should never have sacked manager Mick McCarthy mid-season.

Tottenham have a chance to go above Newcastle if they beat Blackburn Rovers at home, and pressure on Arsenal, though Spurs' challenge for a top four finish has not just had brakes applied, it has slipped into reverse.

Rovers need to take advantage of the situation, else relegation will be a certainty with only Wigan and Chelsea left on their



PAYBACK: Torres scores to send Chelsea into the Champions League final. Photo: AFP

fixture list after.

The Gunners play against a "Premiership safe" Stoke. Arsene Wenger knows it's a must-win match, having played more games than their rivals, to keep up their impressive drive for that precious Champions League football next season.

Newcastle can relax this weekend and

see what will be required of themselves later on in the week against Chelsea.

Congratulations to Chelsea, and in particular Fernando Torres, after securing a place in the Champion League's final with a brilliant 3-2 aggregate win against arguably the best team in the World, Barcelona.

- Dean Noble

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES	
<b>SATURDAY, 28 APRIL 2012</b> 21:00	
Everton	vs Fulham
Stoke	vs Arsenal
Sunderland	vs Bolton
Swansea	vs Wolves
West Brom	vs Aston Villa
Wigan	vs Newcastle
Norwich	vs Liverpool
<b>SUNDAY, 29 APRIL 2012</b> 19:30	
Chelsea	vs QPR
Tottenham	vs Blackburn
<b>TUESDAY, 1 MAY 2012</b> 03:00	
MAN CITY vs MAN UTD	
<b>WEDNESDAY, 2 MAY 2012</b> 01:45	
Liverpool	vs Fulham
Stoke	vs Everton
<b>THURSDAY, 3 MAY 2012</b> 01:45	
Chelsea	vs Newcastle
Bolton	vs Tottenham

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE							
TEAM	P	GD	PTS	TEAM	P	GD	PTS
1 Man Utd	35	54	83	15 Aston Villa	35	-14	36
2 Man City	35	60	80	16 QPR	35	-18	34
3 Arsenal	35	24	65	17 Wigan	35	-26	34
4 Newcastle	34	11	62	18 Bolton	34	-26	33
5 Tottenham	34	18	59	19 Blackburn	35	-26	31
6 Chelsea	34	18	58	20 Wolves (R)	35	-41	23

## SPORTS briefs...

**TENNIS:** Rafael Nadal took the Monte Carlo Masters title for the 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row 6-3 6-1, finally breaking Novak Djokovic's winning streak.

Nadal's display of precision timing left Djokovic being pushed around the court, though the death of his grandfather earlier in the week had taken its toll.

"I definitely don't want to take away anything from Rafa's win. He was a better player," Djokovic said. "But it's a fact that I just didn't have any emotional energy left in me."

Nadal completed the victory in one hour 19 minutes, with an ace.

**STRANGE SPORTS:** Paul Roberts took "extreme ironing" to a new level recently by completing the *Marathon des Sables*, held in the Moroccan Sahara, with an iron-board strapped to his back.

Roberts completed the 155-mile race over six days in searing temperatures, finishing in a respectable 364<sup>th</sup> place out of 860 runners.

The venture, which raised £5,000 in aid of a hospice charity, was inspired by friends who saw the ExtremeIroning.com website, showing people ironing clothes in remote places.

**OLYMPICS:** Mashable, the social media news website, has reported athletes and spectators visiting the London Games may violate legislation passed to protect the event's branding, should they post their own photos online.

A legal expert said this would cover athletes posting media of themselves with products that are not Olympics sponsors, fans uploading their own photos or video of the games, and businesses attracting customers with official Olympics nomenclature, like "2012 Games".

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# Putting on PowerPlay

THE PowerPlay Golf format is the brainchild of two Britons; Peter McEvoy and David Piggins. Piggins is an entrepreneur, while McEvoy's name will be recognized by many readers who are fans of amateur golf.

McEvoy was a 5-time member of the Great Britain & Ireland Walker Cup team and a 2-time winner of the British Amateur Championship.



How do you play PowerPlay Golf? First, start by remembering that you're still playing golf: tee off from the teeing ground, play down the fairway, reach the putting green, sink the ball into the hole.

A round of PowerPlay Golf is played over nine holes, rather than 18; with scoring kept under the Stableford points system, each green having two flagsticks rather than one.

The goal of PowerPlay Golf is to provide a faster way to play golf, and

to introduce a more risk-reward strategy (which the game's creators feel bumps up the excitement level).



**POWER PLAY:** This dynamic new form of golf will hit the island on June 17 at the Laguna Golf Club with a chance to qualify for the National Finals being held in Hua Hin on October 6.

The biggest difference is the fact that there are two flagsticks on each green. One hole location on the green is "easy" (marked with a white flag), and the other is "hard" (marked with a black flag).

Here's the crux of PowerPlay Golf: Three times in the first eight holes, the golfer must choose to play the more difficult hole location. The decision has to be announced by the golfer on the teeing ground before striking the ball towards any given hole. Doing so is called "making a power play," hence the name of the game.

If the golfer scores a birdie or better on a "power play" hole, his Stableford points are doubled. (Stableford points remain the same for pars or worse on those three "power

play" holes, but the harder hole locations presumably make higher stroke totals more likely.)

So that's the first eight holes, but what about the ninth and final hole of a PowerPlay Golf round?

On the ninth hole, all golfers have the option to attempt another "power play". Making birdie or better again doubles the golfer's Stableford points, but making bogey or worse on a ninth-hole "power play" will lead to a points deduction.

So the optional ninth-hole power play is riskier than the mandatory power plays over the first eight holes, but it presents the possibility of a major leap forward by a trailing golfer.

The renowned Laguna Phuket Golf Club is the host of the June 17 PowerPlay Golf Quali-



**I SURRENDER:** A player targets the easier "white flag" in a round of PowerPlay Golf.

fying Event. The top ten golfers, after two demanding rounds of PowerPlay golf, will earn the right to compete in the Thailand Finals in Hua Hin, on October 6.

There, if victorious, golfers will have a chance to represent Thailand at the PowerPlay Golf World Championship.

Even if you are not one of the lucky ten who will progress, there are further opportunities to win prizes in the "nearest the pin" and "longest drive" competitions, and goody bags ensure that nobody goes home empty-handed.

This *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV are the sponsors of this event.

To register, visit [asiangolfevents.com](http://asiangolfevents.com). Or call 081-988 0600 for more information.

## Phuket cricket sixes



**SMASHING TIME:** Southern Star batsman has his furniture rearranged.



**BEST BUDDIES:** Seemant Raju, General Manager of the Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa donned his whites with friends Kishore, Richard Folds and Anthony De Blerk to provide entertainment for the crowd at last weekend's ACST Cricket 6's competition. While they failed to take home the spoon, their cup did run over. Photos: Dean Noble



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**FIGHT ON:** Buakaw signs autographs for fans. Photos: Yokkao Boxing



**HOMETOWN HERO:** Buakaw started the Banchamek Gym for the children of his home village in Surin Province.

# Banned champion gets restart

By Chris Hudon

SOMBAT 'Buakaw' Banchamek, Thai Fight Tournament winner and two-time former K-1 World Max Champion (70kg), has broken his contract with Por Pramuk gym and faces legal action after returning home to Surin province in early March.

Known to most by his fight name 'Buakaw Por Pramuk' (in Thailand, its common practice for fighters to take on the name of the gym they train for), the aging legend turns 30 years old next month with a record of 204 wins; 52 KOs, 21 losses and 12 draws.

Under Thai law, because of the contract breach, Buakaw (whose name means white lotus in Thai, ironic given his dark skin color) is no longer legally allowed to fight in Thailand, despite fighting in Pattaya on April 17.

At the latest Thai Fight event Buakaw knocked out Russian Rustem Zaripov with quick hand and elbow work, two minutes and fifty seconds into the second round, in his first matchup representing newly created Banchamek Gym.

Since that fight, according to an interview with Thai Media, Por Pramuk camp plans to take legal action against Thai Fight organizers and the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) for not stopping Buakaw from entering the ring.

As of March 30 Buakaw has been officially banned from fighting until he files a complaint with the SAT and is proven correct about his claims of being "unfairly treated" by Por Pramuk gym.

Buakaw alleges that Por Pramuk repeatedly mistreated him during training, saying in an interview with Thai Media in mid-March that,

"I can stand tough training, but not poor treatment. It is about mind, not the body."

Given the attention surrounding 'Thai Fight' and its bouts that pit the champ against almost any foreign competitor, one thing's for certain – a lot of money is at stake. Some have speculated that Thai law won't be enforced abroad, leaving promoters in the West looking to bill Buakaw for international fights.

Buakaw started his fighting career at the age of eight in his home province of Surin, in northeastern Thailand, where he has returned to construct the Banchamek Gym, made possible through his longtime sponsor Yokkao.

For more info on Buakaw and to see his new gym visit: [www.facebook.com/yokkaoboxing](http://www.facebook.com/yokkaoboxing) and click on 'Buakaw Banchamek training @ Banchamek Gym' photo album.

## Walailak Games strike back



**THE WINNERS PODIUM:** From left, student representatives of Chiang Mai, Mahidol and Songkhla Nakkarin Universities. Photo: Walailak U

NINE gold medals were contested in a Phuket bowling showdown on April 19 as part of Walailak University's annual sports games.

The 31<sup>st</sup> edition of the Walailak Games was held from April 18 to 25 in Nakhon Sri Thammarat and Phuket.

About 5,000 students from more than 45 educational institutions competed in the games, which features 17 categories of sport, awarding a total 393 gold medals.

The nine gold medals were contested at CS Bowl, Phuket, the bowling alley on the top floor of Big C Supercenter shopping complex along the Bypass Road in Phuket Town.

Assistant Professor Ekapong Julasenee, Dean of Architecture

and Design at Walailak University presided over the opening ceremony for the Bowling competition.

Competing were more than 100 students from 17 institutions.

Nutthannop Sooksai, bowling competition board secretary said, "Bowling is a very important sport, as it can strengthen and improve health...this activity can bring unity and help [athletes] become more familiar with each other.

Assistant Prof Ekapong Julasenee said, "In the past 31 years, Walailak University has had the chance to organize this activity [bowling] twice. The first time was in 2006, and this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time.

- Siangthai

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# Phuket repel cavalry charge

By S Fein and S Layne

FC PHUKET held Suphanburi FC to a scoreless draw on a waterlogged pitch at Surakul Stadium April 21.

Just over 1,700 paying spectators turned up for the match, including a bus load of orange-clad "Suphanburi Blood" supporters who made the 12-hour trip to Phuket to cheer on their beloved "Elephant Cavalry".

Considering the superior attacking game and dominance of possession throughout the bulk of the match, most of "The Hulk", Phuket's main supporters group, were content with the goalless result and its point awarded.

After all, Suphanburi boasts the highest budget of all 18 teams in the Yamaha 1 league, reported to have as much as 50 million baht to spend this season.

Much of this is tied into its deadly arsenal which includes two Brits, two Japanese, an Ivorian, a Korean and a Cameroonian.

In contrast, Phuket's projected budget is only 20mn baht, mostly to cover the salaries of its three Ivorians, two Brazilians and two Koreans.

According to Thai Premier League regulations, each team is allowed to field only three non-

Asian players in addition to one non-Thai Asian (the "3+1 rule") on the pitch at the same time, while the rest must be Thai.

Phuket's Brazilian goalkeeper Alonso Jose Carvalho da Silva was kept on his toes for a majority of the contest as Suphanburi tried in vain to break the ice with dozens of charges.

The visitors' well-coordinated lines allowed for few counter attacks by Phuket, whose best chance of the match came at 13 minutes.

An on-target free kick from 22 yards out by the home side's Niran Phanthong was narrowly denied by a diving punch from Suphanburi keeper Prasit Nuamsala.

There were seven yellow cards handed out in the scrappy, defensive struggle, with Phuket's Nene Bi, Suwit Najamroern, Marcio Santos and Withipong Sittitanyakit among the recipients.

The even result of the sixth fixture for the 2012 season drops Phuket into 11th place of the 18-team Thai Yamaha 1 league with a win, four draws and a loss.

Meanwhile Suphanburi remain in 9th place from two wins, three draws and a loss.



**DEAD END:** Phuket's Poramat Krongborisut is brought to his knees in a challenge for possession in Saturday's match. Photo: Pimwara Choksakulpan

Phuket's next match will be an away fixture on April 29 against Sriracha Suzuki FC at Suzuki Stadium in Chonburi province.

Their opponents, the "Blue Marlin", were relegated from the Thai Premier League and are currently in 5th place with three wins, a draw and two losses.

Phuket are then set to return home to play a special friendly match against Myanmar league leaders Yadarbon FC on May 2. See the Gazette online for updates.

THAI DIVISION ONE LEAGUE TABLE			
TEAM	P	GD	PTS
1 Ratchaburi FC	6	8	14
2 Krabi	6	5	13
3 Songkhla	6	4	11
4 PTT Rayong	6	2	11
5 Sriracha	6	3	10
6 Bangkok Utd	6	2	10
7 Pattalung	6	2	10
8 Korat	6	1	10
9 Suphanburi	6	2	9
10 Khon Kaen	6	-1	8
11 <b>Phuket</b>	6	-2	7
12 Royal Navy	6	1	6
13 Rajpracha	6	-2	6
14 Air Force	6	-2	5
15 Bangkok FC	6	-4	5
16 JW Rangsit	6	-4	5
17 Saraburi	6	-4	4
18 Chanthaburi	6	-11	1

**OTHER YAMAHA 1 RESULTS OVER THE WEEKEND ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

Ratchaburi	1 - 1	Sriracha
Chanthaburi	1 - 4	Khon Kaen
PTT Rayong	1 - 1	Rajpracha
Royal Navy	2 - 2	Bangkok Utd
Krabi	1 - 0	Korat
Songkhla	3 - 1	JW Rangsit
Pattalung	2 - 3	Bangkok FC
Air Force	1 - 0	Saraburi

WEEKEND 7 FIXTURES		
SATURDAY 28 APRIL 2012		4pm
Rajpracha	VS	Songkhla
SATURDAY 28 APRIL 2012		6pm
Korat	VS	PTT Rayong
Khon Kaen	VS	Royal Navy
Saraburi	VS	Ratchaburi
SUNDAY 29 APRIL 2012		5pm
Bangkok FC	VS	JW Rangsit
SUNDAY 29 APRIL 2012		6pm
Suphanburi	VS	Chanthaburi
Pattalung	VS	Air Force Utd
Bangkok Utd	VS	Krabi
SUNDAY 29 APRIL 2012		6:30pm
Sriracha	VS	Phuket

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# IronKids can do it all



**FUTURE STARS:** IronKids cut through the water before getting on their bikes in last weekend's trial race held at the Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club. Photo: Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

**By Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai**

THE Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club (TSLC) IronKids Phuket 2012 series was launched last weekend with 79 children from kindergarten to high school seniors taking part. They gave their all to make it to the finish line, as the sport continues to go from strength to strength.

Sakda "Ben" Kammungkan and Annalis Johnson were the Senior winners (13-17 years old).

The intermediate age group (9-11 years) was the largest field, with 37 participants seeing Chris Thomson, a regular IronKids Phuket first-placer, taking a strong lead to win the age group overall. Maxime and Chloe Schrijnemaekers led the girls, finishing just a minute apart in first and second place respectively.

Claire Ratcliffe, Race Director of IronKids

Phuket, explained how the sport was growing quickly and had captured the imagination of children and parents alike.

"We had several adults join the seniors division which is a great way for beginner adult triathletes to join in the fun of racing and get a taste for it. The kids love it – and we have fantastic facilities for the races, thanks to the help of TSLC.

"After the race we will have little mini kids events so they can try riding around the track on the bikes and do a little bit of the run. It is one of my passions to get kids to be part of the races to keep them healthy with cycling, running, and swimming," she added.

"It is going to grow bigger every year. Last year, the April race was our first and we had over 100 children attend, and for the December race we had more than 200 children. I hope this year the December meet we will have more than 300 children," she said.

Paradorn Mohr was the fastest of the juniors to complete the 50 meter swim leg of the race, and, combined with his 3km bike and 500m run, he crossed the finish line in 12min, 51sec.

"I am very happy to be the first to cross the finish-line," said Paradorn.

"This is the second time for me; last time I came in 6<sup>th</sup> place. I kept practicing and improving, and I finally made it to first place today," he said.

"The hardest part of the race was the 500m run. I slowed down a little bit because I couldn't catch my breath, but I kept telling myself 'I can do this', and I did," he explained.

Winning the Juniors' female category with a time of 14min, 25sec was Nanako McIntosh in her strongest finish since her first race last December.

The Juniors' course (6-8 years old) is comprised of a 50m swim and a 3km bike, followed by a 500m run.

The intermediate distances are a 150m

swim, 6km bike and a 1.5km run; and the seniors distances are a 300m swim, 12km bike, and a 3km run.

Ms Ratcliffe said children from Anuban Phuket were sponsored by Advanced Info Service PLC, with training sessions prior to the race to help them become familiar with the course and the skills required for successful triathlon racing.

"This is a good way for us to encourage the Thai children to participate. Normally, they prefer to do it in a team, so one can do the swim, another can do the run, and so on. This time we have five that did the race individually," said Ms Ratcliffe.

TSLC's partnership with IronKids will include training camps throughout the year.

The IronKids races in Phuket are sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, *The Nation* and PGTV.



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