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■ 'YOU WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US... I LOVE YOU'

Family mourns executed mum

■ Police suspect Mrs Jintana was a victim of a revenge killing for firing an employee from a well-known resort

By **Chutharat Plerin**

THE family of hotel executive Jintana Mahattanapak, executed last Friday night by a single gunshot to the head, are still coming to terms with their loss.

Mrs Jintana, 42, was slain while waiting at the traffic lights at the intersection of Chao Fa West Road and Kwang Road at about 8:10pm. She was driving home from work at the Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa in Karon, where she was the human resources director.

Husband, now widower, Winyoo Mahattanapak on Monday posted on his Facebook in Thai, "Sleep well my only love. You are now in the embrace of the Father. You will always be with us... One day I will be with you in the afterlife. I love you. I miss you so much."

Mrs Jintana's shocking murder left her two daughters - one a teenager, the other under 10 years old - motherless.

At last report, police were investigating the likelihood that Mrs Jintana was murdered for revenge after she sacked several employees who were...



Continued on page 3 Jintana Mahattanapak, 42, was followed from work and then assassinated. Photo: Hilton PR



Exclusive interview

DUTCH Ambassador to Thailand Joan Boer sits down with the *Gazette* to review his concerns for tourists on the island.

Full story on Pages 4-5

Police release sketch of resort safe box robber

POLICE continue their search for two men who allegedly drugged a front desk guard at a popular resort before making off with over 3 million baht worth of guests' valuables.

Based on CCTV images and the description provided by the guard, police have created a composite drawing of one of the two criminals.

Anyone with information that may lead to arrest is urged to contact the Phuket Provincial Police.

Full story on page 2

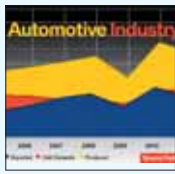
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James Mason's weight loss takes him to Bangkok by bike. **Page 42**



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Police release sketch of safe box heist thief

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

POLICE released a composite image last Friday of one of the two suspects involved in allegedly drugging a front desk officer at Karon Place Hotel and then robbing the guests' safe boxes of nearly 3 million baht worth of valuables on January 14.

An arrest warrant has been issued for the man, Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Arun Kleawwatee told a press conference on Friday, adding that the suspect goes by many aliases, including Robert, Michael, Tony and "Mr Pheilpes" (sic).

"The image is of the man who was seen breaking into the lockers. We are still working on the composite image of the other man," Col Arun said.

The sketch was derived from CCTV images captured during the robbery, and on the description given by Siam Kamya, the front desk guard on duty when the robbery took place.

"The image is of the man seen breaking into the resort's safe boxes," Col Arun said.

Police were notified of the robbery by hotel manager Keerati Prugsathamawit at 5:30am on January 14.

"Mr Keerati said the robbery took place between 3am and 5am," Col Arun explained.

Mr Kamya, the staffer allegedly drugged by the two foreigners in



Based on CCTV images stored in a separate system than the one stolen, police were able to create a composite image of one of the suspects.

order to carry out the robbery, regained consciousness to see the wanted man breaking into the lockers while the other one kept lookout, he added.

"After seeing Mr Kamya had woken, the man breaking into the boxes went into the manager's office and stole the CCTV recording machine.

The CCTV images we have were stored on another machine," Col Arun explained.

"We are also continuing the search for the other robber," he said. "Anyone with information that



The burglars allegedly drugged the guard before breaking into guests' safe boxes.

may help lead to the arrest of either man is urged to contact Phuket Provincial Police at 076-369140," he added.

'The suspect goes by many aliases, including Robert, Michael, Tony and Mr Pheilpes (sic)'

- Col Arun

French chef arrested for alleged 2004 rape of disabled woman

A FRENCH chef working in Phuket's premier party town, Patong, was arrested on January 16 for the alleged rape of a disabled woman in his home country in 2004.

Christopher Pierre Verdino, 28, slipped into Thailand in 2007, three years after French authorities issued an arrest warrant. His whereabouts became known to the French Embassy in Bangkok after he made a request for a name change on his passport.

The Embassy then notified Phuket Immigration, who made the arrest at about 9:30am.

"He told us that he planned to change his name in his passport first, and after that use his new name to get a new visa," Phuket Immigration Superintendent Sunchai Chokkajaykij said.

Mr Pierre's visa expired on December 31, 2012 and he has



Christopher Pierre Verdino lived in Thailand for over five years before French police caught up with him.

been charged with overstaying.

He will be handed over to Immigration officials in Bangkok, who will in turn hand him over to officials at the French Embassy to be deported, Col Sunchai explained. - Orawin Narabal

Taxi driver dies in speed-driven car accident

A TAXI driver speeding from JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa at Mai Khao Beach to pick up a passenger at the airport died after losing control of his car on Thepkrasattri Road last Friday.

Witnesses reported that Warongsak Rungsawang, 29, entered one of the sharp curves in Baan Mak Prok at high speed, lost control and hit a power pole.

Capt Santi Prakobpran of the Tah Chat Chai Police was called to the scene at 12:45pm and found Mr Warongsak, bloodied and unconscious, pinned behind the steering wheel of the taxi he was driving.

The car was registered with the authorities as belonging to Sasiprapa Kitroongrot.

"Mai Khao and Kusoldharm rescue workers spent an hour cutting him out of the car, but he died before he could be freed," Capt Santi said.

- Thawit Bilabdullar

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Swedish tax fugitive Eriksson was arrested on Patong Beach.

Cigarette tax cheat caught over B100mn

SWEDISH Police ended a two-year hunt for a tax exile on January 14 when they arrested Bernt Olov Inge Eriksson at Patong Beach. Mr Eriksson was wanted in Sweden on a 100-million-baht tax evasion charge.

A task force of Swedish officers began their hunt in Thailand after learning Mr Eriksson, 67, was in the country.

After scouring Pattaya and then Chiang Mai for their suspect, the Swedes arrived in Phuket with the Swedish Ambassador January 12 to seek help from Phuket Immigration officials.

Mr Eriksson had allegedly imported and sold cigarettes in Sweden, but failed to pay excise taxes on them, they said.

The Swedes hit the jackpot in Phuket, as officials had both his photo and a local address. Immigration officers apprehended him at Patong Beach at 4pm.

As his visa expired on November 21, 2012, police detained him on overstaying charges. — *Orawin Narabal*

Police pursuing revenge as motive for Jintana murder

From page 1

caught stealing from the hotel. One of the staffers whose employment was terminated was in a "senior position", police said.

"She was a strict person at work. She was straight, and so some employees at the hotel lost their jobs. In a previous incident, she had to fire some employees because they were found cheating their employer. This probably was the motive for her murder," Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Col Arun Kleawwatee explained.

After reviewing CCTV footage from 11 cameras and questioning witnesses, police believe they now have descriptions of the gunman and his driver accomplice, as well as the motorbike the killers were riding.

"We now believe the gunman was a passenger on a motorcycle following Mrs Jintana home from work," Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat said.

"The suspects followed her when she left the hotel at about 7:45pm right up until the time of the murder at around 8:10pm. Witnesses, drivers on the road and people at the scene gave us information about the shooting and a description of the killer," he added.

"However, we cannot reveal the description of the killer until



Police CCTV footage shows Jintana Mahattanapak's white Chevrolet Captiva (left) at the intersection where she was murdered.



The assassin fired through the driver's side window.



Gen Choti says police are closing in on the killers.

we have enough evidence for the courts to issue arrest warrants," Gen Choti said.

Mrs Jintana was killed at close-range by a shotgun blast through the driver's side window, Gen Choti added, noting that police had collected a shotgun cartridge at the scene.

"We have yet to identify the motive for murder... We questioned more than 10 of her co-workers and her husband, and we have now ruled out 'family conflict' as a possible motive," he explained.

"However, we have yet to rule out the possibility that she may

have been killed because of a conflict with people not related to her work," he added.

In a statement issued to the *Gazette*, Hilton Phuket Arcadia General Manager Andre Gomez said, "We are deeply saddened by the death of Jintana Mahattanapak, and our heartfelt condolences go out to her family and friends during this difficult period. She was a valued employee at our hotel and will be deeply missed by her team and colleagues. We are reaching out to her family to offer assistance..."

"The incident is currently under investigation with the local

police, and we will cooperate fully with them. As the investigation is ongoing, we are unable to comment further."

Mrs Jintana's body was at the Christian Church Thakreng Phuket in Phuket Town from last Sunday through Tuesday for friends and family to pay their respects. The funeral was to be held near Mrs Jintana's family home in Khanom District, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, on Wednesday.

Additional reporting by Kritsada Mueanhawong and Dean Noble. Photos by Kritsada Mueanhawong, Chaichana Keowkaew.

Woman collecting recyclables finds body of baby in garbage

POLICE are searching for the mother of a newborn baby girl whose body was found dumped in a garbage heap in Wichit on January 16.

A woman collecting recyclables discovered the three-day-old's body stuffed into a rubbish bag among a heap of trash along Chao Fa West Road, said Sub Lt Suporn Muangkai of the Wichit Police.

"Wan Rattanawilai, 57, told us that she was on her bike collecting recyclables along the road. When she arrived at a garbage heap on Chao Fa West Road, she saw a big blue bag. Unzipping it, she found the body of the infant inside," Sub Lt Suporn said.



The body of the newborn child was found in a roadside pile of trash.

"The baby girl had bruises all over her body and was dressed in a pink shirt and covered with a blue towel," he said.

Officers believe the baby died only hours before being discovered. Police are continuing their investigation into the case.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

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Safety blitz nets drug, gun arrests in first seven days

THE first seven days of the month-long police safety boost in Phuket has yielded eight arrests on gun and drug charges in road checkpoint stops alone.

Maj Gen Kittisan Detsunthawat, Deputy Commander of Provincial Police Region 8, announced on January 17 that so far his officers had seized over 300 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine), 2,031 pills of *ya bah* (methamphetamine), more than a kilogram of marijuana and three guns.

Gen Kittisan believes the arrests may lead to information about drug networks in other provinces and money laundering.

All suspects were transferred to Phuket Provincial Court for detention, Gen Kittisan said.

The campaign, which continues until February 7, aims to reduce criminal activity in the popular tourist areas of Phuket, Pattaya and Samui.

"A total of 163 police officers from Region 8 – which includes



STRANGE BREW: 13 men at student dormitories were found in possession of marijuana and '4x100' cocktails, which include the mild narcotic kratom.

Ranong, Phang Nga, Phuket, Krabi, Chumphon, Surat Thani and Nakhon Sri Thammarat – have received special training for the campaign," Gen Kittisan explained.

On Wednesday night, local Civil Defense Volunteers also uncovered drugs in a raid on dormitories on

Soi Patchani in Bang Chee Lao, north of Phuket Town, where they found 13 men in possession of marijuana and "4x100" cocktails – a drink made from *kratom*, a mild narcotic.

All 13 suspects were handed over to Phuket City Police.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Exclusive:

Joan Boer is the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Thailand.

A former deputy director-general of the Dutch Foreign Affairs Department, Amb Boer was recently in Phuket with his Canadian and UK counterparts for a first-of-its-kind meeting with Governor Maitri Inthasut to discuss tourist safety issues. Before leaving Phuket, Amb Boer talked exclusively with the *Gazette*.

SPEAKING at the *Gazette* offices, Amb Boer explained his efforts to galvanize the international diplomatic community to jointly deliberate with authorities in Bangkok to bring an end to the various scams that have done so much damage to the tourism industry in Phuket and other destinations in Thailand.

Amb Boer, now in the second year of a four-year posting in Thailand, told the *Gazette* that it was not long after his arrival in Thailand that he began receiving complaints from Dutch tourists in Phuket.

"I first came here one and a half years ago to discuss with then Gov Tri Augkaradacha the future of tourism, the social climate for [expat] residents, et cetera. That was after a couple of incidents of scamming... people who rented jet-skis and then got back and were [unjustly] charged for damages, or people who rented a motorbike and left it at their hotel and then found it gone. But even more serious, we also had a couple of incidents where people were beaten with iron bars [following disputes over] just 200 or 300 baht. That's when it really gets nasty," he said.

He asked Gov Tri in September 2010 what he was doing on these issues and asked him what he could do as an ambassador to support his efforts.

"The Governor said, 'You know I am here as Governor under circumstances that are too strong for me. I need support from central authorities in Bangkok. Can you help me?'"

"When you get a question like that, then it is on your shoulders. I can't tell my taxpayers that... 'it is his problem, not my problem'."

Amb Boer took it upon himself to try to initiate such change.

"At that point I began coordinating with ambassadors from ten

different countries that were experiencing similar problems. We made an overview of the issues and agreed that we wanted this both to be a multilateral effort and not just pointing the finger at the Thai authorities."

Since that time, Amb Boer and his fellow diplomats have held three high-level meetings with Ministry of Tourism and Sports officials and other authorities in Bangkok.

The Ministry recently issued a number of conclusions based on various concerns the diplomats had presented them with.

One of the important conclusions is that jet-ski and motorbike rental operators would hence-

forth face prosecution if caught in possession of a foreigner's passport.

Operators have long demanded that tourists hand over passports as surety when renting out vehicles. In the future, the operators would have to accept a copy of the renter's passport, because the document is the property of the issuing country, he explained.

Asked about the likelihood of enforcement, Amb Boer said the group of countries would carefully monitor events on the ground in tourist destinations like Pattaya, Hua Hin – and especially Phuket.

While the scamming phenomena in Pattaya rivals that of Phuket, "intransparencies" in the transport sector in Phuket make public transport here the most expensive in Thailand – and a common cause of conflict between drivers and visiting tourists, he said.

"Labor costs are the same here as in Bangkok, as are petrol and vehicle purchase costs, so I don't know why taxi costs have to be three times as much here. We have to look at the system behind it, why one has to bargain so hard for each meter – and why if you don't reach an agreement, people can get very aggressive. I can't



The Evil Man From Krabi video has more than 500,000 views on YouTube.

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Dutch Amb guides reform

accept people from my country getting beaten up over 200 baht, and if I were to accept it my government should withdraw me from the post," he said.

Amb Boer said high-profile cases like rapes and murders tended to be resolved in a few days. However, the sheer volume of less-publicized cases of scamming and price-gouging in the transport sector, and the authority's inability to deal with them satisfactorily, indicated these problems were systemic.

Only about two per cent of Dutch tourists return from Thailand dissatisfied with their experiences here, but he stressed that in the "brave new age" of social media just one of these people could do immense harm to a country's tourism image.

In terms of the way information is propagated, he said the emergence of the social media was as revolutionary a change as the invention by Gutenberg of the printing press in the early stages of the Renaissance.

"One person with a PC or a blog can... seriously affect a destination's reputation. Like it or not, I now have a case on my hands with over 500,000 YouTube hits [The *Evil Man From Krabi* video]. That's new to me; I have not been trained for it, but it's the new world we have to face. I understand the [alleged victim's] father. I also understand some of the concerns elsewhere. I do not want to mingle in the justice process, but I do want a justice system that is transparent and can be explained," he said.

Amb Boer stressed that the alleged rape that inspired the video was an isolated case and that he still encouraged Dutch people to holiday in the Kingdom.

Many Dutch tourists who get into trouble here do so because they are naive and fail to heed the many warnings about scamming and other potential problems that are clearly stated on the foreign ministry's website, he conceded.

"I don't know how it happens. As soon as they get off the plane... they seem to lose some of their normal reflexes. I have been out with the Tourist Police in Patong and seen a lot of behavior of the kind that invites scamming. So it's a double-edged sword and we have a role in educating our own people," he said.

Among the irresponsible behavior displayed by about 30 per cent of Dutch tourists is failing to get travel insurance before travelling to the Kingdom, even though packages are available for the equivalent of about 80 baht per day. Advertisements for such even pop up on their computer screens



DOUBLE TROUBLE: Dutch holidaymakers taking taxis and renting jet-skis are just two scenarios that often led to trouble. Photos: Gazette file



COMMON GOOD: Ambassador to Thailand Joan Boer believes that collective action by the diplomatic community will help alleviate tourists' woes.

when they are researching trips, he noted.

"Thirty per cent uninsured is irresponsible behavior. That's what I tell my tourists: 'You are irresponsible if you go without insurance for the cost of a beer,'" he said.

The jet-ski insurance program was a "good start", but it has also revealed a good deal of "creativity" on the part of renters, who now demand compensation of two days for a jet-ski being out of service following an "accident". This compensation is not covered under the current insurance package, but should be in the future, he said.

"Regulators are always one train late. I understand that we are not ahead of the scammers, but we should be closely behind them, not off over the horizon," he said.

He described his work as the "start of a process", one that acknowledges a set of facts and figures that weren't available a year ago.

"So we can now enter into a conversation where, on both sides of the line, we take our responsibilities and try to move forward. Again, I am not a player in this process in the sense that I am not at the wheel or in a position to change the tourism industry in Thailand. Together with colleagues I am trying to set things in motion.

"If people don't feel secure there is no progress. In the tourism sector, the sense of security is extremely important, because if people do not feel safe they will not return to a destination," he said.

'We also had a couple of incidents where people were beaten with iron bars [following disputes over] just 200 or 300 baht. That's when it really gets nasty'

- Amb Boer

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QUEER news

'Stressed' monk in abbott attack

A MONK in Samut Prakan has been defrocked – and is facing criminal charges – for kicking a senior monk in the neck during a ceremony attended by almost 100 other clergymen.

Bang Ya Phraek Temple monk Phra Thongthip, 52, attacked Phra Khru Sunthon Suttasan as the older holy man presided over a ceremony appointing a third monk as abbot of the temple.

The pugnacious clergyman claimed he attacked Phra Khru Sunthon because he was "stressed".

Phra Khru Sunthon, chief monk of Bang Ya Phraek Subdistrict, showed up at Samrong Tai Police Station on the evening of January 13 to lodge a complaint.

Phra Khru Sunthon, 56, told officers he had been viciously attacked during a ceremony to appoint Phra Samu Prasatphorn as abbot of Bang Ya Phraek Temple.

After the ceremony was finished, he had prostrated himself in front of the principal Buddha image of the temple.

At this point, Phra Thongthip stood up, walked towards him and kicked him in the neck and body.

Other monks were forced to get up and separate Phra Thongthip from his victim.

After being taken to the police station by his fellow clergymen, Phra Thongthip confessed to the attack.

He said he was "stressed" and "could not control himself". He said he had been getting treatment for his condition at a local hospital.

Blood bank grateful for emergency donations, calls for more

THE Phuket Regional Blood Center (PRBC) received two units of Rh-negative blood and two single-platelet donations on January 17, in response to urgent requests on behalf of a foreigner due to undergo heart surgery.

"We do not know what condition the patient is in. However, I think the patient will be okay..."

"The hospital itself has seven units of O-negative blood type plus the two units from us," PRBC director Pornthip Rattajak said.

While grateful for the donations, she stressed that there is a continuing need for Rh-negative blood donations.

"There are patients in other provinces who need A-negative blood. Please come to the center to donate at your convenience," she added.

The PRBC is located on Rattanakosin 200 Year Road, next to the Phuket Provincial Employment Office in Saphan Hin.

Donations are accepted from 8:30am to 4:30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 8:30am to 8pm on Tuesday and Thursday, and from 9am to 3pm on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call the PRBC at 076-251178 or 081-9588854.

– Chutharat Plerin



The blood bank is calling for more donations of Rhesus-negative blood. Photo: Gazette file

Triple homicide suspect flees Phang Nga Police

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

PHUKET Police are on the lookout for a man wanted for triple homicide in Phang Nga.

The news follows the Takuapa District Court issuing an arrest warrant for Somsak Wongsri, who according to an eyewitness executed three people on December 22.

The three men allegedly shot dead by Somsak were Prajuab Choojit, 24; Sarawut Boonklin, 31; and Somboon Kimtin, 69, who is the father of Treechada Kimtin, the Thai country music singer better known by her stage name "Ice R Siam".

The executions took place in a rubber plantation in Takuapa District.

"My father was a good man and our family is familiar with Mr Somsak. We have never had any argument with him," Ms Treechada told the press.

Ms Treechada said she did not understand how her father could



Phang Nga Provincial Police Commander Chalit Kaewyarat said he believes his officers will be able to arrest the suspect 'soon'. Photo: Gazette file

have been murdered over a land dispute. "My father was not involved in the dispute between Mr Prajuab, Mr Sarawut and Mr

Somsak," she said.

The alleged dispute concerned Mr Prajuab and Mr Sarawut refusing to allow Mr Somsak to

cross their land to access his plot.

The country music star said her family and the families of the other murder victims are in fear for their lives while Somsak remains at large.

"We are scared because the police have yet to catch Mr Somsak, and now we have heard that he wants to kill two more people. We are frightened because we have no idea who they [the next alleged victims] will be," she added.

Maj Gen Chalit told the *Gazette* on Monday that he was unaware of any deaths against other potential victims until he saw a report on television.

Gen Chalit would not confirm or deny that police were searching Phuket for the murder suspect.

"Police in Phuket have been alerted to be on the lookout. We know the general area where we believe Mr Somsak is in hiding, but at this stage I cannot reveal any more information," Phang Nga Provincial Police Commander Chalit Kaewyarat said.

Police charge 'real driver' with manslaughter over van crash

POLICE on Tuesday confirmed they have charged the "real driver" of the Phuket tour van involved in the accident on November 29 that claimed the life of a 9-year-old schoolgirl, Kunnarree Lattuada-Lancini.

"Makeesan Samae has been charged with gross negligence causing death under Section 290 of the Criminal Code and with reckless driving under Section 43 of the Land Traffic Act B.E. 2522," Sub Lt Kraisorn Boonprasop of the Chalong Police said.

Section 290 of Criminal Code states: Whoever, causes death to the other person by inflicting injury upon the body of such person without intent to cause death, shall be punished with imprisonment of three to fifteen years.

Section 43 of the Land Traffic Act states: No drivers shall drive a vehicle with such carelessness



Kunnarree Lattuada-Lancini, 9, died in the crash. Photo: Gazette file

and recklessness that it may cause danger to persons or property. Any persons found guilty of contravening Section 43 shall be punished not over 1,000 baht.

Sub Lt Kraisorn explained that he was originally informed that Meekasan's older brother, Tuan Russala Samae, was driving the

vehicle at the time of the accident.

"However, as I carried out my investigation I learned that Tuan Russala was in the front passenger seat when the accident occurred," Sub Lt Kraisorn said.

"Makeesan has reported himself to police and acknowledged the charges against him. He is now at home, awaiting trial," he said.

However, the case had yet to be transferred to the Public Prosecutor. "We are now waiting for the forensic report of the accident to be attached to the case file so we can transfer it to the public prosecutor for further action," Sub Lt Kraisorn said.

"I do not know how long it will take to receive the report from the Phuket office of the Forensic Police, but I will pass the case to the public prosecutor as soon as possible," he added.

– Chutharat Plerin



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Red leader jailed for lese majeste

AROUND THE nation

A RED-SHIRT leader received a two-year jail sentence after becoming the latest person to be convicted of insulting the monarchy.

The Criminal Court on January 17, found Yossarawis Chuklom guilty of lese majeste for a speech he made in front of red-shirt demonstrators on March 29, 2010.

Mr Yossarawis, who serves as an adviser to deputy commerce minister and fellow red-shirt leader Nattawut Saikua, was given bail.

The court ruled that Mr Yossarawis, also a comedian performing under the stage name Jeng Dokjik, had accused HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej of



Yossarawis Chuklom received a two-year lese majesty jail sentence for a 2010 speech. Photo: The Nation

political interference.

Mr Yossarawis's lawyer, Thamrong Lakdaen, said the court convicted his client through "speculation" because the speech had not named HM The King explicitly, *The New*

York Times reported.

In his speech, Mr Yossarawis had said a number of powerful forces opposed the dissolution of the government of Abhisit Vejjajiva.

He had named the military and Privy Council head Prem

Tinsulanonda as being among them, saying there was another person whom he was not able to name.

A number of witnesses told the court they thought Mr Yossarawis could only have

meant HM The King.

On January 23, another lese majeste suspect, Somyot Prueksakasemsuk, was set to receive a verdict following the end of his trial in May.

Mr Somyot was charged over articles published in the magazine he edited, *Voice of Thaksin*.

Earlier this month, Amnesty International released a statement calling Mr Somyot a "prisoner of conscience" and called for urgent action from supporters.

The rights group claimed that Article 112, the lese majeste law, was being used to silence peaceful dissent. Lese-majeste cases have increased sharply since a 2006 coup toppled populist premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

The lower courts have heard 397 lese-majeste cases since 2006, a 1,500 per cent increase in the number of cases from 1990 to 2005, according to David Streckfuss who has written extensively on lese majeste.

Chumpol death sparks infighting

THE death of Chart Thai Pattana Party leader Chumpol Silpa-archa last week has renewed infighting among coalition partners for his coveted tourism and sports Cabinet post and is also likely to lead to a reshuffle of some ministers.

Both the ruling Pheu Thai Party and the coalition Palang Chon Party have been keen to take the tourism position from Chart Thai Pattana, while Chumpol's brother Banharn, a former prime minister Banharn, wants to keep the lucrative post with his party.

Mr Chumpol, who was also serving as a Deputy Prime Minister, died last week at the age of 72. He had been hospitalized since December after collapsing from a heart attack.

"On December 17, Mr Chumpol collapsed at the Government House and his heart stopped

beating for 45 minutes before the doctors could resuscitate him," he said.

"His condition had appeared to improve slightly... but he finally drew his last breath this morning," Mr Banharn said on Monday.

Mr Chumpol was the de-facto leader of the Chart Thai Pattana Party, which has been part of a coalition government with the Pheu Thai Party since its election victory in July 2011.

Mr Chumpol had served both Abhisit Vejjajiva and Yingluck Shinawatra as the Minister for Tourism and Sports.

Holding a law degree, Mr Chumpol worked as a civil servant and political science lecturer at Thammasat University before entering politics in 1979.

Banharn, the Chart Thai Pattana patriarch, has decided on a suc-



Chumpol Silpa-archa

cessor to replace his late brother, a party source said on Monday.

It was likely that the successor would be an outsider because Banharn has only a few close and trusted allies. He and the former members of the now-defunct

Chart Thai Party are banned from politics for five years.

Culture Minister Sonthaya Kunplome, from the Palang Chon Party, is said to be unhappy with his current post. He reportedly met former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra over the New Year holiday to lobby for the tourism and sports seat.

Key Pheu Thai members and coalition partners also met Thaksin in London last week, sources said.

"If we can really take the post back from Banharn, why do we have to give it to Sonthaya? Isn't it better to keep it with us? We always want to supervise the ministry because it can generate high revenue for the country," a source from Pheu Thai said.

The source said Pheu Thai may ask Banharn to swap the tourism post for labor or education.

Senators reject call to intensify Southern arms

SENATORS on Monday objected to Deputy Prime Minister Chalerm Yoobamrung's call to issue machine guns to subdistrict and village chiefs in the three southernmost provinces.

Senator Weerawit Khongsak said such highly destructive weapons should be given only to officials well-trained and well-disciplined in shooting to prevent harm to innocent people. As many officials' weapons have been stolen or are missing, introducing more high-powered weapons could aggravate the unrest, Mr Weerawit said.

The government should work on limiting the number of war weapons in the region rather than increasing them, he proposed.

Honest Abe shoots for Dawei

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe last week told Thai premier Yingluck Shinawatra that his country was interested in investing in the massive Dawei Port project in Myanmar.

The discussion was not the first time Japan has expressed interest in the development, though its mention at such a high-level forum indicated a seriousness of intent.

The project, aimed at opening a new trade route to the Indian Ocean, will include a deep-sea port and a huge industrial estate.

At a joint press conference with Mr Abe, Ms Yingluck said a tri-party mechanism involving Japan, Thailand and Myanmar would later work out the details for cooperation in the project.

Mr Abe said Japan was ready



Dawei Port project Photo: The Nation

to participate in Thailand's infrastructure development in order to enhance economic cooperation with The Kingdom and Asean.

Japan is Thailand's biggest investor and trading partner.

Critics of the Dawei project claim that Thailand is taking advantage of Myanmar by moving polluting chemical industries off its own turf and into that of its less regulated - and much poorer - neighbor.

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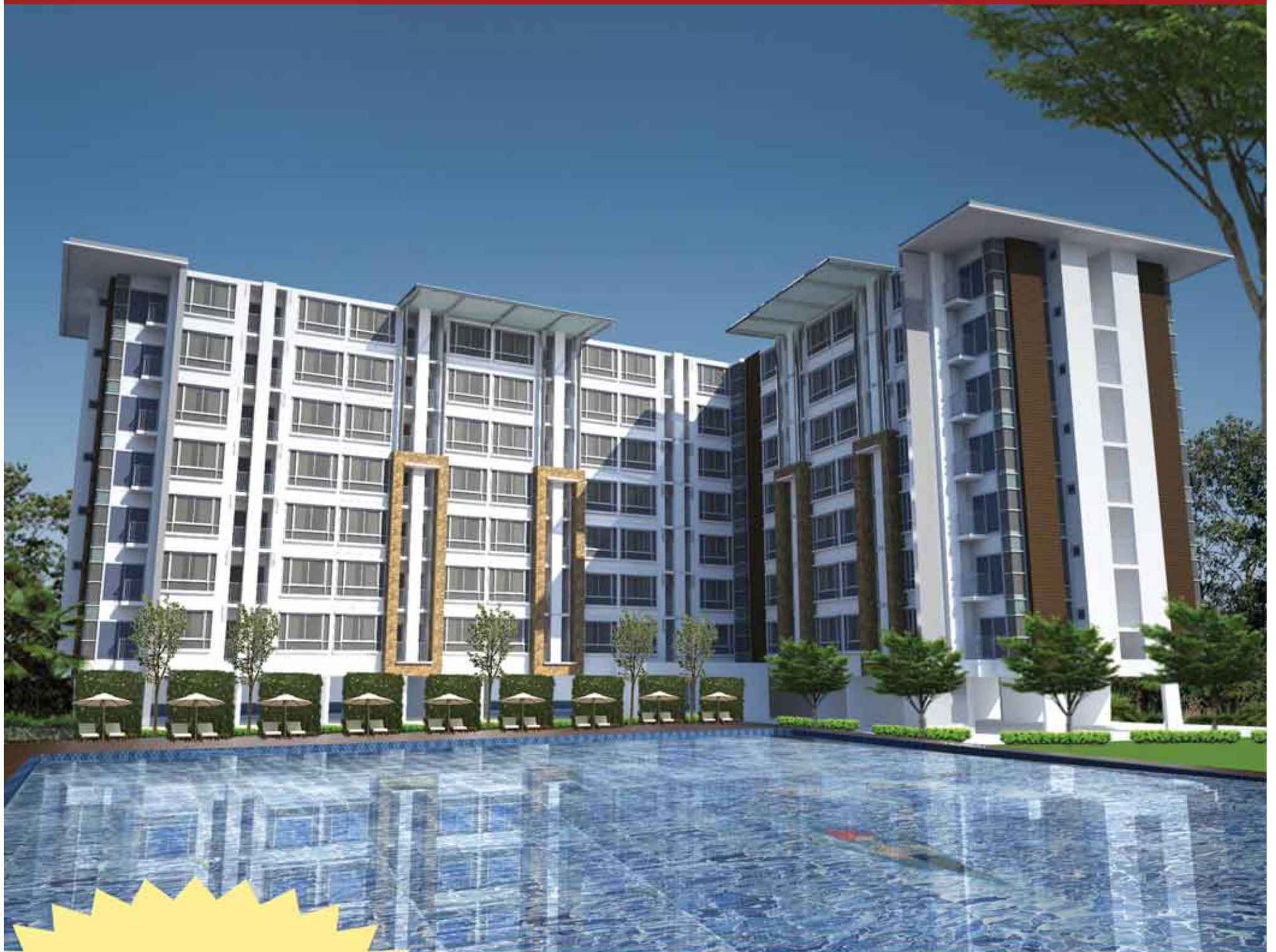
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In brief...

China unveils plan to control Beijing air pollution problems

BEIJING is to unveil unprecedented new rules governing how China's capital reacts to hazardous air pollution, the official Xinhua news agency said, as deteriorating air quality threatens to become a rallying point for wider political dissatisfaction.

The rules will formalize previous ad-hoc measures, including shutting down factories, cutting back on burning coal and taking certain vehicle classes off the roads on days when pollution hits unacceptable levels.

Ivory Coast charges military youth leader with war crimes

A MILITARY youth leader and close ally of Ivory Coast's ex-president Laurent Gbagbo was charged with war crimes and murder, a spokesman for the state prosecutor said January 21.

Charles Ble Goude, the former head of the Young Patriot street militia, was arrested on an international warrant in neighboring Ghana last week and was handed over to Ivorian authorities at the weekend.

Russia sending aircraft to evacuate citizens from Syria

RUSSIA is sending two planes to Lebanon on Tuesday to evacuate more than 100 of its citizens from Syria, the Emergency Ministry said, in the clearest sign yet that Moscow may be preparing for President Bashar al-Assad's possible defeat.

Russia has been Assad's main foreign protector during a 22-month uprising against his rule, but a diplomat conceded last month the government had lost territory and the rebels fighting Assad could win the war.

Canadian coordinated Algeria gas field attack

By Lamine Chikhi

THE Islamist attack on the sprawling desert gas complex in southern Algeria that triggered one of the worst hostage crises in years was conceived in Mali and coordinated by a mystery Canadian named only as Chedad, the Algerian prime minister said.

Five days after about 40 jihadist fighters raided the facility not far from the Libyan border and Algeria responded with a full-on military operation to kill or capture them, a picture of what happened is emerging.

While some hostages escaped in the early stages of the crisis, hopes soon faded for dozens of others once the army decided to take on the raiders.

Workers from the United States, Britain, France, Japan, Romania, Norway and the Philippines were either dead or missing, with the overall death toll among hostages and militants put at 67 and potentially rising by up to five.

Those who escaped had harrowing tales to tell. One Briton recounted how the attackers had strapped Semtex plastic explosive around his neck, bound his hands and taped his



The gas field recently attacked in Amenas, Algeria. Photo: Reuters

mouth. Another man hid for more than a day and a half under his bed as jihadist fighters searched the workers' residential complex.

Algerian Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal said the plot had been hatched in war-ravaged Mali and the attackers had travelled

through Niger and Libya before slipping into Algeria.

The jihadists were said to come from Egypt, Mauritania, Niger, Tunisia, Mali, Algeria and, in one case, from Canada. The Canadian, identified initially as Chedad, was coordinating the

raiders, PM Sellal said.

The In Amenas gas plant probably felt impregnable to those who worked there – fenced in, hundreds of miles from anywhere and with the Algerian army patrolling its desert approaches.

That was a mirage. Libya, an ex-police state turned arms bazaar and now open for jihad, lies just 50 miles away.

At least some of the Islamist guerrillas who stormed in before dawn on Wednesday had driven along smugglers' tracks across the Libyan border, an Algerian security official told Reuters, citing evidence from mobile phones traced to the militants.

The ease with which they entered the fortified housing compound and nearby natural gas plant left Algerians in little doubt the gunmen had allies among people at the site.

"They had local cooperation, I'm sure, maybe from drivers or security guards, who helped the terrorists get into the base," was the immediate reaction of Anis Rahmani, editor of Algeria's *Ennahar* newspaper and a writer on security issues who said he was briefed by officials. —Reuters

Winter weather threatens UK 'triple-dip' recession

A WINTRY burst of weather hit businesses and travellers across Britain for a fourth day on Monday, threatening an unprecedented "triple-dip" recession that could knock the government's economic plans further off track.

Commuters fought to get to work as airlines and train operators struggled to deal with a blanket of snow and ice, while some 3,000 schools were closed, forcing parents to stay at home to look after children.

Figures this week look set to

show the economy shrank again in the fourth quarter of 2012. The snow-induced loss of working days for manufacturers and builders, allied to falls in business for shops, pubs and restaurants, could now push the first quarter of 2013 into the red also.

Even if the economy does turn around later, it would leave the government seeking to dispel fears of slow growth well into next year - with an election due the year after.

"At a time when retailers are already under pressure, bad

weather which keeps people from going shopping is very bad news," said Richard Dodd from the British Retail Consortium, a body representing the country's major chains.

Economists said that while retailers may be able to make up the lost sales as customers come back to buy later what they would have bought anyway, the impact on construction and manufacturing is harder to smooth over quickly.

— Reuters



Heavy snow rocks UK. Photo: Reuters

Mexican president vows to end hunger for millions

MEXICAN President Enrique Peña Nieto launched a campaign against hunger on Monday, pledging to transform the lives of nearly 7.5 million of the country's poorest, though he gave few details, prompting criticism that the plan was a "rehash" of old policies.

Tackling the poverty that blights Mexico has been a priority for many presidents of Latin America's second-biggest economy, and it was one of the first pledges Peña Nieto made when he launched his election campaign at the end of March.

The 46-year-old president outlined a four-point plan to tackle hunger in 400 of Mexico's roughly 2,500 municipalities, urging

community action, local government responsibility and pledging to strengthen agricultural production in afflicted areas.

However, he did not detail the cost of the plan.

"I would say it's a disappointment because it's very thin on details," said Susan Parker, an economist at Mexico City's CIDE university, adding that it failed to address what would happen to older poverty-fighting programs.



President Nieto


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New car owners due B1.2bn

The government's first-car buyer rebate scheme put thousands of new automobiles on the roads, as well as an unexpected dent in the national budget

By Steven Layne

MORE than 14,300 new car owners in Phuket took advantage of the government's first-car rebate scheme, with the combined value of due rebates amounting to more than 1.2 billion baht.

According to figures from the Phuket Excise Department (PED), a total of 14,327 eligible applications were filed in the province from September 16, 2011 to December 31, 2012. These respective rebates had a combined value of 1,212,995,675 baht.

Broken down, the applications consisted of 10,662 cars, representing rebates worth 987,584,059 baht, or roughly an average of 92,626 baht per rebate.

A total of 1,342 applications were submitted for new single-cab pick-up trucks, eligible for a total of 25,316,416 baht, equating to an average rebate of just under 19,000 baht.

Meanwhile, applications were submitted for a total of 2,363 new double-cab pick-up trucks worth 200,095,200 baht – averaging 84,678 baht per rebate.

Of all the new cars and trucks bought in Phuket during the

eligible period, a total of 5,745 were classified as vehicles that had been reserved and due to be delivered to respective car owners in 2013.

Rebates for this category are valued at just over 500 million baht, which equates to an average rebate of roughly 87,000 baht.

As per conditions of the policy, the car owners will be entitled to their rebate after possessing the vehicle for one year, counting from the day the vehicle is delivered to owner.

Wipada Daroonpong, PED policy specialist, said that as of the beginning of 2013, 523 rebates have already been paid out in Phuket.

Nationwide, the number of rebates paid out was 31,064, with a combined worth of more than 2.3 billion baht, she noted.

And though the PED was overwhelmed with rebate applications, as reported in the *Gazette* last month, the province was far from being the busiest.

Not including Bangkok, the province with the most applications processed was Chiang Mai, which reported processing a total 39,763 applications.

This was followed by Nakhon



WORTH THE WAIT: Officials at the Phuket Excise Department process rebate applications from first-car buyers. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Ratchasima and Nonthaburi with 38,885 and 33,386 applications, respectively.

All in nationwide, it is estimated that more than 1.2 million eligible new cars were sold. This includes some 687,000 cars delivered in 2012 and another 568,000 due to be delivered in 2013.

Rebates for these cars are estimated to be worth more than 90 billion baht – three times the initial target set when the policy was first implemented.

Of the total, about 740,000 were passenger cars; 258,000 were single-cab pickup trucks, while another 257,000 were double-cab pickup trucks.

Rebates for these cars are estimated to be worth more than 90bn baht – three times the initial target set when the policy was

first implemented.

According to a recent report by *Kom Chad Luek*, the number of rebates paid out nationwide so far, was about 47,000, which had a combined worth of more than 3.4bn baht.

The report estimated that in 2013, a total budget of 20bn baht will be needed to pay out due rebates, pointing out that the initial annual budget estimate in the government's plan was 7bn baht.

Upon surging demand, the projected budget was later adjusted to 18bn baht, which is still not expected to be enough.

As for the 2014 budget, an additional budget of 30 to 35bn baht will be needed to pay out rebates, in which case, money allocated for the 2015 budget will have to be used to compensate.

In brief...

Thailand denies US child labor claims

THE Commerce Ministry has denied a US allegation that the Thai fishery industry employs children and exploits alien labor.

The US claimed that the Thai frozen-foods industry employed children and exploited alien workers, which resulted in a campaign for American consumers to boycott Thai frozen foods.

Piramol Charoenpaop, director-general of the Trade Negotiations Department, said the accusations arose from misinterpretation of a video showing parents bringing their children to their workplace.

The US is one of the largest import markets for Thai fishery products, particularly shrimp. More than half of Thai shrimp are shipped to the US each year.

Eight goods subject to import scrutiny

IN AN effort to protect its farmers and enterprises, Thailand is enforcing stringent rules on the importation of cassava, red onions, oranges, pork entrails, rubber tyres, electric fans, rice cookers and incandescent lamps.

Foreign Trade Department director-general, Pranee Siriphand, said: "The department needs to have stringent regulations in place to manage goods imported from other ASEAN countries; these products must be closely monitored because of high competition..."

Importers of such goods need an import licence from the department; to provide certification on sanitary and rules-of-origin grounds; standard certification of goods; meanwhile, the location where the goods are to be stocked has to be separate from other products, while importers will also be required to notify the authorities of their distribution and stock every month.

Domestic auto demand 'absorbed'

LAST year was a golden year for Thailand's automobile industry, which achieved record sales and production figures due to piled-up demand as well as the government's first-car buyers' scheme.

This year, increased demand in the export market is expected to continue the country's production momentum.

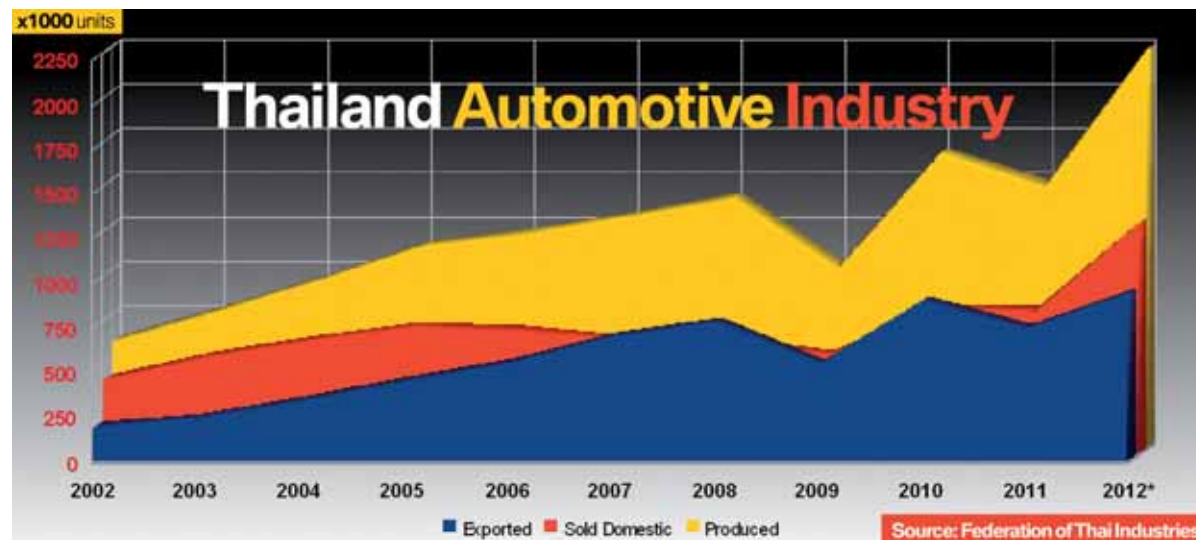
According to figures from the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, auto sales in Thailand during the first 11 months of last year reached 1,277,287 units, growing 72.9% compared with the same period last year.

For that period, Toyota was the best-selling brand with sales of 475,820 units, followed by Isuzu (191,897), Honda with (150,745), Mitsubishi (114,624) and Nissan (108,825).

Another year of brisk sales is expected this year with domestic production projected to reach 2.5 million units.

Globally, car production is forecast at 82.8million units with estimated demand slightly less at 81.9mn units.

In Thailand, piled-up demand due to the halt in production caused by flooding in late 2011, and the implementation of the first-car buyer scheme, were the biggest driver behind domestic sales last year.



BEYOND RECOVERY: Even excluding data from December, 2012, Thailand's automobile industry in the first eleven months of last year out-performed the previous nine years in all aspects. Image: Gazette Graphics

The severe flooding in late 2011 had caused disruption in the supply of parts, and auto plants were idle for months, but domestic sales are expected to reach 1.4mn units, while overall production is estimated to hit 2.4mn units.

As for the first-car scheme, Somchai Poolsawasdi, director-general of the Excise Department, said about 1.3mn applications (worth around 90 billion baht in rebates) had been filed as of the deadline on December 31, 2012 – at least 500,000 higher than initially estimated.

With excise-duty rebates of

up to 100,000 baht being offered per vehicle, the scheme dramatically increased the demand for locally produced passenger cars with engine sizes of not over 1,500cc, as well as pickups, priced under 1mn baht.

According to the research arm of Kasikorn Bank (KResearch), 2013 will be another record-breaking year for the Thai auto industry.

KResearch said it expects car makers to ramp up production for export orders, projecting demand of up to 1.29 million units, or as much as a 26% year on year (y-o-y) growth.

This increase will support domestic car sales that may contract by as much as 7%, since much domestic car demand has already been absorbed by the first-car rebate program. Because of this [absorbed demand], domestic car sales in 2013 may decline from those seen in 2012.

Nonetheless, an expected increase in car exports should help offset lower domestic demand and bolster overall auto production to a new high of up to 2.6mn units, thus rising by as much as 9%, y-o-y, the center said.

– Kingsley Wijayasinha

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Virtually exposed

The *Gazette* speaks to *Phuket.net* about the past, present and near future of 360-degree geo-profiling



A BROADER HORIZON: A panoramic shot of Jungceylon shopping center in Patong is part of a 360-degree view.

By Steven Layne

ALTHOUGH the concept of 360-degree virtual tours has been around for almost as long as the world-wide-web itself, such technology has only recently begun to yield its true potential.

Thanks to the advent of developments in global positioning systems (GPS), camera technology and improved user interfaces, businesses the world over are poised to reap a plethora of benefits.

Speaking to the *Gazette* about such new-found opportunities, Phuket.Net Chief Technical Officer Richard Jones highlights two key catalysts: Google StreetView and the explosion of smart phones and tablet usage.

"StreetView allowed companies to start opening themselves up, allowing potential clients, wherever they are in the world, to have a look

around before actually coming. However, StreetView can't go everywhere," he said.

Such a limitation turns out to be an opportunity.

Building on the virtual floor-plan platform, Phuket.Net for the past year has been taking 360° shots of properties, businesses and other attractions across the island.

The shots are embedded onto the website's business directory, its recently launched 360° portal, and also uploaded onto YouTube. Meanwhile, clients can embed the finished shots onto their own websites or other preferred web-based media channels.

Asked how online virtual tours are more viable now compared to a decade ago, Richard explained: "In the past, such 360° virtual tours were dependent on downloading additional plugins or were simply incompatible on

some platforms."

Now, web browsers have become more advanced, while new industry standards, such as HTML-5, have emerged.

"This allows users on iPads, iPhones, Android and other smart-phones and tablets, which have gyroscopes, to physically pan around in virtual reality, which is the next best thing to being there."

Richard added that StreetView, by itself, still has a number of other limitations.

"We've found that there are often inaccuracies with geo-coordinates. Google still hasn't made it convenient for anyone to update data or information. When we do a 360° shoot, we also update the company's exact coordinates and heading – the starting view."

So far this year, Phuket.Net has shot and indexed about four



PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE: Phuket.net GM Kit Fordham and CTO Richard Jones in front of their recently opened office in Cherg Talay.

hundred 360-degree virtual tours across the island, including some 250 villas & condos, 50 businesses and 100 tourist attractions such as beaches, viewpoints and temples.

A recent benchmark for the project was shooting Jungceylon shopping center in Patong, which included a total of 30 360° shots integrated into the site's multi-tiered floor plan.

Other large projects include Serenity Resort & Spa, Panwa Beach Resort and Phuket International Hospital.

Commenting on strategy for the coming year, Kit Fordham, general manager, said: "In our first year, our focus was mostly on real estate – which didn't require so many shots.

"With complex floor plans, we are able to do multiple shots for larger businesses such as hotels, shopping malls and hospitals, and are investing in more equipment and hardware to keep up with increasing demand.

"In the coming year, we will shoot and index more of these larger projects as well as other interesting spaces such as yachts, surrounding islands and going further off the beaten track. For example we have just shot the interior of Hong Island in Phang-Nga Bay."

For more information and examples, see the *Phuket.Net* 360 portal (360.phuket.net) and YouTube channel (youtube.com/phuketnet).

Auditors to expand tax base by 350,000

THAILAND'S Revenue Department (RD) looks to enhance the country's revenue pool by roping in an estimated 200,000 new taxpayers into the tax base this year.

Dr Satit Rungkasiri, the RD's director-general, said in a statement on the RD website that there are about 350,000 undocumented corporate or individual businesses.

"The existence of such a sizable untaxed economy offers a great opportunity to expand the tax base, and the RD has made attempts to bring these sectors into the tax net. In the current fiscal year, the Revenue Department has set the target of 200,000 new taxpayers, leaving the remaining 150,000 businesses for the next fiscal year. Affiliated public and private institutions have agreed to share relevant information in order to track these businesses," the statement said.

Luxury auto dealer aligns brand with international football lovers

PHUKET FC players recently visited the TSL Auto Corporation (TSL) premium imported car showroom to thank the company for officially sponsoring the team in the upcoming Thai Yamaha One (Division 1) 2013 season.

Phuket FC's head coach Panipol Kerdyam made a personal appearance, alongside players Nontaphan Jiensathawong, Nenebi Tre Syljee Tre, Luiz Eduardo Purcio, Girogi Tsimakuridze, Kritsada Sakaew and Ninuruddin Nide-ha, among others.

The players had their photos taken with the luxury cars on offer as a way to say thank you to TSL.

TSL Auto Phuket branch GM Anek Tipparak told the *Phuket Gazette* that TSL wants to sponsor and support local football in Phuket, as well as promote his brand to the international community, many of whom are passionate about the sport.

"Our company wants [to attract] clients who are interested in premium cars," said Mr Anek.

Mr Anek clarified that his brand awareness building strategy was not limited to Phuket fans.

"Phuket FC played well in Thai Yamaha League 1 last season and



NICE SHOT: Nenebi and Dudu as brand ambassadors. Photo: Phuket FC

I think more people will learn to recognize the TSL brand across the league."

Indeed, the club's marketing and PR activities have increased this year, with the club operating under a budget of more than 90 million baht, the largest amount so far since its official incorporation in 2009.

The official logo of TSL, a Bangkok headquartered firm, first appeared on the club's jersey late last season, with many local fans

initially unable to identify the company, which had only officially opened its Phuket showroom early in 2012.

In addition to live exposure, sponsors can enjoy national exposure of their brand with many of the 34 league matches also due to be televised on national cable television, although exact broadcasting details have yet to be finalized.

– *Phuket Gazette*



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New development targets beginners

RELIEVING much anticipation of the property market just north of Phuket Town, lifestyle home developer LH Muang Mai Limited (LH), the local subsidiary of trusted property giant Land & Houses, recently unveiled its third housing development on the island: Inizio – Koh Kaew.

Pre-sales for the 590.8 million baht development were launched at the project's site behind Phuket's main Isuzu Showroom on Thepkrasattri Road, on January 19 and 20, with units being offered at a promotional price of just under 4mn baht.

Leading up to the project's official curtain-lifting, the developer reported taking in unit reservations totaling about 60 per cent of available units in the first of three scheduled phases.

Once completed, the subdivision will have a total of 128 two-storey, detached houses spanning an area of just under 27 rai, or roughly 43,000 square meters.

LH Muang Mai MD Pittaya Tantipiriyakij revealed the project's concept and name origin: "The project was named Inizio, which



MODERN CONVENIENCE: The 128-unit subdivision's plots will range in area from 200 to 340 square meters. Photos: Steven Layne

derives from the Italian word meaning 'to begin', as our target market is young professionals, aged 27-35 years old, who are ideally starting a family, perhaps even with a child."

The project's "modern-design" units will all feature a single, uniform layout consisting of three second-floor bedrooms (one master bedroom), two bathrooms,

a kitchen and living area.

All in, the houses' utility space comprises about 125 sqm, which includes parking space for two vehicles.

Available plots range in area from 200 to 340 sqm (50 to 85 square wa) with the most expensive off-plan unit priced just over six million baht.

The project's ideal location on



LH Muang Mai MD, Pittaya Tantipiriyakij (left) and GM Raksaphong Khamkhuantham, at the recent project launch.

Thepkrasattri road puts it within 20-25 minutes to the airport and a number of other commercial and tourist locations on Phuket.

The project will provide three entrance/exit points for convenient access.

Facilities of the subdivision include a swimming pool and kid's pool, clubhouse, landscaped park, exercise room and

security system complete with 24-hour CCTV.

Early reservations will be offered a complimentary air conditioning system.

For more information call: 076-651121-2, or visit the sales office located off Thepkrasattri road at Koh Kaew Soi 33, just behind the Isuzu Showroom. – *Phuket Gazette*

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This imagery is for conceptual purpose only and may not be the same as the actual complete project.

Flying the not so friendly skies



A KLM plane passes over Maho Bay Beach, Virgin Islands before landing. Photo: Richie Diesterheft

CERTAINLY this quote from the movie *Almost Famous* sums up the inherent apprehension of the experience of flying for many readers: "I'm flying high over Tupelo, Mississippi... with America's hottest band... and we're about to die."

Perhaps I've gone a bit too light on the descriptor. How about going with abject terror or heart-stopping fright?

Now we are squarely in the right frame of mind to talk about air travel. Asia's economic boom has brought about either a blessing or a curse, depending on your own particular point of view – the low-cost



Property Watch
By Bill Barnett

airline surge. Everyone and anyone can fly.

As in every business boom once we start to climb the cycle and get up to where the air starts to thin, that's when things get crazy. This means that borderline entrepreneurs and business people, that perhaps have neither the experience nor the financial backing, start to pile on in to what becomes a chaotic ready-to-rumble fest.

Take a glance into the mirror and remember the glorious upturn last decade, with such high flying airlines as Phuket Air or One-Two-GO. Both of these ended up being blacklisted by the EU. Though, in

Jesus fashion, the former is still around as a wet lease provider and the latter is another resurrected incarnation of Orient Thai.

Over the last few months another new set of start-up airlines have hit the market, including the ill-fated PC Air, who promoted their Ladyboy flight attendants. The new airline ended up stranded with a plane full of passengers in Seoul. Due to financial issues the airline still is grounded as I write this.

Next in the roll call is Thai Regional Airlines (TRA), who lured customers to pre-buy cheap tickets to Phuket and up country to Chiang Mai. Reportedly the over anxious carrier started to sell the tickets before they even had an operating license. Stay tuned on this story.

With the friendly skies now filled to the brim with new start-up airlines and because of pilot shortages, I have to admit my pulse starts to race whenever a plane I'm in hits the taxiway.

The term "near-miss" is not unfamiliar, be it clipping a tree top with the landing gear on an Air Molokai flight in the wake of an oncoming tropical hurricane or aborting a last minute landing in the Canadian wilds as a herd of moose decide to take up residence on the only landing strip within 50 miles.

Or being stuck up the Sepik river in Papua New Guinea when our helicopter pilot shouts out, "We need to land NOW", as our fuel gauge hit empty.

I have been down the emergency slide

twice in India: on badly executed takeoffs and landings; stranded in Nepal when parts came off the plane and no one could say if they were required or not.

I survived flying around Vietnam, before the US embargo was lifted in the early 90's in those crashworthy Yak-40's and Tupolevs. I've flown with chickens in Cambodia and Laos, and sheep in Namibia.

A few years ago the sheer panic of it all became too much and I became absolutely terrified to fly. At the height of the madness I took a train from Jakarta to Yogyakarta (I was almost struck by lightning) and drove from Surabaya to Bali rather than go airborne.

It was madness. So on a trip to Los Angeles I visited a hypnotherapist, though I was afraid she'd program me to bark like a dog when I was under. Things calmed down after that, but my mantra has eluded me the past few years.

Yes, flying those ATR72 overgrown rollercoasters to Koh Samui on Bangkok Airway still brings out the worst in me. But I refuse to give in, or back down.

The mere act of trying to find a parking place at Phuket airport is worse than any in-flight emergency.

In this age of everyone flying this includes me, for better or for worse.

Bill Barnett is managing director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through C9hotelworks.com.



ATR72s are also still in use by Lao Airlines. Photo: Jean-Michel Baud



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Currently under construction. The developer reserves the right at any time to make changes to the project at its own discretion. Images are computer generated and for visual reference only.



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NEW BEGINNING: The Dewa Karon Resort. Photo: Dewakaronresort.com

Dewa Karon changes name, management

MAI-BS (Thailand) has taken over management of what used to be known as the Dewa Karon Resort Phuket.

The resort is currently going through a re-branding and re-positioning period and will now be known as Karon Sovereign All Suites Resort.

The high-potential All Suites Resort offers 49 luxurious one and two-bedroom suites and penthouses sized between 63 and 140 square meters, with en-suite bathrooms, private terraces and private kitchenette.

Due to high demand for this property, about 20 per cent of the stunning deluxe suites will be offered to selected clients, through a prime vacation club ownership concept, catering to guests who appreciate tranquility, space, luxury and privacy for a reasonable price.

"The re-branding and repositioning process will take about three

months and the resort is poised to be a leading accommodation provider with trend-setting and exciting service concepts ready by November 2013 at the latest," says Mr Klaus R Rauter, managing director of Mai-BS (Thailand).

Mr Stefan Hermansson, the authorized director of Sovereign Company Limited, owners of Karon Sovereign Resort, added:

"We are very happy to have found an enthusiastic straightforward thinking partner in Mai-BS (Thailand) to manage and develop our resort even further for the benefit of all guests and stakeholders. We knew from the beginning that our resort offers an excellent product and we realize that it's the perfect time to reposition our property and work even harder on 'software', such as services and offerings to increase our market-share in the very competitive luxury suite market on Phuket."

- *Phuket Gazette*

Ramada wins top award

RAMADA Resort Khao Lak achieved the honor of being a first-time two-time winner of the Top and Luxury Hotel categories by TripAdvisor in its 2013 Travelers' Choice awards, announced last week.

Now in its eleventh year, the annual TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice awards honor the world's best hotels, earning their distinction from those who know them best – real travellers. Unlike any other hotel awards, TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice winners are based on millions of valuable reviews and opinions from travellers around the world.

This follows the receipt of the prestigious HolidayCheck Award, also decided by positive reviews of satisfied guests, which lists Ramada Resort Khao Lak as Thailand's number one hotel for positive customer feedback and one of the top 99 hotels in the world.

The HolidayCheck Award was bestowed in recognition of the resort's "extraordinary dedication as well as the commitment of its staff to exceed the expectations of its guests with a great product and an excellent service on a daily basis – a performance which is reflected in numerous satisfied guests and their positive hotel reviews."

Ramada Khao Lak Resort General Manager Michael Vorderleitner said his first reaction, upon receiving



BEST IN SHOW: Ramada Resort was recently voted best hotel in Khao Lak.

news of both awards, was 'We rock!' "Of course it's a great team effort, and I want to thank all of our valued guests who took the time to write such glowing reviews.

"These are important awards, you can't buy them or fake them, because they are decided by the most important people in our industry – travellers themselves.

"Ramada Resort Khao Lak has received more than 600 reviews on TripAdvisor alone, and we are often rated number one on TripAdvisor among resorts in Khao Lak. I'm delighted that track record has been recognized with this award.

"I want to thank my brilliant and hard-working team for their efforts, because all good reviews begin with great service. Oh, and did I mention that we rock?"

Christine Petersen, president, TripAdvisor for Business, said: "TripAdvisor is once again thrilled to recognize the world's most

outstanding hotels with the help of more than 75 million reviews and opinions from travellers around the globe.

"From the best bargain hotels to top luxury properties, outstanding service, value and quality are the hallmarks of our Travelers' Choice winners."

A HolidayCheck spokesman said Ramada Resort Khao Lak was a worthy winner. The presentation of the HolidayCheck Award will take place at the opening event for the ITB in Berlin, on March 5.

To be eligible for the award, hotels and resorts had to receive a recommendation rate of 90 per cent or more, at least five 'suns', and the reviews were vetted to make sure there were no detectable manipulations.

To see 2013 Travelers' Choice winners, go to: tripadvisor.com/TravelersChoice. - *Phuket Gazette*

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Exploring the theory of Peak Oil

Island Investor

By David Mayes

I READ a fascinating report recently from a Harvard researcher that shatters the common view of how quickly oil is becoming a scarce resource. It essentially states that – given new technology – the idea of “Peak Oil” is fundamentally flawed.

Peak Oil is a theory that at a certain point in history (approaching very quickly), humans will reach the peak amount of oil production capabilities, and from that point on, oil will become scarcer while demand will continue to grow. Obviously this would be a huge conundrum for humanity, yet this theory ignores increases in our technological capabilities, especially in going after the hard-to-get oil.

I am not qualified to give an opinion on whether this report is correct or incorrect, but since I also recently read another article about some chaps in the UK who have apparently successfully created gasoline out of thin air, it really got me thinking.

Again, I have no idea if this is something that will be successful commercially, or rolled out on a large enough scale to affect global macro-economic dynamics. However, it is very interesting food for thought.

If you look at most academic econometric models of the world economy, you will find the price of oil is always weighted very

very strongly. An econometric model is basically an attempt to quantify a country or the entire world's economic activity into a mathematical equation or function. While obviously it could be argued that even God, Allah, Krishna and Buddha working together would have trouble with this task, the models are generally very useful in understanding relationships between the variables that help or hinder economic growth.

‘One thing I am very skeptical of, where energy is concerned, is that the major players, with their vast oil reserves, would not likely allow for any circumstances to come about that would decrease the value of their oil stocks.’

What I find most fascinating, is the general prospect that a game changing “rock bottom price of energy” could happen in our lifetime. It may not necessarily even be oil, but perhaps a substitute energy source, which could be developed, stored, distributed and incorporated into the various factors of production at a price drastically cheaper than today.

Just consider the mind boggling rate of change in technological capabilities over the last 20 years.

Looking forward 20 years, it is hard to know what the world will be like. Plug a price close to zero for energy into one of those models I mentioned earlier and the stage would be set for a global boom.

Obviously I don't think any of this is going to happen tomorrow, but the current economic slump will not go on forever and there will be another period like the late nineties' boom.

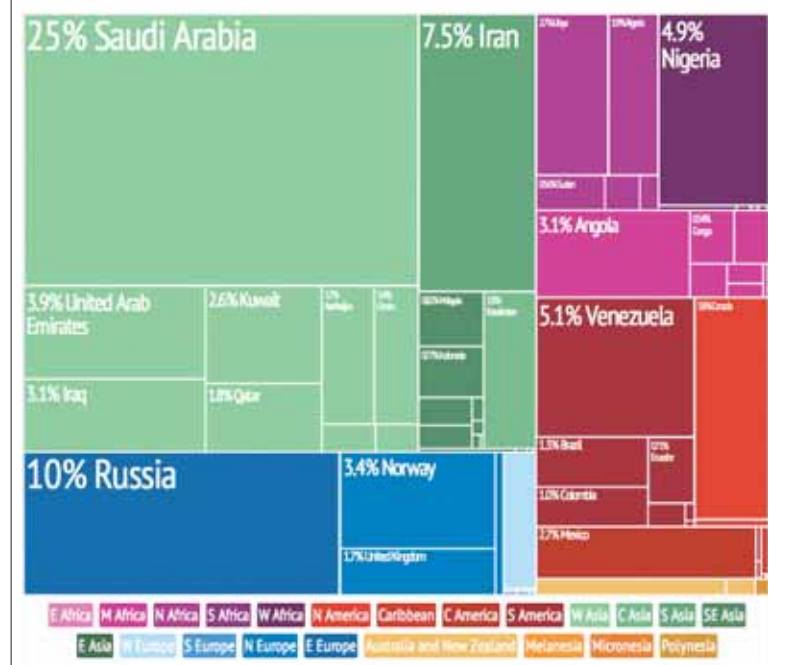
Just like the ‘tulip boom’, and every other preceding one in history, up to the most recent property bubbles, those who can see the writing on the wall early enough have often made their fortunes long before the general public hops on at the very end, just in time for the bust part of the cycle.

I am not sure what the next catalyst for a boom will be, but I am always trying to think ahead. One thing I am very skeptical of, where energy is concerned, is that the major players, with their vast oil reserves, would not likely allow for any circumstances to come about that would decrease the value of their oil stocks.

Collectively, they have enormous power and influence, and are widely believed to buy up and shelve any patents for potentially competitive technologies. So, there is a definite reason not to be too optimistic about super cheap energy coming around soon, but, I think the commonly accepted pessimistic view that we are on the verge of an energy crisis may not be grounded in reality either.

David Mayes MBA, lives in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expats around the globe, focusing on UK pension transfers. He can be reached at 085-335-8573 or david.m@faramond.com

Who exports Petroleum oils, crude?



TO THE LAST DROP: Crude exports as a percentage by country. Source: MIT



BLACK GOLD: Peak Oil may prove to be a fallacy. Photo: Mike Baird

Exporters fear rapid appreciation

EXPORTERS recently urged the Bank of Thailand (BoT) to cut the policy interest rate as a measure to divert foreign capital and halt the appreciation of the baht.

As the baht continued its upward trend, gaining nearly 3% since the end of 2012 until recently, Paiboon Ponsuwanna, chairman of the Thai National Shippers Council, urged the government to take action.

“The government should come up with urgent and concrete measures to manage the currency rather than talk,” said Paiboon.

Virabongsa Ramangkura, economic adviser to Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, earlier said that lower policy rates would deter inflows. The central bank has amassed over 300 billion baht in accounting losses, due to past interventions. The baht has appreciated by 2.6% since the end of last year, making it the biggest gainer among Asian currencies.

Current BoT Governor, Prasarn Trairatvorakul, conceded that the Thai currency has appreciated too rapidly and reiterated his readiness to launch measures to stem the inflow of “hot money” into the bond and equity markets. He noted that most of the inflows are for short-term investment, a sign of



Finance Minister Kittiratt Na-Ranong

speculation. He added that the central bank would closely monitor the currency's movement.

“Overall, the baht/dollar exchange rate has moved in line with other regional currencies. The trend could somewhat reverse. Last year, the baht appreciated less than other currencies, but this year the appreciation is more rapid. It is natural. However, those in the foreign exchange market should be careful, as there are signs of speculation. Given the current movement, it seems risks in the foreign-exchange market are overlooked,” he said.

He added that the central bank has measures in place to handle capital inflows. However, he declined to comment on whether the central bank would intervene in the market, saying that the bank's main objective is to ensure movement in line with fundamentals.

Prasarn also said that unlike the attack on the Hong Kong dollar last

year, the baht situation is based on market demand and supply.

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Kittiratt Na-Ranong said recently that the currency is “not at a good level” and exporters will face difficulties should it strengthen further. The government has “no plan to use any drastic measures to interfere in the market,” he said.

While economists expect further inflows and appreciation of the baht, Prasarn said it was based on positive economic fundamentals. However, he said Thailand is promoting overseas investment by Thai companies. Last year, direct overseas investment reached US\$19bn (565bn baht), against US\$20bn (595bn baht) inflows.

Kittiratt admitted that the export sector would be challenged if the baht went under 30 to the dollar. He hopes that overseas investment would reduce the pressure while tax measures should also encourage industrialists to import new machinery. The 2.27-trillion baht infrastructure investment project should also spark imports of raw materials. “The government's policy is not to resort to any means that will cause volatility in the financial market,” he said. – *The Nation*

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The KEE Resort & Spa in Patong was one of the first independent hotels to adopt Wide Discovery's online booking system. The pool area at the Kee (left) and lobby.

Thai hotels benefit from local software

ABOUT 1,000 member hotels of the Thai Hotel Association (THA) are benefiting from a locally developed room reservation technology that is changing the way hotels in Thailand do business online, keeping them ahead of the game in the global hospitality industry.

The new 'Software as a Service' for independent hotels is the result of a recently formed exclusive partnership between THA and Phuket-based hospitality IT specialist, Wide Discovery Co Ltd. The service will provide direct online room reservations, which allows member hotels to accept online bookings directly through THA websites, thaihotels.org and thaihoteldeal.com

This innovation is seen as a massive boost for independent hotels in an industry that has been dominated by online travel agents (OTAs), which can demand high discounts and commissions for group bookings collated through popular travel websites.

Wide Discovery Managing Director Parkphoom Thamperakul said their Software as a Service offers more flexibility for guests booking online as well as boosting profits for independent hoteliers.

"There is a growing global trend in direct online bookings in the hospitality industry rather than hotels solely relying on OTAs, because it offers more choices for guests and fewer losses for hoteliers," he said.

Our direct booking system also gives independent hotels more control over marketing strategies and room reservations by putting them in direct contact with their guests.

The Kee Resort & Spa in Patong is one Phuket hotel that has benefited from using Wide Discovery's online booking system, since it opened almost three years ago.

"We began using the booking system through our website about six months before the hotel opened, in the last quarter of 2010. We have seen a 30 per cent increase in direct bookings, which gives our guests more flexibility and choices, as well as reducing the commissions paid to third parties," said Executive Director Tanapong Somnam.

"Our guests get more value and flexibility, with more choice of promotions and privileges, as well as a guaranteed room reservation. For us, the system means more flexibility. We can control room allotments more easily, get better feedback from our guests and we ultimately pay much lower booking fees," said Mr Somnam.

According to research by *Forrester*, air tickets account for the largest share of the online travel booking market, closely followed by hotel bookings, car rental, cruises and tours.

The ratio of car rentals (11 per cent),



VALUE AND FLEXIBILITY: A sea view suite room at the KEE Resort and Spa.

cruises and tours (1 per cent) has remained stable since 2008. However, online air ticket sales have taken a dip from 59 to 55 per cent while hotel bookings are expected to

rise from 28 per cent to 32 per cent in 2014.

For more information, visit: widediscovery.com.

- *Phuket Gazette*






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Stateless visitors need more than hospitality

THE plight of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar's Rakhine State during the current "sailing season" (see pages 44-45) clearly shows the need for Asean and other international bodies to come together to help solve, or at least alleviate, the root causes of the problem inside Myanmar as soon as possible.

This will of course be no easy task. Few international humanitarian issues on the planet have more confounding range of underlying problems, dating back to colonial times, than that of the Rohingya. These people have faced a long history of official persecution inside Buddhist-majority Myanmar, which steadfastly refuses to accept the Muslim Rohingya as its citizens and effectively leaves them stateless – illegal immigrants in a land many have occupied for generations.

In a perfect world, statelessness might seem an attractive situation: no immigration hassles, no taxes, the list goes on. It's not hard to imagine the many benefits that might accrue from being able to fly completely undetected under the nose of "Big Brother".

But in our highly imperfect world, the reality of statelessness is a living nightmare few of us can imagine: no freedom of movement, no legal way to make a living or gain a basic education, even denied the most basic rights that so many of us take for granted. This might be something for *Gazette* readers to consider next time they are complaining about the need to make a "visa run" or report themselves at Immigration every 90 days.

Worst of all, statelessness is the most vicious of spirals. Children of stateless people are almost always doomed to the same fate, as the path to citizenship invariably involves a considerable paper trail that starts with proving the citizenship of one or both parents.

Of course the Rohingya don't have a monopoly on statelessness. Here in Phuket they make up only a small fraction of the number of stateless people living on the island. Some Rohingya eke out a living selling *roti* while others find work down by the docks in Rassada. Whatever their numbers, they are no doubt dwarfed compared to other stateless Burmese, many of whom were born and raised on the island, are fluent in Thai and have never known any other home. Yet here in Phuket, the authorities cannot even come up with a reliable estimate of their numbers. The business community, at least, appreciates the vast riches many of them have accrued as a result of the backbreaking work of the Burmese.

In addition to international humanitarian organizations, the *Gazette* calls on international Muslim organizations and their member states to do more to help the Rohingya, perhaps by setting up a quota system to help absorb some of these people into their own nations and cultures. To enable this, the Thai government must allow access to these asylum seekers by representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.



Fair, balanced taxi recollection

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Island View: No taxi experience impossible, January 19*

Thank you for creating a balance for the history of Phuket taxi drivers. I read your news regularly, as Phuket is my primary holiday destination and I like to see what's happening.

Yes, there is a lot to point your finger at when it comes to taxi drivers in Phuket, but on the other side of the coin my best holiday experience on the island is because of a Patong taxi driver.

Two years ago, I met a driver in Patong. I wanted to take a driving tour of Phuket. During the day we started to get along and on the way home he invited me to dinner with his family. As is normal, I was skeptical in the beginning, but I do not regret accepting his invitation.

After dinner, I was invited to join the family as they watched one of their friends be ordained as a monk at Wat Kathu. For me as a Norwegian, it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience – for sure a holiday that's not going into the blender.

I will be back in Patong next week, and I hope to get in contact with my taxi driver friend again.

Andreas Nyborg
Patong

Free market taxis

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Curing the festering sores of 'public' transport, January 20*

Agree 100 per cent! Some people think the real issue is the high prices being charged by transport mafia.

No!

It's about a free market for all Thais, like in every other province in Thailand.

It's about the right of all Thais to offer transport services without fear of thugs.

Letters to the Editor

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

It's time for all authorities to stand up for the rights of all citizens and tourists – not thugs!

Agree 100 Per Cent
Phuket forum

Speeding on full tanks of fuel

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket taxi driver rushes to his death, January 18*

Many times when I take a taxi from Phuket Airport to Kata, the drivers first stop to refuel and then drive very fast – over 130kmh. And when driving like this they are talking on their phones and messing with text messages. Most of the drivers don't respond if I tell them to slow down. This accident is sad, but it was bound to happen. Daily police radar control near the airport would be helpful in preventing these accidents.

WK
Gazette forum

Death Bend: No such thing

Re: *Gazette online, Two Phuket motorcyclists die in separate accidents, January 17*

There is no such thing as a "death bend", not on Phuket or anywhere else.

There are a lot of people on this island who are driving way too fast. Sometimes they kill others, sometimes kill themselves.

I am really sorry for the deceased, may they rest in peace, but it was speed that claimed their lives, not the road.

Stop using this term [death bend]; it is silly and takes the responsibility [of the accidents] away from the drivers.

Mike
Gazette forum

Can't cope with possible motive

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Police investigate 'work conflict' as motive for Jintana murder, January 19*

I really hope it turns out to be some other motive, as it's just too sad to imagine that in this world something as small as sacking someone from their job would result in such an action. I pass my condolences to her family, as well as her two children, who have lost their mother. Very, very sad to read this story.

Mark
Gazette forum

Ain't no hate when it comes to helping out

Recently, I ran out of petrol on the bypass road well past 10pm. This was the second time I'd run out of fuel on that road late at night. Once again, within minutes a motorbike driver slowed after he passed me and then pulled over.

No "ghost riding" to the nearest petrol point for me this time... the man had thin medical tubing and with a great deal of effort, which included a couple mouthfuls of petrol, he siphoned enough fuel from his tank to get my motorbike running again.

After establishing where in Thailand he was from and that I was from the States, he was off.

Haters are always going to hate, but let's put another knot in the rope for the good deeds and goodwill of the people in Phuket.

Alex Stone
Chalong

Phuket Gazette

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Wise words to mark Australia Day 2013

LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR

AUSTRALIA Day 2013 is an opportunity for Australians everywhere to reflect on our nation's achievements and future.

Australia is an economically prosperous country filled with talented people, optimism and ideas. We are the birthplace of some of the world's greatest inventions. We produce some of the world's finest food. We are home to the world's oldest continuing culture. We are a great sporting nation.

To all Australians holidaying, living and working in Thailand, I wish you a happy and safe Australia Day.

Australia Day is also a time for us to reflect on Australia in the global community and our important relationships, including with Thailand. Australia and Thailand have a relationship as broad as it is deep. Our shared geopolitical location in the Asia-Pacific region provides the basis for our mutual interests and shared goals. Last year we marked the 60th anniversary of our diplomatic ties.

In particular, our trade and investment relationship is strong and continues to prosper, underpinned by the Thailand – Australia Free Trade Agreement and the Asean-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement. Australia is now Thailand's eighth-largest trading partner and Thailand is Australia's ninth-largest partner. In 2011-12, two-way trade was valued at over 503 million baht. Thai investment in Australia has grown in leaps and bounds in recent years and now stands at over 406 billion baht. We are working to encourage more Australian investment in Thailand, currently valued at just over 62bn baht.

In education, Australians con-



Thailand, Ambassador Wise shares a special message to mark Australia Day 2013.

Australian Ambassador **James Wise** arrived in Thailand to take up the post as Head of Mission at the Australian Embassy in Bangkok in August 2010. By November that year he had already met the Phuket Governor to discuss critical issues affecting Australian expats and tourists in Phuket. Here, as Australia marks 60 years of bilateral ties with



Boats take to Sydney Harbor to celebrate Australia Day. Photo: Amy Barker

tinue to warmly welcome about 20,000 Thais who choose to study in Australia each year. This is helping to build our Australian alumni community in Thailand. The Embassy is proud to support Australian Alumni, led by the Australian-Thai Chamber of Commerce.

Australians continue to value the warm and generous hospitality of Thais, with over 950,000 Australians arriving in Thailand in 2012.

Broad-ranging cooperation in defense, law enforcement, customs, agriculture and transport, as well as

in the arts shows that Australians and Thais work well together. We value working with Thailand as a member of Asean in the East Asia Summit and in the Asian-Pacific Economic Community.

On this special day, the Australian Embassy invites everyone to participate in our latest initiative to share Australia and Australian culture with Thai people. Please visit and "Like" our new "Australia in Thailand" Facebook page. We also encourage all Australians to register at www.smarttraveller.gov.au.



FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE: Not all Russians are dangerous, but it seems many of them are landing in trouble in Phuket. Photo: Johan Oomen

Cold truths from the eastern front

RUSSIANS have been getting a lot of bad press lately. Some of them are allegedly running escort services, massage parlors, taxis and tour companies in Phuket – and if that were it, I wouldn't mind. It doesn't upset me when one "mafia" steals from another, but that's not it.

It seems this demographic is more prone to aggressive confrontation than most. It's not an isolated belief, as evidenced by the abundant forum comments in local media. Anti-Russian sentiment is growing.

One recent report of violence sparked condemnation. The assault of DJ Tom Travers and his Thai girlfriend Jen, whose nose was broken by Russian men at Catch Beach Club, enraged the Phuket community at large.

There are many bad apples among the other nationalities of expats living in Phuket: one of Belgium's most wanted men was arrested in Phuket for murder, British national Lee Aldhouse was extradited to Phuket for the murder of US Marine Dashawn Longfellow and Norwegian Stein Dokset was charged with killing his girlfriend and hiding her decomposing body in an acid bath – to name just a few.

Island View

By Chris Hudon

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

But still the question remains, "Why are there so many incidents with Russian tourists here?"

In a condemnation of the assault at Catch Beach Club, and in defense of his fellow countrymen, Serg wrote on the *Gazette* forum: "This is a terrible incident. I regret that my countrymen behaved inappropriately. [You] cannot beat women under any circumstances. These people should be punished to the fullest extent of the law!"

"However, I ask you to not forget that 'every family has its black sheep' and please do not compare all Russians with these monsters."

He's right.

But the "why?" persists. Maybe the Russians in Phuket are not a representative segment of Russians in general. Thailand has long been known as a haven for criminals wanting to go unnoticed.

In my opinion, what is needed now is for decent Russians to stand up and fight for acceptable behavior. In that we can all be united.

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

Getting the old bags out of the house

Is there a collection place for plastic shopping bags? There's a local bin for plastic bottles, but no place to bring the many plastic shopping bags I have collected over time. Please help.

Drowning In Plastic Bags, Kamala



New bins for recycling plastic bags are on their way to Kamala Beach.

idea at the *OrBorTor* general meeting on January 11.

At the meeting the Green Grow Network was granted permission to go ahead with its project to place several recycling bins for

plastic bags throughout Kamala.

We are currently still designing what the bins will look like. When that is done, we will place bins in front of Kamala Police Station, in front of the Big C store, and two more on Kamala Beach.

We are currently looking for sponsors for the project, but we expect the bins to be in place within the next two weeks.

In the meantime, we have set up black plastic bags next to the plastic bottle collection bins in Kamala. You may use the black plastic bags to recycle the plastic shopping bags you have collected.

For more information, call me at 089-6483603 or contact the Kamala *OrBorTor* at 076-212464.

High and dry

Our housing estate used to be connected to a local water-supply system. Twelve months ago we were connected to the mains water system, and now the houses at higher locations have low water pressure or no water at all.

When we called the waterworks authority, they said, "There are too many people using the water right now."

Should we accept that answer?

RM Irawadee, Kathu

Pisak Chonlayut, Director, Phuket Waterworks Authority, replies:

Many areas in Kathu have water-supply problems and we are

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

working to find solutions. We have installed new pipes and fixed water mains release valves, and we will continue to do so until the system works well for everyone.

I invite anyone with a water problem to call my cell phone directly at 087-0120295 so that I can instantly dispatch workers to solve the problem. I am available 24 hours a day.

Supasima Sungval of the Green Grow Network at the Kamala Tambon Administrative Organization (OrBorTor) replies:

The Green Grow Network is a collection of government officers at the Kamala *OrBorTor* who work together to promote recycling.

We already have a plan in motion to set up bins for recycling plastic bags and we presented our

YOUR Phuket

CENTRA SENDS NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO GOVERNOR OF PHUKET



Wilawan Chiammanasombut (right), general manager of the Centra Ashlee Hotel Patong, and Sudawan Koliyanon (left), assistant Sales/PR manager, paid a visit to Phuket's Governor Maitri Inthasut, to wish him a happy and prosperous New Year.

KANOM THAI PHUKET



Vachiraya Thitalohakul (left) and Yen Vachira Thitalohakul (right) of Kanom Thai Phuket, present their authentic Thai desserts to PGTV producer, Simon Hands as a New Year's greeting.

SANSIRI MEDIA TRIP

Sansiri invited media from Phuket to spend a weekend in Hong Kong.



I LEAF TOWN NOW OPEN

i-LEAF Town sales have officially opened with a promotion offering "fully furnished" units starting at 1.95 million baht. 130 units have already been booked, after only three weeks on offer.



Mr Hasakorn Boonyoung, assistant to the managing director of Kanda Property Co, Ltd. (The New Generation of Kanda.)

ABLE ARCHITECTS CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS' BUILDING SUCCESS

Leading Phuket architecture firm Able Architects celebrated its fifth anniversary with a prestigious 'white corporate' event at the Blue Elephant Restaurant in Phuket Town, Wednesday, January 16.



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

ISLAND TRADER

Phuket's **LARGEST CLASSIFIEDS** Marketplace – in Print and Online*

January 26 - February 1, 2013 | PhuketGazette.Net

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

PROPERTY of the week

Zenith
@ Chalong



See page 22

WHEEL & MOTOR of the week

Mazda 3
Sport Maxx



See page 30

JOB of the week

DIVE SILVER
Fine Sterling Silver and Gold Jewelry

Jewelry Retail Shop
Opening in
Phuket Boat Lagoon

See page 27

BOAT of the week

SPEED BOAT FOR SALE



See page 31

All Property, Boat and Business Ads are **PAID!**

– your assurance that whatever's advertised here is seriously for sale.
Gazette Classifieds – they work! Because they're **REAL.**

Properties For Sale

RAWAI VILLA SALE ONLY 4.9MB



400sqm land, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, garage, garden, furnished. For quick sale. Tel: 081-691 3029. Email: kris_silanachai@yahoo.com

ZENITH@CHALONG



Detached 2-storey house, 2 beds, 3 baths, 3x7m swimming pool, parking for 2 cars, BBQ garden. In Chalong. Tel: 088-168 5032, 086-478 0201. Email: info@thenetworkproperty.com www.thenetworkproperty.com/phuketproperty-phuketagency/Rawai-Detached-house-with-2-bedrooms.html

BEACHFRONT VILLAS

Delightful beachfront pool villas on Koh Lanta. Only limited units available. 9.95 million baht. Interest Free Financing available. Tel: 089-839 8255 (English & Thai). Email: info@lantaestate.net

SEAVIEW LAND PLOT BANGTAO

Upscale development. Ready to build single villa, 1,026sqm. Chanote. All utilities, last plot available only 7.5 million baht. Tel: 086-267 0157. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

2 UNITS PATONG PARADISE COMPLEX

Good location, central walkway. Only 19.95 million baht. Contact William. Tel: 090-153 6720.

KHOK KLOY 8.5 RAI LAND



Beautiful land, 1km to beach, 2km from Sarasin Bridge. 750,000 baht per rai. From owner. Tel: 083-388 8036.

HOUSE CHALONG

Fully furnished, 400sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, european kitchen, 4 aircons, 8x2m swimming pool, jacuzzi, car park for 2 cars, lake view. Price: 6.2 million baht. Tel: 082-809 2873.

3 GORGEOUS LOTS, CLEAN TITLES

For sale or long lease. 2 lots on island beachfront (bungalow/housing-estate) and 1 big mainland mountain-property all in very quiet, secure, well maintained locations, near Krabi. Must see. For further details, please see our website at www.sackenheim.net

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

At Ao Makhm. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. For more information please call: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

CHALONG VILLA ON 1 RAI



Stunning 4 bed & 3 bath villa. 1 rai of land in quiet location. Swimming pool, beautiful views. 13.5 million baht. Tel: 084-304 7775. Email: gavjohnwills@yahoo.co.uk

EXCLUSIVE OFFER



Own a top-class luxury studio for 5 million baht and double your money in 5 years! East coast. January only promotion. Tel: 080-882 1377 (English). Email: beachprojects1@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.beachprojects.com

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ENJOY?



Only 9.8 million baht from German private vendor. Tel: 089-868 6842. Picture choices and further information please see www.flickr.com/photos/thai stylevilla

FOR SALE CHALONG VILLA

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large lounge and family room, kitchen. 800sqm plot, in very quiet location. Tel: 084-745 5546 (English).

LAND FOR SALE

Nai Yang. 2,630sqm. Chanote. Price: 9.5 million baht. Tel: 089-724 1140.

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

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

BEACHFRONT LAND FOR SALE



2 rai, absolute amazing beachfront, few minutes boat ride from Phuket, facing west to sunset and views of Phuket. 13 million baht per rai. Tel: 086-278 8300. Email: izzy.serenitygroup@gmail.com

LUXURY PANORAMA SEA & ISLAND VIEW



For sale. 3-storey villa, 1 rai, Yamu Hills, 560sqm, living area, 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, infinity pool. Sale: 34.7 million baht. Tel: 089-582 8401. Email: pbbbronz@gmail.com

SEAVIEW PENTHOUSE FOR SALE



360° panoramic sea view and mountain view. 310sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with option to convert into 3 bedrooms. Spacious living area. 9.25 million baht. Tel: 086-278 8300. Email: izzy.serenitygroup@gmail.com

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.saetan@gmail.com

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 (English & German).

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.

D CONDO 1, KATHU

-29.94sqm, mountain view, price 1,278,000 baht.
-29.70sqm, mountain view, price 1,280,000 baht.
-29.79sqm, pool view, price 1,330,000 baht.
-29.70sqm, pool view, price 1,365,000 baht.
Contact Vutdy on 081-892 3709.

HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

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

FREEHOLD CONDO PATONG

Patong Condotel, 7th floor, 28sqm. Fully furnished, kitchen, new bathroom and aircon. Seaside, 800m to the beach. Price: 1.35 million baht o.b.o. Tel: 084-844 7693 (English & Thai). Email: heijojo@hotmail.com

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

PATONG HOUSE FOR SALE



110sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, diner + furniture, restaurant & bar. Plot fully built so foreigner can own. Must see! Address: 24/7 Pisitkoranee Road, Patong. Tel: 081-124 8051. Email: mingrestaurant@hotmail.com

SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE/ RENT



In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Sale: 2.25 million baht. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Contact owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

PATONG CONDOS FOR SALE

Several beautiful modern furnished apartments with sea/mountain views and swimming pools for sale. 35-67sqm. Priced from 2,450-3,650 million baht. Tel: 087-819 2162 (English & Thai). Email: caltiro@hotmail.com

LUXURY CONDO

Freehold, 114sqm, in Nai Thon Beach. 13,950,000 baht. Direct from owner. Contact Ben. Tel: 084-305 4753.

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

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.

All classifieds in these pages are

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....because they're real.

Live in Cherng Talay?

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Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Na: (076-325586) or (081-3977307)**

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

The Gazette Online is always on top in **Google!**

CONDO SALE PATONG
Prime location, deluxe apartment, pool, gym, sauna, 43sqm, 3.5 million baht. Freehold. Tel: 087-2258 311.

RENOVATED VILLA
Chalong, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool. 4.750 million baht. Tel: 082-420 7052. www.stayonphuket.com

APARTMENT SEAVIEW KARON
4th floor, 600m to beach. 130sqm, freehold, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 swimming pools, fitness center. 9.98 million baht. No agency. Tel: 080-033 3733. Email: suademacho@gmail.com

GOLF VIEW VILLA FOR SALE
Near British International School. 4 bedrooms + maid's room. 17 million baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English). Email: julien@phuketimmo.com For further details, please see our website at http://phuketimmo.net

URGENT SALE/ RENT

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

SALE BAR HOTEL+ 1 SHOP RAWAI

Land plot 700sqm + building: 10 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms, 2 restaurants, newly renovated, private, financing by owner. Down payment 2 million baht + 13 yearly payments of 1 million baht. Own forever, land title. 60m to Nikita. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

LOCH PALM LUXURY POOL VILLA
Near BIS, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, ready to move in. 8.8 million baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English). Email: julien@phuketimmo.com

BEAUTIFUL VILLA KARON
Open, an easy-living villa. Enjoy the private pool. 3 bedrooms. Covered parking. Secure estate close to beach, a true piece of art. Price: 13.9 million baht. Tel: 081-719 4688. Email: elbej@hotmail.com

LAND FOR SALE
Karon Beach. Seaview. 400sqm. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 082-538 5909. Email: naruchai@gmx.de

BEST LAGOON VIEW!
Fully modernized 1-bedroom condo (freehold!) second floor Allamanda 1 for sale by owner. European style kitchen, marble and granite bath with 2 sinks, wood floors, new closets. Asking price 8.3 million baht. Email: omils@sbg.at

HOUSE FOR SALE
Karon Beach. Great view. 100sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. 400sqm land, car park. Tel: 082-538 5909. Email: naruchai@gmx.de

BANGLA SUITES APARTMENT
Unique investment opportunity. Owner needs to sell his 60sqm luxury apartment. Tel: 081-894 8446. For more info, please visit www.southernfriedrice.com

RAWAI LAND SALE
1 rai in Soi Suksan, flat land, freehold, concrete road and electric access. Quick sale! Tel: 089-472 9870. Email: dchaibut@gmail.com

KAMALA HOUSE FOR SALE

Near Phuket FantaSea. Price: 3.2 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 081-719 1041. Email: teddykong0222@hotmail.com

NEW CONDO: URGENT SALE/RENT

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

TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW

Corner unit, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

CONDOS FOR SALE
Andaman Beach Condo, Patong, Phuket. 19th floor, 269.69sqm, 38 million baht. 15th floor, 126.43sqm, 18 million baht. 7th floor, 132.43sqm, 18 million baht. Transfer fee duty stamp and taxes included. Contact Songpan for details. Tel: 081-737 8662. Email: songpanpirom@hotmail.com

LUXURY CONDO
Freehold, 114sqm, in Nai Thon Beach. 13,950,000 baht. Direct from owner. Contact Ben. Tel: 084-305 4753.

PATONG/ KALIM BAY CONDO
30m to beach, sea view, second floor, best location, freehold, 110sqm, terrace, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living room, western kitchen, pool, car park. 9.8 million baht. Tel: 081-824 1385 (English). Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

PLOT FOR SALE
Palai Soi 2, behind Phuket Zoo. Tel: 086-375 4884. Email: darunee55@yahoo.com

LAND FOR SALE
Soi Salika, Rawai, at the top view of Chalong Bay and the Big Buddha. Does not need landscaping. 477sq wah or 1,908sqm. No brokers please. Tel: 084-745 4132.

NEARLY 4 RAI
Chanote title. Safe area. Subdivided into 6 plots (Chanotes) each ca. 1,000sqm. Only 6.75 million baht per rai, negotiable. Tel: 089-647 4875 (English & Thai). Email: chanchira.panpaen@gmail.com

5 RAI THALANG 2.7 MILLION BAHT
Beautiful flat land near PIA, public road access, Chanote title, 2.7 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-737 8624 (English & Thai). Email: sk.thanya@gmail.com

OCEAN FRONT LAND

7 rai with 185m of sea frontage. Water, electricity, road, and boat access, located 800m from Yacht Haven Marina, perfect site for small beachfront development. For quick sale: only 5 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

POOL VILLA NEXT TO PIA

Brand-new, luxury villa with 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 12m swimming pool, guest bungalow, ready to move in. Perfectly located in a development with underground electricity and security, only 800m from Mission Hills Golf Course, less than 10 minutes to airport, Phuket International Academy and Ao Por Grand Marina. For sale: 14.9 million baht or long-term rent: 100,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

KAMALA LEASEHOLD
Hotel room, no kitchen, 17 years left, 30sqm, 2 pools, jacuzzi, full resort facilities. Price: 750,000 baht. Tel: 084-7160 502.

GOLF VIEW LAND FOR SALE
Near BIS 1,020sqm, ready to build. 5 million baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English). Email: julien@phuketimmo.com

LARGE HOUSE + 1 RAI
3 bed, 2 bath with large garage and separate storage room. Nice pond and large garden in Thalang near PIA. 8 million baht. 0% finance available over 5 years. Tel: 076-621200, 080-141 8292 (English & Thai). Email: davestacey16@hotmail.com

OCEANFRONT VILLA

Luxury brand-new villa, fully furnished and ready to move in, 3 bedrooms 4 bathrooms with 10m long infinity swimming pool and truly beautiful sea view. Located in a small development, only 50m from the sea and 3 minutes from Ao Por Grand Marina. For sale: 19.9 million baht or long-term rent: 150,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

Classified Advertisements

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

_____ (heading)

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.

PATONG SEAVIEW TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE 6.3m BAHT



Four storey townhouse on a small hillside 5 minute walk to the beach at the northern edge of Patong. City on one side, Jungle on the other, Patong Beach down the street, & walking distance to all Patong's delights

206/4 PRABARAMEE ROAD

+/- 270 sq meters 3,000 sq ft (approximately 23,000 Baht per sq meter) Top quality construction, materials, and design. 3-phase, 30 amp wiring throughout. Water storage tank, pump, & central hot water.

TEL: English/German/Spanish: 089 196 0940 English/Thai: 089 729 8665
Email: Woody@KhunWoody.com



Best Sea View Deal in Patong

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads
at www.phuketgazette.net

Properties For Rent

HOUSE BANG TAO BEACH

Fully furnished, many houses available, start from 12,000 baht per month. Short or long term. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.com

POOL VILLA FOR RENT

4 bedrooms, pool, 5 bathrooms. Bungalows, houses and apartments also available in Bang Tao. Tel: 081-538 2110, 087-279 6532.

BIG HOUSE FOR RENT

Long pool, yard, fully furnished. Short or long-term rent. 65,000 baht per month. Available on 26 January. View now. Tel: 090-071 7163 (English).

NEW FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE



2-storey house, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 20,000 baht per month, quiet area. Ao Ma Kham Bay, 4km from town, 2km to beach. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at panwagreen.weebly.com

HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



Near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, aircon, 3 bedrooms, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 086-607 7493.

NICE HOUSE IN CHALONG



Single house (74sq wah) with lovely garden for long-term rent in Soi Parichart, Land & Houses Park. It has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, 24 hr security + clubhouse facilities. Price: 25,000 baht per month or special price of 20,000 baht per month without furniture. Contact the owner. Tel: 081-867 6466 (English & Thai). Email: bow.jariya@gmail.com

KUTA GOLF

2 bedrooms penthouse: 45,000 baht. 1 bedroom penthouse: 35,000 baht. Contact Dennis. Tel: 085-994 0364.

CHEAP KAMALA

Rent house, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, fully furnished, free cable and internet. At least 6 months - 1 year. 14,000 baht per month. Contact Sak. Tel: 081-826 7287.

CHEAP KAMALA RENT

1 bedroom, 1 kitchen, fully furnished, free internet and cable. 7,000 baht per month. Long-term rent: 6 months - 1 year. Tel: 081-826 7287.

BEAUTIFUL THAI HOUSE, NAI HARN

Common pool, 2 bedrooms with furniture, modern kitchen. For rent from 15 February - 15 December 2013. Price for long term, please ask owner. Tel: 086-277 8166, 083-388 8036. For further details, please see our website at www.phuketqualityhouse.com

POOL PENTHOUSE SEA VIEW

Holiday rental, fully furnished, kitchen, pool, 5 minute stroll to 2 beaches + Kata town. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

Serviced apartment. Studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, rooftop pool, free WiFi. Tel: 081-892 0038. For further details, please see our website at www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com

LOVELY APARTMENTS FOR RENT

http://pukeyomefc2.web.fc2.com/phuketcondorent.htm

THAI WOODEN HOUSE FOR RENT

fully furnished, WiFi, daily, monthly, yearly. Tel: 086-375 4884. Email: darunee55@yahoo.com

2-BEDROOM HOUSE, BANG TAO



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, living room, parking, fully furnished, cable TV, internet, 2 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

HOUSE FOR RENT

Phuket Country Club. 4 bedrooms, swimming pool, security cameras, electric gate. 65,000 baht for long term. Contact Dennis. Tel: 085-994 0364.

KOH SIREY DETACHED VILLA

4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, maids quarters. Beautiful property. 100,000 baht for long term. Contact Dennis. Tel: 085-994 0364.

HOUSE TO LET

Chaun Chuen Lagoon, near British International School. 3-4 bedrooms, 4 lounges, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, parking, park area. Tel: 076-239435.

POOL/LAKE VILLA FOR RENT



Spacious 150sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished villa on 500sqm land on peaceful lakeshore in the heart of Rawai, Phuket. Multilevel design with ample patio, balcony, and BBQ space surrounding the house right on your own private lakeshore, very picturesque and peaceful at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac villa, boasts 150sqm living space + large garage/workshop with complete bathroom, cable, internet, and water supply included. Rent: 40,000 baht per month + electricity charge. Minimum 1 year contract or buy for 8 million baht. Must see this rare gem, more pictures available by email: Vespaphuket@yahoo.de. Contact Roberto 084-902 4256, Dungyai 080-146 1393. German, English, Italian spoken.

RENT APARTMENT, PATONG CONDO

Pool, security, 46sqm, furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

CONDO IN PATONG

Large 50sqm studio, nicely furnished, pool and parking. Long term. Tel: 081-892 1621.

Available For Rent Offices / Showrooms

40/80 sq. meter ground floor units

PLAZA DEL MAR Entrance to Laguna Phuket



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

1-2 BED VILLA FURNISHED RAWAI



Shared pool, WiFi, parking, available on February 7. Daily 1 bedroom: 1,000 baht. Daily 2 bedrooms: 2,000 baht. 200m to beach. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

SURIN CONDO

1, 2 & 3 bedroom, pool, safe, 300m to beach, low density. Email: jgstryker@gmail.com

3-BED HOUSE THALANG

2 storeys, fully furnished, price from 15,000-18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.com

KATA OCEAN VIEW CONDO

Fully furnished, seaview and non-seaview apartments, available for long-term rental. From 15,000 to 40,000 baht per month. Located on Kata Hill. Tel: 076-330641. For further details, please see our website at www.oceanic-global.com

LAST MINUTE

House-Patong: 16,000 baht. Thai villa-Nai Harn: 77,000 baht. Villa-Rawai: 124,000 baht. Tel: 082-420 7052. www.stayonphuket.com

THAI WOODEN HOUSE FOR RENT

fully furnished, WiFi, daily, monthly, yearly. Tel: 086-375 4884. Email: darunee55@yahoo.com

PATONG CONDO 50SQM

Long-term rent, located on the 9th floor.com Restaurant. Tel: 088-181 1965. Email: e.breh@web.de

Live in Rawai?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
The Network property office



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with
Khun Anna: 076-388144, 086-4780201, 088-1685032

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!**

Let us take your ad to the top of **Google** with a **20% discount!**



500 baht • Good for 1 year

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

Property Services

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/VILLA MANAGEMENT

Established company, managed by hoteliers, with individual and condo property management portfolio seeks estates/condos and villas to manage and/or rent. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

NEW REAL ESTATE PROJECT?

Experienced Project Manager. Contact for free initial advice. Tel: 087-975 2326. Email: info@smart homes-thailand.com

RENOVATIONS, HOUSE REPAIRS

Renovations, house repairs, construction, electric installations, mold decontamination. Free quotes and warranties offered. English, German, Swedish and Thai speaking personnel. Tel: 085-880 3728 (English), 080-141 4577 (English & Thai), 083-394 8337. Email: mattias@zionproperty.com

Accommodation Available

ROOM AVAILABLE @ BB CORNER



Free WiFi. Siam BB Resort. Rawai Beach. From standard to family room with double bed. Long term, fair price, aircon, pool, bike rental, 60m to beach. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

CENTRAL PATONG

High standard apartments for rent at discounted prices. Daily/weekly/monthly. Art Patong Condo (swimming pool, fitness center) 10 minutes to beach. Bangla suites (rooftop, pool, bar, restaurant) 3-minute walk to beach. Tel: 081-894 8446. www.southfriedrice.com

KARON OCEAN FRONT LUXURY APT

5-Star 1 Bedroom. Pools, quiet area. 30,000 baht per month. Available 5th February. Tel: 087-531 1124 (English). Email: dfenocchio@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at http://karonhill.altvista.org

ROOMS FOR RENT IN KARON

Fully furnished, cable TV, aircon, Wifi. Daily/weekly/monthly. Tel: 082-270 6385. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

SURIN BEACH RENTAL

Fully serviced apartments, villas holiday rental. Bang Tao & Surin Beach. www.surinbeachrentals.com

LAGUNA HOLIDAY CLUB RENTAL

Holiday rent at Laguna Holiday Club Resort for new year week from 29 Dec 2012 - 5 Jan 2013. 1-bedroom suite for 4 persons, only 70,000 baht. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky_grc@hotmail.com See at www.laguna holidayclub.com

SWIMMING POOL VILLA

Rawai, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Available on 17 December 2012. Short-term rent: 3,000 baht per day. Tel: 085-787 3046. Email: patrickmeo@gmail.com

APARTMENT RENTAL SURIN BEACH

The Lofts apartments are situated on the beach road in Surin which is fast developing into one of the trendiest areas of Phuket. Overlooking the Kings Park, location of Phuket's first golf course, now a public park, these apartments put you on the front step of all that the area has to offer. The apartments are accessed through a code panel lock with remote entry possible from the apartment for visitors. One bedroom from 33,000 baht. Two bedrooms from 35,000 baht. 2-bed penthouse from 60,000+ baht. Tel: 076-386537, 086-120 0298 (English), 080-995 8609 (Thai). Email: info@rentalpropertyphuket.com For further details, please see our website at www.rentalpropertyphuket.com

KAMALA BEACH

Private, quiet, guest house. 2 bedroom apt at 2,600 baht per night, or 1 bedroom house at 1,800 baht per night. Kitchen, European bathroom, aircon, cable TV/DVD, ADSL, swimming pool. Tel: 076-385 909, 087-277 5216 (English). Fax: 076-385 909.

4 BEDROOMS IN SAIYUAN, NAI HARN

Rock Style house. 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, big garden, big kitchen. For rent at 40,000 baht per month. Sale at 9.8 million baht. Tel: 081-787 2201. Email: phuket8@hotmail.com

KATA BEACH 3 BED 3 BATH

Big new family home with 180° Ocean View from every room. 150,000 baht per month for rental long term. Tel: 081-003 6902 085-274 8626 (English & Thai). Email: contact@purist.biz

Household Items

SOURCE OUTDOOR KING ALL



Weather Wicker Sofa. Conversation set, 3 months old. New: 205,000 baht. Sale now: 120,000 baht. Patio exclusive outdoor furniture-sofa. Tel: 089-043 2954.

Building Products & Services

EasyHomePhuket® www.easyhomephuket.com
Professional Property & Rental Management

SOS

MAINTENANCE WORKS?
076 383 435

FURNISHING & DECOR FOR YOUR BIZ

Furnish your bars, restaurants, hotels. Wholesale prices available. Tel: 081-899 5375 (English & Thai). Email: akanekshopping@live.com See our selection at http://akanekshopping.com

ELECTRICAL SAFETY INSPECTION REPORTS

Home safety electrical checks. BS7671. Tel: 081-606 0200. Email: info@phukethomeservices.com

FARANG HANDYMAN

Clear communication, all types of work on time and done right! Tel: 081-787 9767. Website: www.faranghandyman.com

Household Services



All-in-one property services:

- ▶ Renovations jobs
- ▶ Repair jobs
- ▶ Electrical services
- ▶ Plumbing services
- ▶ Carpentry
- ▶ Painting
- ▶ Architect design
- ▶ Constructions

For free quotation

Call: 089-7386630, 083-6345916

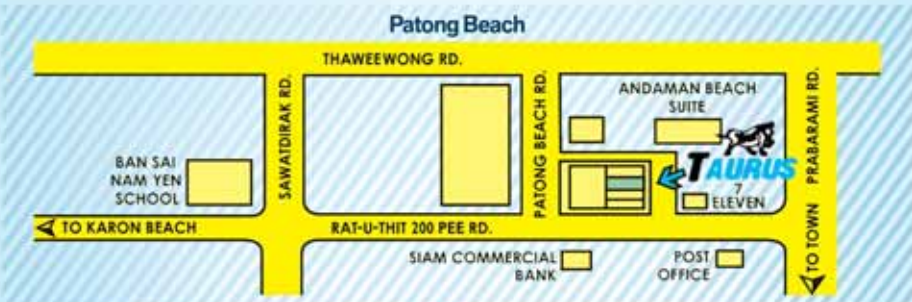
Email: info@oceanicmanagement.com

Household Help

HOME HELP WANTED

English-speaking housekeeper wanted in Laguna, immediate start, live out. Contact Brian. Tel: 084-877 5001 (English). Email: kiwipiece@gmail.com

Live in Patong?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at **Taurus Travel**



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

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Classified Advertisements

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

_____ (heading)

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

SENIOR ARCHITECT

Phuket-based architectural practice urgently requires a senior architect to oversee design of luxury villa and hospitality projects. Proficiency in written and spoken English required. Please send CV and expected salary to: info@imedjeconcepts.com

HOUSEKEEPER

For 6 months in Australia. An aussie man with 2 young daughters require help of young Thai woman to assist housekeeping. The candidate must have an English skills, passport preferably, age between 25-35, enjoy children. Contact Jum Tel: 087-095 9274.

MANAGER - PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Experienced manager required to manage 30 private residence in Krabi. The manager is responsible for managing all teams for maintenance, housekeeping, office, rental and security. Operate all property in a 5-star manner for both owners and guests. Applicants need to have strong leadership skills, excellent command of English, hotel and/or property management experience. Applicants will be required to have their own car and driving licence, and to be able to work both in Krabi and Phuket. Tel: 081-968 3140 (English), 081-797 3401

(English & Thai). Please send CVs to: manager@engchuan.com, www.engchuan.com, www.krabisunset.com and www.krabihideaway.com

COOK, MAIDS, DRIVER

Villa staff needed. Live in or live out. Pay negotiable plus good tips. Tel: 089-005 0700. Email: toddplay@hotmail.com

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

Or civil engineer with experience. Any nationality. Established company. Tel: 087-897 0501 (English). Email: aleksa.rtn@gmail.com

THAI ADMIN WANTED

Organizing paperwork, documents and computer-based information. Taking care of inventory and stock levels. Providing secretarial support to the Director. Basic accounting. Dealing with customers. Tel: 085-331 0295. Email: m.hill@phuket.soccerschools.com

ANDAMAN CRUISES COORDINATOR

Looking for coordinator who is responsible for working with crew to organize the cruise, manage bookings, provide administrative assistance. Excellent benefits provided. Tel: 076-316 537, 081-370 5689. Email: hr@twinpalms-group.com

ESTATE / RENTAL MANAGER

Intira Villas is looking for a Thai person with a happy and positive attitude. Must be able to communicate in English and Thai, both in speaking and writing. Experience in management and rentals. Tel: 081-472 4925 (English). Please send CV and salary requirement. Email: jonas@intiravillas.com

SWEDISH / FINNISH TOUR GUIDE

Swedish/Finnish speaking tour guide wanted for cruise boat. Tel: 087-897 1761. Email: lotta@lamoet.com

COOKS, MAIDS, MANAGERS

Luxury villas looking for cooks, maids and managers. Live-in and live-out positions available. Tel: 080-699 2436. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

NEGOTIATOR

We are looking for well-qualified and motivated individuals to join our dynamic Residential Sales team in Phuket.

The ideal candidate will be:

- Thai Female Thai nationality.
- A Bachelor's degree holder.
- Fluent in spoken and written English.

- Service oriented, with good communication skills and able to work with demanding international clients.

- Computer literate (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Office Access, email and the Internet).

- Fast-learning, enthusiastic, hard working and dedicated.

Candidates must have their own transportation and be willing to work in the Patong area.

We offer great opportunities for candidates, including new graduates, who are looking to grow with the Company and develop their skills in sales.

Qualified applicants please send your resume to phuket_hr@cbre.co.th

RUSSIAN STAFF

Russian manager requires. Good spoken English. Responsibilities: marketing, management, PR, translating. 25,000 baht per month+premium. Contact Kiki. Tel: 082-938 7748. Email: phuket.wakepark@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR STAFF (4 POSITIONS)

Phuket Wake Park is looking for Chef of Thai Cuisine, Cook / Waiter, Operator of Cable Ski Line, Cashier. Tel: 084-889 4942 (English). Send CV to office@phuket.wakepark.com

STAFF WANTED

Receptionist, good written and spoken English is a must. Word and accounting experience is a plus. Must have a friendly outgoing personality. Salary: 12,000-20,000 baht depending on experience.

- Office admin, good computer skills, Excel, and accounting is required. Good written and spoken English is a must. 15,000-22,000 baht monthly depending on experience level.

- Office manager, must be proficient in Excel, written and spoken English. Prior experience required. Salary: 25,000+ baht monthly depending on experience. Please send your resume to smartbusiness.phuket@gmail.com

WEBSITE PROGRAMMER

Solid HTML and CSS coding experience with knowledge of JavaScript and PHP. Design and English skills are an advantage. Start immediately. We are located in Karon. Tel: 085-758 3780 (English). Email your CV to shotham.hari888@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.paroot.com

HEAD OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

We are looking for a Thai female with teaching skills for four English teachers and our security guards. Tel: 076-336 084, 081-607 6637, Fax: 076-336 085. Email: pornthip@sgsphuket.com

STAFF WANTED FOR BEACH BAR

All staff needed for new beach bar on Surin Beach. Competitive wages, good hours and a fun place to work. Please e-mail your resume. Everyone considered. Email: jessezum@hotmail.com

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Experience as executive assistant/PA to MD for over 3 years - native Thai, excellent command of English, good computer and internet skills, own and drive personal car, great administrative skills and secretarial work, ability to "manage" situations make decisions. Tel: 081-979 9911 (English & Thai). Email: vrit@boatlagoonyachting.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.boatlagoonyachting.co.th

SMALL BUSINESS LOOKING FOR

Thai male/female wanted to work in our office. Must have good English (speaking and spelling) and good computer skills. Job involves talking with clients, recording, keeping, and doing quotations. University degree desired, but not required for right applicant. Thai male wanted to work in Phuket. Must have good English (speaking and spelling). Job involves mechanical/electrical engineer work within the marine industry, preferably with experience. 076-239 112. Email: damian@electrical-marine.com

ACCOUNT MANAGER

Experience as account manager for over 5 years - native Thai, and with excellent command of English - experience dealing with foreigners would be helpful. Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: vrit@boatlagoonyachting.co.th

ADMIN MANAGER

Admin at cable ski required good spoken English, water sports experience. Good salary. Tel: 082-938 7748. Contact Kiki. Email: phuketwakepark@gmail.com

REAL ESTATE REPS NEEDED

Phuket Condos & Homes, one of Phuket's leading Real Estate Agencies, are now looking for new property consultants to join our success full team. You should have experience in Sales and have your own car to be able to apply for this position. French and Russian speaking is a plus. Tel: 076-341 045, 081-459 0152 (English). Email: andres@phuket-condos-homes.com Please contact us by mail or call for an appointment

WEBSITE / SOFTWARE PROGRAMMER

Bayshore Group is looking for Web or Software Programmer/ Developer (Java, C) (numbersign).NET Requirements:

1. Have good knowledge of OOP and RDBMS with past working experience.
2. Good understanding of current web and software technology such as HTML5/CSS3, Ajax, MVC, etc.
3. Ability to code in Java or C(numbersign).NET as well as Ajax, JQuery.
4. Good understanding of frameworks and IDE in Java or C(numbersign).NET
5. Fluent English. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Please send CV to f@bayshoreprojects.com

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:**CHALONG**

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

PATONG

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

PHUKET CITY

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

CHERNG TALAY

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

RAWAI

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

KARON

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

Live in Town?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at **iTree Complete Printing Service**



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Nan: (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!

British International School, Phuket

Teaching Vacancy for February (start 18th Feb but negotiable)

The British International School, Phuket is a leading international day and boarding school (18 months - 18 years) offering a quality education to the international community of the Asia-Pacific region. Applications are now invited for the following positions.

Teacher of Secondary Thai

Requirements:

- Thai nationality
- Bachelor's degree in Education, Thai major preferable
- Previous IGCSE experience desirable
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Strong interpersonal and organizational skills
- Responsible, flexible and proactive

Applicants must have a minimum of two years teaching experience.

Please e-mail a letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and contact details of 3 referees to: Headmaster@bisphuket.ac.th

Applications close January 31st 2013. Early applications are encouraged as an appointment may be made immediately to the right candidate.

Further information about the school may be obtained from our website: www.bisphuket.ac.th

Junior Secretary at Headmaster's Office

Requirements:

- Thai Nationality
- Bachelor's Degree in relate field
- Excellent English, computer literate and good people skills
- Able to coordinate with other departments in the school and community

Interested candidates should submit cv and recent photo to patcharakornt@bis.ac.th or sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th



British International School, Phuket (BISP)
59 Moo 2, Thepkrasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
Tel. 076 335555 # 2113, 2110 Fax. 076 335573

STAFF WANTED

Rawai Pub requires Thai Bar and Kitchen staff. Tel: 081-396 8707. Email: kanthasin@gmail.com

RESERVATIONS ASSISTANT

Full time. Western. Must have excellent written English, organizational and computer skills. Self motivated / good communicator. Send CV to phuketbookings@gmail.com

SITE ENGINEER

Will work for Bayshore Projects Co.Ltd. Thai Nationality: Minimum 5 Years experience in residential development. Must hold national diploma in civil or structural engineering. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

LOOKING FOR STAFF

Aroi-Corner Restaurant in Rawai is looking for staff. Waitress and bartender with experience. Working hours: 3pm-11:30pm, one day off, good salary. Contact 084-442 8330. Khun Peter. Email: hp.schranz56@gmx.ch

YACHT SALES EXECUTIVE

- Experience dealing with luxury MOTOR YACHTS for at least 3 years
 - Fluency in English. Any other languages would be very helpful (Russian, French, Chinese).
 - Proven track record and good understanding of motor yachts
 - Excellence with computer and Internet
- Tel: 081-979 9911. For further details, please see our website at www.boatlagoonyachting.co.th

VILLA MANAGER

Experienced Villa Manager required to manage an 8-bedroom private residence in Kamala. The VM is responsible for managing an in-house team for maintenance, housekeeping and F&B. Operate the villa in a 5-star manner for both owners and guests. Applicants need to have strong leadership skills, excellent command of English, hotel experience. Applicants will be required to have their own car and driving licence and to be able to live-in when required. Tel: 076-527633, 087-881 0003. Please send CVs to: hr@phuketvillasandhomes.com, www.luxuryvillasandhomes.com



Dive Silver Jewelry Retail Shop
Opening in Phuket Boat Lagoon

Jewelry Sales

o Thai Female o 25-35 yr. o 3 years min Exp.
o computer & product display skills req.,

CONTACT : Narine 081-850-5945 or E-mail : nxtvljwls@aol.com

OUTGOING SALES PERSON

Two Chefs is now looking for an outgoing sales person that is very good at speak English and used to work with computers. Thai national between 25-35 years old, salary starting from 23,000 baht plus benefits. Tel: 087-276 6796 (English). Email: jon@twochefs.com

STAFF FROM PHILIPPINES

Bayshore Projects Company is looking for Filipino staff. Must be female. Contact Mariane. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Send CV to c@bayshoreprojects.com

THAI TEACHER

Wanted full-time Children's Thai Teacher for private residence. Good salary based on qualifications and experience. Tel: 081-929 6975. Please call for more info or send your CV to cherngtalay@gmail.com

SALES CONSULTANT REQUIRED

Club Asia Fitness requires a Sales Consultant. Applicants should be fluent in English and a Thai national. Excellent remuneration offered. Tel: 080-698 5021.

MARKETING REPS NEEDED

EZYSTAYS looking for marketing representative. No experience required, full training provided, work permit and good income. Email: leoinphuket@gmail.com

ARCHITECTURE

Thai national wanted. Ability to use AutoCAD, Sketch-Up and 3D-Max is a must. Tel: 081-788 1639. Email: sec@phuketawnings.com

WHITEBOX

Restaurant manager with strongly experience Thai or foreigner and 2 Russian hostesses. Tel: 076-377961, 081-893 4122 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-377962. Email: koy@watermarkgroup.eu

ARTICLE WRITER

Bayshore Projects is looking for article writer on freelance basis. Experienced and well formulating writing skills in perfect English required. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Send CV to c@bayshoreprojects.com

NEED CAPTAIN FOR YATCH

Looking for Thai and foreigner captain. Tel: 076-37796, 081-893 4122. Fax: 076-377962. Email: koy@watermarkgroup.eu, hr@watermarkgroup.eu

RUSSIAN COOK

With experience and knowing English. For more information please contact Maxim. Tel: 089-728 2037.

RESTAURANT MANAGER

New restaurant, Surin Beach, needs front of house manager. Must be fluent in English, have experience in managing large restaurant, will be responsible for management of bar and wait staff, including high-level training, recruitment. Good salary plus generous incentives. Tel: 076-325 755.

ADMIN & COORDINATE STAFF

Small real estate agency based in Chalong. Seeking Thai staff. Excellent in both written and spoken English. Computer literate, photoshop skills with advertising design is advantage. Outgoing personality, can work under pressure. Start immediately. Tel: 086-940 2266. Fax: 076-374270. Email your resume to sales@18excelsior-property.com

FILIPINOS WANTED

Phuket's leading Real estate agency is looking for Filipino females to join our teams. We have office positions and marketing positions available. Please send your CV or contact us by phone for an interview. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152 (English). Email: andres@phuket-condos-homes.com Please see our website at www.phuket-condos-homes.com



Laguna Holiday Club, Thailand's premier vacation ownership company is currently seeking passionate and experienced candidates to be part of our team...

- **Sales Representative** (English speaking together with Chinese or Russian)
- **Outside Personal Contact, Freelance**
- **Explore Pass Program Booker, Freelance**
- **Member Service Officer based in Bangkok** (Arabic or Russian Speaking)

Previous timeshare experience for all positions. We are proud to provide an excellent benefits package including: Basic salary, generous commissions, medical coverage, training, etc;

Call for an interview 076 - 362400 Ext. 4402, 4406
career@lagunaholidayclub.com or sirimab@lagunaholidayclub.com
Visit us at www.lagunaholidayclub.com

CHEF REQUIRED

Small international restaurant in Kalim Seeks for independent working kitchen chef with experience in preparing Thai and international dishes. Tel: 080-555 2377 (English & Thai). Email: 55inkalim@gmail.com

SPA STAFF AND MANGER NEEDED

Newly remodeled spa and massage parlor hiring staff for immediate Start. Competitive salaries and accommodation offered! Tel: 083-391 0291. Email: kamal.mail2000@gmail.com

Live in Patong? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel



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

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

The **Gazette Online** is always on top in **Google!**

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

Audio / Video Equipment

HANDYCAM SONY HDR PJ760VE

6 months old. Carl Zeiss lens + tripod with remote control. VCT-50AV + wide-band circular filter (polarized 52mm) + Sony bag. 30,000 baht. For more information please call Rainier. Tel: 084-851 1961.

SPEAKERS JBL PROFESSIONAL

New, USA, 500w, stand and bag. For more information please call 086-815 9103.

Education

NEED A TUTOR IN ENGLISH

Need a tutor in English and a tutor in Thai for a child, both with experience working with kids. Please call: 085-576 9139 (English). Email: Vanyamordred@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S ENRICHMENT CLUB

"Take Care" service, day-time classes, skill development. Birthday parties. Amusement Park. Tel: 088-819 2526 (English & Thai).

BAR FOR SALE NEW TIGER

High Roller Bar. Third row from the front. Two-year contract. Books available. 4 million baht o.n.o. Tel: 085-654 8510. Email: typhoon_st_james@hotmail.com

KATA NIGHT PLAZA

In an expanding development. 5 minutes walk from Kata Beach is guesthouse with restaurant for sale (freehold title). www.southernfriedrice.com

RUNNING RESTAURANT

For sale. Kata, Tai Na Road. Tel: 090-176 7364.

RESTAURANT IN KATA

Very busy street food restaurant in main street, 10 tables, equipped kitchen, low rent, no key money. Tel: 086-940 4801. Email: marcellospizzi_chino@hotmail.com

WAREHOUSE FOR RENT



At Sapam, Phuket. Sizes: 130 - 210sqm, 7,000 - 18,000 baht per month, for storing yachts or goods. Tel: 086-689 3289.

Business Opportunities

BAR FOR SALE SOI TIGER

Beer bar for sale, Soi Tiger. Contract: 2 1/2 years. Tel: 084-848 4229. Email: morgan_phuket@hotmail.com

INCREDIBLE PROJECT INVESTMENT



Luxury project for sale. 50% process done. Only 5 million baht. Tel: 080-891 1611. Email: patrik_lambert@hotmail.com

GUESTHOUSE, KARON BEACH

Very nice guesthouse with 12 rooms and restaurant/bar. 100m to centre, 300m to beach. Fully booked every year Nov to April. Contract: 1+3+3 years, running. Rent included. Key money 54,000 baht per month. Price: 3.9 million baht. Serious speculators only. Tel: 083-590 3862 (English). Email: guesthouse_inkaron@gmail.com

PATONG RESTAURANT AND BAR

This commercial property is located on famous Soi Post Office, 80m from Thaweewong Road. Fully fitted and equipped, ready to open. 1.2 million baht key money and 60,000 baht per monthly rent. Lease for 9 years. Contact landlord for viewing. Tel: 081-271 5811 (English & Thai). Email: as_laferme@hotmail.com

PATONG RESTAURANT

Once in a lifetime opportunity! One of Patong's first restaurants with more than 20 years in service. Now for sale! Only double unit in Soi Patong Resort, on Bangla Road. Perfect for big sports bar and etc. For more information please call: 081-737 5085.

KRABI DIVE SHOP

3 work permits, registered limited company, 25 school sets, retail stock & fixtures, 600,000 baht. Email: krabi_dive4sale@gmail.com

HOTEL + RESTAURANT

For sale. Chanote title, central position, new building, 4 years old, 20 rooms, reception and restaurant all fully furnished. Price: 38 million baht negotiable. Contact Stefano: 086-279 8175 (English or Italian). Contact Ning: 084-840 1566 (Thai).

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

6 years on contract, great location, Patong Beach Road, full furniture and equipment. For more information please call 087-075 2166, 090-175 9126. Email: omaralquraini@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT + BAR

Phuket Town, 30 seatings, TVs, music, furnished, living. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Sale: 470,000 baht. For more information please contact Phil. Tel: 085-297 4002.

GOOD COMMERCIAL



Space for sale at Bang-Tao Beach. On main road. 156sqm, currently set up as a restaurant and bar. All equipment and furniture included. Sale: 1,800,000 baht. Rent: 15,000 baht per month for 10 years contract. Tel: 081-733 9498, 080-700 3775.

DESIGN RESTAURANT

For sale. Popular restaurant pizzeria in excellent location with patio. 100 seats on over 300 sqm. Fully equipped, fully operating, high volume, high profit, low rent. Motivated seller looking for quick sale. For more information please call 082-534 6658. Email: lorenzobortolotti@gmail.com

RESTAURANT & SPORTS BAR



Newly renovated sports bar, 45 seats. Newly built kitchen. 5 rooms on 2nd floor. Sale includes all furniture and pool table and 5 flat-screen TVs. Location: Soi Taina 11 (Kata Center). Rent: 30,000 baht per month. No key money. Contract runs until 30 April 2015 (can be renewed after or already now) - Rent paid until 30 April 2013. Sale: 1.1 million baht. Call or email for more info and pictures. Tel: 080-530 5950. Email: allstarkata_beach@gmail.com

HOME OFFICE FOR SALE / RENT



Perfect location in commercial area at The Royal Place, Tesco Lotus, bypass road. 3 floors for living home and business office, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons. Ground floor install with glass frontage, granite floor and kitchen area. Sale or long-term rental 35,000 baht per month. Call now. Tel: 084-293 7923 (English & Thai), 081-854 0061 (English). Email: mrgeoffcurry@yahoo.com

HOTEL FOR SALE PATONG BEACH

10 apartments & 14 rooms, 1km from sea, good location, 49 million baht. Chanote. For more information please call 076-292596. Email: nc_residence@gmail.com

NEW BAR WITH 4 ROOMS ACCOM

Next door to 350 rooms Centara Hotel Resort in Karon Entertainment District. Newly renovated, 3 storeys, all fully furnished with brand-new bar and furnishings. Asking 290,000 baht. Walk-in, walk-out. Email: shotham.hari8888@gmail.com

GUESTHOUSE + RESTAURANT

Small guesthouse + restaurant, 3 years contract, 750,000 baht. Negotiable. Tel: 082-270 6385, 081-891 4019. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

MINIGOLF BAR NAI YANG

9-hole minigolf and bar with one bedroom, kitchen, and 2 bathrooms. Ready to move in and you are good to go. Cheap price for quick sale: 500,000 baht. Email: swe den.phuket@hotmail.se

NICE RESTAURANT & HOUSE FOR RENT

In Kamala. Good furniture. Only 15,000 baht per month. For more information please call 089-289 1508.

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

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If you want to stop that is ours
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081-956 4031

email: phuketaa@yahoo.com



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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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BUSINESS VISA 15,000 B. MARRIED WITH THAI PEOPLE VISA 25,000 B.
ONE YEAR VISA FOR AGE UNDER 50 YEARS 25,000 B.
RETIREMENT VISA 25,000 - 32,000 B.

Trip To	Day	Dec.'12	Jan.'13	Feb.'13	Free pick up
Malaysia	Wed.	5, 12, 19, 26	2, 9, 16, 30	6, 13, 20, 27	Around Island
	Sun.	2, 9, 16, 23	6, 13, 20	3, 17.	

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Email: mem_pondsee@yahoo.com

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Club Memberships Available

GOLF MEMBERSHIP
Loch Palm for sale and Snop Blue Canyon / Laguna. Cash eitherway. Contact Dennis. Tel: 085-994 0364.

BCC FAMILY MEMBERSHIP
830,000 baht dues includes, spouse paid for two years (worth 40,000 baht). Transfer included. Tel: 081-893 3462 (English). Email: voute.a@gmail.com

LOCH PALM MEMBERSHIP
Available at 550,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 086-277 2691. Email: davidinasia@hotmail.com

BLUE CANYON CC
Corporate membership for 2 persons. Yearly fee paid for 2 years. Free transfer. Price: 1.3 million baht. Tel: 081-737 5085.

LOCH PALM MEMBERSHIP
For sale or trade membership plus money for Blue Canyon Family Membership. Price: 550,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 081-090 4113. Email: ohmer13@hotmail.com

LAGUNA GOLF CLUB
24-year family membership, free transfer. 750,000 baht. Tel: 083-680 4041. Email: annedonald13@gmail.com

GOLF MEMBERSHIP
Loch Palm and Country Club, 1.1 million baht. No discount. Buyer pays for transfer. Tel: 083-388 5566.

Computers

ENGLISH COMPUTERMAN SHOP
Sales, service, repair, and accessories. Also tuition in English/Thai. For more information please call 076-384 259, 084-625 7744 (English).

Dive Gear

UW VIDEO HOUSING + CAMERA + BOX
UW Housing Equinox with Panasonic GS120 Mini-DV with 2 batteries, remote, charger, wide angle, box pelican. Package for sale at 15,000 baht. Tel: 084-527 2172 (English). Email: johann@dive-and-cruise.com

DIVING EQUIPMENT
For sale, comp1, cons, 3 reg, many accessories. 10,000 baht. Tel: 081-895 6112 (English & French).

20 NEW SCUBA TANKS
Unused 12 litre scuba tanks with valves, all cheaper than trade. Sale: 6,000 baht. Please contact Will. Tel: 080-595 0458.

Miscellaneous For Sale

SNUFFLERS
Set of five. Rounded edges with alloy spleen tables. Only 3 yrs old, no glinkle. Can be used without bessors or BRTs but not in tandem with cleester bins. Price new: 4,200 baht each. Will sell now at 12,000 baht for full set. Located Rawai, pics available. Email: jackmartin3@gmx.com

Fitness Equipment

ROWBIKE
Ultimate exercise bike. 8,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 089-020 4331. www.rowbike.com

Personals

BACKGAMMON
Players wanted. Tel: 081-577 8443. Email: phuketconnection@yahoo.com

Personal Services Wanted

SWEDISH SPEAKING BABYSITTER
Looking for Swedish speaking babysitter for a few times during our holiday from 22 January to 15 February. Email: tilak_24@hotmail.com

Pets



ARE YOU THINKING OF GETTING A NEW DOG?
Maybe you would consider adopting a homeless dog? Many beautiful healthy dogs all looking for new homes. sherin.peace@gmail.com
www.doggieheaven.net

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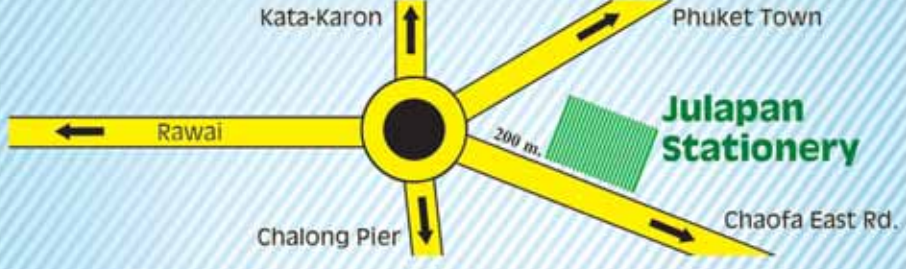


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Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at Julapan Stationery



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Saloon Cars

Motorbikes

Rentals

MAZDA 3 SPORT MAXX



Model 2009. Full options. 2,000cc. Only 17,283 km. Tax. Insurance. Full service history. Immaculate condition. Sale: 749,000 baht. Tel: 084-850 7170.

FORD MONDEO 1998



For sale, immaculate, automatic, airbags, ABS. 150,000 baht. Contact Peter. Tel: 085-253 4429.

TMAX 2011, AS NEW



1 owner, still on warranty, and serviced by Yamaha. Sale: 400,000 baht o.n.o. Green book and tax all ready. Tel: 084-054 8122.

YAMAHA RAPTOR 700R
Top of the range 2012, Yamaha Raptor 650cc. In brand-new condition only used 4 hours. Suit new ATV buyer. 420,000 baht o.n.o. Email: clem@wdrace.com

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- Open 7 days per week
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MIRA 65,000 BAHT
Daihatsu Mira, in good condition, comes with DVD player, cool aircon, runs good, very economical. Tel: 084-184 1856.

NISSAN ALMERA 1.2L



Sale down payment 150,000 baht, automatic, perfect condition, 15,000 km. Tel: 088-765 6756, 081-667 1637. Email: j.jaikwang@hotmail.com

MAXSYM 400 I
Just 4 months old. 2,500km. Perfect conditions. 189,000 baht. Contact Ivan. Tel: 084-848 6004.

KEEWAY TMX 200



For sale. TMX 200cc. New guarantee 1 year. 892km. Inclusive GPS and box. Sale: 60,000 baht. Tel: 089-971 6799.

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Brand-new car rental, top model, year 2012. Small car, medium car, family car, first-class insurance, delivery, 24hr roadside assistance, GPS, baby seat. Short or long-term rent. Tel: 089-772 7012, 081-326 3233.

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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

NISSAN TIIDA 2011
Sedan. Silver color. 1.6L. Auto transmission. 23,000 km mileage approximately. Perfect condition. 499,000 baht. Tel: 089-730 7172 (English).

YAMAHA DRAGSTAR 400CC



Good condition, location: Chalong. Sale: 155,000 baht. Tel: 081-080 0265.

FIRE EDITION
Black. End of 2006. 18,500 km. Looks very nice. Has saddle and a horn that can be heard. Price: 63,000 baht. Tel: 086-683 1499.

PICK-UPS 12,000 BAHT/MONTH
For rent. Mazda 12,000 baht per month, Toyota 11,000 baht per month. Good condition, insurance. Tel: 087-282 3724 (English). Email: ta chibana-hiroki@hotmail.co.jp

BMW 320I SE



September 2011. As new. 14,000km. Black with beige leather upholstery. All extras. 1.9 million baht. Tel: 076-613 269, 081-084 9566 (English), 081-698 5780 (Thai). Fax: 076-613270. Email: nicholas@idecnet.com

SALE FORD ESCAPE 495,000



Ford Escape 3.0 XLT. Year 2004. 140,000km. Price: 495,000 baht. Contact Noppadol. Tel: 089-589 5453. Email: sopasalon@hotmail.com

YAMAHA FINO



2008. Lady owner, ridden only in Phuket Town, with green book. Asking price 23,000 baht. Tel: 084-889 2676.

KAWASAKI ER6N 2009
650cc. 4,300km, like new, tank and engine protector, orange. Sale: 155,000 baht. Tel: 081-895 6112 (English & French).

4 x 4s

TOYOTA HILUX 4X4 3L
Automatic. Double cab 39,000km. Sale: 650,000 baht. Email: nong.kudee.phan@gmail.com Info: http://phuket-segeln.com

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Brand new, insurance and delivery service, special price for long-term rent, expatriate preferred. Tel: 088-768 9411. Email: maxlivingmanagement@hotmail.com

CHEAP CAR FOR RENT



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

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Monthly rental:
Honda Dream: 2,200 baht, Honda Wave: 2,400 baht, Honda Click auto: 3,000 baht, Honda Click I: 3,400 baht. Tel: 086-683 7162 (English & Thai). Email: yosompetch@hotmail.com

CAR & VAN RENTAL



Short or long-term rent, with insurance and delivery service. Tel: 081-538 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

Wheels & Motors



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Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Anand: 076-396911**
081-536 5550

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2007 Beneteau Antares 10.8

THB 7,000,000

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♦ She has been very well maintained, the owner has overhauled the port engine and also carried out antifouling in 2012.



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EUR 195,000



2004 VRIPACK 69

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USD 485,000

Mario Zanasi
+66 (0) 86 273 4149
mario.zanasi@simpsonmarine.com

Sergio Loiacono
+66 (0) 86 277 3360
sergio.li@simpsonmarine.com

Максим Волков
+66 (0) 84 745 9900
maksim.volkov@simpsonmarine.com

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matthew.p@simpsonmarine.com

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18 FEET BAYLINER
FIBERGLASS BODY, 200 HP (EFI) MERCURY ENGINE WITH BLUE BOOK INCLUDE TRAILER, ANCHOR, COVER.
PRICE: 320000 THB

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081-477 5637 (Thai)

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2007. Italian demo yacht. Cranchi 47ft. Hard top. Fully loaded with tropical aircon, genset, electrical winches, garage, roof. Ray Marine premium navy, BBQ, ice maker, 3 fridges, "Bose" sound, neon light. Twin 570hp with reliable shaft drive, under 300hr. Brand-new condition. 385,000 euros. Tel: 089-971 0278. Email: eddyelan@yahoo.com



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LODESTAR RIB
3.8m, 40hp Tohatsu engine, trailer, skis, tube, lifejackets. 140,000 baht. Tel: 076-271870, 080-073 5371, 087-079 0650. Email: mlcberg@netnavigator.com

17 FEET YAMAHA SPEED BOAT
115 HP Yamaha outboard engine, new trailer, unsinkable fiberglass boat, GPS, fishfinder, sports equipment, radio, MP3, 2 anchors, 100-Watt search light, and a lot of extras. 370,000 baht. Call for details. Tel: 089-645 4848 (English & Thai), 086-603 9268 (Thai). Email: germanwater team@yahoo.de

YACHT FOR SALE



Beautifully maintained Wauquiez cruising yacht. 41ft. Price: US\$199,000. Can be seen in Phuket. Contact Robert. Tel: 087-632 8259 (English). Email: caminata40@hotmail.com
Specs and photos at www.wauquiezforsale.blog.spot.com

SPEEDBOAT FOR SALE
21ft speedboat with 85hp Yamaha outboard engine (Very good condition). Includes fish finder & plotter. This is a very beautiful low-priced speedboat. Tel: 081-415 1075 (English & Thai). Email: frankrichard evans@yahoo.com



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Norman Wright & Sons (1987/revit 2010)

\$ 825,000 USD

- Electric windlass
- Generator
- Auto Pilot
- Tropical air-conditioning
- Radar
- Water maker
- Raymarine electronics
- Solar Panels

THAILAND'S LEADING BROKERAGE & NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP

Irwin 52 Ketch (1984)

249,900 Euro



Super Marama 2000 (2001)

\$398,000 USD



Schlenker Wilderness (2000)

\$499,000 USD



Bonnetan Oceanis 523 Clipper (2000)

\$345,000 USD



De Bever 44 (1983)

\$228,000 USD



Sunseeker Manhattan 73 (2013)

2,599,000 GBP

BRAND NEW



Imago 48 (2007)

445,000 Euro

SURFACE DRIVES AND FAST



Princess 58 FB (2000)

\$1,100,000 USD



Martin Holmes
Mobile: 081 891 7057
Email: martin@leemarine.com

Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 968 1437
Email: marcus@leemarine.com

Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 081 891 3237
Email: jim@leemarine.com

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NEW ALESSANDRO MARCHI
"Carenalunga 21". Hypalon RIB (LOA 24"). Composite construction, strong and fast. 140hp 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and trailer. 1,795,000 baht. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

NEW ALESSANDRO MARCHI
"Carenacorsa 18". Hypalon RIB, light and fast. 90hp lean-bum, 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini. 999,950 baht. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon showroom. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

FREE 30FT YACHT
I am willing to give away my Thai registered 10m 30 ft. yacht. All books are available and in order. It is moored in Ao Chalong. All I ask is that I can use it when I am in Phuket 4-5 times per years just for 2 days each time. The boat is called Tabata and is located about 500 meters due east of the yacht club. Tel: 087-273 8162 (English & Thai). Email: mmarston@infocon-techology.com

NEW KARNIC 1851
Deep V Hull, 90hp lean-bum, 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and trailer. 999,950 baht. Now in stock. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

NEW KARNIC 2052
Deep V Hull, 140hp 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and marine heads. 1,299,950 baht. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-2831 674. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

SAILBOAT FOR SALE
Sunbeam 44ft - 1995. Quality and look likes new. Located in Phuket. Excellent condition and fully equipped. 136,000 euros. Tel: 089-875 5169.

BOAT PEGASUS 8.2M
Fiberglass, 225hp Suzuki 4str 130hrs + 8hp 4str. Jack plate, 220L tank. Electric winch anchor. Perfect condition. Price: 750,000 baht. Tel: 081-891 3095.

MOONSOON FOR SALE



28ft, registered for 15 passengers. 200hp/ V6 Mercury motor, only 240 hours, recently totally restored. Perfect for snorkeling, diving trips, island hopping or water taxi. Navigation system + fishfinder. 5hp spare motor. Boat and motor in very good condition. Located at Boat Lagoon. Priced for quick sale at 330.000 baht. Tel: 086-747 9292. Email: claud strey@gmail.com

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S

CrypticCrossword





Aircraft For Sale

YOUR HELICOPTER

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

HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?

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

AIRPLAY ALTIS MICROLIGHT

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

1999 ROBIN 2160i

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

Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS



Built: 1976

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



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

Specs:

Table with 2 columns: Specifications (Horsepower: 260, Top Speed: 166 kts, etc.) and Gross Weight/Empty Weight/Range.

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

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

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

TECNAM P-92

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

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



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

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

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



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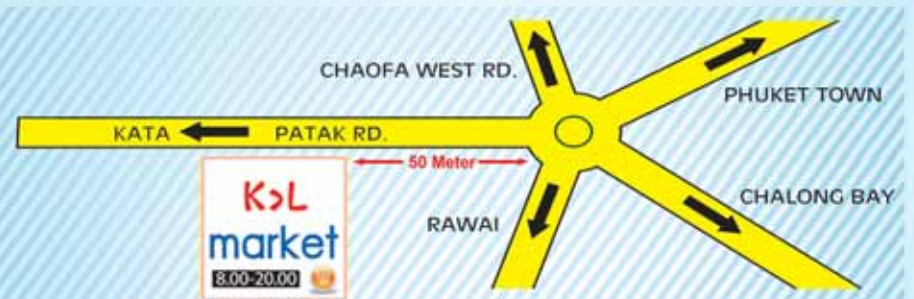
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WELCOME 'DER KAISER' TO SOFITEL KRABI PHOKEETHRA GOLF & SPA RESORT

Mr Robin Deb, general manager, had the great pleasure and honor of welcoming "Der Kaiser" – Mr Franz Beckenbauer (right), an influential figure in German and international football, and his family, to the Sofitel Krabi Phokeethra Golf & Spa Resort.

BIKRAM HOT YOGA

Bikram Choudhury, founder of the world's fastest growing yoga – Bikram Hot Yoga – took time out from his short stay in Phuket to conduct a challenging class at his studio in Kathu.

From Left: Sono Yasumoto, Phannipha Bunpheng (Koy), Bikram Choudhury, Lies Sol and Dylan Niall Haddock



Photo: danmilesmedia



"IT'S GREAT TO HAVE A DAY AT LADY KATHRYN"

Roberto Di Matteo (back row, fifth from left) a former Italian footballer and manager brought his family and friends for a fun day out on the Lady Kathryn, Dec 29 2012. During his playing career as a midfielder, he played for Swiss clubs Schaffhausen, Zurich and Aarau, before joining Lazio of Italy and Chelsea of England.

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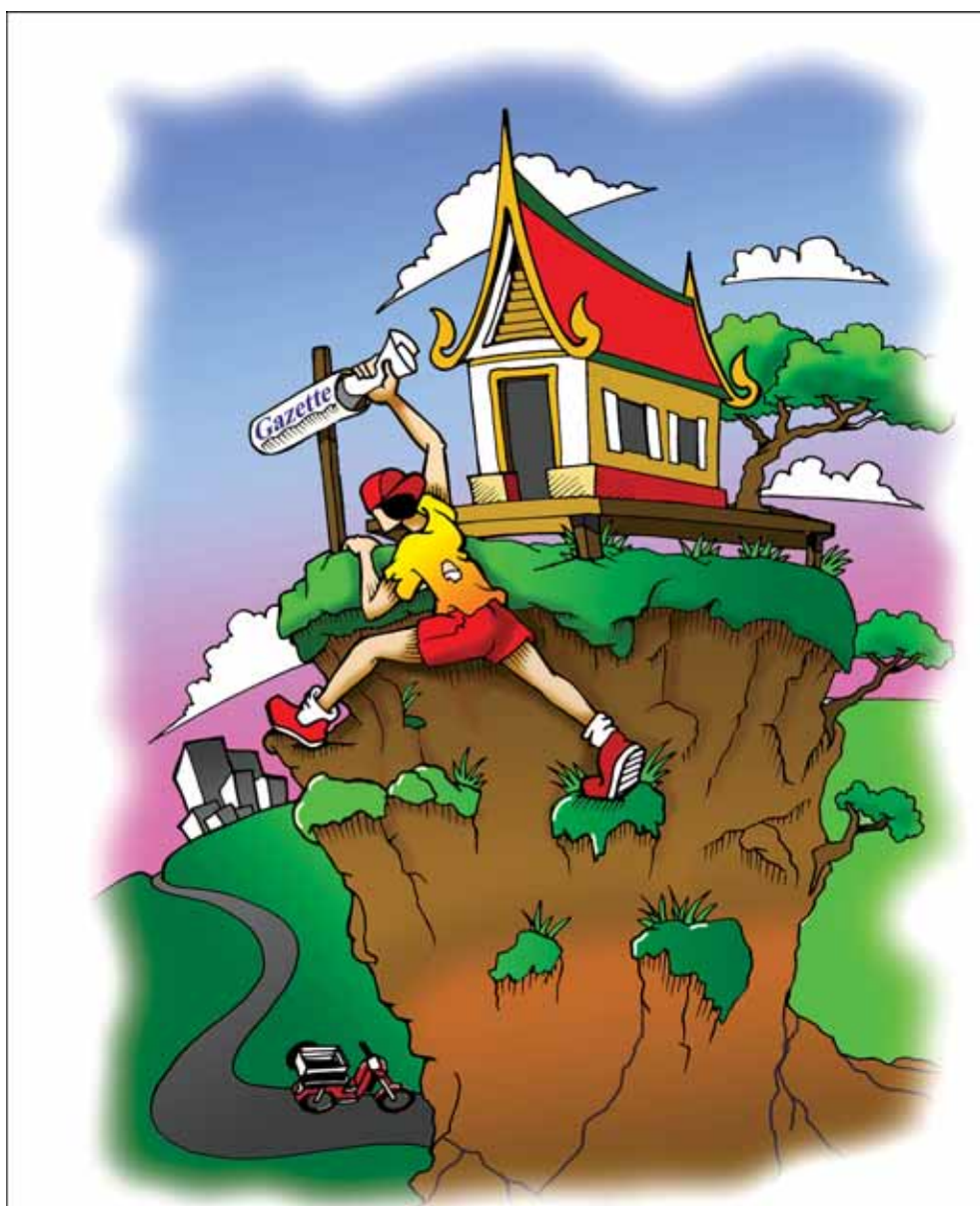
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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

January 26, 10:30am to 11:30pm: Phuket Family & Gourmet Festival at Royal Phuket Marina

This charity event is the first of its kind, combining a family fun-packed day out for children with gourmet dishes prepared by some of Phuket's best chefs using the finest ingredients supplied by Jagota Foods. Activities include Birdman Jari Kuosma dropping in and world record breaking stuntman Ian Jamieson pulling his stunts. In the evening there will be live blues and rock with internationally renowned Australian Blues band *Vdelli*, Thai alternative rock band *Modern Dog*, and Phuket's own *Legends of Siam*. Tickets range from 100 to 3,000 baht with proceeds going toward 10 local charities for children. This event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV. Segments of the event will appear on the *Gazette's* 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only national television program, seven times per week (see below).

Feb 1, 8, 15, 22; 7 to 11pm: Indian Curry Buffet at Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort

All you can eat, authentic Indian Curry Buffet at 449 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold Mango and Strawberry Lassi with our delicious Mutton Vindaloo, Dal Makhani, Bombay Aloo, Mutter Paneer, Butter Chicken and mouthwatering Chicken Tikka, Samosas, freshly baked Naans and more. For reservations contact Jaspal Singh on: 66-76-286464.

February 3-4, 6:30 to 10pm: Baan Kata Arts Fest at Mom Tri's Villa Royale

You are invited you to join the Baan Kata Arts Fest 2013 at Mom Tri's Villa Royale. Sunday February 3 and Monday February 4. On February 3 there will be an opening exhibition of paintings by Mom Tri Devakul at the VR Gallery, and on February 4 ML Usni and his ensemble will perform a classical concert at Villa Royale. Tickets for the concert are 500 baht each. Contact Sylvie on: 66-76-333 5368

February 25: Makha Bucha Day (Public Holiday)

Makha Bucha Day, which falls on the full moon of the third lunar month, commemorates the Buddha's ordaining of 1,250 monks who had arrived unannounced from afar only seven months after the Buddha began his teachings. It is also the date the Buddha delivered his Fundamental Teachings – just months before his death.

March 15, 5:30 to 10pm: Global Battle of Bands

The Global Battle Of Bands (GBOB) is coming to Thailand! In its 9th year with 40 countries participating, it is the largest such competition in the world. Bands must perform original songs. Thailand will have regionals in Phuket, Pattaya, Chiang Mai and Bangkok. National finals will be in Bangkok in June, and world finals also to be held in Bangkok in December. Valuable prizes are given to national winners and the world winner receives a package worth US\$100,000 and a world tour contract. Amazing opportunity for young bands. Entrance to the show is free, so don't miss it – March 15th. Location yet to be announced. Please check back for updates! This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV.

Apr 13 to 15: Songkran Festival
Songkran is the Thai New Year Festival. Also known as the 'Water Festival'. Held during the driest month in Thailand, Songkran is celebrated by Thais throughout the country pouring – traditionally only a little, but these days a lot – of water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

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

May 6, Substitution for Coronation Day (Public Holiday)

May 24, Visakha Bucha Day
Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the 6th lunar month, which usually falls in either May or early June. It is a day to commemorate three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha. Miraculously, these events fell in the same month and on the same date in the Buddhist era.

May 24, Arsarnha Bucha Day
This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining Enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago. Evening candlelit processions are staged in all Thai Buddhist temples.

August 12, Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday
Her Majesty's Birthday is a public holiday in the Kingdom.

October 23, Chulalongkorn Memorial Day
Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

November 17, Loy Krathong Festival
Traditionally performed on the full moon night of the twelfth lunar month, which usually falls in November. A Krathong is a banana-leaf cup, which will be floated in a canal or river.



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Informal Sunday computer clinics

Every Sunday morning, starting around 10am or so, a group of computer savvy locals meet for breakfast at the Chalong/Fisherman's Way Sandwich Shoppe, 1 km north of Chalong Circle on Chao Fah East road. Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

Contact at 076-282403, Woody@KhunWoody.com or visit KhunWoody.com

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A tale of internet worry and woe

TWO weeks ago in Live Wire, I produced a list of all the available internet packages in Phuket – at least, all of the packages I know about.

Last week, I explained that most people in Phuket will want to get a “3G” (I still hate that term, because it’s meaningless!) package for their phone(s). Most probably don’t need to get wireless 3G for their tablets/iPads, as long as they can tether the tablet from their phones – a process that’s fairly easy from most phones. And most folks need some sort of landline – ADSL, Fiber, DOCSIS, Airmax – for their homes or offices, although 3G can work in a pinch, particularly if you buy a MyFi box.

This week, I want to drill down on one particular internet service that you don’t want. I’ve mentioned the new TOT 3G service – TOT calls it “3.9G,” thus reinforcing my contention that the term 3G doesn’t mean anything here. I’ve never recommended it, because I don’t have any experience with it, haven’t seen any speed tests reported for it (phuketinternetspeed.com), and don’t know anyone who’s actually used it.

That all changed, very abruptly, a few days ago, when I received an anonymous copy of a letter sent from a reader in Phuket to TOT’s Senior Executive VP, in Bangkok. Here’s what the letter says, with a few minor edits:

“I recently tried to become a customer of TOT’s 3.9G service, with very unhappy results. I hope this letter will help you to improve the success of TOT’s 3.9G product, and to improve TOT’s public image in the process.

On December 22, I sent this information to TOT’s director of customer service, but I have had no response. Please forward this to the correct executive for prompt action.

My complaint is that I have been excessively overcharged for TOT’s 3.9G service under false pretenses. My attorney thinks this may constitute illegal coercion under section ‘A’ violation of section 341, Chapter 3, Title XII of the Penal Code of Thailand.

On October 8, my assistant, acting on my instructions, signed a contract for TOT 3.9G service. The contract specifies a monthly charge of 850 baht. The contract also refers to a service level called LOAD PLATINUM, which includes 6 GB of download data per month. There were no other marketing or explanatory 3.9G materials provided to us on that date or since.

Shortly thereafter, I started to use the 3.9G service to access the internet from my home computer. I



Live Wire
By Woody Leonhard

expected to start receiving invoices for 850 baht per month, as per the original contract. Instead, on November 30, I received an invoice for 4,555 baht. On December 20, I received a second invoice for an additional 8,907 baht.

After receiving the November 30 invoice, I eventually figured out that TOT was billing me for 3.9G usage that exceeded the 6 gigabyte cap. This was a great surprise, because TOT had never informed me that there would be additional charges for usage beyond the 6 gigabyte cap. There is certainly nothing written in the contract or in the TOT brochures that specifies any such additional charges. The contract and brochures are completely silent about what happens when the 6 gigabyte cap is exceeded.

Several days after receiving the November 30 invoice, I stopped using the 3.9G service entirely. I also attended a series of meetings with TOT staff and the director of the main TOT office in Phuket, the most recent of which, was on December 19.

During those meetings, I was told for the first time that there was a usage charge of 0.5 baht for each megabyte that exceeded the 6 gigabyte cap in any calendar month.

I assert that these 0.5 baht/megabyte charges are unfair and unjustified because they were never specified in any paperwork provided to me by TOT – and they still have not been provided to me in writing. I do not believe it is acceptable for TOT to bill for charges which have never been explained to or agreed by me.

Please note that (according to the Phuket TOT office) my October 8 2012 contract was the very first sale of 3.9G service in Phuket – so it is not surprising that there was confusion within TOT and between TOT and customers of the new service.

Also, please note that TOT has not provided 3.9G customers with any way to tell when they are approaching (or have exceeded) the monthly 6 gigabyte cap. It does not seem like fair business practice to charge customers for stepping over an invisible line.

I have called the 1711 number on multiple occasions concerning this problem. After waiting several minutes on each occasion, I spoke to a customer support person who was entirely unfamiliar with the new 3.9G service, and who could

tell me nothing about my usage so far that month.

Furthermore, I have determined that TOT sends a steady stream of unsolicited “administrative” traffic down the 3.9G connection. I have no control over this traffic, nor do I have any way of knowing if it is counted toward the 6 gigabyte cap. I do know that the administrative download traffic happens about once per second, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. That adds up to about 0.4 gigabytes per month.”

The reader goes on to propose a (very reasonable!) solution to the problem.

My first reaction upon reading the letter – in addition to the usual TIT (This is Thailand) observation – was to compare the price charged for additional data with industry norms. TOT charged the reader 500 baht per gigabyte (GB) for



A flyer advertising TOT’s new ‘3.9G’ service. Source: TOT

additional data. Singtel in Singapore charges 120 baht. Verizon in the US charges 450 baht for each 1GB overage, although customers can buy 2 GB in advance for 300 baht. Prepaid 3G in Cambodia works well, by all accounts, and costs 450 baht for 5 GB per month or 90 baht per GB.

Which begs the question: How much is one GB? Of course, there’s no definitive answer (this is the computer industry, after all), but a good rule of thumb goes like this: If you download or stream a one hour TV show, it’ll run about 1GB, or less if you go with a lower quality (720p) picture. Full high definition movies can run 3GB to 5GB each. If you receive good quality photos in your email, 1GB



TEST THE WATERS: Subscribers in Phuket should be cautious when signing a contract with an internet service provider. Photo: bixentro

is about 200 pictures – or just a handful of video clips, if they’re incessant. For downloaded music in typical MP3 format, figure on 200 songs. Your email, minus pictures and huge attachments, won’t even put a blip on the counter. Same for web browsing, if you don’t click to play videos.

You can go for about 50 hours with Skype “talking heads” video calls and stay under about 1GB – but if your camera is following something that’s moving, the data stream goes way up. YouTube videos vary not only in length, but in quality being sent to the smallest screens, up to 1080p high def going to desktop computers. On a tiny screen, you can watch about 10 hours of YouTube videos and stay under 1GB. But if you run at full HD, that goes down to about one hour before you exceed 1GB.

Put another way, if you have a 3GB data cap on your 3G account, and you use the account to watch full-screen TV, you’ll get about three hours of TV per month before blowing the data cap. Watch YouTube videos on your iPhone or Galaxy, and you can go for 30 hours per month. If you talk on Skype all the time, you can run video calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and

still stay within your limit – but there won’t be much room to do anything else with the account.

Most internet service providers in Phuket offer “unlimited 3G” packages. While the ads say they’re unlimited, they aren’t really. In this case “unlimited” means you can go up to a specific amount of data in a monthly billing cycle – typically 3 or 4GB – and after you hit the cap, your line is throttled way, way back, so it’s painfully slow, until the end of the billing cycle.

Caveat emptor (Let the buyer beware!)

Starting this month, a German-language group will hold informal computer clinics at the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong on Sunday mornings, at 11am. Sehr gut! Our regular weekly computer clinic roundtables continue every Sunday morning, 10am at the Sandwich Shoppe, Chalong. If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, or a question about internet service in Phuket, drop by and ask one of the assembled gurus. It’s always free. 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, follow him on Twitter, @PhuketLiveWire, or “like” his page at facebook.com/SandwichShoppes.

LINE draws 1 million users

LINE, the world’s leading mobile messenger with social network service, has announced that it achieved 100 million users recently.

At the celebratory event in Japan for hitting the 100 million milestone, NHN Japan’s CEO Akira Morikawa said:

“We have striven to always be one step ahead of users’ needs and have offered a wide variety of services to meet their quickly changing wants. Our efforts have paid off, evidenced by the continuous upward trend of users joining LINE, resulting in reaching our 100 million user mark.”

Since its release in June 2011 as a smartphone messenger service, LINE has offered free calling and sticker features. The platform has achieved 10 million users in both Thailand and Taiwan, claiming the title as Thailand’s and Taiwan’s most representative mobile messenger. Not only is the number of users joining the LINE community rapidly growing, but also the frequency of use is worth highlighting. Currently, LINE is recording an average of 3 million new users subscribing per week and maintaining an impressive 80.3 per cent monthly active user figure.

– The Nation

Cheurchan Panvikarn

IF YOU were to read Cheurchan Panvikarn's CV, the section 'personality' would read something like: confident, responsible, organized, pragmatic and tenacious. For that is more or less how she describes herself.

The poised Cheurchan is marketing manager of Phanason Group – one of the major property developers on the island and nationwide. Their diverse housing projects range from seafront and city condominiums to home offices, resorts and family-style homes.

Haad Yai-born Cheurchan, holds a degree in education with a major in Thai literature.

Having started her career as a school teacher and developed a love for teaching, she reveals that working in educational institutions did not provide the kind of stimulus she had in mind. However, there was one particular skill and passion developed from the whole learning-teaching experience that has become her 'tool of the trade'. That skill is drama and acting.

"I have always been interested in dramatic arts," she explains. "Studying education I became interested in the subject as a teaching tool but I also love acting. This is a skill that helped develop my confidence as a person and socially. And that was why I turned to public relations instead of teaching."

Cheurchan started her career in



hospitality in the early 1990s working for a five-star hotel in Hua Hin. For the next 20 years she rotated between Hua Hin, Phuket and Samui, working in hospitality, tourism and property in many capacities, ranging from human resources, public relations and management to marketing.

In Phuket, she has worked for the Thavorn Group Hotels and the Boat Lagoon, among others. She joined Phanason Group as its marketing manager in 2011.

However, she admits that establishing herself in the new job was not easy to start with and there were times she felt like being thrown in the deep end.

"This is a competitive market and I have to look after many things and even stuff that's outside my remit. Usually, my work is to streamline promotional packages so that the quality of our homes and their after-sale maintenance come across strongly for the public. In between there's working out marketing strategy and brand building."

All these responsibilities require promotion and networking and keep Cheurchan on her toes, even

during weekends. But Cheurchan loves her work and prides herself for being part of what she calls a 'responsible' enterprise.

"As a company, Phanason cares about the environment," she says. "The word Phanason means forest and we try hard to live up to our name. As a rule, we always leave a sizeable green space in all our residential estates. We also support local environmental projects wherever we can."

A competent businesswoman who credits her success with being in Phuket, Cheurchan says she is in debt to the town and its people for opening up her world and offering many career opportunities.

"Compared to Haad Yai, where I grew up, Phuket is a veritable land of business opportunities. Many people find themselves here and I am one of those. I love living here, it's safe and *sabay* and I have great friends and colleagues."

During her free time Cheurchan loves to take long walks on the beach with her dogs. Being a dog lover means that Cheurchan aspires to having a house of her own. "I need space for my dogs and therefore a house suits me better than a condominium."

Working for a property developer means that Cheurchan has many choices available to her. "But I still have to take out a mortgage like everybody else," she says lightheartedly.



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 our might be the case without them.

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*The Charm Residence Project: Proving Co., Ltd. is the owner of the land, the land allocator and the marketer of the project. It's company registration number is 0835522010143, with its registered office at 6-41 Thaveewong Road, Tambon Patong, Amphoe Kathu, Phuket Province. The company's registered capital is THB 55,656,000.00 (based on the company's certification document dated 30 November 2012). The company is developing the project to be a residential condominium, comprising three five-story residential buildings, and one seven-story residential building, with a total of 240 residential condominium units (and no commercial condominium unit). The company is also developing a residential land allocation project south of Thaveewong Road, Tambon Patong, Amphoe Kathu, Phuket Province. It is being developed on the land under the land title deed number 12177, land plot number 5, page search 159, Tambon Patong, Amphoe Kathu, Phuket Province. The area of the land subject to the development has an approximate area of 3 Rai, 1 Ngan and 15.8 square Rils. The company is the center of the land. The land is encumbered to Kasikorn Bank PCL. The project is currently being developed. Once the buyer pays the full purchase price under the sale and purchase agreement, the company will be ready to transfer the ownership to buyers within 30 days. The development of the project commenced in April 2011, and the development of the common properties and public services in the project should be completed around December 2013. Once the development is completed, the company will register the condominium. The buyers of the condominium units will be required to pay the common area fees, taxes, and other fees as determined by the developer or the condominium juristic person, subject to the laws on condominium and the terms and conditions set by the company.

The grand old farce writer

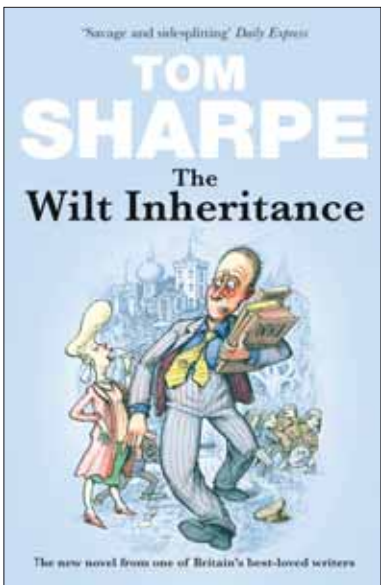
TOM Sharpe can be described as the heir of PG Wodehouse, the master of English farce. His first satirical novels, *Riotous Assembly* and *Indecent Exposure*, were written about South Africa to where he had moved, after attending Cambridge University, to work as a teacher and social worker in 1951. A decade later, he was deported for "sedition".

In 1976, he scored his biggest success with *Wilt*, a hilarious novel about Henry Wilt, a cynical drunken lecturer at a mediocre English university. The highlight, and the cover cartoon, has a frantic Wilt stuffing an inflatable sex doll down a piling hole. Why? Don't ask.

Wilt inspired four sequels, the latest of which is *The Wilt Inheritance* (Arrow Books, London, 2011, 328pp). Despite the 35 years that have passed since the first novel, Wilt is still middle-aged, still dissatisfied with his dead end job as a mediocre university professor, still saddled with Eva, his hare-brained and bossy wife, and afflicted with four teenage daughters - Josephine, Emmeline,

Books

By James Eckardt



Samatha and Penelope - the "quads" or quadruplets.

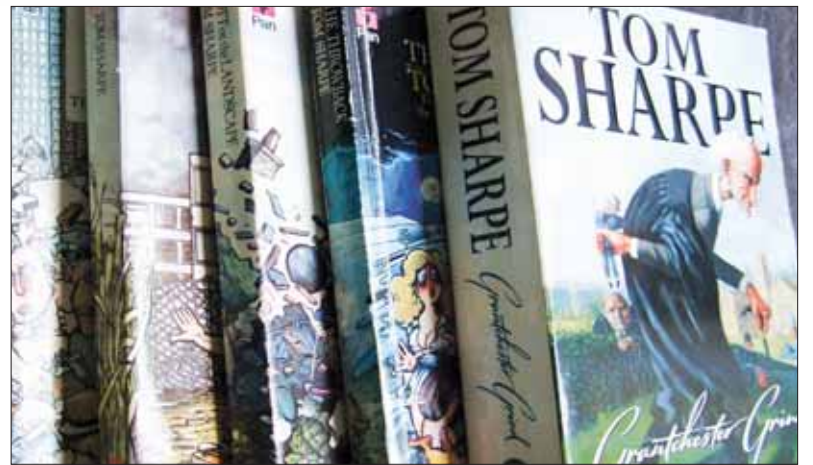
Wilt contemplates his middle-aged lack of ambition:

"Wilt's spirits sank even lower when he thought of his daughters, all four of them exact replicas of

his ghastly wife and just as loud and overbearing as she was. No, more loud and overbearing than she was, given the combined effect of their quadruple efforts. All four girls were inexhaustible in their petty squabbles and inter-sororial battles, and he was pretty sure that the demise of his get-up-and-go had pretty much coincided with their arrival."

"Ghastly" is the most over-worked adjective in this book. Everyone is ghastly. Eva befriends the ghastly Lady Clarissa, a drunk and a nymphomaniac, who is married to the ghastly Sir George Gadsley, a gun nut and philanderer after fat ladies. Lady Clarissa persuades Eva to move her family to her country estate for the summer, so that Henry can tutor her son, the ghastly Eddie, so he can pass his exams to get into Cambridge. Eddie shows no interest in anything except for throwing stones at trespassers on the estate.

"Nothing, be it animal or small child, was entirely safe when Eddie was around," Lady Clarissa reflects. "There had been a couple of unfortunate run ins with some



OCTOGENARIAN: Tom Sharpe, 84, is a master of farce. Photo: romannets.co.uk

of the townsfolk, who seemed not to accept the argument that if their children would trespass on the estate then they only had themselves to blame. A lot of silly fuss about nothing really. After all, what were a few stitches here and there? And it wasn't as if the child was good-looking in the first place."

Now, however, Eddie has graduated from stones to Sir George's high-powered hunting rifles. The problem is that the author hasn't bothered to develop the character of Eddie at all. We don't even know what he looks like.

In fact, Tom Sharpe is 84 and showing his age. Many of his jokes are lame and the plot wanders about witlessly. An aged uncle of Lady Clarissa has died of drink. The quads hid his body. Eddie discovers them and manages to shoot himself to death. The quads hide his body. The police search the estate with sniffer dogs

who seem overly fond of the quads. But they get off scot-free and return to their posh boarding school to wreak more havoc.

There are a host of stock characters: the retired army colonel, the bumbling police inspector, the petty village vicar. The vicar hates Sir George for spreading the rumor that he was "a pervert who interferes with small boys". The inspector thinks this over and asks: "And are you?"

"How dare you! Of course I'm not. You can ask my wife, if you don't believe me. I don't even like small boys . . . nasty, vicious little things. Or big boys, come to that."

The whole novel is covered with this sort of fustian air. The country has moved on but this sort of genteel comedy has not. Perhaps satire is a game for young men who are angry enough to sustain it. The octogenarian Tom Sharpe is just telephoning his satire in.

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A new holistic hang-out



ENLIGHTENED EXERCISE: Running machines face outward for a more open feel. Photos: Chris Hudson

By Chris Hudson

MILLIONS of people visit the Pearl of the Andaman each year, but when you get right down to it – the island is smaller than you'd think.

This is because long term expats tend to localize their habits based on the area they live in – Kata, Chalong, Phuket Town, Surin – due mainly to the difficulty of traversing long distances here.

Although there is an abundance of certain businesses across the island, a few of which include massage parlors, restaurants and gyms, generally, many businesses can survive if they focus on servicing a particular area and local market segment.

That idea is what the newly opened AQUAZEN Holistic Gym is banking on to see them through their first intrepid

year as a new lifestyle project.

"We thought, we'd like to create somewhere, where people can work out that's not intimidating, where you can come, get a workout, have a sports massage, do some meditation and everything is on-site," says Managing Director Alex Botley. "We wanted a change of lifestyle, and there really isn't anything in the area [Cherng Talay] like this."

Construction work on the project was completed in four months and more than 20 members have already signed up in the first few days since the gym's opening.

Owners Alex and Ross have vowed not to allow more than 200 members total – with no signing fee for the first 100 people – at a starting cost of 1,500 per month. Keeping the numbers lower will help ensure a personal atmosphere, they say.



Fitness trainer Adam does repetitions of the bench press on the ground floor of AQUAZEN.

AQUAZEN offers members access to free weights and cardio machines, meditation classes, Zumba, personal training and something called "prescriptive exercises".

"Prescriptive Exercises allow you [to help] treat conditions such as depression or high blood pressure... and that's something that I don't see other gyms [in Phuket] offering," says Ross Brunton, AQUAZEN's detox director.

According to Alex and Ross, prescriptive exercises have been proven by research studies to treat certain mental illnesses such as depression. They elaborate that depression responds really well to exercise because it causes the release of dopamine. So, instead of using drugs, patients can seek fulfillment through working out.

But this kind of holistic exercise can also be used for physical ailments they say.

"Heart disease for example," continues Alex, "You exercise in ten minute blocks. Maybe the first couple of minutes would be at thirty per cent. The next couple of minutes would be at sixty per cent, then you have a minute or a minute and a half

at 100 per cent and it goes down again to sixty/forty and so on. It has been clinically proven that this is the best way to clear the arteries and flush out all the triglycerides and arterial plaque."

AQUAZEN Holistic Gym is located half a kilometer west of the Heroines' monument on road 4025 to Surin next to Kate's hairdressers. The gym has a back porch area that turns into an ideal place to socialize at night and comprises three floors including a weight room, juice bar, locker rooms and massage area.

The gym's holistic style of fitness training is supplemented by detox flushes, which help remove your body's toxins in order to feel healthier. It is also slated to be a distribution point for Pura organics, another island staple of healthy living.

"One of our concepts here is to be an alternative to going out to the pub every night. Instead of going to the pub drinking and destroying your body, you can come here and you'll have a big group of friends who train here every night," adds Ross. "It's a nice place to hang out."

Women and menopause

WITH the incidence of ovarian, uterine and breast cancer all on the rise, a women's reproductive organs probably receive more medical attention and care than any other organs in her body.

But other illnesses pose a silent threat to women, especially those of menopause age. From the time a woman begins menstruation up until she reaches menopause, she's protected by the hormone estrogen, which helps reduce cholesterol in the blood. But at menopause, that protection fades and the risks are the same for both sexes.

This loss of estrogen is responsible for thinning of the bones in women every year.

Heart disease is also a problem for post-menopausal women. Despite suffering symptoms and warnings for several months, women are often unaware that they are suffering from ischemic heart disease, where blood supply to the heart muscle is reduced. Common symptoms



Changing times. Photo: Tafari Anthony

include fatigue and tiredness, sleep disturbance or insomnia, difficulty in breathing, pain in the neck and shoulder, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting. Fifty per cent of those who suffer from heart disease do not have chest pain during a heart attack while those who do complain of chest pain constitute no more than 30 per cent of those who suffer a heart attack.

Statistics indicate that stroke is the third leading cause of


death among American women and this is caused by the reduction of estrogen, which affects the LDL cholesterol. An important warning sign is numbness or weakness on one side of the body, including the face, arm, or leg, for about 30 minutes (and then the body returns to normal).

To prevent heart disease and stroke: quit smoking, control your diet, stop eating sweets and starch (if diabetic), reduce or stop eating fatty meat (if you have high cholesterol), reduce salt intake (if you have high blood pressure), increase intake of vegetables and fish. Take up exercise such as aerobics, brisk walking, running, swimming and biking. Consult your doctor if you suffer from fatigue, dizziness or unexplained swelling in the legs.

Osteoporosis doesn't show any symptoms if the bones are not fractured. Go for a bone density test every two years after the age of 65.


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GLOBE TROTTER: *Lantana*, originally from South America, has clusters of tiny florets. Photo: Kevin Harber



Above: *Wedelia trilobata*, Below: Another variety of *Lantana*. Photos: Joseph Wong and Virginia Sanderson

Here to stay

A look at Phuket's naturalized plants

MANY plants here give every appearance of having been fixtures since vegetation appeared on the island. In fact many are *not* indigenous but have been introduced, mostly by design but sometimes by accident. In many cases, these plants have done so well that you might be forgiven for believing them to be native to Phuket, or at least to Thailand.

Take *wedelia trilobata*. A herbaceous plant, which creeps along and roots as it goes, it is useful for providing rapid groundcover. A member of the aster family, it produces a dense mat of glossy green leaves and masses of yellow, daisy-like flowers. Right now, and profiting from the wet weather, it is covering the waste ground opposite my house at a rate of knots. In fact you can find it everywhere in Phuket, even trailing down walls. The surprise? It originates from tropical America where it is often regarded as a weed.

That of course is one of the problems with these floral intro-



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

ductions. They can become invasive. The *lantana* is a obvious example. Thais appreciate this South American shrub because its large clusters of tiny florets come in a range of colors – orange, yellow, white or pink. It blooms repeatedly, and thrives everywhere. Local horticulturists are adept at grafting different colored varieties on to a single rootstock and producing an attractive potted specimen. But, given the right conditions, it is a rampant grower, and in parts of Australia it is considered invasive.

Another import that gives every appearance of being happy to stay, is the tropical periwinkle. Native to Madagascar, it has come a long way from its African roots, but it has adapted to life here so well that has become a feature of Phuket's coastline. Like most surviving visitors, *cantharanthus*

is hardy, puts up with poor soil and semi-drought conditions. Not blue like the European periwinkle, the five-petaled flowers are typically magenta in color, though there is a white variety. The foliage consists of glossy oval leaves, which sprout from reddish stems. It seems disease-free, though the caterpillars of the oleander hawk moth are partial to it.

Jatropha multifida is a native of the West Indies, but shows signs of becoming naturalized here. I can only assume that it was introduced by some horticulturist years ago, since it is established around Phuket, both as a hedging shrub and in garden beds. Widely available in plant nurseries, it is also beginning to put in an appearance on scrubland, a sure sign that it is spreading. As one variety (*jatropha curcas*) has in India where it lines hundreds of miles of railway track. In Brazil it is being grown as a commercial source of bio-fuel. A tall, sometimes scandent shrub, it bears



clusters of vivid cerise or red flowers. Easy to grow? Naturally. Another sensible choice for the lazy gardener.

Phuket inevitably attracts plants that can endure salt-laden winds: hence the popularity of the sea-lettuce, or *scaevola*. This shrub is grown for its fleshy, pale green foliage. Superficially, the leaves resemble those of a lettuce, though these clumps of foliage appear on woody stems. *Scaevola* likes full sun and sandy soil; it is, for these reasons, being increasingly used here as a seaside hedge or barrier behind which other plants can shelter. Again it is not, strictly speaking, a native, hailing originally from the Pacific Islands. But it is already well-established in Phuket. Perhaps it came origi-

nally by sea, since the berries can float, unharmed, for long periods in salty water.

Less in evidence, the sea grape or *coccoloba uvifera* is doubtless here for the same reasons. An altogether more impressive shrub, with large, plate-like, olive-colored, deeply veined leaves, and long clusters of green berries, it is used as an ornamental in gardens exposed to saline winds. Already, this American native can be seen growing wild along the shoreline in isolated parts of the island. Here to stay? Maybe. But beware developers.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, you can email me anytime at: drpaccampbell@gmail.com

Tip of the Week

Garden Pests: Millipedes

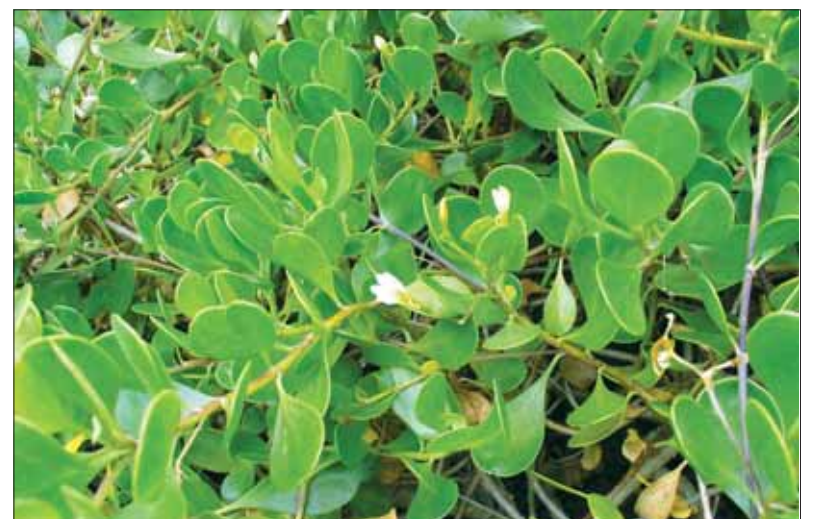
EVERY gardener in Phuket will have encountered giant millipedes. Far larger than European ones, they are up to five inches long with hundreds of pairs of legs beneath metallic, brown or black, cylindrical bodies. Attacked, they curl into a tight coil, and rely on their tough exo-skeleton to deter predators. They tend to appear



Millipede. Photo: James Gaither

during wet weather, moving slowly over the ground in search of damp and concealed places.

Millipedes are useful in that they are detritivores, feeding (like termites) on dead organic matter, especially leaf litter. But they are also a minor pest in that they can and do attack young seedlings by stripping off the outer stem layers. There is also anecdotal evidence that they prey on earthworms. Moreover, they contain cyanide and should not be handled. Personally, I put them on waste ground.



Scaevola is often used as a seaside hedge. Photo: David Eickhoff

Finding the 'Sea People'

Tracing the roots of Rawai Beach's earliest settlers, 700 years ago

THE *Chaolay*, literally translated as 'sea people', were one of the earliest settlers on the island of Phuket. Although today

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

they are a minority ethnic group, their history in Phuket dates back several hundred years. The people the Thais have come to call the *Chaolay* are actually of Austronesian decent and have maintained a nomadic lifestyle on the open sea for centuries. Throughout their history they have managed to populate much of the islands and coastlines of the Andaman sea.

Of the *Chaolay* ethnicities that still live along Thailand's coastlines and islands, the two main groups are *Urak Lawoi* and *Moken*. Both groups have different origins and traditions. The *Urak Lawoi* in particular, are found scattered on the coasts and islands of the Andaman Sea. No one really knows for sure how they managed to reach the Andaman Sea centuries ago, or where they came from.

Some theories suggest that the *Urak Lawoi* are descendants of Chinese nomads, who sailed from China's Yangtze River all the way to the Malay peninsula. Others have suggested that they may have descended from the *Sea Dyak* of Borneo.

In stark contrast, another theory has suggested that they are more closely related to the Melanesians of the South Pacific.

Finally, it is also possible that the *Urak Lawoi* are descended from a group called the *Orang Laut Kappir*. The word *kappir* comes from the Arabic 'kafir', or non-believer. Legend has it that the *Orang Laut Kappir* had previously lived on Langkawi island, until it was conquered by the invading Malays of Kedah.

After the conquest, the Sultan of Kedah mandated that the locals must convert to Islam. When the *Orang Laut Kappir* refused to abandon their own religion and convert to Islam, they were forced out of Langkawi. The survivors sailed away and ended up on Koh Lanta, east of Phuket Island. Since then, they have taken up a nomadic lifestyle, living off the sea for sustenance.

If this theory is correct, it would mean that the *Urak Lawoi* are the first people to settle on Koh Lanta and their history there would date back more than 500 years. Many

Urak Lawoi in Thailand today still refer to Koh Lanta Yai as their original home but regard *Gunung Jerai* (Langkawi) as their sacred place and ancestral home.

Today, a small population of *Urak Lawoi* and *Moken* also live in Phuket. Of the few villages that remain, one of the most notable is the settlement near Rawai Beach.

In one of his articles, writer Montri Thipsak interviews Ri, the village doctor of the *Chaolay* villages in Rawai, to find out more about their history. The *Urak Lawoi* people have no written language and no recorded history. They hand down their history by telling stories, from generation to generation. It is their way of keeping their history alive.

Ri said that the first *Urak Lawoi* settled in Rawai around 700 years ago at the tip of Rawai cape. Not long after, their village began to grow. Other ethnicities, such as the *Moken* also came to live in the area. During that time there lived a doctor named Yung Lawai in the *Chaolay* village. He was a selfless man who did much to help his community. His main contribution was to help the sick, using his magic spells to heal them. Doing it sincerely in the hopes of helping to cure his fellow villagers made him very popular with the *Urak Lawoi* and *Moken* alike.

According to Ri, when Yung Lawai died, he was buried on Koh Hay (Coral Island), not far offshore from where he had lived. After his death, the beach that was near the *Urak Lawoi* settlement became known as Lawai. In time it corrupted to Rawai.

Ri says that there are two main ethnic groups of *Chaolay* that live in Rawai: the *Uruk Lawoi* and the *Moken*. According to a 2007 census, the *Chaolay* population in Rawai number around 2,600 people, living in 220 households, on an area covering 19 rai, that Ri says was granted to his people by HM the King.

The different *Chaolay* ethnicities have maintained their own unique customs, religious beliefs and even their own language for centuries.

However, their language is more closely linked to Malay than Thai and their unfamiliar customs are considered very unusual. For this reason, they have been somewhat alienated



NOMADS: Kabang are sturdy vessels, traditionally used by the *Chaolay* as fishing boats.



A quaint *Chaolay* village located on Surin Island. Photos: Anand Singh

from Thai society in general.

The *Chaolay* may have been one of the first settlers on the island but today they are often seen as maintaining a foreign culture. For this reason, the Thai government has made several attempts to assimilate them into mainstream Thai society, sometimes with limited success.

Ri said that in 1965, HRH the Princess Mother coined the term 'Thai-Mai', or 'new-Thais' to refer to the *Chaolay*, in order to remind people that the different ethnicities that live within Thailand are nonetheless Thais, regardless of their cultural differences.

The Princess Mother also granted many *Chaolay* families Thai surnames with meanings that linked to *Chaolay* traditions, including *Chang-nam* (water expert), *Haad-Sai-Thong* (gold-sanded beach) and *Kla-Talay* (brave sea).

These surnames can sometimes be used to identify their origins. The *Chaolay* people living on Tarutao, Adang, Rawi and Lipe islands bear the surname *Kla-Talay*, or *Harn-Talay*.

In Phuket, many *Chaolay* bear the surname *Pramongkit* (fishery) and on Lanta island, a lot of the *Chaolay* bear the surnames *Talay-luk* (deep sea) and *Changnam*.

Discovering Australia Day

THIS Saturday, January 26, millions of Australians will be celebrating Australia Day, marking 225 years since the First Fleet led by Capt Arthur Phillip rowed ashore at Sydney Cove, claiming Australia.

The fleet, comprising 11 ships that left England on May 13 that year, actually arrived off Botany Bay somewhere between January 18 and 20, but immediately found the area unsuitable. Botany Bay later became a penal colony.

On January 21, Capt Phillip and a handful of officers made their way to Port Jackson, which they thought was a much better place to live, much like the aborigines who were already there to greet them.

Two days later, Capt Phillip ordered the fleet to move into Sydney Cove, which he had now

renamed Port Jackson, and is now better known as Circular Quay, in Sydney's central business district.

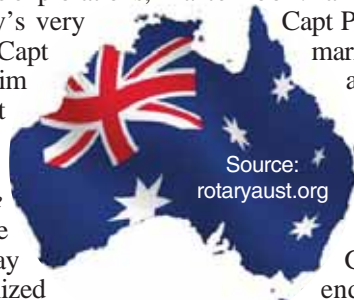
At this stage, all these first forays onto *Terra Australis* were nothing more than site explorations, possibly the country's very first beach picnics. Capt Phillip had yet to claim Australia. It wasn't until the British spotted the French ships; the *Astrolabe* and the *Boussole* at the entrance to Botany Bay that Capt Phillip realized

the beach party was over, and that he had to move quickly. However, a storm had blown in and the British fleet could not find a way out of Botany Bay, just as the two French ships could not get in. Come

January 25, the gale was still blowing and only the HMS *Supply*, carrying Capt Phillip, made it out of the bay and up to Sydney Cove, where they anchored in the afternoon. Early on January 26,

Capt Phillip, a few dozen marines, some officers and some 'obligatory' oarsmen rowed ashore and took possession of the land in the name of King George III. After enduring their intro-

duction to the Australian habitat, the ships finally managed to clear Botany Bay and sail to Sydney Cove. The last ship anchored just in time for tea. The rest, as they say, is history. - *Phuket Gazette*



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Full cycle

James Mason arrived in Thailand as a morbidly obese young man with five years to live unless he changed his ways. This week he will cycle from Phuket to Bangkok to raise money for children.

By Marc Mulloy

WHILE a certain Mr Armstrong may have brought shame to the world of cycling following recent revelations to a certain Ms Oprah, a certain Mr Mason will be doing just the opposite by using his bicycle to help raise funds for needy children.

On January 29 James Mason will leave Tiger Muay Thai camp in Chalong (one of his main sponsors) and cycle 890 kilometers to Rainbow House, a home for disabled or abandoned children, in Bangkok.

This is no mean feat for even the most accomplished athlete but the challenge becomes even more incredible when you consider that 18 months ago James Mason could not even mount a bicycle let alone ride it.

At that time he weighed 235 kilos and had been given five years to live by a doctor in the UK. James opted to lose the weight the hard way by joining Tiger Muay Thai and MMA to literally slug it out.

In an interview he gave to the *Phuket Gazette* in 2011 he was happy to announce that he had already shed ten kilos.

Fast forward to 2013 and 29-year-old James is now relatively svelte, weighs in at 99 kilos and is about to lose another few during his nine day ride to the capital.

In a recent *Gazette* interview at his home in the plush Little Hill Resort, jogging distance from the camp, he shrugged off any notions that this was a tough undertaking and spoke of his earlier weight loss



You can do anything if you put your mind to it. Many would have given up. I think of those less fortunate than me that have no arms and legs who still compete at an Olympic level.'

challenge: "The hardest thing for me was hearing the comments, both here and back home, about my appearance from those who did not know what I was going through. I just blocked them out and persevered".

If losing 138 kilos in 18 months wasn't hard enough, James has also been beset by other medical problems.

Four months after arriving in Thailand his leg became infected with a rare flesh-eating bacteria called *Necrotizing fasciitis*, which is fatal in 40 per cent of cases. He was hospitalized for over two

weeks and surgery was able to save his leg. It should be mentioned at this point that in the same leg he has no anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), which is a hinderance for an athlete.

When another of his sponsors, Phuket Pro Nutrition, joked that, given the amount of cycling he was doing anyway, he should consider riding to Bangkok he took it as a challenge.

"You can do anything if you put your mind to it. Many would have given up. I think of those less fortunate than me that have no arms and legs who still compete at an Olympic level," says James.

Having succeeded in losing over half of his body weight, he now inspires other people to do the same including local DJ Tom 'The Tank' Somsanuk – a work in progress.

James believes that being in Thailand has made all this possible so he is now ready to give something back. The charity he has chosen, called 'For Life', helps disabled or abandoned children in Thailand and supports four day-care centers, a residential home for up to 50 children and a project that works with 600 children in rural communities.

James' goal is to raise over 100,000 baht for the charity.

He set a departure date for January 29 and started training five hours a day. But, a few days before Christmas, which he celebrated back home in the UK, James caught Dengue Fever, another potentially life threatening mosquito-borne disease.

Through sheer will power and stamina he was able to recover in



BANGKOK BOUND: James is looking forward to putting all of his training into practice and will likely shed a few more kilos on the way.

three weeks and is now fighting fit and ready to roll.

He aims to cycle the 890 kilometers to Nonthaburi in nine days with stopovers roughly 100 kms apart except for the last 205 km leg from Hua Hin which he will do in one day.

His nutritionist, from Phuket Pro Nutrition, will be monitoring him from a support vehicle and other supporters will ride with him some of the way.

And, in case you were wondering how James will be returning to Phuket he will be flying back after a well-deserved rest.

The *Phuket Gazette* is James's main media sponsor and will update readers on his progress both online and on PGTV's weekly TV show 'Phuket Today' on TrueVisions channels 99 and 58. Other sponsors include: TKO Bike Rentals; 02 Beach Club; Celebrity Ink Patong and Lotus Medical International.

You can follow James' progress on Twitter (@masonweightloss), Facebook or on his blog: weightlossthailand.com. Donations can be made at justgiving.com/jamesmasonbikeathon.



LOSING IT: Whereas most people would stop after reaching their desired weight, James Mason just keeps on going. Photos: Marc Mulloy

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 **HONDA**

Learn to speak Aussie

Land of smiles commemorates Australia Day with this quick guide:

- Ankle biter:** A child
- Arse about face:** Back to front
- Arvo:** Afternoon
- Bender:** Heavy drinking session
- Billabong:** Watering hole
- Buckleys:** No chance
- Budgie smugglers:** Men's swimwear
- Bun in the oven:** Pregnant
- Bush pig:** Very unattractive
- Chuck/chunder:** To vomit
- Chuck a wobbly:** Throwing a tantrum
- Cop a squiz:** Take a look
- Dog's breakfast:** Absolute mess
- Drongo:** A fool
- Esky:** insulated portable cooler box
- Fairdinkum:** Is that right?
- Flat out like a lizard drinking:** Doing absolutely nothing
- G'day:** Hello
- Good sport:** Easy going person
- Grumblebum:** Complainer
- Hard yacka:** Hard work
- Kark it:** To die
- Knackers:** Testicles
- Knickers:** Underpants
- Longneck:** Large bottle of beer
- Mad as a cut snake:** Used to describe a fearless person
- Maggot bag:** Meat pie
- Meat wagon:** Ambulance
- Mystery bag:** Meat pie
- No worries:** Term of reassurance or acknowledgement
- Ocker:** Uncouth Australian
- Old cheese:** A friendly term given to a mother
- Piker:** Bore, party pooper
- Prang:** Accident
- Rafferty's rules:** No rules
- Rapt:** Very pleased
- Reckon:** To agree
- Ripper:** A term of approval
- Rip-snorter:** An excellent thing
- Roo:** Kangaroo
- Rotten:** Drunk
- Rug rats:** Children
- Sanga:** Sandwich
- Shelia:** Girl, woman
- Slab:** A tray of beer, usually a total of 24 cans or 'stubbies'
- Snag:** Sausage
- Spit the dummy:** see "Chuck a wobbly"
- Spunky:** A sexy guy or "sheila"
- Stroppy:** Cranky or irate
- Stubbie:** Small bottle of beer
- Taswegian:** A person from Tasmania
- Tea:** Third meal of the day
- Technicolor yawn:** To vomit
- Tinny:** A can of beer
- Togs:** Swimming clothes
- True blue:** Genuinely Australian
- U-eee:** U-turn
- Unreal:** Excellent
- Ute:** A utility truck
- Wharfie:** A dock worker
- Whosiwatsit:** A term for a person when their name is forgotten
- Wig-warmer:** A hat
- Within cooee:** Close by
- Wowser:** Spoilsport
- You beauty:** Wonderful (exclamation)



Hong Kong signs



SELFISH SOAP: That's out of order. Photos by Marc Mulloy during a recent trip to Hong Kong.

The good news about death



DEATH has received very bad press. Nobody has a good word to say about it, and everybody's afraid of it. Fairness requires that somebody should point out the good points of this much-maligned condition.

I'm told that death can significantly impact your life. It's a tricky topic to write about, because nobody knows what it's like. It may be one big long sleep. We get a foretaste of it every night. Nobody is afraid of sleep. Most of us enjoy it. I certainly do. I sleep all the time. I am sleeping as I write this – you can probably tell – so why do we fear death?

Well, it's because death, so far as we know, lasts forever. We don't fear sleep because we know we'll wake up. We don't wake up from death. I wouldn't mind being dead for a few days, or even a few weeks. It would be a nice

vacation. But to keep me dead for all eternity seems an unreasonable imposition on my time.

Many people believe in an afterlife, but convincing evidence is hard to come by. The afterlife, taught by some religions, sounds wonderful – an eternal idyll in the gardens of paradise – but it goes on forever. Most people would be bored silly after two weeks.

The idea of reincarnation, too, is a dreary prospect. If you could remember the lessons you learned in this life, so as to do better in the next life, there might be some chance of making progress. But if you don't remember anything and have to start all over again from scratch. The whole business seems pointless, especially because it's an unending cycle.

The idea of death as an eternal sleep makes sense, and it has advantages that nobody thinks of. You don't have to get up in the morning. You don't have to shave. You don't have to go to work. You don't even have to mow the lawn.

The main advantage is that you don't need anything. You might think about phoning out for a

pizza, but, hey, you're dead. You don't have a mouth, you don't have a stomach. What would you do with a pizza? There would also be the awkwardness of paying the delivery man, because you don't have any money either.

You might want to see a movie. With what eyeballs, pray? You might want to listen to music. With what ears? You don't have a body, so you can't do anything. You don't have a brain, so you can't even WANT to do anything. It's an ideal setup.

In fact, death is such a splendid condition that I can't understand why everybody isn't eager to embrace it immediately. Aside from the personal advantages, there's an altruistic motive. The planet is overpopulated; there are too many of us. We'd be doing the rest of our species a favor by selflessly sacrificing ourselves and getting out of the way. You first.

Ye Olde Curmudgeon confesses that he'll probably want to phone out for a pizza even after he's dead. You can scold him for this inconsistency c/o s.tsow@ymail.com.

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Officials struggle with the burden of Rohingya refugees on the government. Photo: Gazette file

Thailand calls for Asean help to deal with 'boat people'

ETHNIC Rohingya fleeing from Myanmar deserve the attention of Asean as their problems are huge, a panel of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) says.

"This issue is big. It should be addressed at the Asean level. Myanmar is also a member of the regional grouping," panel chairwoman Angkhana Neelapaijit said.

Angkhana said the Thai government must also discuss the Rohingya with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration, the Red Cross and UNICEF.

Senator Jate Sirataranont argued that Thai authorities must send the Rohingya refugees to a third, Muslim country as fast as possible. However, as the process may take time, he believed the government should set up more temporary shelters for them.

Army chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha, however, expressed concern about creating more shelters for the Rohingya. "We can't take in too many people otherwise problems will arise in the long run. We have to take care of our national security," he said.

— *The Nation*

By Leslie Porterfield

THE Andaman coastal provinces of Phang Nga and Ranong, to the north of Phuket, are facing a growing humanitarian crisis as Rohingya refugees, fleeing violence in their homeland, crowd detention centers and strain local facilities.

As officials deal with the day-to-day issues of providing food, shelter and medical aid, one of the refugees explained why so many are increasingly willing to risk their lives traveling 15 days in open boats with little food or water in the hope of a better life.

"It's not our goal to come to Thailand," Mr Samirusen, a refugee, said through a translator. "We just wanted to get away from Burma. We left home because Burmese soldiers forced us out. They killed some of our relatives. During the trip over, many of us were separated from family members who traveled in different boats."

The Thai policy continues to be one of trying to dissuade refugees from coming ashore and repatriating them if they do.

Royal Thai Armed Forces Supreme Commander General Thanasak Patimaprakorn last Friday, said that standard procedures in dealing with illegal immigrants, which stipulate that they be repatriated, should be maintained or else the illegal entry of Rohingya into Thailand would continue.

The next day, last Saturday, the Thai Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC) held an emergency meeting to address the problem. "Abnormally high numbers" of refugees have been arriving since the southwest monsoon eased, leaving calmer waters for them to cross, said ISOC Region 4 Commander Maj Gen Manas Kongpan.

Gen Manas outlined the procedure for dealing with Rohingya arriving by sea: "We send out patrol boats to dissuade them [sic] from coming close to shore. If they come close, we talk to them and persuade them [sic] to con-



This season has seen boatloads of Rohingya flee their homeland, including women and children. Photo: NoDirectionHome

tinue their voyage; if they land, we provide them with fuel and humanitarian aid," he said.

This policy was first laid out last March, entitled, "Protecting the Andaman".

Under that policy, the foremost goal of Thai authorities is to keep the Rohingya from landing on Thai soil.

Gen Manas noted that ISOC had repelled 21 Rohingya boats and the Third Naval Area Command had turned away seven in the two months after the southwest monsoon eased last year, from October to early December 2012.

Increased vigilance has been ordered for the points at which the Rohingya tend to enter: In Ranong province the islands of Koh Sinnai, Koh Chang, Koh Payam and Koh Kam Yai, which stretch along the

Kapoe and Suk Samran District coastlines; and in Phang Nga province in the districts of Kuraburi, Takuapa and Tai Muang.

RECENT HISTORY

Phuket saw the first group of refugees this year on January 1 when 73 people were apprehended floating in an open boat off Koh Bon. Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut reported that these Rohingya had voluntarily agreed to be repatriated to Myanmar, a statement which came under fire by the New York-based organization Human Rights Watch.

On January 14, hundreds of Rohingya were spotted in nine boats off the coast of Lam Kaen in Phang Nga's Tai Muang District.

On January 17, 20 officers from the Takuapa Border Patrol Police along with Kuraburi District Police Superintendent Col Weerasil Kwanseng arrested 171 Rohingya offshore from Koh Phra Thong.

"We were told by fishermen there were two boats with many people on board floating in the sea 10 nautical miles west of Koh Phra Thong," Col Weerasil said.

"On the boats, we found 171 Rohingya from Rakhine State. There were 139 men, 12 women and 20 children between 2-8 years old," he said.

"They were on their way to look for work in Thailand or Malaysia. All of them were tired and hungry. We gave them food and water and turned them over to Phang Nga Immigration," he added.

Humanity and kindness first: Phuket Governor

I DID not make the Rohingya policy. It is a national policy and it is my job and that of other authorities on the island to implement it.

The Thai Government sees the Rohingya as people in need, like patients who need treatment.

Our mandate is to give them food, drink, fuel and health care.

We are responsible for helping the Rohingya only when they reach

Phuket waters. Once they do, we will take care of them case by case, depending on the condition of the people and the boats. I believe in treating the Rohingya with

humanity and kindness. This includes voluntary deportation.

Phuket dealt with more than 70 Rohingya when a boat came ashore on January 1. They asked for food, drink and fuel so they could continue their journey.

At first we planned to give them fuel to continue to Malaysia. However, the sea was very rough that day. More importantly, their boat was not in good enough condition for them to travel that far, especially considering they had already been at sea for two weeks.

You would need to have seen them

with your own eyes to understand.

They were very exhausted because of their long journey.

It was as though you planned to ride a bicycle with flat tyres to Chiang Mai. You wouldn't do that, would you? And I wouldn't let you.

On that day, their leader was the one who decided that "repatriation" was the best choice. It was a voluntary deportation. Safety with humanity was our guiding principle.

We want to deal with this issue humanely, but also smoothly, in order to maintain tourist confidence in Phuket as a world-class tourist destination.

— *Chutharat Plerin*



Governor Maitri Inthusut Photo: Gazette file

stuck in Thai purgatory

STRAINING CAPACITY

The growing numbers of refugees are straining the immigration detention facilities in Phang Nga, according to Phang Nga Governor Thamrong Charoenkul. "While they are waiting to be deported, we do not have enough space for them," he said.

The Phang Nga detention center, already housing refugees brought in last November, currently has 214 people in it, he said. "But it was built to house 150."

"We have sent over 40 women and children, including one pregnant woman, to Takuapa, 22 men to Ranong, and we have moved others to Phang Nga Provincial Police Station near the provincial immigration office," he said.

Touring detention centers last Friday, Governor Thamrong urged his officers to take good care of the refugees, ensuring the migrants, especially the women and children, had adequate space

to stay and sufficient food.

On Monday, Dararat Suthet, the head of the welfare shelter in Khukkhak, just north of Khao Lak, told the *Gazette* that Public Health officers were in the shelter vaccinating 46 refugee women and children and giving medical checkups.

Volunteers were bringing donations of dried food and personal items, she said. "We are grateful for the donations but we still need more - dried food, especially food marked

halal." Personal necessities, including toothbrushes, toothpaste and sarongs, were also needed.

Officials are in particular need of translators in order to communicate with the refugees so that the officers can provide better care.

Khukkhak Mayor Sawat Tankeng said, "Since the shelter is at near capacity, I ordered municipal staff to bring public facilities, such as mobile toilets and water trucks to enable the women and children to shower."

'When our brothers and sisters are in trouble, we must lend a hand. We are looking after these people because we are all equal. Everyone should have the chance to live equally.'

- Sgt Maj Komon Doomluck

BROTHERHOOD OF MAN

Islamic Officials from Phuket and Ranong have also called for donations. Komon Doomluck, of the Central Islamic Council of Thailand and the Phuket Islamic Committee said, "I would like to ask everyone in Thailand to lend a hand to help these people who left a troubled place for a better life."

Surachet Prasongpol, of the Ranong Islamic Subcommittee, led a team to donate food, drink and daily personal effects, and called for more aid.

"Anyone in the area who is willing to help, please come and lend a hand. We are concerned about them as they are our brothers," he said.

THE FUTURE

If anything is certain it is that Thailand will get plenty of practice dealing with refugees in the coming days and weeks.

A refugee on Monday foretold to officials that five more vessels were allegedly at sea and heading this way, reported *The Nation*.

Additional reporting by Chutharat Plerin and Kritsada Mueanhawong

Brief history of the Rohingya

THE Rohingya are a persecuted minority group from Rakhine State, Western Myanmar, ethnolinguistically related to the people of India and Bangladesh. They number approximately 800,000.

- 1430s** First Bengali settlements in Arakan State (Rakhine State).
- 1800s** British colonials allow free migration from Bengal to Arakan - thousands migrate.
- 1947** Rohingya attempt to join newly formed Pakistan.
- 1962** Burmese military restrict Rohingya freedom and try to drive them out of the country.
- 1970s** Emergency Immigration Act denies Rohingya citizenship.
- 1977** Government anti-foreigner program leads to attacks.
- 1978** 200,000 Rohingya flee to Bengal.
- 1982** Citizenship Law requires Burmese ancestry established back to 1823, denies Rohingya and other ethnic groups citizenship, and therefore education and freedom of movement.
- 1991-92** Widespread repression and abuse force 260,000 Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh.
- 2012** Violent conflict between Rohingya Muslims and ethnic Rakhine lead to state of emergency - Rohingya are targets of mass arrests and arbitrary violence. Rohingya are not included in the Myanmar Government's list of ethnic groups.

Source: UNHCR

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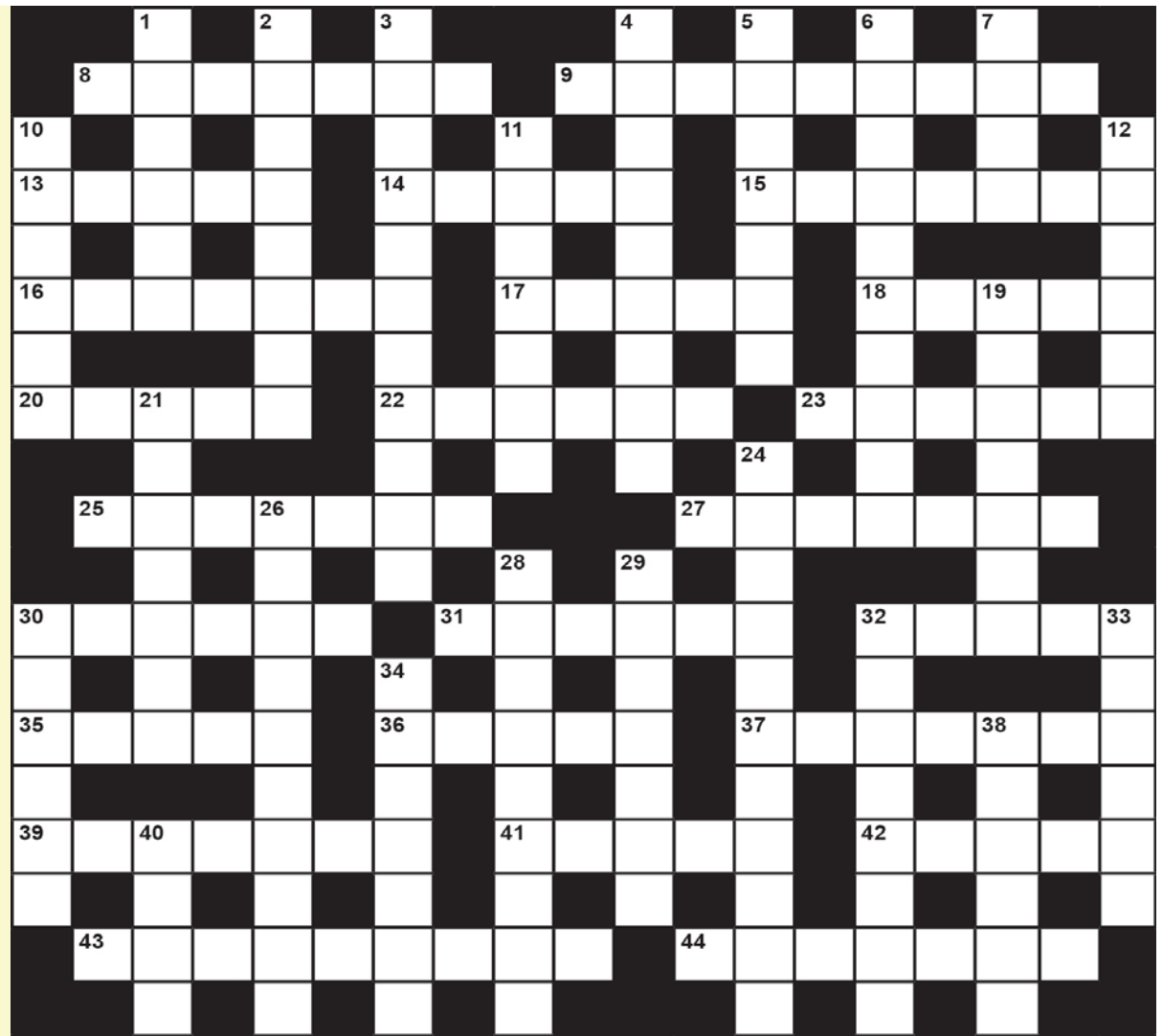
SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE break

Across:

- 8. Actuality I forward in clique (7)
- 9. Characteristic shows a mere part (9)
- 13. A mob, a gathering, President! (5)
- 14. Oporto loses nothing supplying a group of soldiers (5)
- 15. Gossip may possibly alter cover of teetotaler (7)
- 16. Honest, South East Asia has blue water (4,3)
- 17. Forbid little Josephine to have an instrument (5)
- 18. Color of melon (5)
- 20. Unknown eras, possibly ages (5)
- 22. Partner maybe not right for a surgical procedure (6)

- 23. Anne hides previous husband in a separate building (6)
- 25. Farm vehicle in piece of land round river (7)
- 27. Chore I'm working on for the heroic in character (7)
- 30. Personal Assistant to no good Phuket nightlife center (6)
- 31. Possibly roots verse in Black Sea port (6)
- 32. Shut up, pounded (5)
- 35. Raging, I raid the lines leaving the center (5)
- 36. Learner moving eye round river is wary (5)
- 37. Ere doe turns right, see small graceful animal (3,4)
- 39. Strip into ordinary uniform (7)
- 41. I bail out of proof that I was not at the scene of the crime (5)
- 42. One Frenchman with girl's name (5)
- 43. Credits Pa maybe ran through (9)
- 44. More comprehensible class note could be rare (7)



Down:


- 1. Mate, skillful sportsman in the Royal home! (6)
- 2. A time girls produce reference books (8)
- 3. A binding arrangement, no I turn up shortening the original phrase (11)
- 4. Mother, I write right, first class Thai, it doesn't matter! (3,3,3)
- 5. Warning, I.O.U. can't sort it out (7)
- 6. Silence, pet, about the epidemic (10)
- 7. Leap into ring! (4)

- 10. Company left round New York settlement (6)
- 11. Warrant Officer, note bachelor, went in front, was not steady (7)
- 12. Cavort, maybe caper about around the North (6)
- 19. Get me in as arranged to gathering (7)
- 21. Gassy dear, eat carefully (7)
- 24. Open car, cover in, belt around (11)
- 26. Study ten nice moves to indicate chastity (10)
- 28. Housewife in residence. Mark

- moving out, note! (9)
- 29. Remains at home, say isn't out (5,2)
- 30. Work up, ours may be full of holes (6)
- 32. Call Eric out of the priesthood (8)
- 33. Doctor has maybe more in the window (6)
- 34. Clasp, it may be flexible (7)
- 38. Girl, boy, levelled (6)
- 40. Challenge a red unwisely (4)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Answers in page 31.


AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

 Closure is forecast to come as a relief for many Aquarians. If this relates to business, the stars advise reading between the lines before signing important agreements. If a romantic relationship is on the rocks, there are hints that you will be glad to leave this situation behind. Those with a birthday in the week ahead should find it easier to have fun in the coming year. Your lucky number this week is five.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):


 A calmer outlook on life helps Pisceans to end the month in a more peaceful frame of mind. Those who missed out on a work related opportunity earlier this month could get a second chance, but timing will be the key. The stars advise being especially alert to opportunities on Wednesday and Thursday. Possible romance with another water sign can be affected by misleading information. Number seven looks fortunate this week.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):


 Breaking news early in the week will take some of those born under the sign of Aries by surprise. The stars indicate that your quicksilver

thinking will help you to rise to new challenges in the world of work. Romance with an earth sign blooms, but too many differences become apparent where a possible relationship with another fire sign is concerned. Number nine shines for Arians this week.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):

 A series of minor irritations at the start of the week may make some Taureans suspect that the tide is against them. However, the stars indicate that the astral clouds will lift as January draws to a close, with most things going your way in February. Romance with another earth sign is smooth, but a fire sign's behavior could make you see red this weekend. Number two can lead to good luck this week.


GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

 There are signs that Geminis might not have considered all options where a work related issue is concerned. The stars advise listening to an earth sign as this person could have valuable insight and the right contacts. Your luck in love peaks at the end of January – those who have wanted to get closer to another air sign should soon see how to do this. Number one stands out this week.


YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

 Home is where the heart is for those born under the sign of Cancer this week. There are signs that recent stress in your life has caused you to creep into your shell and the stars advise that this is no bad thing. Time out will recharge tired batteries and encourage clarity. Romance with a fire sign partner picks up pace this weekend. Your lucky number this week is six.


LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

 Money matters are well starred at the end of January, with the spotlight shining on compensation finally being paid to those who have been waiting for this. The stars advise Leos looking for love to cast their nets wider. There are hints that you could meet your soul mate beyond the usual social circle. Lost objects are likely to come to light during the days ahead. The number eight can bring good fortune this week.


VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

 Financial gain can come from an unusual source at the end of January, but the stars show that you will need to think outside the box. It would not be wise to share this development with anyone who hasn't proved their trust in the path – another earth sign has no qualms about profiting from your success. Dazzling days for romance are Sunday and Monday. Virgoans' lucky number this week is four.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

 The stars suggest that Librans need to put more effort into relationships as January draws to a close. In the world of work, another air sign is finding it hard to understand signals you have been sending – Wednesday is the most auspicious day for reaching mutual understandings. Where romance is concerned, joint finances can cause arguments with a water sign this weekend. Number five comes alive this week.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

 Technology is forecast to be tricky at the end of January and Scorpios could have to cancel or delay appointments at the last minute. Those who were hoping to finalize an agreement with another water

sign will benefit from waiting until next month; the stars suggest that new information can shed helpful light on this matter. Hot days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday. Number six can bring good fortune this week.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

 Where possible new employment is concerned, grasping at straws can put Sagittarians at a disadvantage. The stars advise waiting until the start of February as your negotiating skills will be stronger then. Friendship with an air sign could be put to the test when you learn that this person has been talking behind your back. Fortunate days for finances are Monday and Tuesday. The number three can lead to good luck this week.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

 Capricorns who have been considering radical relocation should get a green light at the end of January. There are hints that lack of family support might make you wonder whether this is the right thing to do – Tuesday is the most auspicious day for honest talks. Creative hobbies will help you to release stress this weekend. Best days for romance are Sunday and Monday. Number seven looks lucky this week.

Sport

Football league seeking new backers

By Keith Weir

WHILE the Premier League generates recession-busting revenue increases, times are tougher for the 72 football clubs outside the elite as they battle for media exposure and commercial deals.

Those clubs comprise the three-tier Football League, which features such illustrious names as former champions Nottingham Forest and Leeds United in its top division.

Condemned to the role of poor relation since the Premier League teams broke away two decades ago, the Football League is polishing up its own marketing act, emphasising its ability to reach millions of supporters across the country.

It is negotiating with new sponsors and plans an early start on television contract renewal talks to tap in to the growing sporting rivalry between BSkyB and BT.

"We have a very interesting year ahead. We have our title partnership and the renegotiation of our television contract," the Football League's Chief Commercial Officer Richard Heaselgrave said.

The sponsorship is the most pressing item on the agenda for Heaselgrave, who has been in the job for a year after working for American basketball's NBA and Euro-

pean soccer's ruling body, UEFA.

Energy company npower, part of Germany's RWE, is in the final few months of its three-year Football League sponsorship, but change looks inevitable after the exclusivity period for renewal ended without agreement.

"We're negotiating with them, [but] we're also negotiating hard with new partners," Heaselgrave said in an interview.

"There are a number of companies who would like to buy in to this enormous fan base."

For its part, npower said that talks were continuing.

Premier League and Football League executives work from the same building in London's West End shopping district.

The neighbours, however, are separated by a growing chasm when it comes to television revenue – the main driver of the Premier League's commercial success.

Premier League clubs will share an annual bounty of more than 1 billion pounds (US\$1.6 billion) thanks to a new domestic TV deal with pay television company BSkyB and telecoms heavyweight BT, which begins in August.

By contrast, the Football League's TV deal with BSkyB is worth only 65 million pounds a season under a three-year deal



MONEY GOAL: West Ham's Vaz Te scores in the Championship Playoff final. Photo: Reuters

that began in 2012.

Though less than a year into the current agreement, Heaselgrave wants to make an early start on negotiating the next TV deal, saying that the entry of BT into the sports rights market has changed the landscape.

"We'll start conversations this year. There is a buoyant market there," Heaselgrave said.

The riches on offer through winning promotion to the Premier League have encouraged wealthy overseas investors to buy clubs pushing for promotion from the Championship, as the second tier is now known.

Championship leaders Cardiff City are owned by Malaysians, while second-placed Leicester City have Thai backers.

Leeds United were bought last month by a Dubai-based financial company, while Kuwaitis own former European champions Nottingham Forest.

Heaselgrave says that foreign investment allows the Football League to tap in to overseas markets that already pay a premium for top-flight English football.

The increase in foreign ownership has enabled the Football League to identify several new potential audiences, with overseas fans keen to watch their adopted teams.

"That's an opportunity," Heaselgrave said. "It's a menu of games we suddenly have. You have to be able to sell TV on a more bespoke market-by-market basis, and that is what we are doing now." – Reuters

Betting and match-fixing threaten football

MATCH-fixing and illegal betting are the biggest threats to the future of football, UEFA president Michel Platini said on Monday.

Although racism and incidents of crowd violence have also plagued the sport, Platini said the end of uncertainty about results would kill passion for the game and even the sport itself.

"Racism, violence do not affect just football but the public. On the other hand, we are directly concerned by match-fixing," he told French radio RTL when asked about the main threat to football.

"For me, this is the big shame. If tomorrow, we go watch a game already knowing the outcome, football is dead."

Match-fixing and betting have long been a concern for football authorities who have had to deal with high-profile recent cases, including one which cost Napoli, second in Italian Serie A, a two-point penalty.

Platini also discussed racism, praising AC Milan midfielder Kevin-Prince Boateng for walking off the pitch during a match this month in protest against abuse.

"It was wonderful. I really liked it a lot. I even called AC Milan to congratulate them," he said.

Asked about the threat posed by doping in the light of former cyclist Lance Armstrong's confessions, Platini said such an organized cheating system was not possible in football.

"You can never say never. But I think we would know," he said.

The three-times world player of the year, head of European football governing body's for six years, refused to comment on his plans for the future and reports that he might try to become the next FIFA president.

He said he wanted to "keep fighting in order for football to keep being a game" and reiterated that he will fight for Qatar to stage



UEFA President Michel Platini speaking in Dubai. Photo: Reuters

the 2022 World Cup during the European winter.

"In 2010 in South Africa, the temperature was five degrees at 5 p.m.

It was a celebration but I did not see anything ... We have to play the World Cup at the best moment to stage the World Cup," he said. – Reuters



TEAM	PTS
1 Man Utd	56
2 Man City	51
3 Chelsea	45
4 Tottenham	41
5 Everton	38
6 Arsenal	34
7 Liverpool	34
8 WBA	34
9 Swansea	33
10 Stoke	29
11 Sunderland	28
12 West Ham	27
13 Norwich	26
14 Fulham	25
15 Southampton	23
16 Newcastle	21
17 Aston Villa	20
18 Reading	19
19 Wigan	19
20 QPR	15



Robshaw chosen to be England rugby captain

ENGLAND have re-appointed Chris Robshaw as England captain ahead of the Six Nations tournament, the Rugby Football Union said in a statement on Monday.

Forward Chris Robshaw, 26, captained Stuart Lancaster's England side to second in last year's tournament and also to a surprise win over top-ranked New Zealand in December.

"There are other leaders in the squad that Stuart could have turned to so I am really honored. I am really pleased to be asked again," Robshaw, who was won 12 caps, said in the statement.

Lancaster said the other leaders in the squad would combine with Robshaw to help England improve following their 38-21 defeat of world champions New

Zealand last year.

"We have a number of leaders and I know they will all take this team forward with Chris as we look to kick on from that result," said Lancaster.

England, who two years ago ended a Six Nations drought dating back to 2003, open this year's campaign against Scotland at Twickenham on February 2.

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Vanessa-Mae swaps bows for poles

INTERNATIONAL Sport

By Belinda Goldsmith

VIOLINIST Vanessa-Mae has put music on hold for a year and is rehearsing for a new role – skiing for Thailand at the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, in February 2014.

Vanessa-Mae, 34, is in training with the aim of competing in at least five internationally recognized events to qualify for the giant slalom and possibly the slalom at the Sochi Olympics.

“People are surprised when they see me skiing – a classical violinist, Oriental, who has lived in the city all her life,”



Vanessa-Mae on stage in Prague.

Vanessa-Mae told *Reuters* in a telephone interview.

“But it has been my dream to be a ski bum since I was 14. This is what I am determined to do.”

The violinist is a British citizen but she also holds a Thai passport. She was born in Singapore to a Chinese mother and a Thai father, but she was brought up in England when her mother remarried a Briton.

Vanessa-Mae, whose full name is Vanessa-Mae Vanakorn

Nicholson, would be only the second Thai to compete at a Winter Olympics if she qualified. Academic Prawat Nagvajara represented Thailand in cross-country skiing at the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics and the 2006 Turin Winter Olympics.

“I wanted to compete for Thailand because there is a part of me which I have never celebrated – being Thai,” said Vanessa-Mae. “My father, like most Thais, has never skied but he’s really excited about me doing this as is the Thai Olympic Committee.”

Vanessa-Mae started skiing at the age of 4 but music has always been her priority. She made her international professional debut aged 10 and made her mark on the world stage when she broke from tradition and became known for her sexy, glamorous style and for mixing classical music with pop.

Her first techno pop-style album, *The Violin Player*, was released in 1995 and reached No. 11 in the UK albums chart and she has not stopped touring since, although she has not released a new album since 2004.

Vanessa-Mae said she had always wanted to spend more time on her other passion, skiing, so she moved to the Swiss alpine



FIRE AND ICE: Russian ice dancers Tatyana Navka (R) and Ilya Averbukh hold the Sochi Olympic torch. Photo: Reuters

resort of Zermatt in 2009, where she is now in training for the Olympics. She hopes to compete in her first event by April.

International Ski Federation spokeswoman Riiikka Rakic said Vanessa-Mae was one of five actively registered Thai athletes, so she has a license to compete for Thailand but she needs a minimum of five starts in FIS (*Federation Internationale de Ski*) competitions and certain points to qualify for the Olympics.

“She has a full year to qualify and there are many events so there are

plenty of options still,” said Rakic.

A National Olympic Committee of Thailand spokesman said Vanessa-Mae would be welcome to race for Thailand if she qualified. So far, no Thai athlete has qualified for Sochi.

Vanessa-Mae said she knew it would be tough to make the Olympics but she had given herself a year sabbatical from music to do this – and always worked better with a deadline.

“When it comes to music, I am a perfectionist but when it is skiing, I have no delusions about a

podium or even being in the top 100 in the world,” she said.

“Of course there is a risk that I could break something but life is short and you have to go for it. Just to qualify for the Olympics in my hobby would be a dream come true for me.”

Once Sochi is over, she intends to return to music.

“It’s time for a new album, but doing this will give me a new perspective. Living my dream of being a ski bum is great but the best job in the world is being on stage, making music,” she said. – *Reuters*

Deaf tennis player has high hopes

KOREAN youngster Lee Duck-hee dreams of life at the top of the tennis world. It is a dream shared by elite junior players the world over, but what makes Lee different is that he is deaf.

In a sport in which players lean heavily on their hearing to calibrate their timing, gauge levels of spin and power and feed off the support of the crowd, Lee’s disadvantage is greater than might first be suspected.

But the 14-year-old who has been deaf from birth, refuses to make a big deal of his disability. Lip-reading, then speaking through an interpreter, Lee told reporters at the Australian Open that, in fact, he would rather not even mention his deafness to opponents or officials.

“The one thing that’s difficult is the communication with the umpires, both chair umpires and linesmen,” he said. “I don’t hear the calls, especially the out calls, so sometimes... just continue. That’s kind of difficult but it’s nothing special.”

It happened a number of times during Lee’s second-round clash with Chile’s Christian Garin in the junior event on Monday, a match Lee eventually lost 6-3 6-3.

“I do worry about that because today it happened a lot of times,” said Lee, who gets around his deafness in doubles by lip-reading his partner.



KID KOREA: Lee Duck-Hee at a press conference after his Australian Open exit. Photo: Reuters

“The chair umpire already called “Wait” but I couldn’t hear that, so there were a lot of lets. I wanted to see big [gestures] from the umpire during the match.”

According to the Australian Open, officials received no specific direction before the match to let them know Lee is deaf but on a number of occasions, umpire Thomas Sweeney used his hands to communicate.

For most players, hearing the sound their opponent’s racket makes when they strike the ball is crucial to judging how hard it will be and how to react to the spin on the ball.

Lee copes well, however, and said that

if anything, not hearing anything from the crowd makes life easier on court.

“Actually I don’t care about my disability at any time, and on the court it’s easy to focus on my match because I can’t hear anything,” he said. “So it’s more convenient to play.”

Lee has already proven that he may have what it takes to succeed against the odds, having won the Eddie Herr International, a top under-12 title held each year in Miami.

In Melbourne, he qualified for his first grand slam event and though he was beaten in the second round on Monday, he said he

was determined to return.

“I am really happy to be here for the first time,” he said. “It’s a really good opportunity to judge my ability against other players in the world. I am really happy and hope to be here next year again.”

Lee’s coach, Hoon Park-kyung, said the pair have a special relationship because of the disability.

“Communication between players and coaches in Korea is usually quite simple because the players think that they should obey what they are told,” Hoon said.

“I just wanted us to play together, not just teach him, but say small things and if there are any difficulties, say everything [that needs saying]. That’s the priority.”

At 14, Lee is an outstanding prospect and his ambition is to finish in the top 10 in juniors by the end of this year.

In the longer term, he wants to be world Number 1.

“I actually played with (Roger) Federer,” Lee said, pulling out a photo on his phone of him at an exhibition in Korea, aged eight, sandwiched between Federer and Rafael Nadal.

“Actually, yesterday Federer passed by in the hall and he didn’t recognize me. I was very disappointed. I really wanted to take a picture with him. Maybe I can in the future.” – *Reuters*

The party that sails around and around



THIS year's Bay Regatta, organized by the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC), will be held from January 30 to February 3.

Rows of colorful spinnakers will sail through some of the world's most famous cruising grounds, allowing sailors the chance to enjoy the spectacular scenery and party well into the night at some of the region's most beautiful resorts.

The regatta takes place over four racing days. Registration is on January 30, along with a skippers' briefing and the opening night party at Ao Por Marina.

Racing starts the next morning. The yachts will head out towards Koh Yao Noi, stopping at the

Paradise Koh Yao Boutique Resort & Spa for the evening's party.

On the second day out, February 1, there will be more sailing around Phang Nga Bay before the fleet heads back to Koh Yao Noi in the evening, but this time the party is at the Villaguna Resort & Spa.

For the third day of racing, the yachts head off to Krabi where the fleet has a free night as no regatta party is scheduled.

The competitors head back from Krabi to Ao Chalong for the finish, on the last day of racing, with the regatta participants celebrating at a big bash and final awards ceremony at the 02 Beach Club in Chalong.

Forty plus yachts will compete

in five different classes: Bareboat Charters, Multihull, Cruising B, Cruising A and Racing divisions – with over 200 sailors coming from as far away as Canada, Australia, Russia, Germany and Switzerland.

The regatta started life as "The Phang Nga Bay Regatta" but since it spans three provinces – Phang Nga, Krabi and Phuket – organizers felt it best to change the name to simply "The Bay Regatta". Early on, the regatta was strictly held during the Chinese New Year, but again wanting more flexibility, organizers made the switch to in and around that holiday.

Part of this regatta's special flavor comes from the need to

sleep on one's yacht, since the fleet move to a different anchorage each day. But most serious racing yachts, to save on weight, have neither accommodation, nor most other luxuries on board.

Some dedicated racers nevertheless want to join a lifestyle regatta such as this one, and their crews often have to rough it with blankets on deck and forage for breakfast and lunch from cardboard boxes and ice coolers. The experience leaves memories of more than just spectacular scenery.

The heavier, slower boats might get thoroughly trounced by the speedsters during the day. Come evening, however, when the

comforts of home can be drawn up from the bellies of the heavyweights, the laughter of the cruising and classic boat crews rolls across the anchorage.

Since its inception in 1998, this regatta has also been tagged as the "fun" regatta. Nothing's changed; it just keeps getting better.

The start boat is being supplied by the Royal Langkawi Yacht Club and the event management is being handled by Regattas Asia. Krabi Boat Lagoon and MontClair Wine are the other key sponsors.

The Phuket Gazette and PGTV's Phuket Today are media sponsors of the event. – *Phuket Gazette*



Ranomi Kromowidjojo

Europe's best swimmers train at TSLC

WITH thoughts firmly on the upcoming 15th FINA World Championships to be held in Barcelona, Spain from July 19 to August 4, Dutch swimmers, Ranomi Kromowidjojo and Femke Heemskerk, along with Italian swimmers, Federica Pellegrini and Filippo Magnani, are currently training at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC).

The Dutch national team coach Jacco Verhaeren explains why the Dutch swimmers chose Phuket:

"We came here because now in Holland it's winter and people tend to get sick this time of year. It's healthier for the athletes to be outdoors in the sun training at this

tremendous facility."

The Dutch team also invited retired Olympic hero of the Sydney and Athens games, and one of the greatest swimmers of all time – Pieter van den Hoogenband – to Thanyapura. Hoogenband is there primarily to pass on his experience and knowledge of what it takes to become an Olympic champion to the other swimmers. One of those experiences was breaking the 100m freestyle world record in the semi-finals at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

"I faced Alexander Popov and I knew that to beat Popov, I had to swim under 48 seconds, which to do at that time would be a world record. It was fantastic when I

touched the wall at the end of my race, looked up at the scoreboard and heard the roar from the fans as I had finished in 47:84. But then I had to do it all again in the final."

Ranomi Kromowidjojo and Femke Heemskerk both admitted that they took a long holiday after their exploits at the London Olympics and did things that their grueling training schedules in the lead up to the Olympics prohibited them from doing.

"I had a long break after the Olympics, went on holiday and spent time with friends. I did things I have not had the chance to do in the last few years," Ranomi said.

The fact that the Italian and



Three time Olympic champion Pieter van den Hoogenband (left).

Dutch swimmers will be competing in Barcelona doesn't add any rivalry to the training sessions. In fact, Jacco Verhaeren sees it as a positive thing:

"We are not really battling as we are actually quite good friends with them [Federica Pellegrini and Filippo Magnani]. It's exciting for the swimmers as they get to see each other train and luckily swimming is an open community where people learn from each other."

The facilities at Thanyapura impressed the Dutch Olympic swim team so much that they have signed a deal to use the facility for the next three years. Pieter van den Hoogenband echos the sentiments

of his fellow Dutch swimmers.

"I have always been looking for the best facilities and my coach and team manager told me they'd found something special and you have to see it," Pieter told the *Gazette*. "It will inspire you to swim a little bit they told me. I find myself swimming two times a day."

Pieter's training schedule is a bit more relaxed than the 10 pool sessions, three weight sessions and three dry land sessions a week the swimmers preparing for the World Championships are currently undertaking at TSLC.

Watch these interviews in full on 'Phuket Today'. – *Phuket Gazette*

TNT blow the Village away

THE Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) hosted another enthralling game of cricket between two teams vying for honors in this year's Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels (JLL) Phuket Cricket League.

TNT Cricket (TNT) and the Village Cricket Team (VCT) were both looking to secure their first victory of the season on January 20.

The Village, by virtue of winning the toss, decided to start the day's proceedings.

The Village openers were on song and by the first drinks break, both openers were still at the

crease. TNT debutant Andrew McMillan gave his team their first break-through, sending Platts waltzing back to the pavilion with the score on 60 in the 15th over.

When the third wicket fell, with the score on 94, TNT picked up the pace. Through some inspired fielding and overall good bowling, they started plucking through the Village line-up one by one, with only Murphy showing any mentionable resistance.

Bowlers, Andrew McMillan (4 for 34) and Roshan Jayasuriya (2 for 25), played a big part in

restricting the Village to 164 when the 10th and final wicket fell.

Simon Wetherell and Anthony Dupont took center stage when the TNT batting innings commenced.

With the score on 123 for 3 in only the 18th over, it was clear to all attending that TNT wanted the match to end by scoring a bonus point victory. TNT secured the bonus point victory in the 25th over.

The Village will be hoping to change their fortunes when they take on Jabu days Island Cricket Club in the next fixture on January 27 at 9am. – *Phuket Gazette*



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RESTAURANT
Off Course

Islanders draw with Trang

By Steven Layne

ABOUT 1,000 fans chanced the looming threat of rain last Saturday evening to come out and see the new-look Phuket FC in action against an unexpectedly strong Trang FC, in a friendly match in Phuket Town.

Played under overcast skies at Surakul Stadium, the pre-season friendly did not end up getting washed out by the rain, nor did it reward fans with any goals, with both sides unable to break the scoreless deadlock.

Nonetheless, scoring chances were enjoyed by both sides, with Phuket FC rattling the crossbar a few times and Trang missing a number of glorious opportunities.

Aside from an all-star line-up of both old and new players, Phuket fans were especially pleased and surprised to see local keeper Kampon "Ice" Phatomakkakul suited up for action.

As previously reported, Ice was selected to represent the Thailand national squad in the 27th SEA Games to be held in Myanmar later this year, and he was expected to be at the national team training camp in Chiang Mai.

However, due to a rotating training schedule, Ice will still be available for Phuket some of the time, the *Gazette* has learned.

After the game, Phuket Head Coach Panipol Kerdyam told the *Gazette*: "Today was a good opportunity for me to assess our team. The players were a little exhausted from training everyday, but I was able to assess the areas we need to improve on, whether on running the



SPECIALIST: French midfielder Geoffrey Doumeng strikes a free kick. Photos: Steven Layne

systems or communication between the positions, as well as defending.

"It's a good thing that we drew today... When we face a big team, we need to be 100 per cent ready. In any case, I know where we're at and we're still planning to bring in more players before the season begins."

The *Gazette* also spoke with Brazilian striker Luiz "Dudu" Eduardo, who said: "We had many chances. We're just beginning to work together. The coach had a hard time getting us to successfully execute some

combination plays... Either way, the team played well and we will need to improve on a lot of things so we can hopefully win the [Division 1] championship this year."

Bako, Trang FC's Cameroonian coach, said he was satisfied with his team's performance. "Many of our players had just joined but we did good to stop Phuket and even had a few chances to score. As for Phuket, I was impressed with their midfield, but I think they had trouble finishing the score."

Asked about his goals for the upcoming



Phuket FC line up before their friendly.



Giorgi Tsimakuridze challenges for the ball.

season, Bako was clear: "We need to make it to the Champions League again [by finishing as one of the top two teams in the Division 2 Southern Regional League], so we can get promoted to Division 1 and beyond next year."

Phuket FC veteran Nenebi was in good spirits despite the draw. "This will be my fourth year for the team and I'm happy to continue to play here. We have a good team this year and have a lot of work before us to reach our goal and get promoted."

Mid-season success

THE island's pro futsal team, Phuket United, advanced from the round of 32 of the Thailand Futsal FA Cup after defeating ATP FC 3-2 in a tough match up on January 19.

The match was contested at the Fashion Island Futsal Arena in Bangkok with goals by Teerachi Janmas, Jardel and Akkadet Chuaiklai narrowly securing passage for the Andaman Pearl.

After the match, Assistant Coach Patt "Tum" Sriwijit said his team did not play so well. "We were tired from the travel and the busy league schedule, but luckily we were able to win this match.

It is still not known who they'll meet in the Round of 16 on January 24, as the draw takes place at the time of going to press.

Phuket United came from behind to beat Sripatum Sunrise Sisaket Futsal Club 4-3 in a fantastic and exciting GMM Thailand Futsal League match in Phuket Town on January 16

Played in front of an energetic crowd of about 1,000 fans at Phuket's 4,000 seat-Indoor Sport Complex in Saphan Hin, the match was Phuket's seventh home match of the season and 15th of 30 overall.

Before the game, Phuket head coach Suphol Senapeng told the *Gazette* that the match would be important as it would decide if the team would achieve its first half season aim of finishing as one of the top five teams in the 16-team league.

Prior to the match, Phuket were sitting in 7th place, while their opponents in 5th.

The goal of winning the match and thus swapping rankings with Si Saket would not be easy, and coach Suphol was adamant that his side would have to stop Si Saket's and the league's top scorer, Romualdo Namorato,

who leads the league with 23 goals.

And while Phuket were effective in stopping Romualdo in this match, it would prove to be another Brazilian opponent who was the menace for Phuket.

Francisco Edson opened the scoring in the 4th minute and doubled his side's lead eight minutes later.

Phuket's Brazilian leading scorer, Jackson Santos put Phuket on the board shortly after that.

Play shifted back and forth with intense pace, but the visitors would extend their advantage with Si Saket's Pakorn Samipak scoring in the final minute of the second half to put his side up 3-1.

With lightning speed, Phuket's Benjarong Panphob answered on the other side of the pitch to bring the score 3-2 going into half-time.

A serious half time talk from coach Suphol seemed to be effective as Phuket took control of the game in the second half, enjoying many close shots on goal.

Topping off many missed opportunities, Phuket's latest Brazilian signing Marcos Vinicius finally found the equalizer halfway through the half, bringing the crowd to their feet with a 3-3 score line.

Si Saket pressed Phuket's goal but were unable to find the rhythm that they enjoyed in the first half.

The Andaman Pearl continued to please their fans, many of whom also sported Phuket FC green.

In the 32nd minute, Phuket's Santos making the most of a counter attack, perfectly timed his strike to beat his marker just outside of the area.

The shot pierced the top of the net just



Jackson Santos drives towards goal.

under the cross bar and the crowd went ecstatic, celebrating Santos' 15th goal for the team.

Santos is now the fifth best scorer in the league.

With the clock winding down, Sisaket adapted a power play formation, bringing their head coach/goalkeeper, Setthakornchai Chuenta out of the nets in a final attempt to equalize.

However, the Andaman Pearl's defense was solid, and they held on to win 4-3.

After the game, Sisaket's coach and keeper, Setthakornchai Chuenta told the *Gazette* that he had enjoyed the game, and did not feel so much pressure [in needing to win].

The victory ensures that Phuket move back into 5th place and thus achieve their goal.

The Andaman Pearl travel to commence league play for their 16th fixture of the GMM Thailand Futsal Premier League 2012-2013 season, set to take on table toppers, TOS RBAC Chonburi FC in a tough away match on January 26.

Chonburi, with its all-star national squad line-up, only narrowly prevailed 4-3 over the Pearl a week ago in Phuket, but whether the scoreline will be so close on away turf has yet to be seen.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Two Andaman Pearls picked



Korawit Sae-ngow



Saharat Inpan

TWO Phuket United players, Korawit Sae-ngow and Saharat Inpan, have made Thailand's preliminary futsal squad for the 4th Asian Indoor & Martial Arts Games from June 29 – July 6 at Incheon, South Korea.

The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) held the first Asian Indoor Games in 2005 in Bangkok, the second in Macau in 2007 and the third in Hanoi in 2009.

The OCA then decided to merge the Asian Indoor Games with the Asian Martial Arts Games. This merger created the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, which will be held every four years starting from 2013.

The Indoor Games feature popular TV and viewer-friendly sports, which are not on the Olympic Games schedule. The Martial Arts Games is a multi-sport event that allows athletes to compete in various martial art disciplines that are not featured on the Olympic Games schedule, such as Kurash, Kabbadi and Pencak Silat.

Korawit Sae-ngow and Saharat Inpan will be hoping they make the cut when the squad is dwindled down from 22 players to 14 at a later date.



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