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# Phuket Gazette



## Kung Hei Fat Choi

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**INSIDE TODAY**

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**I HAVE NO IDEA WHY THIS DECISION WAS MADE: OFFICIAL**

# PACC IT UP

**Public sector Anti-Corruption Commission drops investigation into government officials illegally issuing land titles across Phuket**

By **Gazette Reporters**

THE investigation by the Public sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) into allegedly illegally issued land titles covering more than 500 rai of land in Phuket has silently been dropped.

The PACC, set up specifically to fight corruption among government officials, quietly dropped the probe into hundreds of Phuket land titles just days after Col Dusadee Arayawuth, who had initiated the investigation, was transferred to the Ministry of Justice on October 1 last year, the *Gazette* recently discovered.

Among the land titles being investigated were land ownership documents for prime beachfront real estate north of Patong Beach and choice plots along a golf course in Kathu.

One plot under investigation is said to be located in a protected forest. The title for the plot was approved by a former Phuket vice governor and seven officers from related agencies. A hillside resort is now operating on the site.

In the investigation into the hillside resort, Col Dusadee issued a press release naming 16 officers from a variety of government agencies deemed responsible for abusing their positions in the case. Among those listed were officers of the Phuket Land Office, Kathu District Office and Forestry Department.

With the PACC now dropping the inquest, not a single government officer allegedly involved in the illegal issuance of land titles in Phuket...

*Continued on Page 3*



The Public sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) was ordered to drop the probe into hundreds of Phuket land title deeds after Col Dusadee was transferred. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo



## Gazette Guide is out!

The *Gazette Guide* for 2013, Phuket's only hard-copy telephone book, is now on sale throughout the island and across the region.

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## This Week



### Business

Inflation rises ahead of Chinese New Year celebrations. **Page 11**



### Culture

Chinese New Year and St Valentine's Day are on the way. **Page 36**



### Charity

In its third year, the family car rally scavenger hunt is back. **Page 40**



### Humor

Learning about sex before the age of the internet. **Page 42**



### Arts

The Global Battle of the Bands is ready to rock Phuket. **Page 43**



### Sport

Excellent weather and smooth sailing at the Bay Regatta. **Page 50**

Saturday



35 - 23

Sunday



35 - 23

Monday



35 - 23

Tuesday



34 - 23

Wednesday



35 - 24

Thursday



35 - 24

# Fugitive 'Denny' Knudsen arrested on breach of bail

By Chutharat Plerin

WANTED Danish national Dennis Mark Knudsen, 24, has been arrested by Phuket Police.

Mr Knudsen was wanted for breaking bail conditions after he failed to appear at Phuket Provincial Court on January 22.

The court hearing was to resolve a dispute between Mr Knudsen and Australians John Cohen and Adam Shea about a "big bike" worth about 300,000 baht.

Mr Knudsen's failure to appear in court prompted Mr Cohen and Mr Shea to make a "pre-emptive strike" and hunt down the Danish national. That day, the Australians opened fire on Mr Knudsen on Soi Sansabai, near Patong's renowned nightlife district on Soi Bangla, accidentally wounding two German tourists in the process.

However, Mr Cohen and Mr Shea failed to hit their target: Denny Knudsen.

"Mr Knudsen was arrested in another part of the island yesterday [Sunday, February 3]," Patong Police Superintendent Chiraphat Pochanaphan confirmed to the *Gazette* on Monday.

"He has broken bail conditions set by the court and is now back in the court's custody," he added.

The *Gazette* received unconfirmed reports that Mr Knudsen was arrested in Phuket after he trashed a hotel room in the Chalong area. Before going on the run last month, he reportedly trashed another hotel room in Patong to the tune of about 80,000 baht.



Australian John Cohen confessed to police that Dennis Knudsen was the intended target of the street shooting. Photo: Chaichana Keowkaew

After police brought Mr Knudsen in to face unconfirmed charges, the officers realized he was wanted for breaking bail conditions and handed him over to the court, the *Gazette* was told.

However, Chalong Police Superintendent Krittapad Dejintorrasorn denied his officers were involved at all in the arrest, while Col Chiraphat in Patong declined to reveal where Mr Knudsen was taken into custody.

Patong Police Deputy Superintendent Akanit Danpitaksat confirmed to the *Gazette*, shortly

after the attempted assassination, that police were not interested in questioning Mr Knudsen about why he would be targeted on the streets of Phuket.



Arrested: Dennis Knudsen

"Our investigation focuses only on the shooting incident," Lt Col Akanit said. "We have arrested the two suspects [Mr Cohen and Mr Shea] and we have their statements. We are now ready to transfer the case to the public prosecutor.

"The dispute over the [alleged] embezzlement is a separate case to be resolved as a civil matter in the court," he added.

## German tourist dies after fall on rocks at Khao Lak

A GERMAN tourist with a heart condition fell on some rocks and drowned at Khao Lak last week.

Mr Oberle Ovegov, 57, had spent the morning of January 31 playing in the water with his wife. At about 2:30pm, as he was walking on some flat rocks that extend into the sea at Khukkhak, he became dizzy and fell, said Khao Lak Police Inspector Anan Kuaboonkaew.

Mr Ovegov apparently suffered from a heart condition that may have prompted his dizziness and fall, Lt Col Anan explained.

"He landed between the rocks and the sea, and waves repeatedly hit him and slammed him into the



Police and medical personnel at the scene, with the rock from which Mr Ovegov fell in the background.

rock," he added.

A group of Thais and foreigners worked to free him for 30 minutes, but by the time they got him out he had drowned, Col Arun said. - *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

## Kata jet-ski operator denies taking 'anchor swing' at tourist's head

A JET-SKI operator who crushed a tourist's motorcycle helmet and, witnesses say, swung a boat anchor at him has been found and agreed to pay for the helmet.

However, the jet-ski operator denied that he tried to attack the tourist.

Karon Police are calling for the tourist to present himself to receive compensation for his damaged helmet.

A witness to the incident that took place on Monday explained to the *Gazette* that the jet-ski operator had mounted his jet-skis onto a trailer and was towing them off the beach just before sundown when the wheels of the trailer ran over the German man's belongings on the sand.

"The German man had his sunglasses and a few other things damaged, but all he wanted was for the jet-ski operator to pay for the broken motorbike helmet, which belonged to a rental shop," the witness said.

"The beach boy refused and they had an argument... After a while, the German man gave up and



ANYONE SEEN A GERMAN TOURIST? Police urge the German tourist who was reportedly attacked to present himself at Karon Police Station.

started walking away, but the boy picked up a small anchor from the trailer and ran after him," he added.

"It wasn't until a woman saw what was happening and screamed that the German man looked back and saw the boy coming at him with the anchor. The German started running at the same time the boy swung the anchor at him. The anchor missed his head by about half a meter," said the witness.

The German ran down onto the beach, and the jet-ski operator gave chase.

"When the boy realized that

everyone on the beach was staring at him, he turned and walked away," the witness said.

Police at first appealed for the public's help in identifying the operator, but after the German tourist described him, were able to locate him and bring him in to the station.

"The boy was born and raised in Phuket," said Col Werawat Juntharavijit, the newly installed Superintendent of the Karon Police.

The jet-ski operator admitted that he had pulled his trailer over the German's belongings, and that they had argued, but he denied trying to attack him, Col Werawat said.

"He agreed to compensate the tourist for the helmet," he added.

Although the German tourist reported the incident at the Karon Police station, police say they do not have his name because he left in a rush.

Col Werawat asked anyone with information about the German man to contact Karon Police Station at 076 396393.

- *Orawin Narabal*

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Narongsak Dang-ngam landed in the hands of police during a routine stop. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Prison guard shooter nabbed in traffic stop

A RANDOM stop of two men at a checkpoint in Phuket Town on the night of January 31 netted police drugs, guns and a man wanted since last year for attempted murder of a Phuket Prison guard and alleged theft of the guard's 3 million baht.

Police stopped Narongsak Dang-ngam, 36, and Nikom Srisoi, 45, at checkpoint on Soi Surin 3, at about 11:30pm.

Police found a .357 handgun in Mr Narongsak's pants pocket and 25 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) in the pickup.

The two men were taken to Phuket City Police Station and charged with drug and gun possession. While processing the arrest, police discovered Mr Narongsak was wanted on an outstanding arrest warrant for assault with intent to kill.

On June 27 last year, Narongsak is alleged to have shot prison officer Darunun Teepapan near Wat Chalong and robbed him of 3 million baht, Lt Col Prawit Engchua of Phuket City Police explained.

Police searched the men's shared room on Surin Road and found 1,626 pills of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) under the bathroom sink.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

# Fight for Racha goes on

## After eight months, villagers hope island beauty can be saved

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE ongoing struggle to protect the beauty and environmental health of the tourist-popular Racha Yai Island, about 25 kilometers south of Phuket, continued on Tuesday in a meeting with Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa.

Santi Chandi, representative of Racha Yai residents, asked the vice governor to solve the problems she had promised to solve at a meeting in May 2012.

At that meeting, environmentalists told V/Gov Sommai that Koh Racha faced environmental damage due to some resort owners improperly disposing of trash and wastewater. They also complained that resort developers were cutting down trees in forests on the island.

V/Gov Sommai promised to have environmental protection measures in place within two months.

Six months later, Mr Santi filed a formal complaint asserting government inaction.

On Tuesday, Mr Santi tried again, urging the government to take action to protect the island.



Among the complaints by Racha residents was hotel operators improperly disposing of trash on the island. Photo: Gazette file

He also added a new complaint to the list, one already familiar to Phuket residents: foreigners taking local jobs.

Mr Santi cited Chinese and Korean operators promoting diving for non-divers, in which tourists don a helmet attached to an oxygen supply tube in order to go helmet diving.

"These operators used to hire local longtail boats, but now they have their own longtail boats and don't rent from us anymore.

"And they are hurting our local dive operators by stealing their customers," Mr Santi said.

He asked responsible officers to investigate the issue.

V/Gov Sommai admitted that



Vice Governor Sommai



The deforestation on Racha Yai is easily seen on Google Earth.

solutions to the island's problems had been slow in coming. "I will order departments who are responsible for these problems to check and fix them," she said.

Officers were to conduct an inspection of Koh Racha on Thursday and propose solutions directly to V/Gov Sommai "in order to move Koh Racha forward".

## Full-scale tsunami drill not to be sounded in Russian

PHUKET's annual full-scale tsunami evacuation drill will be held at Karon Beach on February 21, but the tsunami warning messages will not be announced in Russian.

The drill will be held in two stages, at 9:30am and 1pm, in order to test different emergency response teams and their response times, with all relevant agencies taking part under the co-ordinated command of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Phuket office (DDPM-Phuket)

To announce the drill, the normal tsunami warning and cancellation messages will be

played, DDPM-Phuket chief San Jantharawong confirmed to the *Gazette*.

However, the messages will not be broadcast in Russian. As previously reported by the *Gazette*, the tsunami warning message and the cancellation message are announced in Thai, English, German, Chinese and Japanese.

The lack of Russian language in the tsunami warning messages has raised serious concerns among many of Phuket's leading tourism figures. The absence is glaring since Russia is now the second-largest source market for tourists visiting Phuket.

To prevent confusion like that which followed the tsunami scare on April 11 last year, when the warning towers along the Andaman seaboard sounded the alarm to evacuate, officers will tomorrow begin erecting signs in Thai and English to announce the drill, Mr San said.

"I talked with Karon Municipality today, asking them to help announce the drill to local residents and tourists in the area. We will also post signs and have sound trucks announce the drill in Thai and English," he added.

- Orawin Narabal

## Land corruption probe dropped

From page 1

will be brought to answer by the PACC.

"The new Secretary-General, Pokpiboon Potranun, shut down the 'Special Operations Unit' set up by Col Dusadee to carry out the investigation into land titles being illegally issued in Phuket," the government officer told the *Phuket Gazette* on condition of anonymity.

"The order to close the special operations unit, order number 45/55, was announced on October 10, 2012," he said.

"I have no idea why this decision was made. I just have to follow the order," he added.

The officer said that among the plots that will no longer be investigated were:

- 65 rai at Freedom Beach, south of Patong
- 300 rai in a protected forest area in the Kamala Hills
- 3 rai in Kalim



Pol Lt Gen Wirote Pao-in (center) and Prompong Nopparit (right) inspect alleged illegal land titles in Phuket last year. Photo: Gazette file

- 30 rai on the border of Kamala and Kalim subdistricts
  - 45 rai at Baan Nakalay, in Kamala
  - 57 rai near a golf course in Kathu
  - 20 rai at Laem Mai Ngao, in Karon
  - 50 rai at Laem Tukkae, on Koh Sireh
  - 20 rai near King Rama IX Park (Suan Luang) in Phuket Town
- While in Phuket conducting his investigation in August 2012, Col

Dusadee told the *Gazette* that the PACC would "investigate every single plot [suspected of being illegal], especially any land owned by, or involving any former or current government officials."

"No matter how high ranking they are," he said, "if they are found guilty of encroaching on [or assisting others to encroach on] public land they will be prosecuted without exception."

Col Dusadee was transferred 43 days later.

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# Crackdown on nominee shareholders

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A TEAM of investigators from Bangkok will be in Phuket soon to help local officials probe businesses with foreign owners that are suspected of using nominee shareholders, Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut announced on Tuesday.

About 3,700 "foreign-owned" business are registered in Phuket, explained Department of Business Development Phuket office chief Nimit Kangkajit at the meeting.

"Of course Thais will hold at least 51 per cent of the shares of any business, and foreigners will be limited to only holding 49 per cent," Mr Nimit said. "However, we will be sending out teams to check whether any Thai nominees are being used."

In addition to any businesses suspected of being run with the help of Thai nominees, investigations will be launched into all businesses with foreign owners across the island engaging in pro-

fessions reserved for Thais only, Governor Maitri explained.

"I have ordered that three teams, each headed by a Phuket vice governor and comprising officers from a variety of relevant departments, inspect 'foreign-owned' businesses in all three Phuket districts: Muang, Kathu and Thalang," Governor Maitri said.

These businesses will be examined to establish whether or not they are engaging in any of the work reserved for Thais only, explained Phuket Provincial

Employment Office (PPEO) chief Yawapa Pibulpol.

"Activities we are especially concerned about are guiding services, laundry services and tour van operations, as well as timeshare sales," Ms Yawapa said.

Already during the recent crackdown, instigated by a taxi mob in Bang Tao on January 28, five companies with foreign owners were found breaching regulations and were fined, Ms

**'We will be sending out teams to check whether any Thai nominees are being used.'**

- Nimit Kangkajit



Governor Maitri (center) explains that the teams will be encouraging locals to report any information that might help identify companies with foreign owners that are breaking laws. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Yawapa added.

Governor Maitri also explained that the teams will be encouraging locals to report any information that might lead to identifying companies with foreign owners that are breaking laws in The Kingdom.

Following complaints by locals that foreigners were snatching their jobs, the Phuket Employment

Office has revealed that 8,635 foreigners in the province currently have work permits. Most of them are from the United Kingdom and are working in tourism.

Ms Yawapa explained that Phuket was a tourist city, hence its economy depended on hotels, resorts, accessory shops and restaurants.

Of the 8,635 foreigners with

work permits, she said British had nationals the number highest with 1,169, followed by 668 Filipinos, 646 Russians and 554 French citizens.

Ms Yawapa said the foreign contingent comprised 2,559 managing directors, 2,452 committee chairpersons, 1,423 office workers, 644 teachers, 439 high-level executives, 182 trainees and 936 others.

In line with new government policy, the Phuket office was applying stricter criteria in issuing work permits, said Ms Yawapa.

Following locals' complaints that foreigners, particularly Russians, were taking their jobs, police in January found 12 foreigners working in violation of the law. Several were working without a permit, while others were working in professions or locations not covered by their permits.

She said her officials had also publicized information that the foreigners were not permitted to work in certain professions, such as tour guide, masseur or laundry person. Those caught violating these restrictions face a 5,000-baht fine.

Additional reporting by The Nation

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## Land grab stopped by police, title deed

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

PLANS by local residents to develop over 100 rai of land in Chalong that they claim is theirs ground to a halt last week after more than 60 police officers arrived to support the apparent owner, who produced a title deed as proof of ownership.

The alleged owner, Prajit Hongyok, met fierce opposition from villagers as he rebuffed their claims that the property was an unowned "wasteland".

More than 50 villagers gathered to prevent Phuket Land Office officers from surveying the site, a plot of more than 100 rai near the old Chao Fa mine in Soi Song Kun, in the Klong Mudong area, on January 31.

It took a total of 60 officers and the land title deed to calm the mob, who were concerned that their efforts to develop the property over the past several years, which includes the construction of 10 homes, would be dashed.

"The land is part of an old mine; it has been abandoned for decades. So we've claimed more than 100 rai of the land and built 10 houses on the property," one villager told the *Gazette*.

"We have even worked on the access road - it used to be only a walkway that cars couldn't use," he said.

"I just ask that the proper authorities step forward and prove that the land is legally owned," he added.



Col Wanchai Palawan (left) arrived at the site with 60 officers in order to calm the villagers.

Afraid that development had already gone too far and that perhaps waiting any longer would cause a bigger issue down the road, Mr Prajit requested that the Phuket Land Office survey the property.

"I requested the survey because I was told that the villagers were encroaching on my land, building houses and had even removed one of the markers used to establish the property's boundary line," Mr Prajit said.

"I'm having the plots re-surveyed to confirm which is my land and to make sure the villagers know that the land is owned," he said.

"I'm not trying to pick on anyone. I just want to protect my ownership rights for land that I have legally owned for decades," he added.

Mr Prajit also voiced concern over rumors of villagers having already divided the land into plots and verbally selling it.



**HAVE A HEART: This Valentine's Day, give blood to the Phuket Blood Bank.**  
Photo: ImNotQuiteJack

## Red Cross calls for A, B, Rh-blood donations

THE Phuket Red Cross is calling for people across the island to join its Valentine's Day blood drive to help replenish dwindling stocks at the blood bank in Phuket Town.

The Phuket Regional Blood Center (PRBC), often called upon to save the lives of Thais and foreigners in urgent need of medical help, is low on stocks of blood types A and B, and has zero stock of Rhesus-negative blood.

"We have only 200 units of A and B blood types on hand," said PRBC acting chief Pornthip Rattajak

To help replenish supplies, the PRBC is holding a Valentine's Day blood drive from February 14-17 at their offices in Saphan Hin.

The PRBC accepts donations on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

The center is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30am to 4:30pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30am to 8pm; and Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 3pm.

For more information contact the PRBC (Tel: 076-251178, Email: phuketrbc@yahoo.com).

— **Orawin Narabal**

# Corruption suspected in police housing projects

By **Orawin Narabal**

THE Department of Special Investigation (DSI) Director-General, Tharit Pengdit, arrived in Phuket recently as part of his investigation into the stalled construction of 163 police housing apartment blocks across the country.

With him was Government Spokesman Prompong Nopparit, who is also vice president of a parliamentary anti-corruption committee set up by Pheu Thai.

"We will be looking at the delay in construction and will also determine whether corruption is involved, said Mr Tharit, adding that the case had attracted the attention of national police chief Adul Sangsingkaew.

Mr Prompong described the project as "wrong from the beginning."

"Only one company bid on this project, PCC Development and Construction Co Ltd," he said. "The bidding process looks suspicious."



**Vice president of a parliamentary anti-corruption committee, Prompong Nopparit (left) said the bidding process for the police accommodation units was 'wrong from the beginning'.** Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Mr Tharit and Mr Prompong met Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat and police senior officers to discuss the incomplete construction of three housing blocks to provide accommodation for officers serv-

ing at Thung Thong, Patong, and Thalang police stations.

"I received complaints from police officers in Phuket about financial hardship because rent in Phuket is quite expensive and they have been waiting for the police

housing for a long time," Mr Prompong said.

This is not the first time the construction has come under scrutiny.

Gen Choti said that construction began on the three apartment blocks in April 2010 at a budget of 68.1 million baht. The original deadline was June 24, 2011.

On March 15, 2012, the construction was still not finished and Region 8 Police in Surat Thani ordered the construction stopped. "We received the order to stop the construction because they wanted to make sure it was up to code," Gen Choti said.

"After the building was checked, we received permission to resume construction," he said.

"Region 8 Police gave the contractor 293 more days to complete the project. Later, they were given an additional 360 days," he explained.

However, after March 2012, the contractor never resumed work.

## Russian language courses to counter growing discord

THE Russian Federation's Deputy Honorary Consul in Phuket, Santi Udomkiratak, called for Russian language classes to be taught in Phuket as a long-term solution to the anti-Russian sentiment spreading rapidly across the island.

"Lack of Russian language skills is a big part of the Russian issue here, and it's been a problem for a very long time," Mr Santi said.

"There are very few Thai people who can speak good Russian. That's why Russian companies have to hire Russian people to work, which upsets Thais," he said.

The Russian Federation is pushing for cooperation between British International School

— Phuket (BIS), which has Russian teachers, and the Prince of Songkla University (PSU) Phuket Campus to start a Russian-language minor, Mr Santi explained.

The minor would require students to study Russian from their first through fourth years.

A minimum of 40 students would be required to make the minor program viable.

"The Thai lack of Russian language skills has been a problem for years. It will take time to resolve it," Mr Santi said.

— **Chutharat Plerin**

See 'Stop Russian to allegations' on page 18



**Anti-Russian sentiment in Phuket reached flashpoint last week when a mob of taxi drivers staged a protest in Bang Tao, forcing the closure of a legally operated tour business that primarily served Russian tourists.** Photo: Christian Mouchet



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	PG280	21.55	23.20
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## Governor praises driver for giving back B124,000



Mr Sarawut handing the money he found to the Governor. Photo: Orawin Narabal

A LOCAL tour van driver has received high praise from the Phuket governor for returning 124,000 baht and US\$433 that an Indonesian tourist left behind in his tour van.

Sarawut Sompan, 24, works for the Sai Lom Club of tour van operators in Chalong. On the night of January 31, he picked up two tourists, Indonesian and Thai, at the Phuket Merlin Hotel in Phuket Town and took them to Phuket International Airport.

"After dropping them at the airport, I drove back home," Mr Sarawut said.

"When I arrived home and cleaned the van, I noticed a King Power Duty Free bag on the passenger front seat, so I opened it and found the cash and two bankbooks inside.

"I got the number of the two tourists and called them. They were about to board their plane so I couldn't return the money to them. They asked me to transfer it to them later," he said.

The money belonged to the Indonesian tourist, who offered the van driver a reward of 3,000 baht for returning it.

"I accepted only 2,000 baht," Mr Sarawut said.

Mr Sarawut has been praised by Governor Maitri Inthusut and Chalong Mayor Samran Jindaphol, who awarded him with a certificate.

Gov Maitri, who also planned to give him a certificate, described Mr Sarawut as "a good person who is a good model for Phuket."

— Orawin Narabal

## Navy will help Rohingya 'get where they want to go'

THE Phuket-based Commander of the Third Naval Area, Vice Admiral Taratorn Kajitsuwan, publicly affirmed on February 1 the role of the Royal Thai Navy in handling the huge influx of Rohingya refugees landing along the Andaman coast.

Speaking at the Phuket Merlin Hotel in Phuket Town, V/Adm Taratorn said the Navy aims to provide humanitarian assistance to the refugees, who are fleeing violent persecution in their native Rakhine State in Myanmar.

"We have to take good care of them according to the international treaties that we have signed with other nations, such as human rights laws. We will provide them with

assistance and help them to continue to the country they want to travel to," he told members of the national media.

"According to this year's statistics, the number of Rohingya refugees coming to Thailand is higher than last year. The Third Naval Area command has to increase its patrols," he added.

Acknowledging the role of human traffickers in assisting Rohingya fleeing Myanmar, V/Adm Taratorn said "We consider this one of the big problems that affects internal security. We are trying to find stronger measures to deal with it."

— Kritsada Mueanhawong



Vice Admiral Taratorn said the Navy would increase patrols. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

# Newborn among Rohingya crowding refugee shelters

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A BABY born during the voyage was among the boatload of 110 Rohingya refugees who made landfall in the Surin Islands in Phang Nga province on January 30, causing officials to scramble to find accommodations for them.

The refugees were taken to the Khura Buri Shelter, but Chief Manit pleaded for help and support from the government.

"More than 500 Rohingya have arrived in Phang Nga in just one month. We cannot accommodate them, and have to move them to other areas.

A case in point is the Phang Nga Shelter for Children and Family, which accommodates 20 people but was housing over 100.

"The extra people have to sleep on the floor in the corridors; on the stairs; and even in front of the toilet," Phang Nga shelter Director Dararat Sutheth told the *Gazette*.

To deal with the problem, 52 women and children were transferred to the Baan Srisurat shelter

in Surat Thani on January 30.

Baan Srisurat is a shelter for human-trafficking victims and accepts only women, girls, and boys under 10 years old, said Ms Dararat.

This caused turmoil among the refugees when it became clear that family members would need to be separated, but eventually an understanding was reached and only those who volunteered were sent.

Even with the transfer, the Phang Nga shelter remains at almost triple occupancy.

Officials also have their hands full tackling health issues, some caused by the long sea voyage. Many of the newly arrived refugees have skin diseases as well as diarrhea and vomiting caused by drinking sea water.

Ms Dararat said that none of the refugees at the shelter had contagious diseases, but four being held at the Phang Nga Immigration Center were discovered to have malaria and were receiving treatment.

'They have to sleep on the floor in the corridors; on the stairs; and even in front of the toilet.'

— Phang Nga shelter Director Dararat Sutheth



Overcrowded shelters is separating families. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Public support for the refugees has been strong. The boat that landed in Khura Buri province was met by local people bringing food and drinks to the refugees, said Chief Manit.

And Ms Dararat thanked the public for donations of clothing and daily necessities that have been flooding in.

Additional reporting by Chutharat Plerin

## Red shirts do double duty as ghost busters in Northeast

VILLAGERS in Northeastern Thailand believe in a type of ghost called *mae mai* — an angry widow ghost who takes the lives of men in their sleep.

Many villagers believe the way to protect themselves from such a ghost is by hanging a red shirt on their gatepost.

The village of Khokcharoen in Surin, however, had an unbeliever: 45-year-old Priang Nopphibun, who mocked other villagers for carrying out the practice and refused to hang a red shirt outside his house.

Thus it came as no surprise to many of his fellow villagers when,



on February 1, Mr Priang was found stone-cold dead. He appeared to have been dead for about three days.

There was no trace of a struggle. They told investigating officers that Mr Priang didn't believe in ghosts and told his neighbors they were glibble to believe in things

that didn't exist.

He told them they shouldn't be hanging shirts outside their houses and tried to persuade his neighbors to take them down.

It wasn't long afterwards that he disappeared.

When neighbors went to investigate, they found him dead in his home.

After much talk in the village about Mr Priang's sudden death, some residents took a red shirt and hung it outside his house together with a sign which read, "In this house, the man didn't hang up a red shirt."

— Sanook News



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Somyot was given an 11-year sentence. Photo: Reuters

## FCCT in row over Somyot

THE Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand (FCCT) has found itself at the center of a row after last month's conviction of activist Somyot Prueksakasemsuk on charges of lese majeste, reported Asiancorrespondent.com.

Many of the club's members had wanted the FCCT to make a statement condemning the conviction, though at a panel discussion on the subject on January 31 club president Nirmal Ghosh announced it would do no such thing.

Mr Ghosh, a correspondent for *The Straits Times*, told the audience that the FCCT was a "club", not an "association" and that it would be inappropriate for it to comment on such a sensitive subject.

Participating in the debate at the club's Bangkok premises were Mr Somyot's wife Sukunya; *Prachatai* news website editor Chiranuch Premchaiporn; and activist Tul Sitthisomwong.

Leading the online charge against the FCCT's silence was journalist Andrew MacGregor Marshall, a well-known critic of the lese majeste law.

Mr Marshall, who lives in Singapore, pointed out that the club's own website stated that "the main goal of the FCCT and its members is to promote and protect the rights of the press in Thailand and across Asia" and that it "advocates press freedom as a cornerstone of civil society in emerging democracies..."

## Security measures tightened ahead of Chinese New Year

IN ANTICIPATION of tourists from Malaysia flocking across the border for Chinese New Year celebrations, Narathiwat authorities have increased safety measures.

Narathiwat Governor Apinun Suetanuwong ordered the combined forces in 13 districts of the province to increase their security measures to prevent any possible attempts to instigate unrest in the Deep South province during the Chinese New Year celebrations.

During this period, Chinese in Malaysia

often cross the border to celebrate the event, particularly in Sungai Kolok, which is home to a shrine of the Toh Moh Goddess.

The governor ordered special protection for the entire district in addition to Narathiwat municipality, which has a large Thai-Chinese community.

Police were told to keep a close watch and to screen vehicles after being tipped-off that four stolen vehicles would most likely be used in car bomb attacks in the restive province.



Locals were also told to get permission for setting off fireworks. Photo: Gazette file

# Critics cry foul over treatment of Poh 'Godfather of the East'

## AROUND THE nation

THE arrest of infamous provincial godfather Somchai Khunpluem, "Kamnan Poh", after seven years on the run has raised serious questions about political corruption in Thailand.

Days after his arrest, Mr Somchai, 76, was transferred from Bangkok to Chon Buri Central Prison, a transfer process that usually takes years for the Department of Corrections to process. He has since been moved out of the prison to a local hospital.

Mr Somchai, the so-called "Godfather of the East" who went on the run to avoid sentences of more than 30 years for murder and corruption, was arrested on January 30 while on his way home from Bangkok's Samitivej Hospital, where he was receiving treatment.

In June 2004, he was sentenced to 25 years for orchestrating the murder of a rival. In another case, he was convicted of corruption, earning another five years and four months of jail time.

Mr Somchai had been hiding out in a house in Chon Buri, his home province where his family



Somchai Khunpluem, 'Kamnan Poh', was on the run to avoid more than 30 years of jail time. Photo: The Nation

remains highly influential. Of his sons, Sonthaya Khunpluem is now culture minister; Wittaya Khunpluem, is president of Chon Buri's Provincial Administrative Organization; Itthiphol Khunpluem is mayor of Pattaya; and Narongchai Khunpluem is mayor of Saensuk District.

Records showed Mr Somchai had sought treatment at Samitivej Hospital under the false name Kim Sae Tang for symptoms related to

his nerves, heart, gastrointestinal tract and eyesight since April 22 last year.

"We got a tip-off that he visited doctors at Samitivej Hospital's Srinakarin branch and he travelled between his home and the hospital using a black van," a source at the Crime Suppression Bureau told *The Nation*. He was caught on the Latkrabang tollway gate, on his way back to Chon Buri, where he is now being held.

Observers were quick to level charges of double standards – and question the wisdom of housing such a powerful figure in his home province.

His transfer to Chon Buri took place after Kobkiat Kasiwat, the deputy director general of the Corrections Department, had said that his condition and status as an influential local figure would be taken into consideration before any decision could be made.

## YouTube removes 'insulting' SNL Thai sex sketch

YOUTUBE has taken down a clip of a sketch from the US comedy show Saturday Night Live following a formal request by the Thai Culture Ministry.

The clip, a fake ad for language-learning software Rosetta Stone, depicted a variety of nerdy American men saying they were learning Thai, implying this was in preparation for sex trips to The Kingdom.

Many Westerners using social platforms, such as Twitter and Facebook, seemed to have agreed that the targets of the humorous sketch were the male users of the language-learning software.

But many Thais felt differently. The YouTube page was inundated with comments from angry Thai viewers believing the show was

mocking Thailand, couching it as little more than a sex tourism destination.

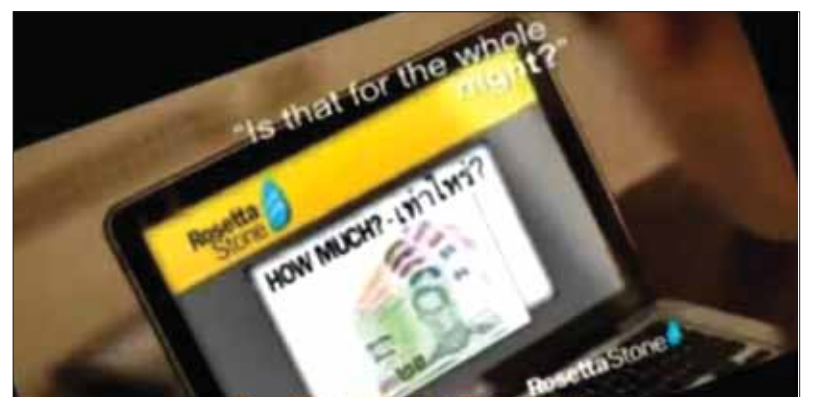
While some merely expressed hurt or anger, others went further, threatening violence against the US Embassy and even President Barack Obama.

One user, calling himself Mr EEEkane412, repeatedly posted the phrases "I'm going to bomb the U.S. Embassy in Thailand" and "I will kill Barack Obama" [sic].

Others directed their fury at Rosetta Stone, believing the sketch to be a genuine commercial for the company's Thai language software.

The Thai government itself eventually waded into the issue.

Culture Minister Sonthaya Khunpluem demanded the clip be



The Saturday Night Live skit deeply insulted many Thais. Photo: The Nation

removed from the site.

Mr Sonthaya told *The Nation* that his permanent secretary Prissana Pongtatsirikul wrote to the US Embassy asking for the removal of the clip because of the damage it could do to Thailand's

reputation.

He said the ministry also wanted the Saturday Night Live producer to recognize that Thais were upset about the offensive way their country had been represented.

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## In brief...

**Kuwait: Will back free speech but must protect emir**

KUWAIT supports free speech but must act against illegal comments made about the Gulf state's ruler, the government said on Monday, after a Twitter user was jailed for five years.

A Kuwaiti court sentenced a man to prison for insulting the emir on the social networking site, a rights lawyer and news websites said, in the latest prosecution for criticism of authorities via social media.

**Vatican official thanks media for uncovering abuse**

THE Vatican's new sexual crimes prosecutor on Tuesday acknowledged that the US media "did a service" to the Catholic Church through its aggressive reporting on child abuse that helped the Church "confront the truth".

**Pacific Tsunami kills at least five people in Solomon Islands**

A POWERFUL 8.0 magnitude earthquake set off a tsunami that killed at least five people in a remote part of the Solomon Islands on Wednesday and triggered evacuations across the South Pacific.

More than three dozen aftershocks up to magnitude 6.6 rocked the region in the hours after the quake, the US Geological Survey said.

# Disease spreads as Syria drug shortages and casualties grow

By Stephanie Nebehay

DIRTY water diseases are spreading in Syria, compounding the problems of hospitals that are perilously short of medicine and doctors after nearly two years of fighting, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Tuesday.

The Health Ministry has run out of trauma treatments made in factories in rebel areas to help the increasing numbers of burn victims and wounded civilians in intensive care units, it said.

That is assuming patients can reach treatment in the first place. Many surgeons have fled, many hospitals are closed and most ambulances are either damaged or are being used by both sides as a clandestine way to transport fighters, the WHO said.

"The biggest concern for us is the breakdown of the water and sanitation system and the increasing numbers of water-borne diseases," WHO representative Elisabeth Hoff told a news briefing about the deteriorating health situation on the ground.

Hepatitis A, a viral liver disease that can cause explosive epidemics, has been reported in Aleppo, Idlib – where there has been intense fighting – and some crowded shelters for the homeless in the capital, she said by telephone from Damascus.

Aid groups have had to start using alternatives to purify



WHO is worried about the breakdown in water and sanitation systems necessary to control water-borne disease and minimize risks to those in desperate need of medical attention. Photo: Reuters

water because the import of chlorine gas has been banned over fears it could be misused as a chemical weapon.

"The problem is chlorine gas is a chemical that can harm populations if it is not used correctly," Hoff added.

The UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, began importing sodium hydrochloride, a liquid used for water purification, via Jordan on

February 3, spokeswoman Marixie Mercado told the same briefing.

Heavy fighting between the forces of President Bashar al-Assad and rebels trying to topple him could swell the ranks of the 4 million who already need urgent assistance in Syria and 2 million internally displaced in the past two years.

"The catastrophic humanitarian

crisis continues to deepen," Jens Laerke, spokesman of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, told the briefing.

"We are operating mostly out of government-controlled areas, that doesn't mean we don't deliver in opposition-controlled areas. Frontlines are changing, it is fluid situation," he said.

– Reuters

## China bans ads for expensive gifts in anti-corruption push

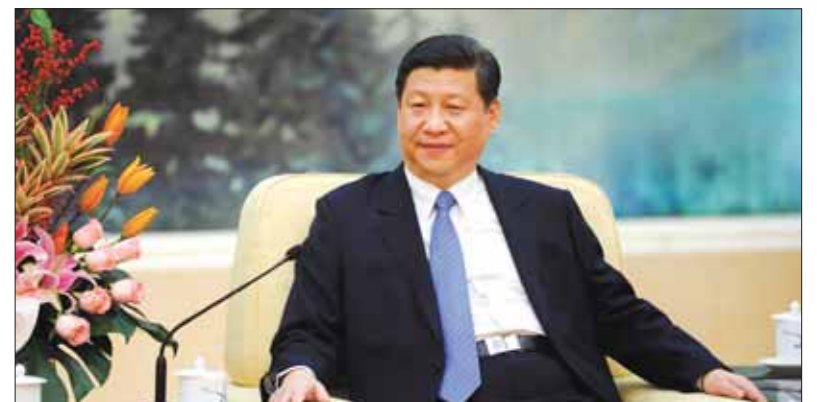
CHINESE radio and television stations are to ban advertisements for expensive gifts such as watches, rare stamps and gold coins, the Xinhua state news agency said on Wednesday, as part of a push by the government to crack down on extravagance and waste.

Such advertisements had "publicized incorrect values and helped create a bad social ethos", the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television (SARFT) said in a release, Xinhua said.

The ban comes after repeated calls from Xi Jinping, China's president-in-waiting, for a renewed fight against graft. But it could take a toll on luxury product manufacturers who advertise on Chinese television and radio.

Makers of expensive Chinese liquors including Kweichow Moutai Co Ltd and Wuliangye Yibin Co Ltd routinely dominate the annual ad auction at China's official television network, CCTV.

Producers of the fiery Chinese liquor known as *baijiu* were hit in December by an official ban on alcohol at military



China's Communist Party chief Xi Jinping. Photo: Reuters

events. High-end bottles of the grain-based liquor can cost thousands of yuan.

The crackdown on corruption has also hit jewellery retailers hard, especially after high-end watches became a symbol of graft.

Hengdeli and Emperor Watch and Jewellery are among the biggest watch retailers in China and both of their shares were down on Wednesday.

"Watches and liquor have been influenced by government policies and have been pulled down by a change in leadership," Rupert

Hoogewerf, the founder of Hurun Report, told Reuters last month.

Xi said in a speech on January 22 that targeting the "flies", or lowly people involved in corruption, was just as important as going after the "tigers", or top officials.

Xi has warned that a failure to weed out corruption and extravagance would put the ruling Communist Party's survival in jeopardy.

Xi is due to take over as president at an annual meeting of parliament in March.

– Reuters

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# Inflation up for Chinese NY

B300 minimum daily wage cited as just one of the factors in rising produce prices in February

THE head of the Department of Internal Trade (DIT) Phuket Office said that the 300 baht daily minimum wage has contributed to market inflation ahead of the Chinese New Year festivities.

DIT-Phuket Chief Supacha Bunthalit told the *Gazette* that increased wages directly increase base costs for farmers, suppliers and vendors.

"Of course it [the minimum wage rise] is one factor that will affect prices for the end users – the consumers," she said.

However, Ms Supacha added that another important factor that needs to be considered is the fundamental market rule of 'supply and demand': "Due to the Chinese New Year, there has been an increased demand, and thus reduced supply of many types of produce in the market, which is another reason why prices have increased."

Asked if prices would drop again after the Chinese New Year, Ms Supacha responded: "There is no way we can tell at this point. It all depends on the vendors, their supplies and the demand for produce," she emphasized.

Earlier this week, the *Gazette* reported that a market vendor at the busy Kaset Market in Phuket Town had told the Phuket Governor that the new minimum wage, effective nationwide as of January 1, was forcing vendors to pass on price hikes of fresh produce.

Governor Maitri Inthusut last week led officers to inspect food prices at the fresh market, located behind the Robinson department store in Phuket Town.

The purpose of the visit was to ensure against gouging ahead of the Chinese New Year festivities, which begin on February 10.

During his walk-through of the market, Governor Maitri noted that vegetable prices were on the rise. "Most vegetables have jumped 5 to 10 baht. Kale and Chinese kale were 25 baht per kilogram, now they are 35 baht per kilo," he remarked.

"Fruit prices are increasing, too – especially oranges, as they are believed to be auspicious during Chinese New Year. Oranges are now 5 baht more a kilo. They were 75 baht, but are now 80 baht per kilogram. The price of green apples has also jumped, to 18 baht each; before they were 15 baht apiece," he said.

Gov Maitri predicted the prices of other fruits to follow suit, notably fruits used as auspicious offerings during Chinese New Year ceremonies, such as bananas, pears and grapes.

To this, fruit vendor Sakorn Ngarnwongpanit countered, "So far, only orange and apple prices have increased for the coming Chinese New Year, but it is like this every year – prices rise in response to rising demand."

Non-vegans have also been hit by rising meat prices, the governor noted.

"Pork has increased by 10 baht, and is now 130 baht per kilogram, but the price of chicken has yet to increase," Governor Maitri said.

Pork vendor Choompol Sae-Ng blamed the 300-baht minimum daily wage set by the government as the reason for the price of raw meat rising.

"A lot of people are complaining about the price of food going up, and saying that they have to buy it even if the prices go up. But it is because of the 300-baht minimum wage set by the government. The cost of production has increased,



REGULATOR: Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut inspects the prices of fresh produce at the Kaset Market. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

and so have the prices," he said.

Mr Choompol warned that further price rises may be on their way, and that vendors will be forced to pass on to consumers any mark-ups made by produce suppliers.

"We are keeping an eye on the prices. If pig farms raise their prices, then we will have to raise ours, too," he said.

## RELIEF AHEAD

While many consumers' pocket books, if not food pantries, will take a major blow during the festivities, there is some relief on the way.

The DIT-Phuket Office announced that the Phuket City District (Amphoe Muang) will be holding its annual 'cheap goods' fair from February 28 to March 3.

Dubbed by the government the "Blue Flag Fair", this once-a-year, district-level flea market will be held this year in the area of Sripuwanat Park in Wichit, located opposite of the Laem Chan health clinic in Wichit

sub-district of Phuket Town.

Popular among low-to-medium income households, as well as food vendors the island over, the fair will host a select number of vendors selling food, clothes and other consumer goods at below-market-value prices.

DIT-Phuket chief Supacha Bunthalit told the *Gazette* that this year's fair will feature a total of 34 tents with 70 booths in total.

"The vendors will be selling all kinds of living essentials, including eggs, chicken, vegetables, coffee, rice, fruit and many others.

"The goods aren't necessarily subsidized by the government, but the vendors who register with us all agree to reduce their prices by 10 to 20% from the central price [recommendations]," she explained.

Ms Supacha noted that this year's fair is slightly smaller than last year's, which was held in July and attracted about 80 vendors.

"Our [Blue Flag Fair] budget allocation this year was reduced

Commodity Trends		
	Week 1 Feb	Month Change (%)
Gasohol 95 - E10*	39.37	4.24
Gasohol 95 - E20*	33.92	4.95
Gasohol 91 - E10*	36.92	4.53
Diesel*	30.23	0
23kt Gold**	1548	-2.89
Rubbersheet***	87.57	0.91
Liquid Latex***	79	-3.66

\*baht per liter \*\*baht per gram \*\*\*per kilogram (1 kg = 1000g)

SOURCE: DIT/Office of The Rubber Replanting Aid Fund

by about 20 to 30%. We used to get 100,000 baht per fair, per district. Now we only get 70,000 to 80,000 baht to sponsor each fair. I'm not sure the reason why the budget was cut, as Phuket is still one of the most expensive provinces to live in..."

Chief Supacha noted that the Blue Flag Fair for Kathu district was held last month, while the respective fair for Thalung district is scheduled to be held in April.

"People looking to reduce the high cost-of-living burden should not miss out. Also, we are still accepting vendor registrations from anybody who is willing to sell daily essential goods for 10 to 20% lower than the central price... Approved vendors can reserve a booth free of charge for the entirety of the three day event." – *Phuket Gazette*

To register for or inquire about the Blue Flag Fair, contact the DIT-Phuket office on 076-219-516

## Phuket absorbs langsat surplus

THE island's supply of langsat (*Lansium domesticum*) has increased by 10 tonnes over the past few weeks due to a late-season harvest surplus in and near Thailand's Deep South.

Since mid-January, several agriculture groups from Yala, Songkhla and Phatthalung have travelled to Phuket to sell the fruit wholesale, with the Phuket Office of Commercial Affairs (POCA) serving as their central distribution point.

POCA Director Prakong Rukwong told the *Gazette* that his office had permitted the merchants to temporarily set up shop on its yard – just across the street from the Seng Ho book store in Phuket Town – as part of a collaboration with the respective Commercial Affairs offices in the three provinces.

"Due to the surplus, markets throughout the South have become flooded with langsat. Some agricultural groups have asked for our help



Vendors from Yala, left, and Songkhla selling langsat in Phuket.



to distribute the fruit in Phuket," Director Prakong explained.

Mr Prakong said that Phuket was considered an ideal place for two main reasons: the province's relatively higher spending power, and the fact that langsat is not grown in Phuket.

He added that the POCA would only be allowing the distributors to use its yard on a temporary basis, and that their stay wouldn't extend beyond the end of February.

"Another reason why we're supporting them [groups from Yala, Songkhla and Phatthalung] is

because they've had trouble distributing... Merchants are increasingly hesitant to travel to the South due to the unrest down there."

Mr Prakong revealed that most of the current langsat batch came from fruit sorting centers in Yala's Ban Nung Sata and Songkhla's Saba Yoi districts.

He pointed out that langsat from Yala are particularly popular throughout the country, and call for a higher price in the market.

Altogether, he estimated that the surplus being distributed in Phuket is about 10 tonnes.

Speaking to the *Gazette* at the POCA, a merchant from Yala who called himself "Ying Ming", said that he had travelled to Phuket earlier this week with a group of six.

"Our daily expenses, including food and lodging, are about 1,000 baht per day," he said.

The langsat bunches are divided into three grades – A, B and C – with prices ranging from 30 to 60 baht per kilogram, depending on the grade and amount.

Asked about the market response in Phuket, he said that langsat are particularly popular among Thai, Chinese and Korean buyers.

"Westerners don't seem to have the same preference for langsat, but perhaps they're not as familiar with it."

Known in Thai as "long gong", langsat is often confused with another similar fruit, longan (*Dimocarpus longan*), which is called "lum yai" in Thai.

– *Steven Layne*

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# Not in front of the children

Thailand-focused study finds that doing 'home work' isn't necessarily a healthy choice

WHILE working from home might seem like a practical option for workers in Thailand wanting to cut commutes and spend more time on their personal lives, the reality is somewhat different.

According to a survey conducted by Regus, the world's largest provider of flexible workplaces, six in ten respondents who work from home in Thailand revealed that they're regularly put off by their kids or family demanding attention.

And that's not the only thing getting in the way: bad posture as a result of working at makeshift home offices – affecting a fifth of workers – could lead to serious health problems later on. Poor internet connections, no access to office equipment and even having to deal with pets are also said to be disrupting home-workers' productivity levels.

These are some of the key findings of a global survey by Regus, which was based on interviews with more than 24,000 business-people from over 90 countries.

"Working from home can clearly affect your concentration and productivity," says Filippo Sarti, Regus Asia CEO. "Employees are naturally keen to benefit from flexible working practices, so they can avoid lengthy commutes, and work the hours that suit them in order to improve their work-life balance."

"But these findings suggest that a professional environment close to home is preferable to actual home-working, so as to avoid strain on families, to project a professional image, and to improve overall productivity."

The survey found that the three biggest issues for home-workers in Thailand are: children or family demanding attention (62%); difficulties accessing office equipment (48%) and not having access to sensitive company documents (45%).

There are also important health related issues; 19% of respondents complain of bad posture at home due to their unsuitable home office arrangements – good posture is critical to ensuring that

workers do not suffer repetitive strain injury and permanent damage.

The lack of a proper work surface was also identified as a problem for more than a third of respondents (38%).

Altogether, there was a total of 15 different issues identified as obstacles to productively working from home.

Sarti continues: "Working from home is becoming increasingly popular but as more people experience it, many are also discovering the downsides. Personal life needs to adapt to the professional activities that are taking place and that's not always easy."

"In addition to our survey findings, there are reports of home-workers feeling lonely, alienated and cut off from colleagues. It seems that office 'face-time' also plays an important role in helping workers secure promotions, with employees that work from home being overlooked even in firms that actively encourage staff to work from home at least occasionally.



**STRUCTURE AND PRODUCTIVITY:** The traditional office setting presents less distractions than a typical home office. Photo: Steven Layne

"But more worrying still is the fact that one in five of our respondents complain that their posture is affected by improvised own office arrangements in the home. Bad posture can result in serious health problems such as repetitive strain injury

for the individual – and lost time and productivity for the employer. The survey highlights that home-working may not provide a suitable professional environment and may well damage your health."

– Regus Press Centre

## Another good year for hotels projected

THE Kingdom's hotel business operators are hopeful that more tourists will go on vacation and room occupancy will expand impressively this year.

The Thai Hotel Association (THA) President Surapong Techaruvichit said last week that, in 2012, the country's tourism industry appeared promising, with more than 22 million foreign tourist arrivals recorded, which equates

to a 15% year-on-year increase.

Mr Surapong stated that last year there were two countries with traveler numbers exceeding two million – China and Malaysia. At the same time, there were four countries with more than a million holidaymakers in Thailand last year, including Japan, Russia, India and South Korea.

In terms of spending, the THA President said that Chinese trav-

elers were the biggest spenders, spending an estimated 104.5 billion baht. They were followed by Russian and Austrian holidaymakers, who spent 82.4 and 62.7bn baht, respectively.

All in, it is estimated that the Thai tourism industry earned over 960bn baht from overseas holidaymakers last year.

Based on the impressive records in 2012, Mr Surapong is hopeful

that the hotel occupancy in 2013 will further expand by at least 5% more than in 2012, when the occupancy rate stood at 64.9%.

Meanwhile, Vice President of Thai Airways International Chalongchai Hiranyalekha predicts that around 67 million travelers will arrive or depart from Suvarnabhumi and Don Mueang airports this year.

– NNT

Also, see related story, 'Hotel boom' on page 14



**Congestion on Patong Beach is likely to increase.** Photo: Neitram

## Japanese tourism reps ask for tsunami recovery advice

TOURISM officials from the Japanese prefecture of Fukuoka were recently in Phuket to consult with provincial officials and local business leaders about post-tsunami tourism revival strategies.

Presiding over the meeting was Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa, who gave reception to Mr Toshio Yoshimura – Chairman of the Federation of Fukuoka Prefecture Assembly members of Japan-Thailand Friendship – and an accompanying party.

Mr Toshio's party were particularly interested in approaches to managing the affected destination's negative image and handling other rumors and media that contribute to that image following a disaster like the tsunami that affected Phuket at the end of 2004.

Also attending the meeting were Chanchai Doungjit, the director of



**Tourism rep, Toshio Yoshimura.**

the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office; Somboon Jirayut, consultant to the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA), Sarayuth Mallam, PTA vice president and Panomphon Thammchatniyom, president of the Professional Tourist Guide

Association of Thailand.

Chanchai said that the TAT office in Fukuoka had asked to collaborate with the TAT Phuket office to hold the meeting with officials from Fukuoka, who visited Thailand from January 21-26 under the "Japan-Thailand Friendship Visiting Thailand" program.

He explained that the Japanese officials were seeking ways to enhance and improve their tourism revival campaign following the tsunami and nuclear disasters that affected the prefecture in 2011.

He added that the meeting also served to tighten relations between Phuket and Fukuoka.

Chanchai claimed that more than 10,000 Japanese tourists visit Phuket annually, and that direct flights between Phuket and Fukuoka were a possibility in the future.

– Phuket Gazette

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# Rooms with a view

THE View is located on a hillside overlooking Kata Town and out towards the Andaman sea. The project comprises nine blocks of two and three-storey buildings with a total of 53 residential units.

Units will range in size from 116 square meters one-bedroom apartments on the first floor, to 392sqm three-bedroom penthouses on the upper deck.

All units will have a plunge pool or jacuzzi and the penthouses come with a private swimming pool and jacuzzi on the roof deck. The development's design combines modern architecture with the surrounding landscape.

Each unit comes with a fully fitted Western kitchen and the gated community will have twenty-four hour estate security, cable/satellite

TV and broadband internet access.

The units have high ceilings for an open and spacious feel, which also makes use of natural light to give the apartments a soothing feel. Sliding doors open up to the balcony and columns are hidden in the apartments to allow the owner to utilize the space and gain uninterrupted sea views.

The landscaped gardens in the estate feature waterfalls and there will be enough parking for 60 cars.

The clubhouse will be equipped with a pool, restaurant, fitness center, sauna and kids pool.

The View offers potential owners Flexible Rentalpool Management (FRM), which is a web based rental system that helps to rent out apartments not being used. The rental income should cover the maintenance of the apartment along with providing a reasonable return on investment.

- *Phuket Gazette*

For more information, visit: [theviewphuket.com](http://theviewphuket.com)



One of the Penthouse's interiors.



UNINTERRUPTED: A computer generated image of The View on a hillside in Kata surrounded by natural beauty.



A CGI of the view from a second floor penthouse balcony looking out to the Andaman Sea.



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

# New deal for Marriott

MARRIOTT International recently announced the signing of seven management agreements with TCC Hotels Group, which means the US hospitality company will operate seven TCC hotels across Thailand. These agreements make the TCC Hotels Group the largest owner of Marriott International hotels in Asia Pacific.

The seven hotels are: The Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Bangkok, to be rebranded as Bangkok Marriott Hotel Queen's Park; Imperial Adamas Phuket Beach Resort, to be rebranded as Phuket Marriott Resort & Spa, Nai Yang Beach; Hua Hin Marriott Resort & Spa; Pattaya Marriott Resort & Spa, Jomtien Beach; JW Marriott Pattaya Resort & Spa; Bangkok Marriott Hotel and Executive Apartments, Surawong and The Ritz-Carlton, Bangkok.

This landmark agreement will add another 3,000 rooms to Marriott International's existing 12 hotels, which have 3,110 rooms across Thailand.

The TCC Hotels Group will represent a variety of Marriott International's brands, including: The Ritz-Carlton, JW Marriott and the company's signature Marriott Hotels & Resorts brand. It will see Marriott International take on management of two existing hotels and five newly built properties across the country, in the strategic tourist locations of Bangkok, Phuket, Hua Hin and Pattaya.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Bangkok, Simon Cooper, Marriott International's president and managing director Asia-Pacific, said: "We are delighted to announce this landmark deal for Thailand. TCC Hotels Group is very well established as a hotel owner and



Simon Cooper (third left), president and managing director for Asia-Pacific at Marriott International, shakes hands with Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi, chairman of the TCC Group.

operator around the world and these seven hotels will add to our already strong portfolio of hotels in the country.

"I believe this partnership shows our commitment to and faith in Thailand as a strategically important business and leisure destination in Southeast Asia. Managing this portfolio of TCC hotels in the country will allow us to extend our product offering and brands in Thailand, and enable domestic and international travelers to experience our hotels and world-class service."

TCC Hotels Group expects to invest approximately US\$500 million for the seven hotels, including an extensive refurbishment of the existing Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Bangkok and the Imperial Adamas Phuket Beach Resort before being

rebranded and opened under the Marriott Hotels & Resorts brand in 2016.

"TCC Hotels Group believes that Thailand and the group could benefit from the global network and standards of Marriott International. We are very excited to be working together with Marriott International, an experienced global operator to support our growth strategy and our confidence in both the Tourism and MICE business sectors of Thailand," said Wallapa Traisorat, president of TCC Hotels Group.

The hotel chain expects to have almost 7,000 rooms in Thailand in its portfolio by 2017 to support the continued tourism growth for Thailand as it becomes a strategic location of the Asian Economic Community (AEC). - *Phuket Gazette*

## Hotel boom

THIS year is expected to be a golden one for the hotel industry, with a parade of new openings in major tourism provinces thanks to improved political stability, which has created a better investment climate.

According to data released by the Thai Hotels Association (THA), an estimated 3,919 new rooms, mainly four and five-stars, will be added to the market during the course of the year.

The company's research has found that there are major negotiations under way this year in Phuket, Bangkok, Pattaya, Samui and Chiang Mai.

In Phuket, Accor Group will open the Pullman Phuket Arcadia and the Novotel Phuket Kamala Beach, while Centara, one of the country's leading chains, will strengthen its portfolio with seven openings nationwide.

Patrick Basset, senior vice president of Accor for Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and the Philippines, described the industry outlook as positive.

"Accor believes Thailand is a country that has very strong economic fundamentals, which have enabled it to pull itself out of every crisis and rebound quickly without serious long-term consequences. We hope Thailand's [political and investment] environment maintains the status quo, so that we can move forward with business as usual and continue to drive Thailand as one of Asia's top tourist destinations," he said.

However, Basset urged the government to continue to improve the Kingdom's airport infrastructure, as airports in both Bangkok and Phuket are reaching full capacity. - *The Nation*



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# Beat inflation with a low-risk return

ONE fund that I have recently been putting into portfolios is the Freehold Income Trust (FIT), which invests in ground rents. Ground rents are a relic of feudal Britain, which can now be bought and sold like any other asset.

## Island Investor

By David Mayes

They are extremely safe income-yielding alternative investments, since the holder of ground rent could theoretically repossess a property worth much more than the ground rent itself, if the payments were not made.

Ground rents are such a safe haven because generally they are extremely over-collateralized. For example, a flat worth 200,000 Pound Sterling may be required to pay a ground rent of 100 Pound Sterling per year. Obviously they are not going to risk losing their flat by not paying such a trivial amount.

The bulk of the ground rents held in the fund have periodic inflation-based uplifts in yield, which protect this fund from the interest rate risk that most fixed income type of investments are vulnerable to in today's low rate environment. Many fixed interest investments, especially bond funds, stand to lose a lot of principal when interests eventually do rise. Thus, I am always looking for alternatives and this fund does a very good job of balancing risks.

It isn't the type of fund which is going to excite you as it only returns about 6% with yields as low as they are now,



but there are many reasons why this should be included in a portfolio.

The first is that it can provide a steady return and has very low volatility. A second reason is that it provides diversification into another asset class, which is not correlated to other traditional asset classes such as stocks and bonds. There can also be capital gains on the ground rents themselves, although typically not large, and of course there could theoretically be a loss as well, however unlikely.

The FIT fund has been running for 19 years and has a very consistent track record, delivering positive inflation beating returns every year.

It was originally started by the bank Close Brothers and was recently sold off. It is now run by Alpha Real Capital.

I was originally hesitant to recommend ground rent funds because I couldn't quite get my head around their valuation formulas, and thought there might be some risks I wasn't seeing. One of the major risks I do see with a fund such as this: if investors were to make a run (withdraw their money simultaneously), the secondary market for ground rents might not be liquid enough to meet the stated liquidity terms of the fund.

The fund is available for very low minimum investment levels and is available on the platforms of most offshore providers. I believe for as little as one thousand Pounds Sterling, through an offshore



SEED MONEY: The Freehold Income Trust is available for low investment levels. Photos: Tax Credits

bond, or five thousand Pound Sterling as a direct investment, you can gain exposure to this very safe alternative asset class. If you are looking for a safe income stream that is better than what the banks are paying in interest, this fund may just be able to help you out a bit.

David Mayes MBA lives in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expats around the globe, focusing on UK pension transfers. He also runs Humble Asset Management, a British Virgin Islands-based alternative investment fund. He can be reached at david.m@faramond.com or 085-335-8573.

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# Tourism heads off to the mall



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

'BLING bling' goes the ringing in my head, as I frantically search out my missing car in the massive underground car park at one of the island's ubiquitous shopping malls. I am not at all prepared for the event, which has taken on a real life adventure of Stanley and Livingstone proportions. Where is *Indiana Jones* when you need him?

It turns out silver SUVs are not unlike black suitcases or the Thai 'Noi'-like incarnation of *Mr and Mrs Smith*. In this case my chosen anonymity has only bred absolute confusion. Note to self: go home and Google 'What age is Alzheimer's likely to set in?'

Readers can no doubt sense the situation given the extensive use of question marks so early in the piece. Barely out of the starting gate and that mechanical jackrabbit has gone stark raving mad.

Mall culture has immersed Phuket in a baptism of fire and brimstone. It is religious in proportion and requires far more devotion than any of the legacy churches. Fanaticism on the razor's edge, as zealots patiently wait in automobile hell, all for an opportunity to visit the hallowed halls for retail therapy.

Sure there is more to it than

"shop 'til you drop"—my mind goes back to the movie *Scenes from a Mall*, which cut to the chase and staged the misanthropy of it all in one vast expansive shopping complex.

Winding back my internal calendar to the Millennium here in Phuket, we all dodged the Y2K monkey but no one knew what was in store. One of my highlights was a trip to the far away corners of Phuket Town to Robinson and Ocean Mall. I'd always top off the adventure with a heart-stopping Mac attack meal.

No one realized how fast the island-scape was about to change, with the hypermart duo of Tesco Lotus and Big C, followed by Makro. The retail fever pitch hit a high note with Central Festival, followed up with Jungceylon, which included its very own hyper-Carrefour.

These days it's a very different scene as community malls such as HomePro Village are multiplying into micro markets, along with smaller Tesco Lotus' and all of those dwarf-like Tesco Express stores tucked into every nook and cranny.

Popularity has its down side as any A-listed celebrity can attest to, as they do a fast and furious vehicular exit with snap-happy paparazzi in close pursuit. Swap over the 'Click Click' to the 'Bling Bling' and this brings us back to the mall, where just trying to find



SHOPPING THERAPY: Tourists seem as interested in a shopping spree as they are in the beach.

a parking place takes us back in time to those trans-African safaris: "Dr Livingston, I presume?"

Island visitor numbers through Phuket International Airport this year will no doubt break 5 million. As anyone who has gone to the mall this high season can attest, tourists are trading in the beach for shopping and entertainment in the hallowed halls of commerce.

You can point to a shift in demographics, or perhaps skyrocketing cases of melanoma or maybe it's a culture thing, but *Our Town* is now played out in 'Mall Town'. Consumerism, coffee culture, fast food and a rising middle class are all accom-

plices in the new age.

Recent news that Central's new massive extension will include a convention center, luxury shops and more entertainment, shows where the mindset is. An arranged marriage between tourism and retail means the tribes have merged.

There is little doubt in my mind that Phuket's future, which will continue to host a stunning ocean backdrop, has little to do with the beach. More will come. Be they retail malls, tourism attractions or theme parks. The planners are busy and development is headed in that direction already.

As I plonk away at my MacBook keys, a scribbled note reminds me to call one of those altruistic NGOs where able-bodied, highly educated types lounge about in sweater vests and Birkenstocks. My mission is to place the humble parking slot on the list of endangered species.

I really do want to come to that stunning mall space, to while away days in air-conditioned splendor. But please, just give me somewhere to park.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through [C9hotelworks.com](http://C9hotelworks.com).

## Travel summit votes on key issues

THE nation's pre-eminent gathering of tourism and travel industry experts has concluded that while Thailand looks headed for its best year for tourist numbers and revenues ever, action to legalise gaming, improve infrastructure and attract 'quality' travellers was urgently needed ahead of moves to introduce the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC).

More than 350 tourism industry movers and shakers attended the Thailand Tourism Forum at the InterContinental Bangkok recently, voting on key issues facing the industry and setting alarm bells ringing about Thailand's long-term competitiveness in the region.

Bill Barnett, co-organizer of the forum and Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks, said that over 60 per cent of respondents at the event who participated in the Thailand Tourism Index survey believed legal casinos would be an important factor in Thailand remaining competitive with other economic and tourist powers in the region.

"Thailand tourism needs to study very carefully the issue of gaming and other demand generators to attain sustained volume growth," he said. "There is a very real risk of us slipping behind places like Singapore and Macau in terms of visibility, branding and revenues. Thailand is also facing a glut of hotel rooms, so we need big draw cards like casinos as key drivers of demand."

More than 80 per cent of those voting agreed that Thailand was now staring down the barrel of an oversupply of rooms and that urgent action was required.

Keynote speakers and notables at the forum included Dillip Rajakarier (Minor



From left: Peter Henly (Onyx Hospitality and Hotels), Chanin Donavanik (Dusit Hotels and Resorts), Robert Hecker (Horwath HTL), Clarence Tan (InterContinental Hotels Group) and Dilip Rajakarier (Minor Hotel Group).

Hotel Group), Chanin Donavanik (Dusit Hotels and Resorts), Peter Henley (Onyx Hospitality and Hotels), Robert Hecker (Horwath HTL), Paul Logan (InterContinental Hotels Group), Jonas Ogren (STR Global), David Keen (Quo Global) and John Koldowski (PATA).

Mr Barnett said: "Thailand Tourism Forum - 2013 (TTF) is the country's first report card on the state of the industry and an opportunity to look beyond the numbers at how tourism performance can affect a country's entire economy."

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has announced aims to achieve 24.5 million international visitors in 2013, following a 15 per cent increase from 2011 to 2012, which earned the country over 965 billion baht.

Among the top-10 source countries for international visitors, China stays at the top, followed by Malaysia, Japan, Russia, South

### Key issues:

- International arrivals tipped to eclipse the record 22 million recorded in 2012
- The high value of the baht
- Phuket overwhelmingly favored as location for hotel investment in 2012
- Global trends echoed in Thailand, with MICE, health and wellness, and culture and heritage the strongest drivers of tourism demand
- A split vote on the issue of legalizing gaming came down in favor of allowing casinos by a factor of about 10 per cent

Korea, India, Laos, Australia, the United Kingdom and Singapore.

Mr Barnett said mass tourism was the 'elephant in the room': "As Wall Street learned, nothing grows forever. Thailand needs to learn the lessons of a volatile trading environment and focus on developing stronger infrastructure and perhaps temper growth targets and create more healthy segmentation than simply more, more, more."

Mr Barnett said the Asean Economic Community (AEC) was undoubtedly a 'game-changer', and would accelerate the impetus that had been building for a less divided Asean ever since the global financial crisis thrust Thailand and the region onto the world stage in 1997.

"Regional travel has been a key tourism storyline over the past four years with sustained growth," he said.

"The AEC will only create a stronger fundamental for this going forward. Boosted

by rising low-cost airline carriers and a growing middle class, we expect this trend to dominate the market during this decade."

The AEC comprises the economic integration of all 10 ASEAN member states by 2015, with the goals of creating a single market and production base.

Calls for legal casinos began in earnest last year, when CP Group boss and multi-billionaire Dhanin Chearavanont called for casino licences to be issued for Chiang Mai, Phuket and Pattaya and warned that Thailand was slipping behind regional rivals and allowing 'underground businesses and dark powers' to flourish by not taking control of the lucrative gaming sector.

Mr Barnett said more freedom of travel and likely single-issue visas for the entire AEC region also raised security issues for travellers and nations but was not reason to be too pessimistic.

"The Euro-zone has effectively handled this for an extended time and I believe with appropriate technology and increased cooperation between intelligence services and police in ASEAN that risk can be mitigated. Ultimately, the benefits far outweigh the downside."

Mike Batchelor, managing director, Investment Sales, Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels & Hospitality Group and a keynote speaker at the conference, said Bangkok was expected to replace Phuket as Thailand's hospitality investment hot spot, with the new Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) law likely to lead to an increase in property transactions, bolstered by increasing levels of international investment as global economies recover.

— *Phuket Gazette*





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# PACC it all in Phuket

THIS week's exclusive lead story about the decision by the Public-sector Anti Corruption Commission (PACC) to shelve its investigation into encroachment cases here in Phuket comes as a disappointment – but not much of a surprise.

Phuket has a long history of land probes, all of which are motivated by political forces. In the 1990s, wealthy Phuket families were found to have been issued land title deeds on plots designated under the Ministry of Agriculture's *SorPorKor* program, intended to make degraded state land available for use by landless farmers. The political scandal led to the collapse of the coalition government led by then-Democrat party leader Chuan Leekpai.

Fast forward a decade to 2003, when then-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was at the zenith of his power. This was the same period in which his Thai Rak Thai party launched another onslaught of probes related to the *SorPorKor* project in Phuket, one of the power bases of the rival Democrats.

With Thaksin effectively having regained power in 2011, did it really come as any surprise that Phuket would once again become the focus of a land probe? The real mystery is why the PACC's "Special Operations Unit" – its "fangs" – were quietly removed last October. Perhaps former PACC head Col Dussadee Arayawuth simply did too good a job during his 43 days in office. In the end, exposing so many high-ranking civil servants for [alleged] corruption may have turned out to be less expedient than doing the same to political rivals.

The sad part is that few if any of these land "probes" are actually launched with the true intention of seeing stolen state land returned to its rightful owners. This, coupled with the fact that we live in a country where politics can turn upside down overnight with a coup, and court cases can take decades to resolve, is why they are so seldom successful.

Official corruption involving land has a long history here in Phuket. Some of the island's wealthiest people come from families whose ancestors were granted tin mining concessions. When the mining finished, they threw up coconut trees and claimed they were farming it, rather than returning it to the state, as required by law. None of this could have been accomplished without paying backhanders to the bureaucrats of the time.

The initial enthusiasm generated by the PACC probe makes even sadder the reality that there remains no effective barrier to encroachment leveraged by official corruption. It strikes us as ironic that encroaching on state land remains such a "rich man/poor man" game. That is to say, only the very rich and very poor seem able to get away with it. Those of us in the middle, who pay taxes and follow the law, can only sit by and watch as our hillsides are denuded and our mangrove forests destroyed.



## Attitude the problem, not language skills

Re: *Gazette online, Teaching Russian-language skills the key to resolving Phuket discord*

I'm all for Russian language learning opportunities for Thais, but the main problem is taxi driver thugs who think that Phuket belongs to them.

It does not!

Phuket belongs to all Thais, including those who lost their jobs due to the tour agency closure.

The police must start controlling the taxis!

Still concerned  
Gazette forum

### Taxi mafia keeps stacking the deck

Re: *Gazette online, Taxi drivers trigger full inquest into all Phuket tour businesses, January 31*

Hopefully, the investigation will look at local politicians' links with the Phuket taxi industry. Maybe it'll even consider the exceptionally poor attitude and driving skills of local taxi drivers as well as their contempt for road rules and the unfortunate tourists they carry.

Perhaps Thailand would prefer to have no foreign investment or competition.

Obviously, the deck is not stacked enough. How sad for Phuket.

Wagabc  
Gazette forum

### Mob rule running rampant in Phuket

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket land grab by villagers, stalled by police, title deed, February 1*

Another mob trying to get what they want by intimidation.

Maybe they were encouraged by the other mob that managed to shut down the "illegal Russian tour counters" that were in fact Thai owned and totally legal.

Chas  
Gazette forum

## Letters to the Editor

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

### Serious cash

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket van driver rewarded for returning tourist's lost B124k, February 2*

These types of stories always provide a nice balance, especially when you have other taxi drivers acting like complete mobsters.

I think many readers might not recognize how much money this man returned – especially given what his monthly wages probably are. I know many Thai teachers making less than 15,000 baht a month. Well done good sir, well done.

James Bracco  
Patong

### It could be you

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Red Cross calls for A, B, Rh- blood donations, February 2*

I have A- blood, and would love to donate. The only problem is, I am pregnant and as far as I know, you are not allowed to donate blood then. I hope lots of people will donate. Just think, it could be you needing it one day and I know how difficult it is with a blood type like I have.

Come on people; go to the Red Cross and do something good.

Becky  
Gazette forum

### Same old, same old taxi run around

I arrived at Phuket airport at 6:30pm on January 21 and went to the taxi meter stand to get a taxi. I saw 6 or 7 meter taxis waiting there, and I asked the man at the counter for a meter taxi to Patong.

His answer was, "No."

I then asked him again and he said, "No meter, it's 500 baht."

I said, "No, please, I want to go by meter to Patong."

Then he said, "No meter, go away. You take limo, 800 baht."

He then refused to speak to me and closed the window. Very strange. I mean, it was the metered taxi stand, and there were taxis there. What on earth is going on here?

Peter  
Phuket

### Bail bond based on the crime?

Re: *Gazette online, Missing Swiss student tourist alive and well, in Thai prison, January 23*

130,000 baht bail for a 1,500 baht overstay and stealing a 30,000-baht camera?

It seems that life is once more measured with different scales. Just like the rent in Phuket is not in proportion with sale prices, and minimum salaries are still not in proportion with the costs of living. For 130,000 baht you can also have 10 people murdered by a gunman.

Tinkerbelle  
Phuket forum

### Shame of Racha

Re: *Gazette online, Racha residents call for Phuket officials to fulfill old promises, February 5*

This article makes me sick. Twenty years ago, when I started coming to this area, Racha had a few goats, a few species of snakes and a great number of birds, but only a few people had small cabins.

These islands are special. They have fragile environments. What kind of greed allowed commercial development on these pristine locations? What a shame.

Caretaker  
Gazette forum

## Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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# Stop Russian to allegations

MOST of the problems we have to deal with are from Russian tourists, who come to Phuket because it is very cheap and they don't need a visa to come here.

Nearly 140,000 Russians visit our island every year. They only pay about 40,000 baht to a tour company in Russia who then takes care of almost everything for them: hotel, food and transportation. Because of this, their monetary injections into the local communities is limited. However, they are still spending some money when they are here.

The problems they cause are usually centered around road accidents and fights brought about through excessive drinking.

I accept that most Russians like to drink – in fact, they drink a lot. They probably forget that it's closer to 30 degrees Celsius in Thailand, not the below-freezing temperatures of Russia that they are used to drinking in.

The Russian investors who are putting money into Phuket are not a problem for the island; they seem to be causing very few issues. There is a substantial Russian community of about 5,000 expat residents on Phuket. There is a Russian community in Sai Yuan that doesn't cause anybody trouble. They get along very well with the locals in the area.

I fully support the government cracking down on anyone who is working illegally in Phuket. Tourists cannot work, and those doing so must be dealt with properly.

However, the recent issue between local taxi drivers and Rus-



**Santi Udomkiratak**, 48, has been the Deputy Honorary Consul of the Russian Federation for the provinces of Phuket, Krabi and Phang Nga since 2008. Born and raised in Phuket, Mr Santi received a degree in mechanical engineering from King Mongkut's University of Technology in Bangkok. Here, he gives his views on Russians in Phuket.



Russians have been the target of recent local unrest. Photo: Christian Mouchet

sian tour counters seems to be a little skewed, as these companies hire Thai staff and use raw materials from Thailand, so not all of the financial gains being made are going to Russians.

In reality, the tension between local taxi drivers and Russians in the Bang Tao area has been there for a long time, and has been brought up at Phuket consul meetings many times. Nonetheless, we've yet to find a permanent

solution.

Cultural differences may be responsible for some of the tensions between Thais and Russians. For Russians it might not be as easy to smile or be friendly as it is for Thais.

In any case, the situation in Phuket is better than in Pattaya. We are free from Russian mafia here – they aren't collecting protection money here as they do over there.



The fluctuating price of this massaman dish at the same restaurant finally prompted the writer to speak out. Photo: Marc Mulloy

## Hard to swallow

### Island View

By Marc Mulloy

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

NO ONE likes being ripped off. Phuket, like many popular tourist destinations, has its fair share of scams, so living here year-round can be frustrating unless you have mastered the language.

During my daily lunch break I often drive to a nearby shopping center to order a quick and filling meal at the food court there. I usually order the same thing; a massaman curry with vegetables and a fried egg on the side.

This costs between 60 to 65 baht, depending on who is serving. The fluctuating five baht makes little difference to me.

However, familiarity breeds contempt and on occasion I have seen the 65 turn to 75, but again shrugged it off, ate and left.

One of my colleagues, who is fluent in Thai, would never stand for this and has on many occasions questioned the bill, at this and at other establishments. While he was away recently I ordered the usual, then wandered over to the drinks counter to order something to wash down my delicious curry.

The lady announced I had only five baht of credit left on my card. I looked at the crumpled receipt in my other hand, and saw that I had been charged 95 baht.

Suddenly my food was tasteless and I resented being overcharged after being such a loyal customer. What would my colleague have done? I strode over to the lady who had overcharged me and in broken Thai tried to complain.

She showed my receipt to her colleagues who all agreed with her that 95 baht seemed a fair price. I left vowing never to eat there again.

Within a few weeks I found myself at the food court again and deliberately ordered my meal from another outlet. I walked past the conniving massaman vendors, but sat in full view of them.

Suddenly, one sat down at my table and slid 35 baht across the Formica towards me apologizing for her "bah bah" colleagues.

It felt great. I was vindicated. The small amount of money involved was not important, but the moral victory was. I now eat regularly at their stall again, the food tastes great and it now only ever costs me 60 baht.

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

### Choosing a passport for dual-citizen Thai children travelling

I am Australian. My girlfriend is Thai. Our son was born in Thailand. He is Thai and also has Australian citizenship. Our son has an Australian passport, but does not have a Thai passport. Can he travel and use his Australian passport to leave Thailand? Or does he need to have two passports to leave?

Also what parental consent does his mother need to give for him to travel? A handwritten letter of consent?

Aki  
Thailand

**Siriporn Tantipanyathep, chief of the Phuket Passport office, replies:**

On leaving Thailand, your child



Leave and enter on the same ID.

must present only one passport. It could be a Thai passport or an Australian passport, but it must be only one.

To avoid any confusion with Immigration officers when exiting the country, make sure you have a copy of the child's birth certificate on hand to present at Immigration. There is no need to present the child's ID card.

A person under 20 years old exiting Thailand alone must have written consent signed by both parents to leave the country.

### Owning a car on a tourist visa

I am married to a Thai and we own our own house in Udon. As I work abroad, I have not applied for a residence permit, I just come home one month every three months. Can I buy a car in my name even though I am basically on a tourist visa?

GW in Asia

**Titima Yukuntorn, chief of the Vehicle Registration Unit at the Phuket Provincial Transport Office, replies:**

Yes, a foreigner can be the legally registered owner of a car in Thailand while staying in the country on a tourist visa.

To register a car in your name in Phuket, you need to bring to our office your passport and signed photocopies of the face

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

Submit your issue at

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

page and of your current tourist visa.

You must also bring the original and a signed photocopy of an official letter from your local Immigration office confirming your registered address.

The rest of the documentation is the responsibility of the car company.

For more information, contact the Phuket Provincial Transport Office at 076-211019 or 076-214929 Monday to Friday, from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

**An officer at the Phuket Immigration Office replies:**

For a foreigner living in Phuket to be issued a letter confirming your registered address, you need to bring to our office your passport and two photos (1 inch).

The registered owner of your house, whether it be yourself or your wife – or both – must also come to our office and present formal identification (Thai ID card or passport) and the house registration document (*tabien baan*) for the house you live in.

# YOUR Phuket



Photos: Marc Mulloy

## D-IMAGE PLUS' 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY.

D-IP Studio's held their third anniversary party at Foto Hotel on Friday, February 1.



Owner and Developer, Richard Pope (center) with the Kata Rocks team.

## HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR.

A meet and greet from Impiana Resort Patong brought the *Aung-Pao* to *Phuket Gazette* for Chinese New Year.

Ms Sirigorn 'Siri' Nateetorn, marketing and communications manager of Impiana Resort , Patong (left), and Ms Jantana Jaikwang, assistant sales manager for the *Phuket Gazette*.



## THE KATA ROCKS TEAM HAD A GREAT PARTY AT THE NEW RENDEZVOUS RESTAURANT IN PHUKET TOWN



Kata Rocks team



## ROTARY DINNER & FAMILY NIGHT



George Dufresne, general manager of Le Versace (left, center), at the Rotary Club Patong monthly dinner & family night out, held at Le Versace on Tuesday, February 5.

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

# ISLAND TRADER

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

February 9 - 15, 2013 | [PhuketGazette.Net](http://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

Ford Explorer Limited



See page 30

## JOB of the week



**The Racha** is Thailand's leading 5 Star beach resort located on the beautiful island of Koh Racha Yai, just 30 minutes by boat from Phuket.

See page 27

## BOAT of the week



See page 31

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

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

## Properties For Sale

### 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

**FOR SALE RAWAI BEACH**  
Special Twin Villa. 3 or 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, pool, very big terrace, small garden, living space 400sqm, luxury furnishing. Price: 8.5 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280. Email: thewhitehousekata@gmail.com

**1/2 RAI IN RAWAI**  
Soi Saliga, dead end of the road, 100m to the beach. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 080-530 6880. Email: rawai.steen@gmail.com

### KAMALA NICE HOUSE



For sale. 2 bedrooms (possibility for third bedroom), 2 bathrooms, jacuzzi, dining and living room, kitchen, fully furnished, aircon, electric gate, all furniture included. 800m from beach, very quiet. Price: 9.5 million baht. (nous parlons Francais). Tel: 086-280 7400, +33-62-448 3630.

### 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

### GOLF VIEW LAND FOR SALE

Near BIS 1,020sqm, ready to build. 5 million baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English). Email: julien@phuketimmo.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 phuketimmo.net

### CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2fl, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more details. Tel: 086-476 9612.

### 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/workproperty.com/phuketproperty-phuketagency/Rawai-Detached-house-with-2-bedrooms.html

### 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 sackenheim.net

### LUXURY VILLA

Just 3 minutes from BIS. 1,000sqm land. 350sqm building. 3 bedrooms + 1 maid's room, 4 bathrooms + study. 14m swimming pool. 19 million baht. Contact Alex. Tel: 089-651 3250.

### 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

### DETACHED 3 BEDROOMS

House for sale. Chalong Gate Community. 240sqm land, guard 24hr, enough space for pool garden. 3.5 million baht. Email: gm@thenetworkproperty.com

### HOUSE IN CHAO FA GARDEN HOME 3

Koh Kaew. 2 bedrooms, 1 minute from BIS. Perfect condition. 2.7 million baht only. Contact Alex. Tel: 089-651 3250.

### 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.

### LANDAT 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.

### 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 FOR SALE: URGENT



4.9 million baht, 89sq wah (includes furniture). Stone wall around the house & fruit garden. 4 air conditioners, telephone and internet, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 CCTV. Located near the Heroines Monument, towards to Tesco Lotus Thalang. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: edc9designs@gmail.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.

### 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.

### PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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

### REAL 180° STUNNING SEAVIEW LAND

Real 180-degree stunning seaview land, unobstructed, east side, Yamu Hill development. 2 plots of 1 rai each. Chanote title. Price: 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 084-625 5090. Email: phuket.turquoise@gmail.com

### NICE PLOT FOR SALE



Near Layan Hill Estate. (Manik-Bang Jo area). Ready to build housing/pool villas. 1,400sqm. Chanote title. Price: 7.2 million baht. Neg. Contact owner on 080-520 2989. Email: edc9designs@gmail.com

### 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

### 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 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).

### URGENT: MAI KHAO BEACH LAND

Quick sale, negotiable price. 2 rai of land on Mai Khao Beach, Chanote title. Exquisite location with breathtaking sunset right on the beach. Tel: 086-682 0288. Email: atjittanonta@yahoo.com

### URGENT SALE/RENT



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

Live in Cherg Talay?  
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at Chaba Supermarket



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

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All classifieds in these pages are

# PAID!

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

**TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW**



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

**POOL VILLA IN CHALONG**

With panoramic seaview about half Phuket. 360sqm/1,460sqm. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. Price: 25 million baht or long-term rent, minimum 3 years: 70,000 baht per month. For more information please email [norberts923@gmail.com](mailto:norberts923@gmail.com)

**KRABI, AO NANG**

3 plots of land, each 420sqm, each 850,000 baht. House plan with building permit. 2 bedrooms, pool. Email: [mr.axelmay@gmail.com](mailto:mr.axelmay@gmail.com)

**2-BED POOL VILLA**


Beautiful 2-bed, 2-bath pool villa for sale in Ban Don area. Minutes from Laguna. 7.5 million baht. Tel: 091-058 0034 (English). Email: [beth.hodges@gmail.com](mailto:beth.hodges@gmail.com)

**FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE FOR SALE**



Chao Fah Garden Home 3 in Koh Kaew near BIS, 10 mins to Lotus. 2 beds, 2 baths, 2 aircons. Nice living & kitchen room, car park, fully furnished. Ready to move in. 2.85 million baht near Boat Lagoon. Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: [c.junlarat@gmail.com](mailto:c.junlarat@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](mailto:montha_phuket@yahoo.com)

**HOUSE FOR SALE**



Peaceful and quiet location in Rawai/Nai Harn area. Well-maintained pool villa. Big garden. For quick sale price can be negotiated. For more information please call 085-641 0889.

**STUDIO APARTMENT FOR SALE**

Very nice studio apartment for sale in Na Nai Road, Patong, 50sqm, nice view, 3.6 million baht. For more info, please call 081-415 7774, 086-940 5187.

**RAWAI FREEHOLD CONDO 1,2,3 BED**

For sale or rent. 14 units left, sea view, luxury. Chanote forever, fully furnished, good price, Rawai Beach, 200m to fishing pier. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: [rawai4@yahoo.com](mailto:rawai4@yahoo.com)

**SAI YUAN 4-BED POOL VILLA**

Fully furnished house for sale. Pool and water well. Quiet location. Price: 10.5 million baht. Email: [info@saourse.cz](mailto:info@saourse.cz) See details, photos or contact us at [saourse.cz](mailto:saourse.cz)

**LAND FOR SALE**

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

**CONDO SALE PATONG**

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

**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](mailto:suademacho@gmail.com)

**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: [ornils@sbj.at](mailto:ornils@sbj.at)

**RENOVATED VILLA**

Chalong, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool. 4.75 million baht. Tel: 082-420 7052. [stayonphuket.com](http://stayonphuket.com)

**THE BASE CONDO DOWNTOWN**



1 bedroom fully furnished, third floor. Located opposite to Central and Big C. Sale down payment: 120,000 baht. Tel: 081-979 3369.

**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](mailto:honda.1437@yahoo.co.th)

**HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG**

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

**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).

**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](mailto:bannuaton@yahoo.com)

**PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE**



for sale. Near Sengho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio, 30sqm, floor 15, sea view, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.9 million baht. Ready to move in. For more info call 089-472 9118.

**CONDO IN SUPALAI PARK**



for sale. Near Sengho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio, 30sqm, floor 15, sea view, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.9 million baht. Ready to move in. For more info call 089-472 9118.

**BALI STYLE HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT**



Rawai, one-storey house, 2 bedrooms en-suite bathroom, nice, private swimming pool with jacuzzi. Sale: 7.8 million baht. Tel: 080-327 4592. Email: [fliesen-sv@arcor.de](mailto:fliesen-sv@arcor.de)

**30 RAI IN TOWN**

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

**PALM BREEZE RESORT, NAI HARN**

1 bedroom, luxury condominium, 65sqm with veranda on ground floor. Swimming pool, gymnasium, tennis court and more. For sale at 3.5 million baht, fully furnished. Tel: 080-391 8286 (English). Email: [aslaferme@hotmail.com](mailto:aslaferme@hotmail.com)

**2 UNITS PATONG PARADISE COMPLEX**

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

**PATONG FREEHOLD**

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 100sqm. Tel: 081-612 4187. Email: [nicolaas5@yahoo.com](mailto:nicolaas5@yahoo.com)

**HEIGHTS KATA FREEHOLD CONDO**

Foreign-freehold 2-bed unit, 195sqm, near gym & pool. Fully furnished. Tel: 089-652 1951. Email: [phuket.pn@gmail.com](mailto:phuket.pn@gmail.com)

**2 NICE CHEAP CONDOS**

Renovated. Freehold. Both rented out. Tel: 088-846 3467 (English). Email: [sellingcartel@hotmail.com](mailto:sellingcartel@hotmail.com)

**2 POOL VILLAS NEXT TO PIA**



Ready to move in. Villa 1: on 1,100sqm land, 15.9 million baht. Villa 2: on 2,200sqm land, 19.9 million baht. Brand-new, each with 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 12m swimming pool. Guest bungalow with 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom. 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. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: [montha\\_phuket@yahoo.com](mailto:montha_phuket@yahoo.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](mailto:montha_phuket@yahoo.com)

**Classified Advertisements**

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

\_\_\_\_\_ (heading)

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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

**Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.**

**Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.**

**Looking for land to buy?**

See more classified ads at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)

# Property Classifieds

## Properties For Rent

### NEW HOUSE, RENT/SALE



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished with small garden, quiet area. Rent: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-626 5616. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

### GOLF VIEW FOR RENT

Large house with 7-aircon bedrooms and swimming pool available for rent. 5 minutes to all shopping malls and very center of international school. Tel: 081-271 3228 (English & Thai). Email: info@procarpentering.com

### CONDO, 3 MINUTES WALK TO BEACH

2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, shared pool, parking, great beach! Email: resortgm@gmail.com

### NEW CONDO FOR RENT



Short or long-term rent at Kathu, fully furnished, swimming pool, fitness, quiet and secure. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

### CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2 floor, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more details. Tel: 089-469 1813, 086-476 9612.

### PATONG STUDIO 50SQM

For rent. 14th floor, seaview, pool, garden, bathroom, kitchen, terrace, parking, security, fully renovated. Tel: 081-086 3586.

### 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

### ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

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

### DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDO

2 bedrooms at Kalim Beach, Patong. Also 1 bedroom at Central Phuket Town, kitchen, lounge, many facilities. Tel: 081-892 0038.

### WALK TO KATA BEACH

Gorgeous New 2-bedroom, 3 bath home in Kata Beach. Available from Feb 20. Tel: 081-472 1010 (English & Thai). Email: kahunadan@hotmail.com

### LOVELY APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

### 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

### HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



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

### 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

### 2 & 3 BED PATONG APARTMENTS

Big pool, gym, parking, maid, wifi, security. From 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

### B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu, big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden and car park. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

### CHALONG BEACHFRONT POOL VILLA

Seaview, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 lounges, pool, internet, cable TV. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-470 6104.

### 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 Chermg Talay. Tel: 089-470 7488. Email: nattamon.m@gmail.com

## 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

### SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT/SALE



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

### LARGE HOUSE KAMALA

Furnished, 280sqm, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, office, sundeck, pool, jacuzzi, carport. 25,000 baht per week or 32,000 baht per month. Minimum 6 months contract period. Sale: 3.4 million baht leasehold. Tel: 084-716 0502.

### CHALONG TOWNHOUSE

For rent. Unfurnished, 2 bedrooms, 1 aircon, kitchen, fridge, stove, telephone, TV. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-281 4535 (English), 080-626 7245 (Thai).

### GOLF VIEW CONDO

Fully furnished, 1-bedroom condo for rent, Chalong, long term: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-922 2800.

### 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).

### CONDO IN PATONG

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

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



Your key to fast-track placement and easy payment for ads at Thailand's LARGEST classifieds marketplace. Hundreds of new ads every week! Like to have one?

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

## 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!



## Property Services

**HOME REMODELLED TO REPAIR**  
Project management. All types of work. American speaking. Tel: 087-468 5939.

**PROPERTY & RENTAL MANAGEMENT**  
Established Company, successful management, and rental marketing by hoteliers. We manage estates, condos, and individual villas at low fees. Own aircon, pool, handyman, maids, gardeners. 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

## Property Wanted

**HOTEL OR LAND WANTED**  
Patong (or max. 30 min from Patong), 1-4 rai with Chanote, 20-50 rooms, Sea view (even partial). We offer all guarantees. Email: ppviseur@higest.com Please see our website at www.higest.com

## Accommodation Available

**HOUSE FOR RENT**  
Close to the Heroines monument, a single new house: 60 Sq. wah, 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, Western kitchen, large living room, 3 Air conditioners, internet connection, fully furnished. Tel: 089-737 9104 (English & Thai). Email: p\_pongthong@hotmail.com

**KATHU, 3 BED UNFURNISHED HOUSE**  
Three bedroom unfurnished house to rent on popular estate near Soi Namtok. Many more available Tel: 076-615905, 090-875 3683 (English). Email: sdm@wmalexander.com For further details, please see our website at www.wmalexander.com

## Accommodation Wanted

**NEED URGENTLY VILLA**  
With or without pool (for 2 persons) from 16 February-19 March and 18 March-10 April. Tel: 082-420 7052. Email: stayonphuket@yahoo.com Please see our website at www.stayonphuket.com

**LOOKING FOR HOUSE OR APARTMENT**  
Swedish family want to rent a house or apartment in Kamala, Surin or Bang Tao. Long term, minimum 3 rooms, maximum rate: 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-107 3369 (English), 081-107 2911 (English). Email: nordljus@hotmail.com

**KAMALA BEACH GUESTHOUSE**  
Private, quiet, 2-bedroom apartment. 2,600 baht per night or 1-bedroom house. 1,800 baht per night. Kitchen, aircon, cable TV DVD, ADSL and pool. Tel: 076-385909, 087-277 5216 (English). Fax: 076-385909. Email: curlyphyl@yahoo.com

**ROOMS FOR RENT IN KARON**  
Fully furnished, cable TV, aircon, Wifi. Daily/weekly/ monthly. Tel: 082-270 6385. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

**KARON OCEAN FRONT LUXURY APT**  
5-star 1 bedroom. Pools, quiet area. 30,000 baht per month. Available February 5. Tel: 087-531 1124 (English). Email: dfenocchio@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at http://karonhill.altervista.org

## Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

**SURIN BEACH RENTAL**  
Fully serviced apartments, villas holiday rental. Bang Tao & Surin Beach. www.surinbeachrentals.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

**LAGUNA HOLIDAY CLUB RENTAL**  
Holiday rent at Laguna Holiday Club Resort for new year week 1-bedroom suite for 4 persons, only 70,000 baht. Tel: 089-795 6363. Email: vicky\_grc@hotmail.com

**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

**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.

**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

## Household Items

**HOME CINEMA AMPL 5.1 DENON**  
Home Cinema AMPL 5.1, Denon AVR 1907. Brand new, still in the box. Price new: 24,000 baht. Asking price: 12,000 baht. Email: phuket.turquoise@gmail.com

**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

**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.

## Household Services

**FARANG HANDYMAN**  
Clear communication, all types of work on time and done right! Tel: 081-787 9767. Website: www.farang-handyman.com

**ELECTRICAL SAFETY INSPECTION REPORTS**  
Home safety electrical checks. BS7671. Tel: 081-606 0200. Email: info@phukethomeservices.com

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

**QUALITY MAID SERVICE**  
First-class house cleaning service covering Chalong, Nai Harn, Rawai. speak good English. Tel: 081-271 0496 (English). Email: richard@siamrealestate.com

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

**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!**

**Looking for land to buy?**  
See more classified ads at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)

**Classified Advertisements**

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

\_\_\_\_\_ (heading)

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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

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

**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

**SWEDISH / FINNISH TOUR GUIDE**

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

**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.

**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@imededgeconcepts.com

**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

**DIVASILVER** Jewelry Retail Shop  
Fine Sterling Silver and Gold Jewelry Opening in Phuket Boat Lagoon

**Jewelry Sales**

◊ Thai Female ◊ 25-35 yr. ◊ 3 years min Exp.  
◊ computer & product display skills requested  
◊ Speak Good English. If can speak Chinese and/or Russian a Plus ◊

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

**CONSTRUCTION MANAGER**

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

**CALL CENTER NEEDS SWISS-GERMAN**

We, Intercallservice Company, are seeking a Swiss-German speaking person, for our call center in Phuket, to support our customers in Switzerland. Good knowledge of French would be an advantage. We offer a 5-day week with Visa and work permit. For further information please contact Mr. Klaus. Tel: 089-873 9123.

**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

**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

**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

**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

**Phuket Gazette**

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

**REPORTER**

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**

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

**ARCHITECT**

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

**GUEST HOUSE STAFF**

Reception - assistant manager who speaks English and Thai. Experience preferred. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

**WEBSITE / SOFTWARE PROGRAMMER**

Bayshore Group is looking for Web or Software Programmer/Developer (Java, C) (number sign).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(number sign).NET as well as Ajax, JQuery.
4. Good understanding of frameworks and IDE in Java or C(number sign).NET
5. Fluent English. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Please send CV to f@bayshoreprojects.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 smartbusinessphuket@gmail.com

**Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:****CHALONG**

- ▶ **Julapan Stationery** (Chaofa East Rd)
- ▶ **KL Mart** (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle)
- ▶ **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd)

Tel: 076-282254  
Tel: 076-280400  
Tel: 076-282403

**PATONG**

- ▶ **Taurus Travel** (Aroonsom Plaza)
- ▶ **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Aroonsom Plaza)
- ▶ **Deli Supermarket** (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd)

Tel: 076-344521-2  
Tel: 076-290468  
Tel: 076-342275

**PHUKET CITY**

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

Tel: 076-232398  
Tel: 076-258369  
Tel: 076-255425

**CHERNG TALAY**

- ▶ **Chaba Supermarket** (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: 076-325586

**RAWAI**

- ▶ **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: 076-388144

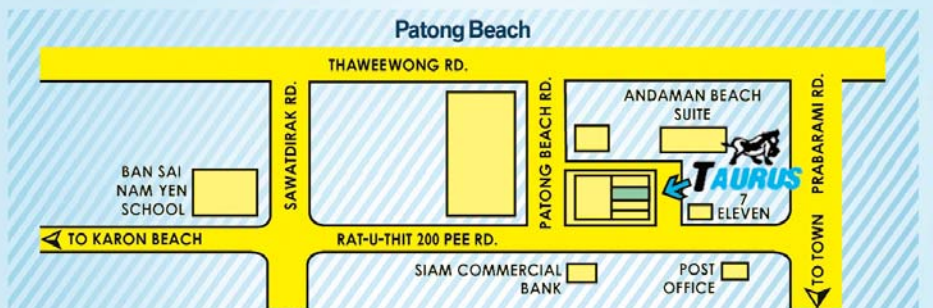
**KARON**

- ▶ **EuroStyle Tailors** (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

Tel: 076-396911

**Live in Patong?**

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at **Taurus Travel**



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

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

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

*Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!*

**ASSISTANT NEEDED**  
Rus Thai Business Group Company Limited requires Thai female, fluent in spoken and written English, good computer skills. Tel: 085-690 6052. Email: office@rt-pro.ru

**SALES/MARKETING AND PR**

2 years experience in sales and marketing in hospitality or real estate. Tel: 076-318400. Email: ratthanon@bangtao tropicalresidence.com

**URGENTLY NEED SHOP MANAGER**

Boutique shop in Surin Beach urgently needs Shop Manager: female, fluently speak English. Please send CV to bliss@online.com.kh

**MARKETING / RESERVATION STAFF**

Good written and spoken English, customer service, teamwork, organization, e-mail and Microsoft Office program. Tel: 076-381703. Email: oil@elephant-hills.com

**STAFF WANTED - TIGER MUAY THAI**

- Office Admin, Receptionist, Gear Attendant:

Good written and spoken English Excel, Word and accounting experience is a plus. Must have a friendly outgoing personality. Salary range is depending on experience.

- Receptionist 12,000-20,000 baht. Office admin 15,000-22,000 baht. Gear attendant 12,000-16,000 baht. Please send your resume to will@tigermuaythai.com

- Restuarant shift supervisor 14,000-18,000 baht+benefit. Send your resume to: cheffy@tigermuaythai.com

**SALES & ADMIN JUNIOR**



We are looking for young and energetic sales & admin staff. 20 to 25 years old. Good computer skills & English command a must. Thai national only. Call for an appointment now! Tel: 076-325419, 085-619 0380 (English & Thai), 081-400 4678 (English & Thai). Email: orientalsamui@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.oriental-living.net

**Chinese Sales Executive**

Are you ready for a great career with Phuket's largest hotel, resort and property group?

Laguna Resorts & Hotels Plc is a respected and responsible company whose interests combine hotels and real estate, with an emphasis on quality and environmental protection.

To meet the Group's exciting expansion plans, we are currently seeking a qualified candidate for the position of **Chinese Sales Executive**.

**Key responsibilities:**  
To sell Banyan Tree Residences, Laguna Property, and Laguna Shores.

**Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's degree in Business Administration or a related field
- At least 2 years real estate sales experience in selling luxury branded residential properties with an international sales team is an advantage.
- Excellent command of both written and spoken English
- Proficiency in MS Office

The successful candidate will be offered attractive working conditions, together with an excellent remuneration and benefits package.

**Application**

Please submit your CV (in English) with photograph and expected salary to:

**Human Resources Department, Laguna Resorts & Hotels PLC**  
390/1 Moo 1 Srisoonthorn Road, Chermgtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110  
Tel. 076-362300 ext. 1510 | Email: [career@lagunaphuket.com](mailto:career@lagunaphuket.com)

Please be informed that only short-listed candidates will be notified.

**The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:**

**SUB-EDITOR**

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

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to [editor@phuketgazette.net](mailto:editor@phuketgazette.net)

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

**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.

**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.sch ranz 56@gmx.ch

**The Racha** is Thailand's leading 5 Star beach resort located on the beautiful island of Koh Racha Yai, just 30 minutes by boat from Phuket.

We are growing and looking for the following talented individuals to join our dynamic team:

<p><b>Human Resources Manager</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b> Bachelor's Degree or higher in a related field Previous experience in a similar position in a 5 star hotel Strong interpersonal and leadership skills Good command of spoken and written English</p>	<p><b>Beach Club Manager</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b> Previous experience in similar position in a 5 star hotel Strong leadership, great personality Excellent command of spoken and written English</p>
<p><b>Dive Instructor</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b> Male with appropriate PADI Certification Previous experience Good command of spoken and written English</p>	<p><b>Spa Receptionist/ Spa Therapist</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b> Female with good interpersonal skills Previous experience Good command of spoken and written English</p>
<p><b>Housekeeping Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b> Female with pleasant personality Good command of spoken and written English</p>	<p><b>Guest Service Officer</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b> Customer-focused Good command of spoken and written English Able to communicate in Mandarin an advantage</p>
<p><b>Purchasing Officer</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b> Results-driven Previous experience</p>	<p><b>Operations Technician</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b> Male with previous experience Committed to work</p>
<p><b>Waiter &amp; Barman</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b> Basic knowledge in F&amp;B Customer-oriented Able to communicate in English</p>	<p><b>Boat Crew</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b> Male with positive attitude Able to communicate in English</p>
<p><b>Sports and Beach Attendant</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b> Male, highly motivated Able to communicate in English</p>	<p><b>Commis I (Bakery)</b></p> <p><b>Qualifications:</b> Previous experience Committed to work</p>

**Attractive salary with guaranteed service charge**

If you have what it takes and wish to join a people-oriented company that prides itself in excellence and the belief that people are our most important assets, then please submit your resume and a recent photo to: [executiveoffice@theracha.com](mailto:executiveoffice@theracha.com)

**The Racha**  
42/12-13 Moo 5, Rawai, Muang, Phuket 83130, Thailand  
Tel: +66 (76) 355455 Ext. 703 | Fax: +66 (76) 355637

**MUSICIANS WANTED**  
Singer, guitarist would like to meet musicians who are interested in playing at Irish Bars. Contact Andy. Tel: 084-840 9258.

**MARKETING REPS NEEDED**

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

**SMILEY KIDZ KINDERGARTEN**

We have the following positions available:

- 1) Teacher's assistant
- 2) Cleaning lady/cook
- 3) Driver/handy man

Basic English skills will be a plus. Thai nationals only. Tel: 084-847 0732 (English). Email: info@smiley-kidz.com

**WAITRESS OR WAITER**  
Waitress or waiter wanted for a holiday villa. Must speak English and have experience. Staff can live in or live out. Tel: 081-693 1621 (Thai), 084-689 4658 (Thai). Email: malinlon@hotmail.com

**SALES & MARKETING MANAGER**

Company looking for a sales & marketing manager (food & snacks). Thai female 25-35 years old. Sales and marketing experience. Good English. We offer good salary and benefits. Tel: 080-362 6678.

**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: writ@boatlagoonyachting.co.th

**Employment Wanted**

**EXECUTIVE AR / SECRETARY**



Secure Comm Limited is looking for a Phuket based, preferably Thai native with an excellent command of spoken and written English. (Foreigners on long-term visas may also apply) Background in AR/Accounting and Bookkeeping is a must. Experienced in data entry, computer literate, Blackberry savvy, proficient with Excel. Experienced as a secretary or executive assistant with strong organizational/detail oriented/administrative skills. Salary will be based on experience and qualifications. Tel: 090-916 3460. Email: securecomm@yahoo.com

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

## Business Opportunities

### SURIN BEACH BAR FOR RENT

Upmarket Lounge Bar for rent. Fully furnished, music system, aircons, flat screen TVs. Pool table. Available immediately. Email: stewartlees@gmail.com

### COMMERCIAL BUILDING FOR SALE

Middle of Patong, 60m from the shore, 6 rooms, guest-house + restaurant with large, steady, ever-increasing clientele. Sale at cheapest price due to owner leaving. Please call 089-651 3250. www.guesthousepatong.net

### HOT DEAL IN PATONG

In the heart of Patong Beach. 28 rooms, big restaurant+ big bar+3 shops for sale or lease, and up to 2018. 8 million baht. Tel: 084-306 2440 (English), 086-943 4447 (English). Email: hollywoodbeach@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.hollywoodplace.com

### RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Fully equipped European restaurant for sale, in central Patong. Only 30m off the beach road. 90 seats, 3 rooms. Tel: 084-626 4528 (English), 084-842 3400 (English). Email: drazen.johanson@gmail.com

### PLANT INVESTOR REQUIRED

Beverage manufacturing plant investor required for Bangkok production plant. Export and domestic. Glass, plastic and carton beverages. 5,000 units per hour capacity. Unique international network. USD200,000 required for equity position. Security over machine assets. Minimum bite USD20,000. Email: marc@humanba.com www.humanba.com Other beverage investments available. Contact Mike. Tel: 086-057 7714 (English).

### SALES MARKETING AND PR

2 years experience in sales and marketing in hospitality or real estate. Tel: 076-318 400. Email: ratthanon@bangtaotropicalresidence.com

## Audio / Video Equipment

### SPEAKERS JBL PROFESSIONAL

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

### VCR PLAYER / TAPE WANTED

Looking to purchase VCR player and tape in new or old as long as it is working. Please contact Anthony Granata. Tel: 081-719 7143.

### MANAGER / CO-OWNER

Looking for a buy-in manager to Elvis Rock & Roll Bar in Kamala. A unique concept bar with high potential. 33% or 100% is available. Tel: 085-158 7638. Email: pierre\_hammar@yahoo.se

### BAR FOR SALE SOI BEL AIR

Busy Mushroom Bar for sale. Soi Bel Air, with all stock, TV, sound system and fridges included. Rent: 10,000 baht per month with contract paid up until July 2013. Only 800,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 086-725 0771 (English). Email: warrenmeca4@gmail.com

### INCREDIBLE PROJECT INVESTMENT



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

## Bulletins

### Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business  
If you want to stop that is ours  
**Daily Meetings**  
Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon & Cape Panwa

081-895 4763  
081-956 4031  
email: phuketaa@yahoo.com  
Google AA Phuket

### SPONSOR A CHILD

The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol. Tel: 087-417 8860 or contact Sue. Tel: 087-277 6948. For more information please email us at info@phuketiwc.com

### 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\_stjames@hotmail.com

### BUILDING + BUSINESS

Land commercial building business for sale. 4 storeys, just 60m from the shore. Guesthouse: 6 luxury rooms + restaurant with large steady client that is ever increasing. The cheapest price due to owner who is leaving to USA. Contact Alex. Tel: 089-651 3250. Email: alex\_kolinz@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.guesthousepatong.net

### 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 + RESTAURANT FOR SALE

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

### DESIGN RESTAURANT

For sale. Popular restaurant pizzeria in excellent location with patio. 100 seats on over 300sqm. 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

### RENT GUESTHOUSE PATONG

12 rooms, cheap rent, good location Nanai Road, very good profit, easy to manage. Price: 1 million baht. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

### GUESTHOUSE FOR LEASE

18 rooms, new building, fully furnished, ongoing business with future bookings. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

### 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: marcellospizzichino@hotmail.com

### BAR BANGLA FOR RENT

Bar - Bangla for rent. Huge area over 2 floors. Suite nightclub or restaurant or go go bar. Cheap rent, good lease. Be quick. Tel: 087-881 7600. Email: cocodiorster@gmail.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

### RUNNING RESTAURANT

For sale. Kata, Tai Na Road. For more information please call 090-176 7364.

### BAR FOR LEASE SURIN BEACH

Area is about 100sqm internally with patio out front. Prime location on Surin Beach, on main High Street overlooking King's Park, just yards from 5-star resorts and restaurants (at Twin Palms), 100m to the beach. Fully furnished with sofas, pool table, 2 x flat screen TVs, cable and UBC/True Vision TV, Hi Quality Denon Music System with 8 speakers built into ceiling. Rent: 50,000 baht per month. Email: stewartlees@gmail.com

### GUESTHOUSE KARON

Perfect location. 6 rooms. 2 million baht turnover. 0.8 million baht profit. Lease 3/6 years. Price: 0.8 million baht. Email: ghfsphuket@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

### 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: omaraalquraini@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.

### 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

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 Products & Services

### BUDS INTERNATIONAL KINDERGARTEN

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



**Accepting children 3 months old - 4 years old. 7am-7pm.**

- Experienced nannies.
- Nutritious meals.
- Reasonable rates.
- Outdoor activities.
- Skill development activities

**CALL NOW:**  
082-539 8252 (Thai).  
081-868 7676 (English).

### INDIAN/THAI COOKING CLASS

Learn how to cook authentic tasting Indian/Thai dishes with us at Kata. Group of 2-6 people per class. Free pick-up Kata, Karon and Patong. Special offer, call us for details. Tel: 081-710 5250, 081-869 8293 (English & Thai), 081-403 3832 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-333303. Email: thaicookingkata@hotmail.com, please see our website at www.indianthaicookingatkata.com

## Club Memberships Available

### LOCH PALM MEMBERSHIP

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

### GOLF MEMBERSHIP

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

### BCC FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

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

## Miscellaneous For Sale

### BISS FLAPPER

Circuit integrity cross-checked by UL, SafeAsia and iFARD every four months. Documentation available. Certified by Thai OOC within two weeks of import. Can be blarfed into any properly wired restaurant kitchen in Thailand. Purchased new in Dijon, Nov 2010, for 82,000 baht; selling now for just 55,000 baht. Three-pole snard beans (4) with lithium backing plates. Gooze and Himmelman pork whistles, milled and graded in July last year. Insured through November this year (2013). Happy to demonstrate for serious buyers at Le Montage, Rawai, any night except Mondays (restaurant closed).

Contact Jack Martin for pics and documentation.  
Tel or SMS: 081-207 4471.  
Email: jackmartin3@gmx.com

### 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

## Education

### STEP STUDIO FIT & DANCE

We invite you to: aerobics, pilates, Latino and club, hip-hop. Tel: 091-042 2944 (English).

## 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

## 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. gone2thedoggies@gmail.com

## Watches & Jewelry

**AMETHYST**  
800 gram stone, 6 inches. Asking price at 300,000 baht. For more details please call 081-892 3559.

### DETOX TO YOUR DOOR

9,500 baht for 7 days. Tel: 084-100 6274. www.clearerclanse.com

### TATTOO REMOVAL

We remove your tattoos. Tel: 083-362 4144. Please see our website at www.tattoo-remove.info

### LEGAL TAXATION SERVICE

We can arrange and submit all forms of tax return to the Revenue Office. Contact Pondsee. Tel: 086-595 2594. Email: mem\_pondsee@yahoo.com

### PROJECT CONSULTANCY

Predesign through to full implementation of development by well-qualified British team. For more details please call 089-866 6030. Email: landalliance8@gmail.com

### NEW SUGAR WAXING

Location at Chalong. Both men & women. No pain! Please call 082-456 6791.

### OC&A FISHING CHARTER

Extreme sport fishing service. Tel: 084-320 2252. Email: thanikulnut@hotmail.com Please see our website at http://oceansandanglers.com

### DATING NICE PEOPLE



The easy way of dating. New online dating. For further details, please see our website at www.yourhappydate.com

### PHUKET LEARN TO SWIM PROGRAMS

Beginners to adults and water safe classes for nannies. Tel: 088-443 2030.

### ENGLISH-RUSSIAN TRANSLATION

High-quality translation. All kinds of text. Reasonable price. Contact Julia. Tel: 084-840 7624.



**Phuket Memorial**  
Professional Wedding Photographer

Family Beach Wedding Pre-weddings portraits and Events  
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Lanta

Email: nid@phuketmemorial.com | Mobile Phone: +66 (0)8 1691 5617  
www.phuketmemorial.com

**Live in Patong?**  
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at The Deli Supermarket

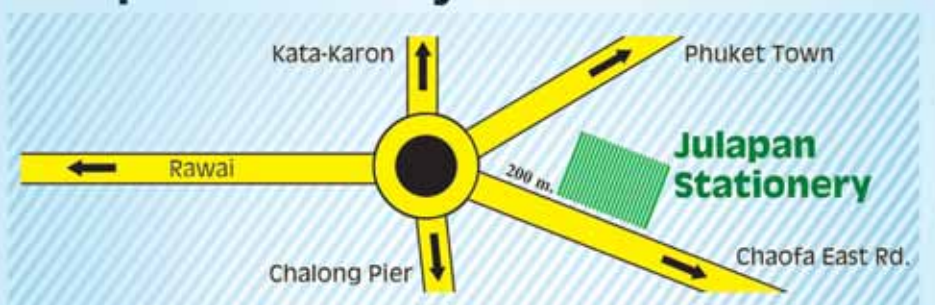


Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Damrong: (076-342275)**

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

**Live in Chalong?**  
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at Julapan Stationery



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Aoi: (076-282254)**

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## Saloon Cars

**NISSAN NV WINGROAD**  
Car for sale, gold color, year 2006. 1,600cc, 35,000km. Asking price: 165,000 baht. Available on 6 April 2013 (depends on Visa). Tel: 083-182 5037 (English), 089-970 8227 (Thai). Email: mellaert s9@hotmail.com

**TOYOTA YARIS LIMITED AUTO**  
4 years, only 29,000km, 2 airbags, parking sensor, 17-inch wheels, new insurance, looks like new, was 695,000 baht. Now 450,000 baht. Tel: 090-112 5765 (English), 081-067 4117. Email: kurt2008@hotmail.de



**TOYOTA SOLUNA GLi**  
1999, 102,136km, Max 15" Skirt & Spoiler, Rear JBL Speaker  
225,000 BAHT  
**081 691 5617**  
thiansin@hotmail.com

**HONDA ACCORD 3.5L V6**



Fully imported Honda Accord 2009 3.5L V6, white with full black leather interior plus other upgraded features. 29,500km, no accidents or marks. Purchased from Anuphas Honda Phuket June 2009. New value 3.3 million baht, selling 2.4 million baht. Contact Wayne (English only). Tel: 076-270478, 081-270 3211 (English). Email: wayneklapko@live.com

**MB CKL 200 FOR SALE**



MB CKL200 Cabriolet 2005. 65,000km. Price: 2.35 million baht. Contact Arthur. Tel: 087-383 1946.

**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

**BMW 523M SPORT**



Full options with double glazed windows and blinds. Maintained by BMW. 58,000km. Price: 750,000 baht. Tel: 081-271 7701. Email: hemalegdr@hotmail.com

**MAZDA 3 SPORT MAXX**



Model 2009. Full options. 2,000cc. Only 17,283 km. Tax. Insurance. Full service history. Immaculate condition. Sale: 725,000 baht. Tel: 084-850 7170.

**NISSAN ALMERA 1.2L**



Sale: 515,000 baht, automatic, perfect condition, 15,000 km. Tel: 088-765 6756, 081-667 1637. Email: j.jaikwang@hotmail.com

## Motorbikes

**SALE HONDA CLICK 18,000 BAHT**  
5 years old, white, max wheel, new tires, good condition. Green book. Tel: 089-973 5081 (English & Thai). Email: somthawin\_pw@hotmail.com

**HONDA STEED 400**  
Good condition, black, comes with beautiful plate number one. Asking 125,000 baht. Call for seeing. Tel: 087-270 9093.

**YAMAHA V-MAX FOR SALE**



V-Max. 1,200cc, 145hp, green book. Bike is a real beauty. 235,000 baht. Tel: 089-822 7547.

**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.

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

**HONDA WAVE 100**  
36,600km. Good condition with green book. 17,500 baht or best offer. Tel: 082-813 1935 (English). Email: sdshudson@gmail.com

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

## Rentals

**CHEAP CAR FOR RENT**



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

## 4 x 4s

**FORD EXPLORER LIMITED**



4.6 liter V-8. Delivers 239 horsepower, 80,000km. Selling price 900,000 baht. Negotiable! For more information please call 081-666 6622. Email: info@sunsetplaza.eu

**TOYOTA FORTUNER**



TRD Sportivo II 3.0. AT. 4x4, white. 2009 Model. 2010. 48,000km, 12" rear DVD screens, and rear parking sensors. Selling price: 1.175 million baht. Negotiable! Tel: 081-666 6622. Email: info@sunsetplaza.eu

**SUZUKI CARIBBEAN**  
For sale. 1 lady owner (from new), 4x4. 1,300 cc. 2005. Black. Full tax and insurance. Low mileage. Excellent condition. Price: 175,000 baht. Tel: 086-280 2492. Email: martine\_street@hotmail.com

**CHEAP CAR RENT**  
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.

## Pick-ups

**2010 FORD WILDTRAK**  
47,000km, 4 doors, auto 4x2. 560,000 baht or best offer. Call for details. Tel: 086-316 9159 (English & Thai). Email: ozmoran@yahoo.com



Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

**Live in Karon?**  
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at Euro style tailors



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

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Asia's Leading Yacht Brokers Since 1984



**2003/2005 Locwind 47.**

EUR 270,000

"Price reduction"

• Beautiful interior teak wood joinery and built with attention to details by small French yard.



**2007 PHINISI SCHOONER 26 m.**

EUR 195,000



**2004 VRIPACK 69**

EUR 800,000



**2008 PRINCESS P42**

USD 485,000

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

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

พชรวิทย์ ณ นคร (แมทธิว)


+66 (0) 81 787 7383  
matthew.p@simpsonmarine.com

**NEW KARNIC 1851**  
Deep V Hull, 90hp lean-burn, 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and trailer. 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

**NEW ALESSANDRO MARCHI**  
"Carenacorsa 18". Hypalon RIB, light and fast. 90hp lean-burn, 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

**KAYAK WANTED**  
Secondhand 2-man kayak. Tel: 088-381 5725.

**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.blogspot.com

**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

**BOAT INSURANCE** LBI

**Lambert Brothers Insurance Brokers**

- Boat insurance quotations from different insurers
- Competitive rates
- Comprehensive coverage
- All other types of insurance provided

Contact Khun Paew at our office  
Phuket Boat Lagoon  
paew@lambertbrothers.co.th  
Tel: + 66 76 273 385

www.lambertbrothers.co.th

**10M RIB SPORT BOAT**

The ultimate yacht tender or dayboat! The DARIEL dTender provides a safe, stable and very fast cruiser ideal for exploring local islands. Comfortable cruising at 30 knots or exhilarating performance to over 50 knots. Perfectly maintained and in excellent condition. Twin 300hp Mercury Verado supercharged engines, 10m length, 3.4m beam. Boat at Royal Phuket Marina. \$185,000 USD. Tel: 089-873 4044 (English). Email: danielboats@gmail.com  
For further details, please see our website at danielboats.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: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

**NICE BOAT**  
26 foot center console. Good condition twin outboards, trailer, and more. Email for more pics and info. Tel: 085-691 1837, 076-054 4141. Email: mangoelsson@hotmail.com



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Email: martin@leemarine.com

**Marcus Overman**  
Mobile: 081 968 1437  
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28ft, registered for 15 passengers. 200hp/ V6 Mercury motor, only 240 hours, recently totally restored. Perfect for snorkeling, diving trips, island hopping or water taxi. Navigation system + fishfinder. 5hp spare motor. Boat and motor in very good condition. Located at Boat Lagoon. Priced for quick sale at 330,000 baht. Tel: 086-747 9292. Email: claudstrey@gmail.com

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Looking for a boat?

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**SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S**

**CrypticCrossword**



**COFFEE break**

# General Aviation

## Aircraft Sharing

### AIRCRAFT TIMESHARE

Piper Lance available limited to four pilots or companies purchasing 50-hour block times: Based Phuket Airpark. Tel: 085-258 0006. Email: pat@aeropromgr.com

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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



**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](mailto: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.*

### 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.

## Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS



### Built: 1976

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



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

### Specs:

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

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

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

Contact Tony Scragg at 081-906 3250, or email [tony\\_scragg@hotmail.com](mailto:tony_scragg@hotmail.com)

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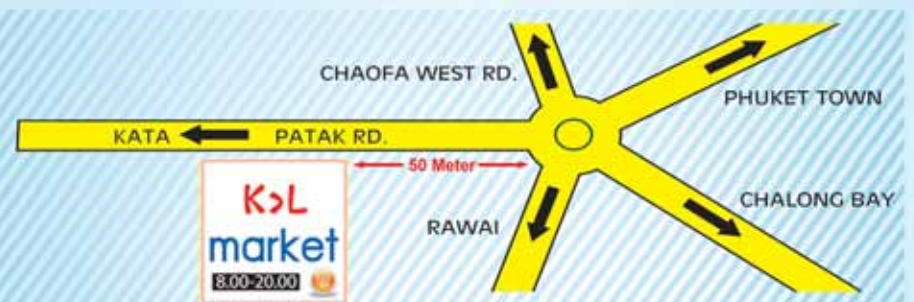
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The **Gazette Online** is always on top in **Google!**



## ART AND CULTURE AT THE BAAN KATA ARTS FEST

Mom Tri Devakul invited HE Admiral ML Usni Pramoj to perform at Mom Tri's Villa Royale on February 4. ML Usni Pramoj, a Privy Councillor, is also an accomplished conductor, composer and violinist, who was named a National Artist in 1994. Guests enjoyed Mozart's Clarinet Quintet in A and Shostakovich's String quartet No 3.



Villa Royale's PR manager Sylvie Yaffe with Brent Madison.



Klinchan and Dan Miles.



A CLASSIC LINE UP: From left are Tasana Nagavajara (violin); Siripong Tiptan (violin); Phuket Governor Maitree Intusut; HE Admiral ML Usni Pramoj (viola); Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa; ML Tri Devakula; Yos Vaneesorn (clarinet) and Kittikhun Sodprasert (cello). Photos: Marc Mulloy and Dan Miles



### Phuket Botanic Garden

สวนพฤกษศาสตร์ภูเก็ต

An impressive horticultural display in Phuket

GPS Position: 7.847700, 98.345678a








Visitor Information Opening Hours:  
**09.00 - 17.00 hrs.**  
**CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY**

**Phuket Botanic Garden**  
 98/89 Mu 4, Soi Chao Fa 48 (Thanon Luang Pho Chuang), Chao Fa Rd.,  
 Chalongs Subdistrict, Muang Didtict, Phuket 83130, Thailand.  
 Tel: **076 367095**, Fax **076 367076**  
 Email: [info@phuketbotanicgarden.com](mailto:info@phuketbotanicgarden.com), [www.phuketbotanicgaden.com](http://www.phuketbotanicgaden.com)

OPEN DAILY **08:30 - 18:00 hrs**



## PHUKET BIRD PARK



**10.30 AM, 1.30 PM, 3.30 PM**  
**SHOW DAILY**

**PHUKET BIRD PARK**  
 6/2 M. 3, ChaoFa (west) Road, T. Vichit, A. Muang, Phuket 83000.  
 Tel: **076 367576**, Fax: **076 367576**  
 Email: [info@phuketbirdpark.com](mailto:info@phuketbirdpark.com), [www.phuketbirdpark.com](http://www.phuketbirdpark.com)

# We don't just make videos We produce TELEVISION



**Phuket today**  
Phuket Gazette

It takes a diverse bunch to produce a **NATIONALLY BROADCAST TV SHOW** about a place as weird as Phuket. Arctic explorers and jungle gourmets, yoga masters and rap stars, Olympians and mermaids, world-renowned chefs, daredevils, Birdman and the All-Asia Women's Surf Champion!

**All on one island. All on one TV show.**

**Broadcast 8 times a week\*** on TrueVisions channels HD99 and 58, to 1.9 million subscribers. Phuket Today is also aired on local and regional television networks – even as far away as Rangoon.

**So, who's behind the show? Clockwise from top left:**

**Nattamon Mee** – Trained to be Thailand's first woman astronaut, Khun Mon gave it all up to produce Phuket Today.

**Action Girl Presenter Kiranee** – Used to wrestle wild crocodiles for fun, but now gets her kicks in front of the Phuket Today cameras.

**Tech Heads Pu and Chai** – When not attempting to crack the DaVinci Code, these two keep our super-computers from leaking oil.

**The PGTV Car** – Recently signed a multi-million dollar deal with Michael Bay to appear in three more Transformers movies.

**Tara** – The official Phuket Today dancing coach.

**Isaac** – The world's first TV presenter to insure his smile for \$10 million.

**Kristi Matzenberger** – Advertising and promotions manager. Joined Phuket Today in search of the perfect recipe for bratwurst.

**Mr Kai** – Mild-mannered video editor by day. Super hero by night.

**Khun Aoi** – PGTV's chief pilot and network development executive. Loves travel. Flies herself to work every day in a helicopter gunship.

**Mr Lee** – The only cameraman to successfully determine the purpose of the squiggly buttons on the side of our cameras.

**The Man in the Hat** – No one has ever discovered exactly what he actually does. So he must be quite good at it....

**Got talent? Call Kristi: 080-690 2564**

\*See show times on page 35

**WHAT'S ON  
in Phuket**



**February 10, 6:30 to 10:30pm: Chinese New Year in Phuket at Mix Bistro Restaurant**

Come and enjoy a Chinese New Year celebration. Get great value for money with our "all you can eat" Chinese buffet selection, featuring Dim Sum, crispy noodles, roasted duck and much more. Only 450 baht net per person. Great seats and tickets available now. Call 080-538 7566 or 076-349800/7

**February 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, mouth-watering Chicken Tikka, Samosas, freshly baked Naans and more. For reservations contact Jaspal Singh on: 66-76-286464.

**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 10, 8:30am to 8:30pm: Phuket Invitational Car Rally at Chalong Pier Beer Garden, Kan Eang**

Finding places in Phuket that you never knew existed, navigate through some of the most beautiful parts of this paradise island – all the time with safety and careful driving being foremost in mind! Organized by Car Rally professionals with years of experience, the course is set to take you over unusual roads and into uncharted country, whilst

always ensuring that it is within the capabilities of any driver and vehicle so as to make it fun for all the family. Special lunchtime fun stop. This event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and 'Phuket Today', (see below right for showtimes). For more information contact Mr John Devenport on: 66-87-265 8845 or visit [phuketinvitational.com](http://phuketinvitational.com)

**March 14, 10am to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club AGM and lunch at Le Meridien Phuket Resort & Spa**

The annual general meeting will take place at 10am, to be followed by lunch. All are welcome but non-members cannot vote. Come to both or join us for the lunch at 11:30am. Members: 500 baht, non-members: 650 baht. For more information email: [info@piwc.com](mailto:info@piwc.com)

**March 15, 5:30 to 10pm: Global Battle of Bands**

The Global Battle Of Bands (GBOB) is coming to Thailand! In its 9<sup>th</sup> 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 will also 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. It's an amazing opportunity for young bands. Entrance to the show is free, so don't miss it – March 15<sup>th</sup>. Please check back for updates. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV (see below right for showtimes).

**March 21-24, 11am to 7pm: Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) 2013**

PIMEX is Asia's premier annual boating and luxury lifestyle event. The 2013 show will be the biggest and best yet, with up to 60 yachts in the water, from 10-meters to 35m, and as many as 120 plus exhibiting companies representing over 250 brands worldwide. Products on display will range from boats to marine equipment and accessories, charter, diving and sailing holidays, and a wide range of luxury properties, super cars and investment opportunities, together with other iconic branded goods. This annual event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and 'Phuket Today', the island's only national television show (see below right for showtimes).

**April 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 throughout the country pouring water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

enment 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.

**December 5, 2013: His Majesty the King's Birthday**

His Majesty's birthday is a public holiday in the Kingdom.

**May 5, Coronation Day**

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

**May 6, Substitution in place of Coronation Day (Public Holiday)**

**May 24, Visakha Bucha Day**

Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the 6<sup>th</sup> lunar month, which usually falls in either May or early June. It is a day to commemorate three important incidents: the birth, the enlight-

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**Phuket today**  
Phuket Gazette

**Catch the show at these times**

<p><b>TrueVisions HD Channel 99</b> 8 shows a week - MCOT World</p> <p>Monday: 05:10am Tuesday: 11:10pm Wednesday: 10:10am Thursday: 1:10pm Friday: 4:10am &amp; 7:10pm Saturday: 1:10pm Sunday: 6:10pm</p>	<p><b>True Freeview Channel 58</b> 8 shows a week - MCOT World</p> <p>Monday: 05:10am Tuesday: 11:10pm Wednesday: 10:10am Thursday: 1:10pm Friday: 4:10am &amp; 7:10pm Saturday: 1:10pm Sunday: 6:10pm</p>
<p><b>Phuket Cable Company (PC) - covers all Phuket.</b> <b>Channel 1 - 17 shows a week</b> Monday to Friday: 10.30am, 6pm, 9pm. Saturday &amp; Sunday: 10.30am, 9pm.</p>	
<p><b>Rawai Cable - covers Rawai, Chalong, Kata, Karon areas.</b> <b>Channel 1</b> 28 shows a week Monday to Sunday 10am, 1pm, 7pm, 10pm.</p>	
<p><b>Channel 43 - 8 shows a week</b> Monday: 05:10am Tuesday: 11:10pm Wednesday: 10:10am Thursday: 1:10pm Friday: 4:10am &amp; 7:10pm Saturday: 1:10pm Sunday: 6:10pm</p>	

**Informal Sunday morning computer clinics**

**Do you have a question about computers, Windows, or the internet in Phuket? Need to find out where to get things fixed, or the best places to shop for new computer stuff? Drop by one of our FREE informal 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.**

**Don't be bashful: introduce yourself to the group at the big table, and ask away. You might even find an iPad/iPhone, Android or Mac guru, if you're lucky.**

**Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.**

**Contact at 076-282403, [Woody@KhunWoody.com](mailto:Woody@KhunWoody.com) or visit [KhunWoody.com](http://KhunWoody.com)**

# Chinese New Year 2013

THE most important festival in the Chinese calendar, Chinese New Year is celebrated on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the first lunar month. The Chinese calendar is based on the movements of the moon, as opposed to the Gregorian calendar, which follows the cycle of the sun. This year, Chinese New Year falls on February 10, and marks the beginning of the year of the water snake.

Also known in China as the Spring Festival, this is also a time of renewal, when houses, including family altars, are cleansed or rearranged, distant relatives meet up for a festive meal and deceased ancestors are remembered by way of offering food, spirit and flowers.

The actual celebration varies from country to country but anything between three to eight days is the normal affair. The first three days are the most important. This is when families gather together, prepare delicious meals using the best ingredients they can afford. The feast is first offered to the ancestors and the spirit of the land. The family then enjoys a meal together. It is customary to wear new clothes – red being a lucky color – and to be on one's best behavior (which means no swearing). After

the feast, a profusion of firecrackers are lit to announce to the ancestors and deities that the mortals' duties have been done and that the gods must keep their side of the bargain and ensure that all are blessed with good luck and prosperity in the year to come.

## Year of the Snake

The Chinese horoscope is divided into 12 cycles, represented by animals, which in turn symbolize different traits and characteristics. Following on from the Dragon sign in 2012, this is the year of the Water Snake. According to the Chinese people, snakes are associated with food and abundance, thus some astrologers have already predicted 2013 to be an excellent year for commerce and industry. This is, they say, when music and literature will experience a renaissance, and romance and courtship will be aplenty.

If you are born in the year of the Water Snake, you are intuitive, introspective and a refined individual. You are graceful and exciting but there's also a dark side to your character as you tend to give in to jealousy and vindictiveness when wronged.

– *Phuket Gazette*

## A cultural tour through Phuket celebrating Chinese New Year

PARTICIPATING in the Year of the Snake, the Phuket TAT invites tourists and locals alike to join them for a special tour of local Chinese temples from February 15-17.

"Although Chinese New Year falls on February 10, the first few days are reserved for families to celebrate with one another," says Khun Suneerat Rujeemart, TAT marketing manager. "That's why we chose to organize the temple tours during these dates."

The tours, organized since 2010, have been a great success, popular with Thai tourists.

This year, TAT hopes to see more foreigners taking part. Visitors get to ride in an open-air *Pothong* bus and have the chance to learn about local temples, their



Juitui Shrine in Phuket Town. Photo: Timo Kozlowski

history and architecture. There will be English speaking tour guides on board. The trip is free but visitors must register at the TAT Phuket office on Thalang Road. There are only three buses running each day, so early registration (open now) is encouraged.

Tours start at 8:15am and end at 5pm. After the trip, visitors will have a chance to join in the celebrations at the Phuket Chinese Festival street fair, organized by

TAT. The fair will feature booths offering traditional food and crafts, cooking demonstrations and fashion shows of Peranakan costumes.

For more information call TAT at 076 212213, 076211036, email: [tatphuket@tat.or.th](mailto:tatphuket@tat.or.th), [tourismthailand.org/phuket](http://tourismthailand.org/phuket)



TWO FOR ONE: February marks the Year of the Snake and also St Valentine's Day. Photo: Bypompom

## Valentine's Day

St Valentine's Day is surrounded by legends through the ages. From fanciful myths to bizarre truths, the *Gazette* explores some of the origins of this red letter day.

ACCORDING to classics professor Noel Lenski of the University of Boulder Colorado, the lovers' holiday traces its roots to a raucous annual Roman festival where men stripped naked, used goat – or dog-skin – whips, and spanked young maidens in the hopes of increasing their fertility.

The annual pagan celebration, called *Lupercalia*, was held every year on February 15 and remained wildly popular well into the fifth century AD – at least 150 years after emperor Constantine declared Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire.

"It [was] clearly very popular, even in an environment where the [ancient] Christians were trying to close it down," Lenski said. "So there's reason to think that the Christians might instead have said, 'OK, we'll just call this a Christian festival'." The

church attributed the festival to the legend of St Valentine. Two men with the name Valentine – born generations apart – were executed around the date of February 14.

According to legend, around 197 AD, Roman Emperor Claudius II, seeking to bolster his army, forbade young men to marry. The first Valentine, it is said, despised the ban, performing marriages in secret. He was subsequently executed.

Three hundred years after the death of Jesus Christ, in the year AD 289, Roman emperors continued to demand that everyone believe in the old gods. Valentine, a Christian priest, had been thrown in prison for his teachings. On February 14, the second Valentine was beheaded, not only because he was a Christian, but also because he had allegedly performed a miracle. He is

said to have cured the jailer's daughter of blindness. The night before he was executed, he wrote the jailer's daughter a farewell letter, signing it "From Your Valentine".

While it's not known whether the legend is true, Lenski said, "It may be a convenient explanation for a Christian version of what happened at Lupercalia." In AD 496 Saint Pope Gelasius I declared February 14 "Valentine's Day" in honor of the Christian martyrs.

The passing of love-notes becomes popular around the 18<sup>th</sup> Century in England, a precursor to the St Valentine's Day card as

we know it today.

Early examples were made of lace and paper. In 1797, *The Young Man's Valentine Writer* was published, suggesting appropriate rhymes and messages, and as postal services became much more

affordable, the anonymous St Valentine's Day card became possible.

By the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Valentine's Day cards had become so popular that factories started to produce them en masse. Following the English tradition, Esther Howland of Worcester, Massachusetts, starts producing cards – using the newly available and much cheaper paper lace – in the United States.

Whatever the odd mixture of origins, St Valentine's Day is now a day for sweethearts. It is a day when you show your loved one that you care. Send some candy or perhaps roses, the flower of love to your sweetheart. Most people send a card. According to *The Telegraph*, an estimated 1 billion St Valentine's Day cards will be sent worldwide this year, making it the second most card-heavy celebration after Christmas. – *Phuket Gazette*



LIP SERVICE: A day for lovers. Photo: Cryks

## Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day to inject B2bn into Phuket economy

MORE than 300,000 tourists are expected to visit Phuket this month for Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year, altogether providing a boost of more than 2 billion baht to the Phuket economy.

Chanchai Duangjit, director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office, told the *Phuket Gazette* that tourists from China make up the majority of hotel bookings for the period.

"The bulk of the remaining bookings are by tourists from Russia and Australia, and European countries such as Germany, Sweden and England," Mr Chanchai explained.

Overall room bookings for February are currently at about 80 per cent capacity, continuing the high occupancy rates of December and January, Mr Chanchai said.

"Hotels in beach areas such as Cape Panwa, Kata, Karon, Patong, Surin and Kamala are 75% to 80% booked, and the occupancy rates in Phuket Town are reported at about 70% to 75%," he said.

Last year, Phuket TAT office Director Bangornrat Shinaprayoon estimated that Chinese New Year alone would generate 900 million baht for the local economy. – *Phuket Gazette*

# Nishamon Paiboonnukulki

NISHAMON 'Eve' Paiboonnukulki was in Phuket recently to meet prospective customers before launching an Italian furniture store, Natuzzi.

The showroom is the latest branch of Euro Creations, a Bangkok-based leading retailer and importer of high-end home furnishing. Nishamon, the company's marketing manager, is charged with driving Natuzzi forward and making it known.

Nishamon, 27, holds a degree in education (with a major in business education) and Master of Management in international business management. A talented and creative marketing expert, Nishamon has invented a unique approach when promoting a product.

"To make people remember," she says, "you must offer a glimpse into a trendy lifestyle and not just any single product. For example, when I organize a launch for elegant furniture such as Christopher Guy, I may include a fashion show and feature top-notched sports cars, or designers' watches, etc."

With an eye for details and a creative bent of mind, Nishamon stays abreast of the latest trends in fashion and design and injects this *savoir-faire* into her marketing.

"Design tends to be a seasonal affair and changes yearly. The dominant colors of last year were purple, turquoise and pink. This year's trend



will be mainly orange and that's reflected in Natuzzi sofas as well. My marketing strategies are in tune with these changes to keep our merchandise fresh and appealing to discerning consumers."

With this in mind, many of Nishamon's cutting-edge product launches in Bangkok were always the talk of the town as she unabashedly plays with taste and invention.

"For me, a launch is akin to a performing art, a story, in which there is a definite beginning, a middle and an end. It adds depth to presentation, especially in home furnishing shows, which tend to veer on the conservative side. I like to be the one to break the mold."

Nishamon, who has been working for Euro Creations for two years now, is based at its headquarters in Bangkok. However, she will visit Phuket often to meet what she calls "the company's strategic partners." According to her, these are villa owners, new hotels, property developers and even a few luxury yacht owners.

Having worked for an inter-

national marketing company before and traveled extensively, Nishamon says she is used to the challenges of long distance management. At Euro Creations, she is backed by a team of four women who are "super competent, hard-working and highly presentable." They are all tuned in to Nishamon's way of working, which is, in her own words, "fast and furious."

Nishamon says she inherits the hard working ethics from her mother. "In fact, all the women in our family are go-getters. My sisters and I are alike in that we hate to leave things unfinished."

However, living life in the fast lane ("I am both hyper and extreme at the same time") and being a perfectionist can result in moments of anxiety and self-doubt. To counter that, Nishamon turns to vipassana or Buddhist meditation, a discipline she practices on a weekly basis, either at home or at a weekend retreat. She also eats vegetarian food whenever the opportunity arises. "It makes my skin glow," says the beautiful Nishamon.

When our conversation turns to the AEC (Asean Economic Community) and how Thailand can prepare for its commencement in 2015, Nishamon comes up with an interesting observation:

"I think Thailand is ready. The country is blessed with many creative talents."



## About Thai Gallery

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

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\*The Charm Residence Project: Proking 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 5-41 Thaveewong Road, Tambon Patong, Amphoe Kathu, Phuket Province. The company's registered capital is THB 55,000,000.00 (based on the company's certification document dated 30 November 2010). 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 deed number 12177, land plot number 5, page seventh 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 Wua. The company is the owner 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.

# Woody's laws for land lines



## Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

IN THE past four editions of *Live Wire*, I've been talking about the things you need to consider if you want to get a good internet connection in Phuket. Believe me, it ain't easy. I'm moving to Kathu shortly, and the kind of problems I'm having are no doubt indicative of the kind you'll have, the next time you need a new internet connection – or you get fed up with your current package.

Last week I talked about getting wireless "3G" service for my phones, tablets, and the like. I also talked about setting up most phones so they'll hook into the 3G network, then let computers connect to the internet over the phone, using a standard WiFi connection. The process is called "tethering" and it's very simple on my Galaxy Note II, and my wife's iPhone 4GS.

If your phone or tablet doesn't have a tethering capability (not all of them do), you can buy a MyFi box, to set up a WiFi hotspot using a 3G account. Very powerful stuff – and decent (if not spectacular) speeds with all of the Phuket 3G carriers. The big downside? All of the 3G connections are capped – you can download 3 or 4 or 5 GB of data in a month (roughly 1 GB = 1 hour of high definition TV), after which your speed gets throttled back to the tortoise spectrum.

This week, I'm going to delve into getting a land line. And I'll start by letting you in on a handful of hard-and-fast laws that apply to every land line here in Phuket.

Keep in mind that there are three good reasons for wanting a land line: they're usually (but not always) faster than 3G; they're usually (but not always) cheaper than 3G; and they don't have those data caps that plague 3G wireless internet access – not just in Thailand, mind you, but increasingly all over the world.

Which leads us to the first law of land lines: If you aren't going through very much data – you use email, go web surfing, run maybe a few YouTube videos every day, Skype in moderation – don't bother with a land line. They're more trouble than they're worth. Read last week's *Live Wire*, choose a 3G provider, and buy a dongle if you need one – the internet can plug right into your desktop or notebook or ultrabook computer, with a simple USB dongle. No wires required.

On the other hand, if your needs are too weighty for a 3G connection, it's time to start schlepping.



PLAN B: In Phuket, coverage is sometimes spotty and more lines make for a better experience. Photo: Andrew Hart

The second law of land lines is: Never get one. Get two. Internet lines in Phuket go down all the time. Even the most reli-

able lines that I've had (and I've gone through dozens of them) just plain fail from time to time, and there's nothing you can do about it. Call the provider and you'll get all sorts of fanciful explanations as to why a line has gone down – but 99 times out of a hundred, the person talking to you on the phone doesn't have the slightest idea why it's down, and nobody tells him or her anything about anything.



CAT5: Your ticket to the cyber world. Photo: Justin Marty

Instead, get two different lines, from two different providers. Then set up your routers so it's easy to unplug one line and plug in the other. If you aren't sure how to do that, go to your favorite computer shop and ask to buy a plain, cheap router. Shouldn't cost more than 1,000 baht. Plug all of your computers into the router. Then when the technician comes to install your new internet line, tell him that you want to plug their "modem" into your router.

They'll understand, and it

should go in easy; they'll connect one line from their "modem" to your router, and all of your computers will work off that one link to the internet.

When the second internet service provider comes to install their line, tell them the same thing. They'll hook up one wire from their "modem" to your router. From that point on, when one of the lines goes down, reach around to your router, pull out the plug to the dead line's modem, and stick it in your spare modem.

That's called "hot swapping" – which sounds way cool, but it's really very simple.

The third law of land lines: You never really know. Just because the

guy down the street has a good (or bad) line, that doesn't mean you will too. There are just too many variables.

I keep a close watch on [phuketinternetspeed.com](http://phuketinternetspeed.com) to see how people are faring with downloads all over the island. But their experiences aren't necessarily predictive. The numbers on the site are good for broad, general analysis, I think. But they aren't definitive for any one location.

The fourth law of land lines: The price you pay may have no bearing whatsoever on the speed you see.

There are dozens of reasons why that's true, but the main one is that the internet service providers don't have a lot of control over some parts of service levels (hourly loading, for example), and the parts that they do have control over (additional overseas bandwidth, for one) are expensive to fix. Thus, you see weird situations like the TOT Fiber 2U service delivering roughly the same international speed as a lowly TOT ADSL line, at less than half the price.

The fifth law of land lines: The technician won't show up when

you expect. That's true all over the world, I'm told, except for the Google Fiber techs in Kansas City, USA. Remember that the tech isn't supposed to install a line all the way to your computer. They're only responsible for getting the line to your property. While most techs will go the extra mile and get your hardware hooked up, it'd be nice if you gave them some extra folding money, a cup of ice water, a cookie, and a thank you.

The sixth law of land lines: *The times they are a-changin'*. "The first one now will later be last." Technology's changing quickly, and some internet service providers are keeping up, while others fall by the wayside.

If you aren't happy with the line you have now, get a different one. Chances are good you'll pay less than you paid a couple of years ago – and you might just get a faster line.

Next week, I'll step you through the process of elimination that I went through to get new land lines into my house.

Starting this month, a German-language group holds 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](mailto:Woody@KhunWoody.com), follow him on Twitter, @[PhuketLiveWire](https://twitter.com/PhuketLiveWire), or "like" his page at [facebook.com/SandwichShoppes](https://facebook.com/SandwichShoppes).

## Integrating digital and print

THE *Nation* newspaper is looking to revolutionize media in Thailand. Physical paper subscribers are now going to get more than just printed content. With their new "iSnap" innovation in the *Nation* News mobile device application, you can immediately pull up features such as a photo gallery or video library.

This multimedia mode means you can learn more about stories tagged with the "iSnap" logo. You will no longer just read news stories in the paper but also watch and

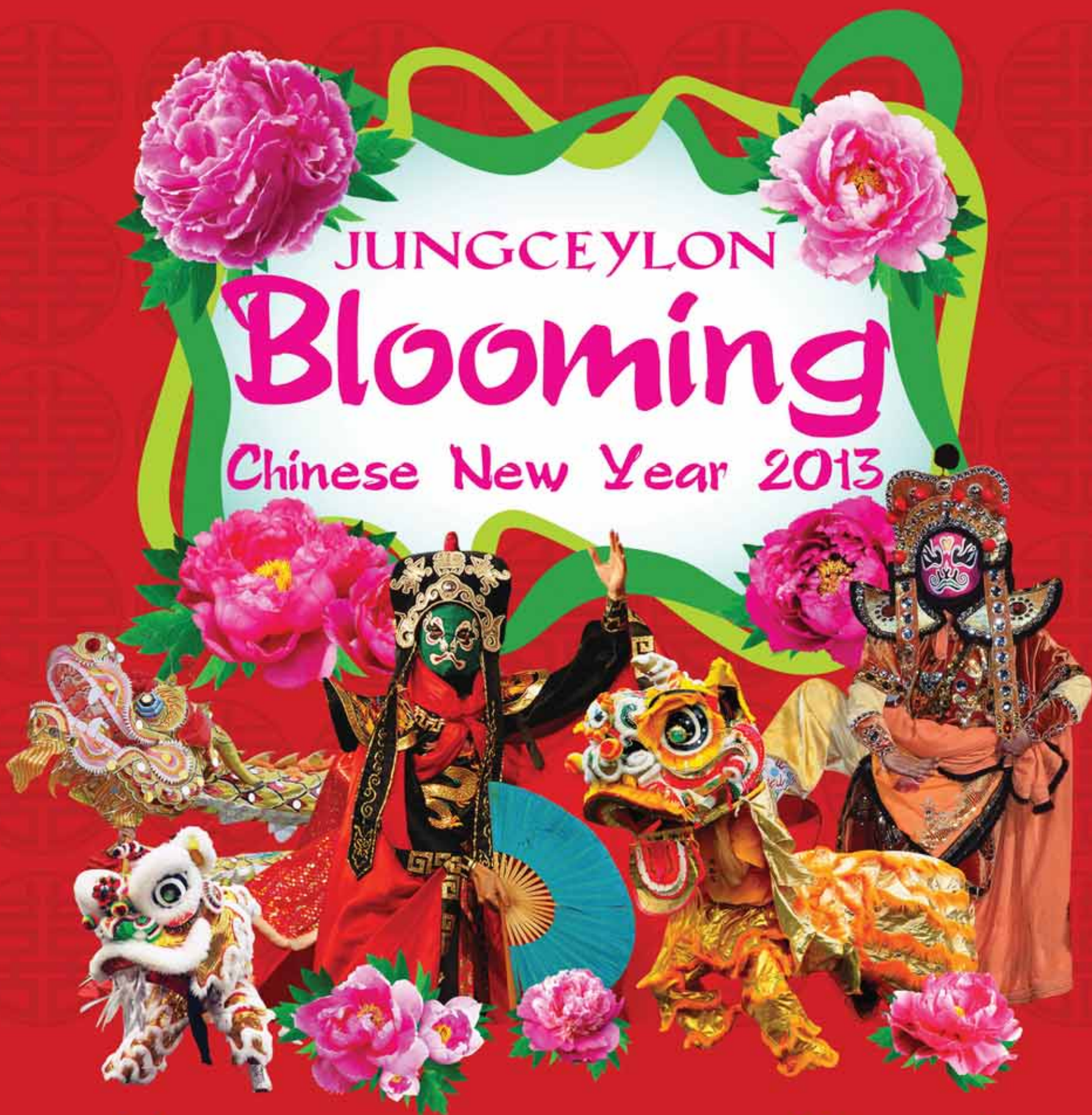


The iSnap app links print copy with digital content.

listen to digital content provided by the newspaper's editorial desks. An illustrated guide appeared on the first digital/print issue of the *Nation* along with a

story that can be "snapped" to for a video on how to "iSnap". For a quick guide on how to iSnap, first download the *Nation* News application. Look for an article with the iSnap logo and point your device's camera at it. Please note that you don't really have to put the gadget too

close to the page. Wait for the interactive icons to appear and then start watching the multimedia content you enjoy. – *The Nation*



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# Rally round the family



**SERVICE ABOVE SELF:** Group shot of the Rotary Club of Patong Beach. Inset: Banjo school children. Photos: rotarypatong.org

## A Rotary roundup

MEMBERS of the Rotary Club of Patong Beach recently purchased some much-needed necessities for the Banjo school for migrant workers with money raised by the club.

"Supercheap arrived at the school and assembled the goods one hour before they were expected," said Club member Patricia Mitchell. "Consequently, Stewart and I arrived to find the children and teachers happy and excited over their new bookshelf units, lockable lockers for the teachers, dust bins, rakes and brooms. And one self defrosting fridge for their milk... and lunches."

Mrs Mitchell added that the club could now focus on installing door locks, securing the windows with something to keep people out and the school stuff inside and getting some new books.

The Banjo playground area has been approved by the owner of the land, Mr Veerasak, and cleanup can hopefully be done between the club and the Navy, she added.

"It is a good feeling to go out there (Cherng Talay) and see how these children are learning... and how bright they are. Also cute."

– *Phuket Gazette*

## Charity golf tournament

ON Friday, March 1, the Rotary Club of Patong Beach will hold a Charity Golf Tournament at the Laguna Phuket Golf Club.

The tournament's format is a Stableford competition and golfers of all skill levels are welcome. Golfers can sign up as single individuals, pairs or 4-person teams and there will be trophies and prizes for all categories.

All proceeds from the tournament will go directly to the Rotary Club of Patong Beach Charity Fund in support of the Club's many projects for underprivileged children.

All Phuket golfers are welcome to join. Prizes and donations from the local business community are also gratefully accepted.

For more information and downloadable entry form please contact [patongrotarygolf@yahoo.com](mailto:patongrotarygolf@yahoo.com) or call Jeroen Deknatel at 081 891 3051.



**ALL REVVED UP:** Lovely ladies pose in front of their car at last year's rally.

## Get ready for the adventure of a lifetime as you and your family take part in the third annual scavenger hunt car rally

GENTLEMEN, start your engines. A family event dedicated to making a positive difference is racing back to Phuket for the third straight year.

The Phuket Invitational Car Rally is a family day out like no other. You won't need to pack a food hamper or fix the ski rack, just fill up with fuel, bring the family and make your way down to Chalong Pier Beer Garden on March 10, where you'll start a journey through parts of Phuket you never knew existed.

This is no Formula 1 race, but a journey of adventure – a family treasure hunt of a different kind. All you need is a driver, a navigator and some back seat drivers following the action.

The navigator doesn't even need map-reading skills, just follow the route card.

However, the driver should be skilled. The day's course includes an off road portion of the track.

Don't worry – your car can make the trip – but the planned route will take you places that can only be found on the most accurate maps, and you'll get one of those free when you join the event.

The cost of entry is 2,000 baht per car, and for that you get car stickers, route card and instructions,

special commemorative t-shirt for the driver and navigator, a lunchtime buffet and a special treat at the lunchtime stop – a game of mini golf. Also included is an evening buffet dinner at the awards presentation dinner.

Bring along the whole family, additional passengers are just 100 baht for kids up to 12-years-old and 350 baht for adults, which includes the two buffet meals – not bad value.

Commemorative t-shirts are available to buy for family and friends at check-in. The event has been made possible in partnership with sponsors who will help participants enjoy the

the Middle East as well as Phuket, so you're in very good hands.

Just check the fuel, oil and tyre pressures, load the family and join in. Book soon, as the rally is limited to the first 50 cars with paid entry forms.

This event is supported by the British Business Association, International Business Association Phuket (IBAP), Grumpy Old Men's Society, Lions Club & Rotary Club of Patong Beach and AustCham Thailand.

Media sponsors include the *Phuket Gazette* – *Phuket Today*, PGTV, Window on Phuket Magazine and [mydestination.com/Phuket](http://mydestination.com/Phuket) powered by IMAGE Asia.

This year's official sponsors will include [autoexpress.com](http://autoexpress.com), DaVinci Restaurant and Yacht Charters, Kan Eang @ Pier with VSET Restaurant, Flying Hanuman, who were the very successful lunchtime stop on last year's event, and Phuket Adventure Mini Golf in Bangtao.

– *Phuket Gazette*

**Just check the fuel, oil and tyre pressures, load the family and join in. Book soon, as the rally is limited to the first 50 cars with paid entry forms.**

day. What's more, all money raised goes to charity.

Prizes will be handed out at the awards presentation dinner to scavenger hunt winners.

If you're interested visit the website: [phuketinvitational.com](http://phuketinvitational.com) and glimpse the smiling faces of families having fun last year.

The course has been arranged by a rally car professional with many years experience organizing rallies across the desert sands of

In order to enter the rally, visit: [phuketinvitational.com](http://phuketinvitational.com), download the entry form and follow the on-screen instructions.



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# A communal recovery from the myths of DCS

## Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

RECOVERED from her diving accident, Nicole still combs through the details of the day, searching for the tiny factors that might have contributed to the serious case of neurological decompression sickness (DCS Type II) she faced a year and half ago after a 22-meter dive in the Similan National Park.

Unless it's a ruthless horror story about DCS, where a diver clearly did something wrong, many of us squirm when talking about getting "bent". Though few will admit it, judgment is passed on those who have suffered from DCS. There is a fundamental assumption that a diver "must have done something wrong to get bent" – but most haven't.

The rules we follow – not working out after diving, getting a full night's sleep and following conservative dive profiles – are all designed to minimize the risk of DCS so that we can enjoy the beautiful wonders below the water's surface. Nonetheless these risks can never be entirely eliminated.

Nicole, an experienced diver with over 200 logged dives since 1994, did not surpass her decompression limits, she did not ascend too quickly or skip her safety-stop – she made her third dive of the day on Barracuda Point well within the limits of what is reasonable.

"We went down to 22 meters and came slowly up to 10 meters, stayed between eight meters and 10 meters for a while, and then did the safety stop at five meters and came up to the surface. Our total dive time was 47 minutes," Nicole recalls.

Looking back at the day, Nicole



UNDER PRESSURE: Divers suffering from DCS often end up in a hyperbaric chamber. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

remembers the heat and a mild headache before splashing in, perhaps signs that she should have sat the dive out... but almost every diver is regularly willing to jump without feeling "100 percent". A little hot from a wetsuit, a little nauseous from seasickness, the symptoms and justifications go on.

"I just had a mild headache, but it was a very hot day. So we stayed in the shade and drank a lot of water," Nicole explained.

"Some inexperienced divers told me that they were diving and had no problems, so I must have done something wrong. Experienced divers don't think that it was my fault – they know that sometimes 'it just happens' and that it can happen to anyone," Nicole said.

Groups have systematically ostracized those things and situations they don't understand, often fearfully casting them into the realm of myth – divers are no

exception. However, as we continue to explore our world above and below the surface, our understanding of it grows and we are able to shed the baggage of myth and see the world for what it is. As happened to Nicole and countless others (there is no single organization that provides DCS statistics or data), DCS can take hold of a diver without a clear single factor to isolate and avoid.

Despite years of research, our understanding of the tiny microscopic bubbles that cause DCS still lives in the world of theory.

"The current thinking is that bubbles exist to some degree in the body after all dives. If the bubbles are few and small, they have no effect, but if they are plentiful, their volume can be large enough to cause decompression sickness," explains the PADI Encyclopedia of Recreational Diving.

Most scientists, though not all, are fairly sure that these tiny

microscopic bubbles are created within our supersaturated tissues after a dive, through a process known as nucleation. What they are less confident about is what factors will increase the rate at which these bubbles are produced and what combination of factors will take an individual diver beyond the limit of safe diving.

Seven months later, after hours of being treated in a hyperbaric chamber in Phuket, Nicole stood on the dive platform of a boat in Egypt – cleared to dive.

"Standing on the boat platform my heart was beating like it was going to explode. I was asking myself, 'will something happen again when I go underwater?'" Nicole said. "I wanted to dive, it was just three seconds away."

Nicole, after suffering from a severe case of neurological DCS, took the plunge, and again joined the ranks of recreational divers and explorers around the world.

## Posing with starfish poses eco-problems

TOURISTS visiting marine parks or diving sites have been advised to stop picking up starfish to take photos and later sharing the shots online, a Bangkok seminar on wildlife conservation was told recently.

Prince of Songkla University lecturer on marine wildlife Sak-anant Plathong said this practice was usually encouraged by tour guides and rangers stationed at marine parks. He added that fish food was also openly sold at several marine parks, a practice that was either allegedly supported by park rangers or one which they turned a blind eye to. He warned that feeding certain types of fish would alter natural characteristics important for their survival, and would also affect the area's ecological balance.

"Posting pictures with starfish has now become a trend on social media, especially among Thais and Asian tourists," Sak-anant said.

"Westerners seem to have a better understanding about nature conservation and are more respectful to wildlife," he added.

Manophas Huamuangkaew, director-general of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, confirmed that tour companies and tour guides would be asked to discourage tourists from picking up starfish and that the sale of fish food at national parks would also be discouraged.

– The Nation



A 'puffer' poses with a starfish. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli






### A Celebration of Love

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# Learning about the birds and bees



Curmudgeon's Corner

By Ye Olde Curmudgeon

TODAY I'm going to tell you how I learned about the birds and bees. All you young whippersnappers out there need to know how we learned about this important topic way back in prehistoric times, even before the *Rolling Stones*.

Nowadays it's easy for a young person to learn about sex. All you do is log onto the Internet and download porn. But I grew up in the 1940s, when we didn't have the Internet. We didn't even have television. All we had radio.

You cannot download porn from a radio. That was one of the many areas in which my primitive peers and I were culturally deprived.

Alas, the radio was not forthcoming about sex. In fact, information on that topic was very hard to come by in those days. My parents were reticent about it.

They figured I'd find out by talking to my dirty little friends. And in fact that's exactly what happened.

I had a dirty little friend named Bobby Wentworth, and when I was nine or ten years old, Bobby undertook to bring me up to speed on the dark side of human nature. He had two older brothers who had passed their sophisticated knowledge on to him. One day Bobby explained to me, in graphic detail, how humans reproduce.

I was aghast. Appalled. Horrified. As soon as I recovered, I voiced my indignation. "MY father would never do anything like that to MY mother," I huffed.

Bobby cautiously ventured the opinion that, since I had a younger brother and sister, it was likely that my father had not only done "that" to my mother once, but three times at the very least, and possibly even more, just for the fun of it.

I returned home in shock, my prepubescent world view shattered. So it was not true about the stork! Parents in those days told their children that babies were

delivered by a stork, which wrapped them in swaddling clothes and deposited them on the relevant doorstep.

Instead of this chaste introduction to life, it now transpired that babies were conceived in a sordid exchange of bodily fluids by two human beings locked in a sweaty embrace, squealing and grunting and thrashing like pigs. Then, after months of gestation, the resulting homunculus was squeezed forth from an unmentionable orifice in an efflux of blood and slime.

Not only did human beings commit this immoral act whenever they wished to reproduce - they did it with outrageous frequency just for fun. I could not imagine how anybody could derive pleasure from such filth.

Later I grew up and found out. It is a tribute to human resilience that the trauma of discovering our true origins is quickly dispelled when we make further discoveries of an entirely benign nature in this fascinating field.



STEAM RADIO: How the times have changed. Photo: Ryan Lackey

So that's how I learned about the birds and bees. It would have been a lot easier if I could have downloaded porn.

Ye Olde Curmudgeon can be flamed c/o [s.tsow@gmail.com](mailto:s.tsow@gmail.com), except when he's struggling to download porn from his radio.



Photo: Adair Frances McNear

## Signing off



Photo: Marc Mulloy



Photo: Marc Mulloy



Circle? Errr... Nope.



SWEET: Sign outside a candy store.

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**Your weekly pith:**

"I think your problem is low self-esteem. It's very common among losers"

- Anonymous

"It is sad to grow old, but nice to ripen"

- Brigitte Bardot

"Never mess up an apology with an excuse"

- Unknown

These quotes were taken from Ian Hewitt's 'Quotes' for prosperity.

# Local bands: global battle

## BAND REGISTRATION

TO ENTER: Each band must submit two original songs or videos of songs being performed, along with proof of citizenship from at least one Thai member of the band to Khun Siripoom via email: [siripoomb@gmail.com](mailto:siripoomb@gmail.com).

DEADLINE: THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR PHUKET IS FEBRUARY 28.

### GBOB THAILAND SCHEDULE 2013

Press Conference at Central World - March 12, 2013

REGIONAL FINALS (4 REGIONS)			COUNTRY FINAL	
Phuket	at H2O Phuket Town	March 15, 2013	Bangkok	at Central World June 15, 2013
Pattaya	at Central Festival	March 30, 2013		
Bangkok	at Central World	April 27, 2013		
Chiang Mai	at Central Plaza Airport	May 11, 2013		

### GBOB THAILAND PRIZES:

The GBOB Thailand national champion wins

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- 100,000 baht in cash and prizes
- 100,000 baht worth of free recording time at Karma Sound Studios over 2 days/1 night.
- National tour in Thailand
- Free transportation & accommodation to the World Final in December 2013
- The World Champion wins a band development package worth US\$100,000

Get your act together and your band could be one of the lucky winners of this once in a lifetime competition coming to Phuket

By Chris Hudon

THE Global Battle of the Bands (GBOB) – one of the world’s largest independent music competitions – is coming to Phuket to give local bands the chance to perform original songs at the first regional final, which will be held at the H2O Pub in Phuket Town, March 15.

Now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year, with entries from over 30 countries, GBOB has come to the Kingdom for the very first time. Competition is open to all ages and across all musical styles;



Phuket entrants are mostly Metal.

the only requirements are that each band have at least one Thai national and perform original material – no cover songs allowed.

GBOB Thailand offers lucky musicians the opportunity of a lifetime – reaching a national audience, with concerts in Phuket, Pattaya, Bangkok and Chiang Mai. GBOB regional winners and runners-up will go on to the national grand final at Central World Bangkok.

Bangkok will host this year’s world final in December where bands will compete for a first prize worth US\$100,000. The event was held in Australia last year and London in 2011, so it’s truly an international event.

GBOB Thailand winners also win cash and prizes worth more than 250,000 baht.

Thailand’s panel of judges includes Grammy-nominated

producer *Chris Craker*; musician, producer and vocal trainer Mam (*Sao Sao Sao* Band) and Phuket’s-own homegrown hero ‘Dome’ Pakorn Lum – all of whom will pick Thailand’s representative for the worldwide final.

“So far, fourteen bands have entered from Phuket, mostly of the metal genre and mostly male groups,” says Siripoom Boonmamuang Thailand’s GBOB event coordinator.

“Those who are selected will pay an entrance fee of 500 baht for a spot to compete in the regional final concert,” she added.

Seldom has there been a bigger chance for talented local musicians to display their abilities nationally.

TV coverage will be aired on Thai Global Network (TGN); True Visions 179; PSI 105; DTV 62; GMMZ 263 and PSI True TV 19; beginning Saturday, February 23. Additional media reporting nationwide will be provided by *Thai Rath* newspaper.

In Phuket, you can keep yourself updated via the *Phuket Gazette*, Image Asia publications, PGTV and Blue Wave 90.5fm – along with select Thai-language publications.

GBOB Thailand kicks off with a press conference at Central World in Bangkok on March 12.

The first regional final will be held in Phuket on March 15 at the H2O Pub in Phuket Town. Admission is free and doors open at 6pm.



Mom Tri Devakul poses in front of his work with Thanpuying Varaporn Pramroj. Photos: Marc Mulloy



# Baan Kata Arts Fest 2013: Beauty in Dissolution

Mom Tri's Villa Royale is showcasing Mom Tri Devakul's new exhibition 'Beauty in Dissolution'. Here Mom Tri describes his Art in his own words:

OVER 40 years ago I had the pleasure of walking the nearly virgin beaches of Kata and Kata Noi.

On the beautiful white sand there was nothing but young hippies and objects washed up by the monsoon waves. Beach combing was my favorite pastime. Pieces of brightly colored wood fascinated me the most. Reds, blues, greens, yellows, oranges, even blacks and whites, bleached by the sun, washed by the sea, were scattered everywhere by the waves. Some were works of art in themselves. Others I gathered and turned into sculptural creations.

Only two months ago I found three large red/orange pieces that I have combined into a new creation for you to see.

Of course I realized years ago that these beautiful pieces of wood were the remains of former fishing boats that had gone through the process of ageing, which I like to refer to as ‘dissolution’.

As I mentioned, on those virgin beaches were also hippies – young and beautiful people in their early twenties doing nothing but enjoying life. In most cases they wore practically nothing while swimming, sunning, dancing and so on. As an artist I enjoyed looking at them. I was inspired to create many sculptures celebrating their beauty and lifestyle. I also became acquainted with many. Many continued to come back to Phuket for years, including some that had inspired my sculptures. I began to observe that with time, their tight bodies were beginning to show their age.

The parts that had fitted so perfectly together in their twenties were changing shape;

expanding and contracting – even falling apart, just like the colorful pieces of fishing boats for which I combed the beaches.

With this revelation, I began to look at human bodies as being composed of hundreds of pieces of different shapes that had begun at conception and gradually come together in the early twenties as the bodies of my young hippies.

And just as those boats had gradually broken apart and washed up on the beach for me to collect, their body pieces also began to separate almost as soon as they came together. It began as a mere hint, but eventually, no matter how hard we try to prevent it, it becomes full dissolution.

These hanging sculptures were exhibited in my “*Bodies on the Beach*” show a year ago. Those tight bodies now return in various states of dissolution, from the first hint to the final stage.

I find beauty even in dissolution.

– Mom Tri Devakul

The Baan Kata Arts Fest was started 18 years ago by ML Tri Devakul and ML Usno Pramroj whose classical concert is featured on page 33. For more information visit [momtri.com](http://momtri.com).



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# Quality time with a Modern Family

By Chris Hudon

AS OUR world gets smaller by the day, the definition of 'family' grows wider by the minute. Gone are the platonic families of old – the *Brady Bunch* and the *Cosbys* – replaced by a gay couple, international adoption, divorce and recent immigrants – the *Modern Family*.

*Modern Family* is an American sitcom on ABC filmed in 'mockumentary' fashion (where characters frequently speak directly to the camera), which chronicles the evolving nature of family relationships and how we interact in today's day and age.

James Parker, writing in the *Atlantic* magazine says: "The American family... is after all, an acutely self-conscious and self-interrogating unit: How does one 'parent'? Who does what, which 'role'?"

"*Modern Family* taps right into all this, the cameras that lurch through its three households produce the sensation of a wild and shaky experiment, recorded for purposes educational or scientific."

The show follows traditional, aging tough guy and patriarch Jay Pritchett and family, which includes his ridiculously hot Latina second wife, Gloria, and her son, his two children and their families.

Jay's daughter, Claire, and her husband Phil, have three children. Jay's son, Mitchell, who's gay, lives with his partner Cameron and their adopted Vietnamese baby,

Lily. The connections between this extended family are layered but on-screen chemistry makes the story easy to follow.

The show premiered on September 23, 2009 to 12.6 million viewers, and has since gone on to win several awards, including an Emmy for 'Outstanding Comedy Series' in each of the past three years and a Golden Globe Award for 'Best Television Series – Musical or Comedy'.

Created by writers Christopher Lloyd and Steve Levitan, who also worked on *Yes Dear* and *Just Shoot Me!*, the series is one of the most critically acclaimed and profitable on network television.

While the humor is silly at times, intricate character narratives and swift comedic timing move the plot along with Freudian ease. It's rare nowadays, that a series is both entertaining and appropriate for the whole family – young and old – but *Modern Family* makes it look effortless.

As with most family sitcoms, insightful observations are drawn in each episode and, over and over again, the show's writers will have you saying, "that's true". Here is a pearl of wisdom from Gloria, who struggles to overcome the stereotype of being labeled a trophy wife:

"Maybe we are the way we are because of the people we're with. Or maybe, we just pick the people we need. However it works, when

you find that someone, you should never let them go."

In addition to the heart-felt moments that recap each episode, insidiously hilarious moments of situational comedy abound. Take this excerpt from season 3, episode 18: Gay couple Cameron (in full clown costume) and Mitchell are discussing attending the funeral of 'Cam's' inspirational teacher at clown college, professor ringmaster Al Uzielli:

Cam: "For several years, I was one-half of the renowned clown duo Fizbo & Lewis. We were huge."

Mitchell: "At children's parties."

Cam: "Anyway, I disbanded the group shortly after I met Mitchell. It's hard to have a relationship and a clown career. That's the reason there are so many single clowns."

Mitchell: "Just one of the reasons."

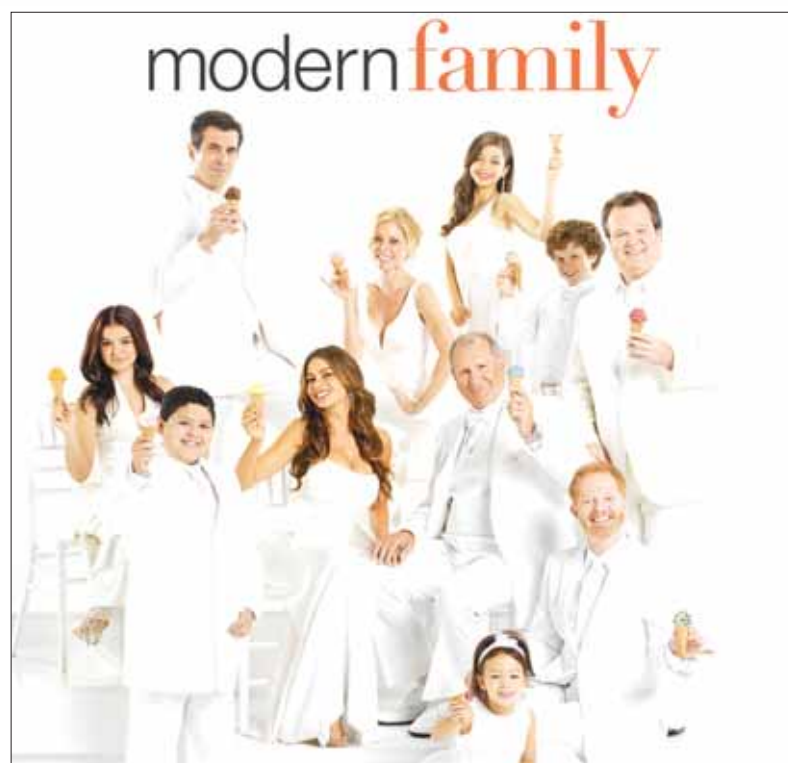
Cam: "Anyway, Lewis hasn't spoken to me since. He's still bitter, and I don't blame him. It's kind of like I broke up *The Beatles*."

Mitchell: "Of children's parties."

The show is suitable for all ages, but contains raunchy adult humor wrapped in metaphor and timing that children will gloss right over. Read what former male cheerleader and husband Phil Dunphy has to say about powerful women:

"I'll admit it. I'm turned on by powerful women. Michelle Obama, Oprah, Condoleezza Rice, Serena Williams... wait a minute."

Do yourself a favor and the next



FAMILY MATTERS: Fizbo at funeral (below left) and the whole family.



time you need to turn your brain off and just unwind, spend some quality time bringing your family and *Modern Family* together.

Now in its fourth season, episode 15 'Heart Broken' airs February 13 and can be seen online for free at: [abc.com/watch/modern-family](http://abc.com/watch/modern-family).

## One more head for the chopping block



Hilary Mantel receives the Man Booker Prize for latest novel. Photo: ideastream

IN my last column, I reviewed Hilary Mantel's extraordinary novel *Wolf Hall*, winner of the 2009 Man Booker Prize, which chronicled the rise of Thomas Cromwell from a blacksmith's son to trusted advisor to King Henry VIII. Three years later, Mantel won a second Man Booker Prize for her sequel *Bring Up the Bodies* (Henry Holt and Company, New York 2012, 410pp).

The first novel ends with the beheading of the scholar Thomas More, former Lord Chancellor,

for the crime of staying loyal to the papacy after Henry VIII broke away from the Catholic Church to marry his second wife Anne Boleyn. The second novel ends with the beheading of Anne Boleyn. Cromwell played a central role in both these cases, despite his great friendship with Thomas More and at least grudging admiration for Anne Boleyn.

Cromwell is a fascinating character, rough, scholarly, humorous, pragmatic, cunning and, above all,

loyal to his king. And why not?

"You cannot see Henry and not be amazed," Mantel writes. "Each time you see him you are struck afresh by him, as if it were the first time: a massive man, bull-necked, his hair receding, face fleshing out; blue eyes, and a small mouth that is almost coy. His height is six feet three inches, and every inch bespeaks power. His carriage, his person, are magnificent; his rages are terrifying, his vows and curses, his molten tears."

The King can also be a jolly companion, but later on in the novel, Cromwell reflects: "You can be merry with the King, you can share a joke with him. But as Thomas More used to say, it's like sporting with a tamed lion. You touse its mane and pull its ears, but all the time you're thinking, those claws, those claws, those claws."

Equally forceful is Anne Boleyn, educated in the French court, charming, manipulative and resolute in her pursuit of the English crown. Henry is besotted with her but she resists all his overtures until she is assured of marriage. She

### Books

By James Eckardt

assembled around her a group of ardent admirers and

scheming family members. But when she fails to produce a male heir for Henry, the King assigns Cromwell to arrange for her downfall.

The breakthrough comes through the word of a youthful page who accuses four courtiers of adultery with the queen. These four had once taken part in a public burlesque depicting Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, Cromwell's first mentor, being dragged in his scarlet robes to hell. Besides celebrating the death of Cromwell's beloved father figure, the four had often mocked Cromwell for his lowly birth. He has no compunctions toward sending them to the gallows.

Yet he does have compunctions about his legal indictment of the queen. "He has seen beautiful indictments, not a word wasted. This was not one: the phrases jostled and frothed, nudged and spilled, ugly in content and ugly in form. The design against Anne is unhallowed in its gestation, untimely in its delivery, a mass of tissue born shapeless." Anne Boleyn is executed

in the spring of 1536, in the midst of turbulent times, of religious wars and unshackled thought, a time when kings still jostled with knights, heretics were burned at the stake and traitors were hung, drawn and quartered. A French swordsman separates Anne's head from her body and she approaches her death with exemplary grace and courage.

As the novel ends, Cromwell is raised to an earldom. He is immensely rich and most of the nobles of the land owe him money. His trusted proteges – son Gregory, adopted son Rafe Saddler, and nephew Richard Cromwell – advance from one vastly profitable scheme to another.

Yet, in historical fact, Cromwell will be beheaded for treason, on flimsy charges, in only four more years. The will of a king is both fickle and all-powerful. This notion would not be challenged for another century until the advent of Richard Cromwell's great-grandson Oliver. Then it would be royal heads that rolled.

But for Thomas Cromwell's last years we must await the third novel of Hilary Mantel's trilogy in the sort of glorious prose that only she can muster.

# Variety is the spice of life



**MIXED FEELINGS:** When matching container plants, make sure they are compatible in terms of needs. Photo: Nemo's Great Uncle



**PRETTY IN PINK:** Pink Adenium. Photo: Peter McKiernan

## Mixing and matching container plants

EVERY so often, readers pose questions which prompt other reflections, and ultimately require a fuller response than a mere email allows. Here is a recent, partly paraphrased example:



**Gardening**  
By Patrick Campbell

of the *solenostemon* genus, is a completely different kettle of fish, a foliage plant first and foremost, and originally

grown mainly as a house plant in temperate regions. An unusual plant with sharply contrasting leaf colors, they range from almost black, through purple and deep red to green and yellow.

The leaves are toothed and surprisingly thin – very like a nettle in shape and texture. Effective when mixed together in a pot (or box) to enhance their pronounced color variations, they are soft-stemmed perennials, a characteristic which means they wilt easily when deprived of water, and will probably need to be replaced after three years or so.

The *solenostemon* will, moreover, need daily watering in hot weather; indeed a position in full sun may produce leaf scorch. Protection afforded by taller shrubs such as bougainvilleas may be one solution in an exposed tropical environment such as a sun-drenched balcony.

*Solenostemons* are somewhat disease prone, especially to mealy bugs and downy mildew. And remember to pinch out growing tips if you want to encourage a bushier plant.

Personally, I would be inclined to mix up your existing container plants, perhaps with crotons (*codiaeum*) with their spectacular deeply veined leaves, usually yellow and bright green, but often suffused with orange and red. These are hardier than *solenostemons*, will grow much taller, and have large, shiny, leathery leaves.

Or maybe *cordylines*, which are now available in rich shades of magenta as well as green and crimson. Both of these species are erect, single stemmed plants, will tolerate full sun and require relatively little maintenance.

*Dracaenas*, with elegant, curved, sword-shaped leaves are very easy to grow in containers.

Of course, you could go for flowering plants that adapt to life in constricted spaces – say pink or red *adeniums*, which as

desert plants need hardly any moisture, *dwarf tabernaemontana*, which are ever-green, bushy, and have masses of scented white flowers, or even the highly fashionable but water-loving *ruellia*. Known as the three o'clock plant, it loses its delicate, violet flowers by mid afternoon, but it is very eye-catching.

One caveat occurs to me. If you have extended boxes as opposed to separate ceramic pots, you are going to need soil conditions suitable for all their occupants. In other words, you cannot put, say, a moisture loving *ruellia* next to an *adenium*, since the fleshy stems of the desert rose will rot if watered more than once a week.

On the other hand, too little moisture and the *ruellia* will wilt.

So mix and match by all means, but remember that some arranged plant marriages will not enjoy the experience. What's new...

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, you can email me anytime at: [drpaccampbell@gmail.com](mailto:drpaccampbell@gmail.com)

### Tip of the Week

#### Garden pests: mosquitoes



**Mosquito.** Photo: Sanofi Pasteur

AS we all know to our cost, mosquitoes are person pests, not plant predators. There is, however, a connection with gardens, since the males feed solely on pollen and nectar. The female *anopheles* is the villainess of the piece, sucking blood in order to nourish her eggs, which she will then deposit in stagnant water. If you have pot plants immersed in water or boast a lily pond, make sure you have a few small fish, such as guppies, to eat the writhing larvae. Mosquitoes are most active in the early morning and late afternoon, just the time when

it is cool enough to work in the garden. Murphy's Law. Fortunately malaria is almost unknown here, but another variety of mosquito, *aedes Egyptiae* can transmit dengue fever. Some plants are believed to deter the insect – African marigold, garlic, jasmine, lavender – but the evidence is largely anecdotal.

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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. Escort behavior? (7)
- 9. Let quarry blow apart every four months (9)
- 13. Grind down doer out East (5)
- 14. Voice out-and-out (5)
- 15. Current subject a learner (7)
- 16. In idle talk, note a turn in vineyard appellation (7)
- 17. Graduate soldier approximately illusion or paranormal (5)
- 18. About floating structure, a vessel (5)
- 20. Society girl, socially acceptable, time for first public appearance (5)
- 22. Reach could be right for a bowman (6)
- 23. Maybe bases around Blessed

- Head of religious community (6)
- 25. Appeal Edward gathered (7)
- 27. Stops a right, takes it easy (7)
- 30. Gets by, goes out around second (6)
- 31. Plans covering electronic aircraft (6)
- 32. Either way, a title for a lady (5)
- 35. Beat, pep, in a dance (5)
- 36. In proportion, take the Spanish out of start of relationship (5)
- 37. Go in, Sir, change bases (7)
- 39. Happens is mentioned (5,2)
- 41. Caught left in the split (5)
- 42. Enough palm out East (5)
- 43. At the back of the head I clip coat untidily (9)
- 44. Nothing on court up to being adorable (7)

**Down:**

- 1. For company, right on, a halo (6)
- 2. Nowadays in this place New

- 3. Gathered a cad cut mule badly (11)
- 4. Rig-out Reg changed in Polynesian craft (9)
- 5. Defend damaged port, etc. (7)
- 6. Of the French short picture, accomplished, vile (10)
- 7. Florida in charge of French cop (4)
- 10. Enclosed marsh almost, note, died (6)
- 11. Ach! Most horrible belly (7)
- 12. Possible staple dishes (6)
- 19. Assert Ted turned away (7)
- 21. Nonsense, I return no solid gold or silver (7)
- 24. Thorn is soon bursting forth in a main road in Phuket (11)
- 26. Writer on craft of origin of book (10)
- 28. Rich man curt to pal, maybe (9)
- 29. A French large dove may be not liked (7)
- 30. Beguile. Note nice, about time (6)
- 32. Mother is a Bachelor of Arts, one sick Thai (3,5)
- 33. Stream out for boss (6)
- 34. Credit pity, possibly almost secret (7)
- 38. Transfix! I'm ashen (6)
- 40. Minute methamphetamine for little creatures (4)

**Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 31.**


**AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):**

 Business is well starred for Aquarians, with hints that a fire sign's loss can be your gain this week. Your practical approach to discussions should guarantee the results you have been aiming for. Romance may be tricky this weekend – it would be best to ignore a partner's lack of attention. Those with a birthday during the coming days will have more appetite for adventure in the year ahead. Number nine can bring good luck.

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

 Money matters fall under uncertain astral conditions for those born under the sign of Pisces this week. The stars suggest delaying important purchases or agreements until the second half of the month. Friendships can also be affected; what you don't know can't hurt you, but probing for information will not be welcome. Romance with a fire sign becomes more interesting this weekend. Your lucky number this week is six.

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

 Positive thinking gives Arians the edge where work is concerned this week. An idea that others have lost faith in can still be turned into something worthwhile, but this will

take total commitment on your part. The remainder of February is forecast to be a busy time, with last minute changes to travel arrangements highlighted around the middle of the month. The stars suggest that number five may bring good fortune.

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

 The stars advise that relationships with other earth signs can be challenged by this week's astral atmosphere. Taureans who feel that certain friends are raining on their parade are advised to keep their cool. Support should be forthcoming from air and water signs. In the realm of romance, instant attraction this weekend could leave you wanting to know more about someone. Your lucky number this week is four.


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

 Your sense of duty is strong at the moment and this could result in Geminis putting themselves out more for others. Family members will appreciate your spur of the moment gestures this weekend and a water sign friend can use help midweek. There are hints that something you thought you wanted is within reach, but new priorities may mean a change of mind. Geminis are forecast to find that number five is lucky this week.


## YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star


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

 Your home-making instincts are strengthened by the cosmic climate this week. Those Cancerians who rejected the opportunity to relocate at the start of the year could be motivated to try again. As the middle of the month approaches, your senses are heightened and this can lead to picking up on tips that others miss. Finances are forecast to benefit in this way. Number eight can bring good luck.


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

 A quieter astral atmosphere allows Leos to relax until the middle of the month. Being in a calmer mood will mean that you are able to see things from other people's points of view. An earth sign is grateful for your understanding this weekend and this friendship should be back on firmer ground after a difficult period. Lucky days for romance are Monday and Tuesday. The number two stands out this week.


**VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):**

 A forgotten action in the past can have repercussions in your world of work this week. The stars advise that you will have explaining to do and it could take some smooth talking to get back into an air sign's good books. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, there are hints that some Virgoans are becoming too dependent on a new water sign partner. Your lucky number this week is one.

**LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):**

 Where personal relationships are concerned, supporting a partner's quest for success may be demanding a lot from those born under the sign of Libra. The stars suggest that the situation will be less trying after the middle of February. In the meantime, it would be wise not to forget your own needs. Best days for romance are Tuesday and Wednesday. Librans could find that number three brings good fortune this week.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):**


 There are signs that Scorpios are ready to invest more energy in work and success becomes better starred. Colleagues will be easier to convince and your attention to

detail won't go unnoticed. Perception also pays off where personal finances are concerned – the middle of February is an auspicious time to start new savings schemes. Sizzling days for love are Wednesday and Thursday. Your lucky number this week is seven.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):**

 Sagittarians suffering from low self-confidence will have reason to see that friends are on their side. Expect another fire sign to speak up on your behalf at work, while an earth sign's invitation this weekend is exactly what you need. Your romantic outlook is interesting; the stars advise that still waters run deeper than you imagine where an earth sign is concerned. Number eight is fortunate this week.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):**

 The stars suggest that Capricorns could feel the heat at work and be tempted to do more than their fair share. Another earth sign's reluctance to pull their weight will soon be noticed by others and the situation will sort itself out. Inspiration strikes as the middle of the month approaches and the second half of February will be a rewarding time. Number one seems special this week.

# International Sport

# Ravens overpower 49ers

By Steve Ginsburg

THE Baltimore Ravens survived a furious second-half rally by San Francisco and a momentum-sapping power outage at the Superdome to defeat the gritty 49ers 34-31 in the Super Bowl XLVII on February 3.

A Super Bowl-record 108-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Jacoby Jones to open the second half gave the Ravens a 28-6 lead but the 49ers quickly scored 17 straight points after a 35-minute power outage and nearly pulled off a stunning comeback.

"Both teams had to deal with it," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said of the power outage. "They dealt with it better, obviously. They were able to turn the momentum of the game."

Trailing 34-29, the 49ers marched down to the Ravens' seven-yard line but failed to score on four tries, surrendering the ball on downs at the five-yard line with 1:42 remaining.

Baltimore used up the clock and on the fourth down, punter Sam Koch ran out of the end zone for a safety with four seconds left.

Joe Flacco, the game's Most Valuable Player, completed 22 of 33 passes for 287 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions to lead the Ravens to their first title since the 2000 season.

"We don't make anything easy," said Flacco, who has guided the Ravens to the playoffs in each of his five NFL seasons. "It was a hard-fought game on both sides."

"We gave the country a pretty good game to watch. Not to our liking necessarily but that's the way it goes sometimes and that's the way we do things."

Baltimore's lead evaporated because the 49ers' talented second-year quarterback,

Colin Kaepernick, suddenly found the form that made him one of the league's most dangerous big-play threats.

Despite a shaky first half, Kaepernick completed 16 of 28 passes for 302 yards and a touchdown. He also ran for 62 yards and a 15-yard touchdown on seven carries to finish behind Frank Gore (110 yards) as the 49ers' second-leading ground gainer.

Kaepernick's rushing score with 2:57 left cut the Baltimore lead to 31-29 but his pass on the two-point conversion attempt was incomplete.

A 38-yard field goal by Justin Tucker with 4:19 left in the game hiked the Ravens' lead to 34-29, setting the stage for what could have been a Super Bowl-record comeback by the 49ers.

But the Ravens' defense, anchored by retiring future Hall of Fame linebacker Ray Lewis, came up big when it had to, with a goal-line stand that handed the 49ers' franchise its first Super Bowl loss after five victories.

"I made too many mistakes for us to win," Kaepernick said softly.

"Our guys battled, they competed," said 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh, who also lost the Super Bowl of sibling rivalry because his brother John coaches the Ravens.

"We got a spark and we weren't going to look back after that. We battled right to the brink of winning."

Baltimore linebacker Terrell Suggs said it was the "ultimate cake" to allow Lewis, a 13-time Pro Bowler and the team's inspirational leader, to go out a winner.

"There will never be another leader like him and we sent him out like his brothers," he said. "His legacy will go untainted."

Ravens tight end Dennis Pitta, who caught four passes for 26 yards and a



San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Michael Crabtree (15) can't reach a pass. Photo: Reuters

touchdown, said the power outage, which left half of the overhead lights in the Superdome out, "felt like an hour."

"We lost a lot of momentum and, credit to them, they came storming back and played tremendous. But this team continued to fight and never quit... Didn't make it easy, but it was fun."

Baltimore was outscored 25-6 after the lights went out and the raucous pro-Ravens crowd, which had brought a Mardi Gras-style celebration from nearby Bourbon Street into the Superdome, got eerily quiet.

Ravens wide receiver Torrey Smith blamed *Beyonce's* rockin' halftime show for his team's meltdown.

"*Beyonce* must have been good - she took all of the power with her when she

left the stage," he joked. "It was tough. But we had to deal with the same thing that San Francisco had to. And they responded well."

Lewis said his children will be his top priority in retirement.

"Daddy gets to come home now," he said. "I get to chase them. They aren't going to like me being home all the time. This is the most ultimate feeling ever."

"This is the way you do it. No other way to go out and end a career."

The Ravens' John Harbaugh said it was troubling to shake hands with his brother on the field after the game.

"The meeting with Jim in the middle was probably the most difficult thing I have ever been associated with in my life," he said. "I am proud of him." - Reuters

# Global football scam exposed

HUNDREDS of soccer matches have been fixed in a global betting scam run from Singapore, police said on February 4, in a blow to the image of the world's most popular sport and a multi-billion dollar industry.

About 680 suspicious matches, including qualifying games for the World Cup and European Championships, and the Champions League for top European club sides, have been identified in an inquiry by European police forces, the European anti-crime agency Europol, and national prosecutors.

"This is a sad day for European football," said Rob Wainwright, director of Europol. "This is now an integrity issue for football. Those responsible for running the games should hear the warnings."

The matches in question were played between 2008 and 2011, the investigators said. About 380 of the suspicious matches were played in Europe, and a further 300 were identified in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Last year the head of an anti-corruption watchdog estimated that US\$1 trillion was gambled on sport each year - or US\$3 billion a day - with most coming from Asia and

wagered on soccer matches.

A German investigator described a network involving couriers ferrying bribes around the world, paying off players and referees in the fixing, which involved about 425 corrupt officials, players and serious criminals in 15 countries.

"We have evidence for 150 of these cases, and the operations were run out of Singapore with bribes of up to 100,000 Euros paid per match," said Friedhelm Althans, chief investigator for police in the German city of Bochum.

German investigators said international matches were implicated as were games in Turkey, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Croatia, Austria, Hungary, Bosnia, Slovenia and Canada. Suspicious games had also been identified in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Fourteen people have already been convicted in Germany in

connection with the investigation.

Investigators said no names of players or clubs would be released while the investigation proceeded. However, the fixing also included top flight national league matches in several European countries, as well as two Champions League matches, including one played in Britain.

England's Football Association said it was not aware of any "credible reports into suspicious Champions League fixtures in England."

Investigators described how gang members immediately subordinate to the Singapore-based leader of a worldwide network were each tasked with maintaining contacts with corrupt players and officials in their parts of the world.

Laszlo Angeli, a Hungarian prosecutor, gave an example of how the scam worked. "The Hungarian member, who was immediately



Rob Wainwright, director of Europol.

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES	
SATURDAY, 9 FEB 2013	19:45
Tottenham vs Newcastle	
SATURDAY, 9 FEB 2013	22:00
Chelsea vs Wigan	
Norwich vs Fulham	
Stoke vs Reading	
Sunderland vs Arsenal	
Swansea vs QPR	
SATURDAY, 9 FEB 2013	00:30
Southampton vs Man City	
SUNDAY, 10 FEB 2013	20:30
Aston Villa vs West Ham	
SUNDAY, 10 FEB 2013	23:00
Man Utd vs Everton	
TUESDAY, 12 FEB 2013	03:00
Liverpool vs West Brom	

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## International Sport

## Italy upset France in Six Nations

ITALY produced a stunning all-round performance to shock France 23-18 at the Stadio Olimpico on February 3 and blast the Six Nations wide open.

More usually contenders for the competition's wooden spoon, Italy proved their victory over the French two seasons ago was no fluke as they defended well and took their chances against the 2011 World Cup runners-up.

Tries for captain Sergio Parisse and Martin Castrogiovanni, plus 10 points from man-of-the-match Luciano Orquera and three from substitute Kris Burton led them to victory, just their third ever over the French.

France were far from their best and despite tries from Louis Picamoles and Benjamin Fall and eight points from a rejuvenated Frederick Michalak, they were deservedly beaten by Jacques Brunel's effervescent side.

England produced a four-try performance full of energy, aggression and ambition to get their Six Nations campaign underway with an impressive and highly entertaining 38-18 win over Scotland at Twickenham on February 2.

Tries for Chris Ashton, debutant center Billy Twelvetrees, Geoff Parling, Danny Care and another superb all-round performance by flyhalf Owen Farrell, helped contribute to England's supremacy against a Scotland side who battled well.

The visitors had their bright moments but never looked likely to end their 30-year winless streak in the stadium.

None of the England squad were born the last time Scotland won at Twickenham and the 1983 victory was only their second in the last 75 years in west London.

Scotland had won only two of their last 15 Six Nations games and their last outing was a home defeat by Tonga that led to the resignation of coach Andy Robinson.

England, by contrast, were coming off a remarkable 38-21 victory over New Zealand two months ago and brimming with confidence.

Brian O'Driscoll's return inspired Ireland to a Six Nations victory over holders Wales on Saturday.

The Irish hung on to win 30-22 after a second-half onslaught



TEAM EFFORT: Italy's Alberto Sgarbi attempts to tackle Fall. Photo: Reuters

from last season's grand slam winners came up short.

The former captain, who missed the November internationals and has hardly played since the 2011 World Cup because of injury, created one try and scored another as the Irish threatened to run riot when they took a 30-3 lead to howls of derision at the Millennium Stadium.

Wales, who since winning a third grand slam in eight tournaments last March have lost eight matches in a

row, came to life in the second half.

Ireland buckled, their penalty count grew, and referee Romain Poite's patience wore thin as he brandished two yellow cards at the men in green.

An energized Wales pierced hole after hole, ran in three tries of their own, and only valiant defence and spurned chances prevented a complete collapse.

It was a relieved Ireland who greeted the final whistle, with



captain Jamie Heaslip, who has taken the armband from O'Driscoll, admitting: "there was nothing left in the tank".

O'Driscoll was named man of the match in a performance that suggested another British & Irish Lions tour later this year is within reach.

Italy joined England and Ireland on two points and sit in third place after the first round of games.

— Reuters

## The return of Rafael

RAFAEL Nadal made a successful comeback after a seven-month injury absence with victory in the first round of the Chilean Open doubles on February 5.

The former world number one and Argentine partner Juan Monaco overpowered second-seeded Czechs Frantisek Cermak and Lukas Dlouhy 6-3 6-2 in 65 minutes at the Pacific coastal city of Vina del March.

Spanish left-hander Nadal had been out with a knee problem since losing to Czech Lukas Rosol in the

second round at Wimbledon in June.

"It's a good feeling to be back. We'll see how the knee reacts," Nadal told a news conference. "The moment and the surfaces were the right ones and playing for the first time in this country was a great opportunity.

"Playing doubles is less aggressive, so we'll see how things go tomorrow in singles," he added after he and Monaco had taken advantage of four of their seven chances to break the Czechs' service.

The 26-year-old's planned return at the end of last year was delayed due to illness but he will compete on his favorite clay surface at three Latin American events this month.

On February 6, Nadal played a second-round singles match against Argentine qualifier Federico Delbonis.

After the Chile tournament he will compete at the Brazil Open in Sao Paulo next week and the Mexico Open in Acapulco from February 25.

— Reuters



ACE: Rafael Nadal serving during his doubles match. Photo: Reuters

## Mercedes Formula one testing goes up in flames

MERCEDES called a halt to their first day of 2013 Formula One testing on Tuesday after Nico Rosberg stopped on track with an electrical problem and flames flaring briefly around the back of his car.

The team said the gremlins would be fixed before Lewis Hamilton, the 2008 world champion, made his test debut with them on February 6.

"After identifying the cause of the problem, we will not be running again today while parts are modified ready for tomorrow," Mercedes said on their Twitter feed.

"The part which requires modification is the wiring loom where the electrical fault originated this morning."

Mercedes were fifth overall last season and have struggled to impose themselves since taking over the world championship-win-

ning Brawn GP team in 2009.

Rosberg completed 14 laps at the Jerez circuit in the F1 W04 car that he and Briton Hamilton, who has moved from McLaren, unveiled to the world at the Spanish circuit on Monday.

Despite the lack of running, the German said his first impressions were "very good, very positive".

"I can guarantee it will be a big step forward, but of course everybody else is also moving forward and we're hoping that we've closed the gap," he told reporters outside the Mercedes hospitality area.

"Last year it was nearly more than a second...and we have to get closer for sure and we will, we will get closer," added the son of 1982 champion Keke.

"I think they've given us a



The unveiling of the new Mercedes W04 Formula One car at the Jerez racetrack. Photo: Reuters

good base now and it's up to us make the most of it here, find all the problems as we've done today and also improve it and feed back to the factory what are the main things that are still holding us back, what are the main things they need to keep working on."

Rosberg, starting his fourth season with the British-based team, said it was too early to say whether the car was quick enough but it was enjoyable to drive and

the balance was good.

Rosberg, who won in China last year, said he was sure the team could be competitive and dismissed a suggestion that the focus might quickly turn to 2014, when the regulations undergo a major change.

"We are fully concentrated on 2013 because we as Mercedes need to make it happen also this year. So it's full speed ahead for 2013," he said.

"Improvement can also be in

being more consistent through the year. Not like last year where we started OK and then completely fell off.

"Improvement would also be a very OK car through the whole season with a win or two maybe. What we need is progress, we need to move forward and go through the season thinking now we are on the right track to become the best."

The 2013 season starts with the Australia Grand Prix on March 17.



# Sport



## For the love of the game

FOLLOWING the success of last year's Valentine's mixed doubles tournament, 'Love Meets its Match', Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) is now offering the chance for rugby lovers to privately indulge in the tranquil seclusion of the facility's rugby field in a Valentine's dinner setting, surrounded by the legendary natural beauty of Phuket's lush, green landscape.

Thanyapura is currently auctioning off this one-time-only luxury dining service to the highest bidder, with this exclusive and romantic evening available to just one couple who will enjoy a night under the stars in a candlelit pagoda with the entire rugby pitch to themselves.

The winning couple will be treated to rosé, champagne, a six course private

dinner with accompanying wine and ambient music to set the mood, followed by drinks at the Booster Bar and an overnight stay including breakfast at the Thanyapura Sports Hotel.

Encircled by mountains and lush forest, Thanyapura Sports Hotel is the first dedicated sports hotel in Asia and is fast earning a reputation for its standards of excellence, which have attracted several visits from some of the world's top Olympic athletes. *- Phuket Gazette*

*For a chance to win what will surely be a once-in-a-lifetime Valentine's dinner to remember, visit: facebook.com/Thanyapura to enter into the auction. Bids start at 15,000 baht with the auction closing on February 13, 2013 at 6pm.*

## Phuket FC

From page 50

"For the second half, we had a chance to practice and improve on our combination plays. There are still some communication issues between the center and back [positions] that we need to improve on before the season starts."

Despite the win, Club President Pamuk Achiryachai maintained a serious note: "There are still some things we need to work on in terms of communicating and understanding each other on the pitch."

"This will take time to work out but it's important that we continue to work hard in practice and training..."

"I want to organize friendly matches like this every week until the season opener [beginning of March], and hope to arrange one between Ranong FC, and perhaps Phatthalung."

Despite fielding six high-quality foreign players in their starting line-up in a friendly match in Phuket Town Thursday, January 31, Phuket FC were not able to gain an advantage over their North Korean opponents, 4.25 Sports Club, who walked away 0-1 winners.

A late second half goal by skilled North Korean international, Kim Kum Il, was enough for the 13-time DPK Korean league champions to prevail in the match, played in front of about 2,000 fans at Surakul Stadium.



Photo: Steven Layne

Phuket FC defend a North Korean attack.

It was clear from the opening to closing whistles that 4.25 were the more fit and better coordinated team; though rapidly improving, the new-look Phuket FC, are still learning to play with each other ahead of the official kick-off of the 2013 season, set to commence in early March.

Nonetheless, Phuket's Brazilian striker Dudu and Georgian attacking midfielder Giorgi put considerable pressure on the North Korean keeper, An Tae Song.

Despite several chances, the Southern Sea Warriors couldn't find the back of the net.

After the match, Giorgi told the *Gazette*: "We had several chances, but no goals. They had fewer chances, but got the goal. That's football."

Dudu also commented: "The Koreans were a very strong team, with exceptional teamwork. They were able to execute combination plays a lot quicker than us, but we're getting better by the day. We will continue to work hard..."

*- Andrew Scott/Steven Layne*

## Laguna dispose of TNT

TNT played Laguna Cricket Club at The Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) on Sunday, February 3. TNT fielded a strong team, including Neill Culpan (MVP from last season) who made the journey from Kuala Lumpur for the match. A classy looking Laguna outfit took the honors on the day.

TNT won the toss and followed their trend this season of setting a target to secure victory. Opener Simon Wetherell (27) blasted a salvo of boundaries against the opening pace attack of Laguna.

Laguna's captain changed it up and brought on their slower bowlers to let the batsmen force the pace. This strategy paid off with Laguna defusing TNT's top order batsmen as well as slowing down the run rate. Only four boundaries were hit by the remaining TNT batsmen during the rest of the innings.

Laguna did show some signs of pressure dropping a number of easy catches, although the damage was limited as none of the TNT batsmen went on to post a large score. Laguna's bowling was very tight with Val Guirard (3 for 36) and Sameer Khan (3

for 35) the major contributors. TNT's batting innings came to close in the 35<sup>th</sup> over with the score on 166.

TNT would have been quietly confident of defending their modest score by virtue of having taken the wind from the sails of the oppositions batting lineup, tiring them out while they were toiling in the field. It was tit for tat in the first 15 overs of the second innings.

TNT took four wickets while Laguna kept up with the run rate. It was game on, much to the delight of the island's avid cricket supporters. However, with an inning that belied his age, Val Guirard (51 not out) steadied the ship with batting partner Shoeib Mushtaq (32 not out). Together they put on an unbeaten 81 runs from 85 balls to scuttle TNT's ambitions of victory. Laguna sailed to victory in the 32<sup>nd</sup> over, scoring 170 runs for the loss of only 4 wickets.

TNT will have the opportunity to reignite their title ambitions when they face Patong Cricket Club on Sunday, February 10, at the home of island cricket, the ACG.

*- Phuket Gazette*

PROPERTY Care Services (PCS) will become the major sponsor of the Phuket Cricket Group's (PCG) Youth Academy. The academy is an initiative of PCG to introduce one of the world's most popular sports to school children in Phuket.

Mark Ashman, chairman of the PCG commented: "We are committed to developing the game in Phuket and it is vital to build a base of future cricketers

via youth academy program. Our goal is to set up a junior league once the kids have learned the basic skills of the game."

*- Phuket Gazette*

*The youth academy training sessions are held on Saturday mornings between 9 - 11 am. All children are welcome. For more details contact Mark Ashman at chairman@phuketcricketgroup.com*

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# Bay Regatta: The beautiful race

WITH a strong northeasterly wind on the fourth and final day, the 32-boat fleet rocketed out of Ao Nang in a downwind sprint towards Ao Chalong in Phuket.

The Bay Regatta was won this year by Arbusov Andrey's *Ruby Tuesday*, who took Racing Class honors by adding another second place finish on February 3 to go along with two first place finishes for a total of six points. Andrew Marshall's *Judy* claimed a first place finish through to fourth place finish notching up ten points to take second. Then, Ray Waldron's *Surf Patrol*, whose crew took home the "snappy dresser" award, came in third overall, winning on the last day to add to two third place finishes and a fifth-spot placing for a total of twelve points. It may be the first time in Bay Regatta history that Niels Degenkolw didn't place in the top three, as *Phoenix* came in fourth overall with 15 points. *Moya Hin* rounded out the Racing Class finishing fifth with 17 points.

In what proved to be the most amazing class to watch, the multihull division was won by the Stransky family on *Fantasia*, as the boat had three first place finishes on corrected time to go with a second spot placing for five points to break the ever-so fast *Mojo*'s regatta winning streak [*Mojo* had a first, a third, and two fourth-place finishes for 12 points].

Mark Pescott's *Hurricane* gave both boats a run for their money and only finished a point behind

*Mojo*. Hans Rahman's *Voodoo* and John Newnham's *Twin Sharks* had their own little battle going throughout the regatta, and when it was all said and done, the former finished fourth with 16 points, while the latter settled into fifth place with 22 points.

The all-women's squad of *Lady Sevenstar*, skippered by Aussie Liz Schoch, performed admirably taking the eighth spot overall in the eleven-boat division.

Bareboats was strictly a Russian affair with Nikiforov Evenii's *Kinnon* finishing first every day and Igor Skvortsov's *Uhuru* finishing second every day. Even though Andy Dowden didn't race the final day (he and his crew went swimming) his three third-place finishes on *PIMEX Lawan* were enough to guarantee third spot overall in the division. David Munt's *Chalai* and Peter Ohlemacher's *Fidgi* rounded out the division with fourth and fifth spot respectively.

Jim Ellis's *Remington* won the Bay Regatta's Cruising A Class for a record seventh time, accumulating only four points with four first-place finishes. Richard Macfarlane's *Aida* came second

with three second place finishes and a third place finish for a total of 9 points. Nick Band's *Emerald Blue*, which had a spinnaker go walkabout on the second day, rallied with third and second place finishes on the final two days to take third overall with twelve points.

The Gillows once again proved



**TOOTHLESS:** *Twin Sharks* competed in the multihull division, which was won by *Fantasia*. Photo: SEA Yachting

that seawater runs through that family's veins as Kevin and Mia led *Poco* to three first place finishes and a third for six points overall, taking the division from Gavin Welman's *Rascal*, who settled for second with nine points and Barry Wicket's *Kay Sira* came in third with twelve points.

Camaraderie and fun are the cornerstones of the event and most participants end up reliving each day's sailing with post-race beverages and lively conversation, followed by a casual dinner, prize-giving and entertainment on shore.

The oracle of Southeast Asian sailing Captain Marty notes the regatta's distinction: "Why does this regatta have a reputation for being the 'fun regatta' compared to the usual 'gung ho' racing events that we have grown accustomed to? Well, you only have to take a look around the moored yachts. There are families with children bonding together, groups of old friends, drinking buddies reacquainting themselves, familiar racing crews and foreign

charter guests sharing the experience with some old-fashioned camaraderie. If you are going to spend so much money on a boat it's good to see the owners fully utilize the vessel for what it is designed to be used for.

"Instead of racing for a couple hours and going home, be prepared to live aboard for four days and use the galley, toilet and

inbuilt luxury interior for what it's worth. At the same time, the crew can develop some seamanship qualities and other boat handling skills not found on the race course. Make no mistake though, whether it's a racing or cruising boat, monohull or multihull, the racing element is alive and well.

— *Phuket Gazette*



Lori Ashton (3<sup>rd</sup> left), skipper of *Luna Sea* and widow of the late Ken Brookes raced in his honor.



Yachts form a nice line during the Bay Regatta. Photo: SEA Yachting.

## Islanders warming up

THE Southern Sea Warriors' 4-1 preseason friendly win against Surat Thani Sunday, February 3, gave a number of trialists the chance to impress Phuket coaches and fans.

Of the try-out players, Japanese midfielder Yone stood out the most. The tall midfielder was an



Brazilian striker Dudu. Photo: S.Layne

imposing presence in the center of the pitch linking up play well and always looking for the ball.

The game was marred by a rash challenge on Nenebi just before half time, which forced the defender to limp off the pitch with what looked like an ankle injury.

Phuket missed a number of chances early in the game. Thai striker Poramat Krongborisut missed from 3 yards out after Iranian trialist Pouya Hossgini crossed the ball from the left wing.

However, not long after that, Norakorn found the back of the net to bring his side up 1-0.

Hossgini also missed a chance to impress when he was played clean through, only to shoot straight at the keeper.

Phuket eventually took the lead before half time through Norakorn Wisetthanakul.

In the second half, Phuket FC brought on a number of their first team players but couldn't stop Surat Thani from equalizing.

Dudu was easily dispossessed close to the center circle and a defense-splitting pass allowed a Surat Thani player to place the ball past the advancing Phuket keeper.

The tireless Boas Chan played in to Niran Panthong, to give Phuket the lead again and moments later Dudu was denied by a great double save.

Giorgi set up Phuket's third with a wonderful chip into the path of Chana Sonwiset who blasted the ball into the top corner. Chana's second of the game was a well placed strike into the bottom left corner from just outside the 18 yard box.

Coach Paniphol told the *Gazette* how he felt the preseason friendly went: "We used the first half of this match to try out some new players including two Japanese players in the midfield, as well as an Iranian forward. We also fielded some players from the youth team to give them experience.

Continued on page 49

## Phuket United sunk by Navy

A SECOND-half hat trick from Phuket United's leading scorer, Jackson Santos, was not enough for his side to beat Royal Navy FC, who walked away 5-3 winners in a futsal league match on Saturday, February 2 in Bangkok.

The match, which was played at Bangkok's Fashion Island futsal arena, was both side's 18<sup>th</sup> of 30 league matches in the Thai Futsal Premier League (TFPL) 2012-2013 season.

Navy's Amphol Srirakao opened the scoring on 8 minutes. The home team then extended their lead with two more goals by Piyanat Nusaya (16, 19), giving Navy a comfortable 3-0 lead by the half.

Phuket's Brazilian winger Santos put his side in contention with goals on 24 and 27 minutes, bringing the score to 3-2.

However, Piyanat completed his hat trick a minute later, scor-

ing his 24<sup>th</sup> of the season, and thus moving him up to second in the league for the golden boot race.

Jackson completed his hat trick in the 32<sup>nd</sup> minute, narrowing the deficit to one goal again. That goal put the Brazilian back into 5<sup>th</sup> place for the league in scoring.

Both sides remained in deadlock for much of the last eight minutes, but the deadlock was broken in the final minute of play by top scorer for both Navy and the TFPL, Jessada Chudet, who scored his 26<sup>th</sup> goal of the season sealing three points for his side.

Navy remain in 4<sup>th</sup> place of the league, while Phuket actually moved from 9<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> place, despite the loss, much thanks to Santos' three goals, to ensure a +3 goal difference.

— *Steven Layne*

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