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# Phuket Gazette

## Three killed in bus crash



Kata Hill deaths blamed on brake failure

INSIDE TODAY

March 28 - April 3, 2015

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# Fatal draw



## British tourist shoots himself at island firing range

By Chtharat Plerin

POLICE have yet to rule out death by accident in the case of a 21-year-old British tourist who shot and killed himself at a Phuket shooting range last weekend.

During live-fire target practice at the Thalang Phuket Shooting Range last Saturday, Liam Colven, from the Isle of Skye in Scotland, pointed the .45 STI Off Duty

handgun he was using at his head and fired at point-blank range.

Police that day questioned witnesses and staff at the scene, as well as the instructor working with Mr Colven, who attempted to take the gun away from the tourist during the incident.

"He was acting very normally when he came in. We went over the safety measures together before I took him to choose the gun," gun-range instructor Navin Inpam told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

"We went to our stall and I showed him how to use the gun. Once I saw that he understood, I loaded the magazine with seven bullets. After he shot seven times, I reloaded it with three more bullets," he added, still visibly shaken four days later.

"I handed the gun back to him and repeated

that there were three bullets in the magazine. I stepped away to let him shoot, and that's when he turned the gun toward his head.

"It happened so fast. I saw him move his arm up so I tried to jump in and stop him, but it was too late."

Police corroborated Mr Navin's version of events after reviewing CCTV footage of him working with Mr Colven, but have told the *Gazette* that it is not enough to rule out a death by accident at this point.

"The CCTV footage showed Mr Navin having just stepped away after helping Mr Colven aim the firearm at the target when Mr Colven suddenly pointed the gun toward his head," said Lt Kraisor Boonprasop of the Thalang Police...

Continued on Page 6

## Prosecutor yet to charge suspects in billion-baht beach scheme

THE public prosecutor has yet to press formal charges against the Kata-Karon mayor or any of the other suspects allegedly involved in the island's billion-baht illegal beach rental scheme.

Region 8 Police last year filed their investigation into those accused of illegally issuing permits for local vendors to use public beach land.

The prosecutor noted that his team had to weigh in the defendants' appeal for a 'fair investigation'.

Full Story on Page 7

## Party promoter jailed following defamation case

TWO famous national television show hosts, and the original promoter for the 2013 'Paris Hilton' New Year mega-party held on Patong Beach, have received jail sentences, with no option of parole, for defaming the event organizer, Syndictive Element.

Full Story on Page 7

## Popular beach clubs get boot from Surin sand

SEVERAL iconic beach clubs are among the 39 businesses along the Surin beachfront boardwalk that were given eviction notices on March 19.

Full story Page 6

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## This Week



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How cheap oil prices can be good for the stock market. **Page 11**



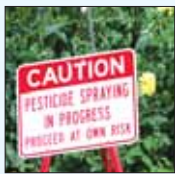
### Property

Patong remains the island's development epicenter. **Page 27**



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How a mere book can spark an environmental revolution. **Page 30**



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Klara Spilkova swings by the Laguna Phuket Golf Club. **Page 35**

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# Pakistani man nabbed after B200k hotel theft

By Voratuss Intasee

A PAKISTANI man caught on CCTV robbing nearly 200,000 baht in cash from guests' safe-deposit boxes at a Patong resort has been arrested in Haad Yai.

Officers arrested Paris Azeem, 21, at about 10pm on March 18 after Patong Police tracked him from Phuket to Bangkok to a rented room in Haad Yai, in the southern border province of Songkhla.

"We found cash in a lot of different currencies inside Mr Azeem's bag," said Capt Natthajak Kasikornmethakul of Songkhla Immigration Police.

"There were Turkish lira, Indonesian rupiah, Australian dollars and euros – altogether worth about 200,000 baht."

Police were alerted to the robbery after guests at the Alfresco Phuket Hotel on Phang Muang Sai Kor Road in Patong reported their valuables missing.

"We checked the hotel CCTV cameras and saw Mr Azeem in the reception area just after midnight on March 15," said Lt Col Sutthichai Thianpho of the Patong Police.

"Cameras recorded him stealing keys to nine guest rooms and the matching keys to the safe-



Mr Azeem was tracked down to a room in Haad Yai. Photo: Patong Police

deposit boxes in those rooms." Mr Azeem was charged with theft, Col Sutthichai confirmed.

The officers had turned to social media to apprehend Mr Azeem.

"We are proud to have arrested this suspect with cooperation from the Songkhla police via the

LINE mobile phone app," Col Sutthichai said.

"It made communicating with officers faster and easier. Patong Police were able to send out alerts and photos of the suspect taken from the CCTV and immigration police via the phone app."

## Airport taxi slams into motorcyclist, kills one



The taxi driver was charged with reckless driving causing death.

TWO Chinese tourists brought their holiday in Phuket to a close by witnessing one man being killed and another suffering serious injuries in a road accident before dawn Saturday morning.

The tourists were heading to Phuket International Airport when their taxi slammed into a motorcycle at Baan Porn, in Thalang, at about 5am, explained Lt Suporn Muangkhai of the Thalang Police.

"Taxi driver Kiattisak Flamklongkhom, 30, said that he could not avoid the collision after the motorbike the two men were riding swerved across his lane," the policeman said.

Mr Kiattisak and his passengers

escaped injury, and another taxi arrived soon after the accident to take the two tourists to the airport, he added.

Regardless, Mr Kiattisak has been charged with reckless driving causing death, confirmed Lt Suporn.

"We have yet to identify the two men because neither one of them was carrying any ID," he said. "Nobody in the area knows who they are."

"The injured man cannot give a statement because of his serious injuries. He is now at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town."

Police are hoping to identify the two men soon, Lt Suporn added.

- Thawit Bilabdullar

## Motorcycling teen killed in Thalang crash

A TEENAGE boy is dead and one man injured after their motorbike slammed into a traffic sign near the main intersection north of Thalang town at around 1:15am on March 21.

Somjai Tengsomboon, 18, suffered a head injury and died at Thalang Hospital that day.

"The passenger, Sathaporn Wongwai, 35, received minor injuries and confessed that they had both been drinking at Baan Muang Mai before heading out to find another place to drink," Lt Suporn Muangkhai of the Thalang Police told the *Gazette*.

Neither Mr Somjai nor Mr Sathaporn was wearing a helmet.

"I would like to strongly urge people to not drink and drive, as well as to wear a helmet anytime they get on a bike," Lt Suporn urged.

"Keep it on the whole time and not just when you see police. We cannot protect you from yourself."

At this time Mr Sathaporn will not be charged, as he claims he was the passenger, the policeman added.



The mangled bike after the accident.

- Thawit Bilabdullar

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# No tsunami warning after earthquake off Phuket

NO TSUNAMI warning was issued following an earthquake off the east coast of Phuket before dawn on Wednesday morning.

The quake, measuring 3.8 in magnitude, struck at 5:32am, with its epicenter halfway between Phuket and Koh Yao Yai, reported the Thai Meteorological Department.

"No tsunami warning has been issued because the earthquake was only 3.8 in mag-

nitude. It has to reach 6.5 in magnitude for a tsunami warning to be issued," Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) Phuket office Chief Santhawat Riewleung told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

The epicenter of this week's quake was centered in the same area where a 4.0 quake shook on February 20.

- Kongleaphy Keam



The quake struck off the east coast. Image: TMD

## Tiger inferno trial to begin on April 23

THE first witness testimony over the deaths of four people in Patong's notorious Tiger Disco inferno is set for April 23, Public Prosecutor Vivath Kitjurak has confirmed to the *Gazette*.

The trial will begin almost three years after the blaze claimed the lives of four people, including two tourists.

The popular nightclub erupted into flames at about 4am on August 17, 2012, while hundreds of patrons were still inside.

Tiger Group CEO Piya Isaramalai and Sara Entertainment Co Ltd each face a charge under Section 291 of the Thai Criminal Code: Causing Death through Negligence.

They also face charges of causing physical and mental injury and trading after hours.

Both parties were formally charged on July 10, 2013. They appeared in court in June last year to present the evidence they had collected.

Mr Vivath expects about six witnesses to testify. However, though he has been the lead prosecutor in the case since the fire, he will not present the case in court.

"My transfer has been approved, effective April 1, so another prosecutor will take care of the case," he told the *Gazette*.

Pisitpol Phumsawat, Phuket's chief public prosecutor, confirmed to the *Gazette* that Mr Vivath will move to the Phuket Juvenile Court on April 1, and that he had yet to decide which prosecutor from his office will lead the trial.

"The case will be handed over to a new prosecutor at the beginning of next month," Mr Pisitpol said.

- Chutharat Plerin

# Tour bus in death plunge

## Three dead as driver blames brakes, claims bus 20 years old

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THREE Chinese tourists were killed and 15 others injured, three seriously, after the tour bus they were riding in tumbled off the road and rolled down Kata Hill on Wednesday afternoon.

Initially, 11 of the injured tourists were taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town and four were taken to Patong Hospital.

The three seriously injured passengers were later transferred to Bangkok Hospital Phuket, said Lt Chollada Chokdeesrijan of the Chalong Police.

"The other 12 tourists have since been discharged from hospital," she told the *Gazette* late Wednesday afternoon.

"The bodies of Huijie Hu, 30; Meiling Li, 28; and Bo Zhou, 30 were taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital."

The driver, Kajornwit Srisongkram, 35, and the tour guide were taken to Chalong Police Station.

"Police have charged Mr Kajornwit with reckless driving causing death and injury," confirmed Lt Chollada.

Mr Kajornwit, however, blamed the accident on the aged condition of the bus and brake failure.

He had picked up the tourists



Rescue workers prepare to recover the body of one of the three Chinese tourists who died in the crash.

from a hotel in Karon, and was en route to Kra Som Pier in Phang Nga when the accident occurred.

"On the way down the hill from Kata, I applied the brakes, but they didn't work," Mr Kajornwit told police.

"This bus is almost 20 years old. I couldn't control it. We crossed into the oncoming lanes

before falling off the hill on the other side of the road.

Mr Kajornwit pointed out that he had been a commercial bus driver for 10 years.

"I have never had an accident like this," he said. "I am very sad about what happened."

Police are continuing their investigation into the accident.

"We have contacted the bus owner and the tour company. We will continue questioning Mr Kajornwit and examine the condition of the bus," Lt Chollada said.

Concerns were raised in January last year about tour buses operating on Kata Hill after an accident left one motorcyclist dead.

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## Rawai mayor to press charges for bridge built on public land



The illegal bridge. Photo: Aroon Solos

THE mayor of Rawai is prepared to press encroachment charges against a hotel on Koh Racha Yai for building a bridge on public land.

Officials were notified of the offending structure, owned by Rayaburi Resort, when government workers arrived at the site to dredge the Patak Canal, a project which began on March 7.

The bridge crossed over the canal and led to the hotel's staff dormitories, Rawai Mayor Aroon Solos told the *Gazette*.

"I have collected documents, as well as video and photo evidence of the bridge proving it is encroaching on public land," he said.

"I will present it to the Phuket Governor's Office soon."

- Voratuss Intasee

# Canal-dredging project delayed by Koh Racha Yai hotel owner

By Voratuss Intasee

THE completion of the Patak Canal dredging project on Koh Racha Yai has been delayed until the end of the month, after a hotel owner refilled part of the canal and attempted to prevent government workers from returning to the site.

The dredging, which began on March 7 and was expected to be completed on March 17, came after years of complaints from local residents about the canal's rank, polluted water.

However, officials were called to the site to investigate on March 17 after the owner of the Rayaburi Resort ordered her staff to refill part of the canal near her hotel, Vice Governor Suthee Thongyam told the *Gazette*.

"She used a golf cart to prevent the government backhoes from entering the site to complete the dredging," Vice Governor Suthee said. Officials withheld the name of the hotel owner.



The hotel owner parked a golf cart so that it blocked workers from reaching the canal. Photo: Aroon Solos

"She claimed that our workers had destroyed trees in the area and had taken down a hotel-access bridge that was built across the canal."

After about an hour of negoti-

ating, the owner finally agreed to let officials continue dredging, said V/Gov Suthee.

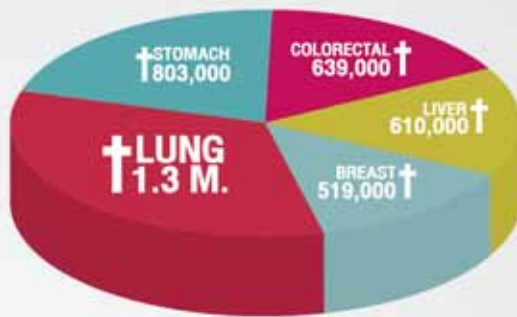
"The owner removed her golf cart and the backhoe she was using to fill the canal. We are now

continuing with our work, but the completion date has been delayed, because we have to re-dredge that part of the canal again," he said.

"We hope to be finished by the end of the month."

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## Landfill fire posed no health risks: officials

SMOKE from the fire that broke out at Phuket's overloaded landfill site on March 17 did not pose health risks to the island's residents, confirmed Dr Pornsri Suthanaruk, director of the Phuket Environment Office Region 15.

"It was windy [that day], and the wind blew all of the smoke toward the ocean," he told the *Gazette* on March 18.

Two rai of the overflowing 120-rai landfill at the Phuket City Waste Management Facility in Saphan Hin were destroyed by the blaze.

"I dispatched officers to inspect the site after the fire and they saw no cause for concern. We also have not received any complaints from nearby residents. I can confirm that there is no need to worry - we are safe."

Dr Pornsri added that the type of rubbish that was destroyed in the blaze had little to no toxicity when the flames turned into smoke.

Governor Nisit Jansomwong also inspected the site on March 18 and devised a plan for preventing future fires.

"We have water trucks on standby to douse the rubbish when it becomes too hot and dry and backhoes to dig out any trash that might catch fire," he said.

Governor Nisit noted that the landfill currently contains 930,000 tonnes of rubbish which are waiting to be destroyed at the site's one operational incinerator.

Every day Phuket generates about 700 tonnes of waste, which is the exact capacity of the work-



A water truck douses rubbish at the landfill.

ing incinerator. However, there is a 7 per cent annual increase in waste being generated, explained Kasem Sukwaree, chief of the Phuket office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) to the *Gazette* in February.

A 530-million-baht budget to repair the defunct incinerator at the waste-management site was approved last month.

Gov Nisit confirmed that funds for the repairs, which will come from the 2016 fiscal budget, will be received in September.

"It will take about two years before the incinerator is fully operational because many of the parts will have to be ordered from overseas, and we will need to hold trials to ensure that it is in proper working order before it opens," he said.

The governor also noted that he has requested 89 million baht toward improvements for the landfill.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

# Beach clubs told to go

Officers served eviction notices to dozens of businesses along Surin Beach, including many of the island's popular clubs

By Chutharat Plerin

SEVERAL iconic beach clubs are among the 39 businesses along the Surin beachfront boardwalk that were given eviction notices on March 19.

The notices, and the negation of contracts for the use of the buildings, follows the demolishing last year of some of the businesses' developments on the west side of the boardwalk, which were deemed to be encroaching on public land.

"These were never supposed to be rented out to a third party. At this point, we just want the businesses gone," Ma-ann Samran, president of the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), told the *Gazette* this week.

The eviction notices, signed off by Mr Ma-ann, were distributed by Thalang District and Cherng Talay *OrBorTor* officers to Catch Beach

Club and Bimi Beach Club, as well as other business on the boardwalk.

"The buildings either belong to the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization and the Cherng Talay *OrBorTor*, so we do not want the business operators to demolish the buildings, we just need them to leave," said Thalang District Chief Veera Kerdsirimongkol.

'The buildings belong to the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization and the Cherng Talay *OrBorTor*, so we do not want the business operators to demolish the buildings, we just need them to leave'

– Veera Kerdsirimongkol, Thalang district chief

"If the buildings have to be demolished, we'll take care of it."

Business operators were given 15 days to appeal the eviction order.

Last year, one investor who poured about 35 million baht into one of the beach clubs explained to the *Gazette* in an exclusive interview that he was under the impression that he had followed all legal channels when leasing and developing the property.

"I talked to local officials and had the necessary permission to build and operate the beach club –




The 39 businesses were handed the eviction notices signed off by Ma-ann Samran. Photo: Thalang District Office


and now I am told to pull everything down. Nobody is taking any responsibility," the frustrated investor,

who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said last year.

Officials were unclear about

what the fate of the buildings would be once the current businesses were evicted.






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# Marine Police seize truckload of protected lumber

MARINE Police on March 20 seized a truckload of rough-cut planks of wood hewn from protected trees that were bound for Phi Phi Island, where they were to be used to build a restaurant.

The truck, driven by Janyarat Janput, 34, was stopped near Jianwanich pier in Rassada near Phuket Town during a random check by police, Lt Col Panya Chaichana of the Phuket Marine Police announced on March 22.

"The driver was unable to present to police his permits to transport the wood, so

the officers called in experts from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment [MNRE] Phuket office," he said.

"The MNRE officials confirmed that in the back of the truck were 79 rough-cut planks of Mai Pradoo [*Pterocarpus indicus*] and 50 planks of Mai Daeng. Both of these species of trees are protected by law."

Mr Janyarat presented six documents he was given in order to deliver the wood, but the officers present quickly confirmed that the papers only represented permission to operate logging on private land.

While police were inspecting the truck, Visut Pattamapaniwong, 45, arrived and explained that he owned the wood.

"I ordered it from Teerayu Yangsabai, 48, from Ratchaburi, in order to build a restaurant on Phi Phi Island," he said.

Mr Visut presented two sawmill licences. "However, the MNRE officers confirmed that those permits do not grant permission for transporting this wood," Col Panya said.

Mr Visut was given until Friday to present a proper permit, or he would face charges, said Col Panya. – *Kongleaphy Keam*



Police seized a truck loaded with protected wood. Photo: Marine Police

## Police ramp up efforts to stem illegal ivory trade

PEOPLE in Phuket trading ivory have until April 21 to register with the Department of National Parks Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) or face legal action, police warned on March 20.

"Shop owners must register with local offices of the DNP, such as the Khao Phra Thaeo Wildlife Sanctuary center in Thalang," said Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayuth Karajedee.

"After the DNP has the shop's details, traders must register with the Phuket office of the Department of Business Development (DBD).

"Alternatively, traders can register with their local municipality, which the DBD has empowered to receive registrations on their behalf."

The project was organized under the order of Royal Thai Police to show that Thailand follows the policies of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora [CITES], Col Peerayuth said.

The Royal Thai Police will submit their annual nationwide report on progress made in the fight against the illegal ivory trade to CITES Secretariat in Geneva on March 31, he added.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

# Brit's death prompts safety boost at local firing range

From Page 1

... "According to the instructor, Mr Colven was not pressing the gun firmly against his head when he fired. This is why we have not ruled out death by accident."

However, investigators are taking into account that Mr Colven's taxi driver, Prasert Pasaman, said that Mr Colven was behaving normally on the way to the range – until he took a call and seemed to get into an argument with someone over the phone.

"We checked his phone records and saw that he spoke mostly with his mum on that day. He also had a missed call from a UK number. We tried calling back, but no one picked up," Lt Kraisor explained.

"We are now waiting for the family to arrive so we can question them about the victim and about any possible reasons there may have been for his actions."

The British Embassy in Bangkok has confirmed that the family will arrive on Phuket this week, he added.

Lt Kraisor noted that the shooting range followed all required procedures in allowing Mr Colven to hire and handle the gun.

"Each customer has an experienced instructor to help with



Though the instructor working with Mr Colven, Navin Inparn, was following all safety procedures, the facility he is working for is now assigning two instructors to every customer.

reloading and preparing the gun for shooting," he said.

"The instructor then places the gun in the customer's hand and points the gun at the target so it is ready to be fired."

Phakorn Phaisarnsintuwong, general director of the shooting range, also assured the *Gazette* on Wednesday that Mr Colven and the instructor had followed all of

the required safety procedures prior to the shooting.

"We have instructions in Thai and English, and our staff explain to customers exactly what to do and how to safely use the gun before handing it over," said Mr Phakorn.

"We do not allow anyone who smells of alcohol, who acts intoxicated or who appears to be under emotional stress to use the guns.

We do not take those kinds of risks at our range."

Mr Phakorn noted that since the incident, he has started assigning two instructors to every customer during live-fire target practice.

However, this is the only new safety procedure introduced following Mr Colven's death. Island officials confirmed on Monday that they will not require the Thalang range to introduce any additional safety measures.

"The range follows all the safety requirements. We inspect all shooting ranges in our area once every three months to make sure they follow the law," said Thalang District Chief Veera Kerdsirimongkol.

"The staffers check every customer, as required by law. Anyone drunk or incapable of shooting safely will be refused service."

"Mr Colven was good at shooting, according to the target he was firing at, and so I leave the investigation to the police."

Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosutthirak, who sits as deputy chair of the provincial standing committee for internal security, confirmed that he would not intervene in the case.

Additional reporting by *Thawit Bilabdullar*

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# Stars jailed for defamation

By Nation Breaking News

TWO famous national television show hosts have been sentenced to one year in jail, with no suspended sentence and no option for parole, for defaming the organizer of the 2013 New Year mega-party held at Phuket's Patong Beach.

The Criminal Court in Bangkok on Monday sentenced Vuthithorn 'Woody' Milintachinda and Chaleumpol 'Jack Fanchan' Tikumpornteerawo, of the popular show 'Chao Doo Woody', for reporting biased news and broadcasting comments that intended to defame others.

The show, broadcast on Channel 9 from 8am to 9am Monday through Friday, reaches hundreds of thousands of households throughout the country.

The court ruled that the pair had caused defamation by broadcasting allegations made by Anandadvip Jayankura, who initially assisted in promoting the mega-party.

Mr Anandadvip was sentenced to three years in jail, with no suspended sentence and no option for parole, for defaming others



Chaleumpol 'Jack Fanchan' Tikumpornteerawo (left) and Vuthithorn 'Woody' Milintachinda. Photos: Facebook

through the media.

Also sentenced were Sirinda Jayankura Na Ayudhaya, Jeniya Aphichatmani and Pen Suksomboonwong. Each was fined 100,000 baht and given a two-year suspended sentence for their role in assisting Mr Anandadvip.

The judgment followed

Sydictive Element CEO Jirat Petchnunthawong filing a complaint against Mr Anandadvip.

In his complaint, Mr Jirat cited Mr Anandadvip announcing to the press in Bangkok in March 2013 that he would be filing a complaint against Sydictive Element.

Mr Anandadvip, together with Ms Sirinda, Ms Jeniya and Mrs

Pen, told the public that Sydictive Element did not organize the mega-party, as was claimed on advertisements.

Mr Anandadvip also said that Mr Jirat had cheated him on payments owed for promoting the party.

On March 8, 2013, Mr Anandadvip repeated his allegations on 'Chao Doo Woody'.

The court ruled that the defendants had no right to accuse Mr Jirat of not organizing the party as initially advertised.

The party was announced by international celebrity and global hotel franchise heiress Paris Hilton at an event in Bangkok.

It was initially promoted to be held on Surin Beach, but was later moved to Patong due to complaints of noise, trash, possible drug use and public disturbances. It was also touted as likely to attract about 50,000 revellers to Phuket. That number was rounded down to 20,000, according to some reports, and it was later confirmed that Ms Hilton would not be attending the event.

The Criminal Court ordered the convicted defamers to publish the ruling in newspapers for seven days.

The television hosts Mr Vuthithorn and Mr Chaleumpol were released on 100,000-baht bail. Mr Anandadvip was released on 300,000-baht bail.

As the *Gazette* went to print, the six had yet to announce whether or not they will appeal the verdict.

## Charges lag over beach-plot scam

THE public prosecutor has yet to press formal charges against the Kata-Karon mayor or any of the other suspects allegedly involved in the island's billion-baht illegal beach rental scheme.

At least 15 people, including Kata-Karon Mayor Tawee Thongcham, were accused at a press conference in September last year of illegally issuing permits for local beach vendors to use public beach land.

However, Pisitpol Phumsawat, Phuket's chief public prosecutor, confirmed to the *Gazette* this past week that his investigation team was still reviewing evidence presented to his office by the Region 8 Police.

"I have dedicated a special team to investigate the claims made by police. We are working carefully on the investigation to ensure that we are fair to all parties involved," said Mr Pisitpol.

"We also have to take into account that the defendants have appealed for a 'fair investigation'."

Mr Pisitpol declined to reveal any specific details about the case, or exactly how the 'fair investigation' appeal affected his prosecution team's work.

No deadline has been set for the Public Prosecutor's Office to decide whether or not it will take the case to court.

Meanwhile, Region 8 Police Deputy Commander Paween Pongsirin insists that his team of



Karon Mayor Tawee Thongcham has yet to be charged for his suspected involvement in the beach-rental scheme. Photo: Gazette file

investigators carried out a fair investigation and provided enough evidence for the case to move forward.

"I have no idea what is taking so long for the formal charges to be pressed. We gave the public prosecutor more than enough evidence last year," Maj Gen Paween said.

"It is now in their hands, so we cannot interfere. However, I hope to see the suspects charged for their crimes. Phuket residents know full well the extent of the beach-occupation issues, and who was behind the [illegal] businesses."

Mr Tawee, who remains the mayor of Kata-Karon, declined to comment to the *Gazette* about his ongoing case.

- Chutharat Plerin

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## AROUND THE nation

### Northern haze caused by corn plantation fires

THE Chiang Mai Chamber of Commerce has revealed that the burning of corn plantations, covering 5 million rai in the North, is the main cause of the severe haze problem facing the region every year.

Chiang Mai Chamber of Commerce deputy chairman Wittaya Krongsap, a member of the Chiang Mai-based private sector committee tackling haze, said an academic team in Chiang Rai found that the culprit responsible for 70 per cent of the problem was the fires at corn plantations to clear the fields.

As a result, the chamber said it would contact business operators who have bought corn for animal feed and urge them to take some responsibility for the major health threat, reported *The Nation*.

It was reported that thousands of people – up to about 7,000 in some cases – had sought medical treatment for illnesses caused by the haze each day last week in the eight upper Northern Thailand provinces.

The chamber will urge the authorities to notify the farmers and tell them to do the field-clearing burns in rotation rather than burning all sites at the same time.

Meanwhile, Chiang Mai Natural Resource and Environment Office director Jongkhlai Worapongsathon wants relevant agencies to reassess the situation and issue new measures to tackle the problem.

He suggested that the burns must take place gradually before March, adding that his office would ask those promoting corn growing and major companies buying corn to promote alternatives to the corn-husk disposal.

Alternatives include using corn husks to make fertilizer and animal feed, he said. Adding these measures, if adopted, should help reduce the haze problem next year.

# Arms cache fails to deter Hua Hin Cabinet confab

THE mobile Cabinet meeting scheduled for Friday and Saturday in Prachuap Khiri Khan was to go ahead despite the discovery of explosives and assault rifle ammunition about three kilometers from the venue on March 21, Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha said on Tuesday.

The cache consisted of C-4 and TNT explosive bars and detonating wires, hand detonators, smoke and tear-gas grenades and munitions for M16 and AK-47 assault rifles, reported *The Nation*.

PM Prayut said the weapons seemed to be non-functioning, and the location was quite far from the Army-run Suan Son Pradiphat Rehabilitation Center, the venue for the meetings.

Interior Minister Gen Anupong Paochinda said the explosives were outdated and that he believed they were discarded after the coup by collectors when the junta initiated a crackdown on people with war weapons.

Defence Minister Gen Prawit Wongsuwan said the weapons were probably not intended to disrupt the Cabinet meetings and an investigation was under way to find out who owned them.

Serial numbers were being checked to verify whether or not



Police and military personnel inspect the weapons cache. Photo: The Nation

they belong to the Army.

Some of the weapons were found inside sacks which had "Company 1 Battalion 1" written

on them, it was reported.

Military ordnance personnel were quoted as saying that the explosives were usable, but not

wired to the detonators.

Deputy Defence Minister and Army Commander Gen Udomdej Sitabutr said that the sacks could have been taken from locations where the Army used them in flood-prevention projects after filling them with sand.

Royal Thai Police Commander Somyot Poompanmuang agreed that the explosive and munitions were likely dumped after the junta took power.

He said the discovery of the cache of weapons was not being used as a reason to maintain martial law.

Security for the Cabinet meeting was tight and would not be heightened, Gen Somyot said.

An investigation was underway and would not be hastened or dictated by any time frame, he added.

Police spokesman Prawut Thawornsiri said C-4 explosives are considered more lethal than both the explosives used last month in twin pipe-bomb attacks near the Siam Paragon shopping complex in Bangkok and a hand grenade used in the attack on the Criminal Court earlier this month.

It is unlikely the three incidents were linked, Lt Gen Prawut added.

## Grenade suspect believed to be key operative

POLICE believe a suspect arrested for her alleged role in the March 7 hand-grenade attack on the Criminal Court is a key operative coordinating with a high-profile US-based suspect who has been financing an anti-government movement.

A senior police investigator said Suphaphorn "Dear" Mit-arak was coordinating with fugitive Manoon "Anek" Chaichana to plan attacks on five locations in Bangkok last month. Mr Manoon is said to be living in San Francisco, reported *The Nation*.

The two made contact through the chat application LINE and social media, Maj Gen Chaiyaphol Chatchaidej said.

Police chief Somyot Poompanmuang has confirmed Ms Suphaphorn's confession, and noted that details on the roles of each of the 16 suspects involved in the case came from their own accounts.

A police source has said that Ms Suphaphorn and Natthathida "Waen" Meewangpla – who was apprehended on Monday – face additional charges of planning bomb attacks as well as charges of terrorism and criminal conspiracy, which have been pressed against all suspects.

Police spokesman Prawut Thawornsiri said police were seeking to bring Mr Manoon back with Interpol's help to face terrorism charges. This is the first time that Thailand is seeking extradition of someone on terrorism charges.

Asked whether the hand-grenade attack would be considered a political case, which could result in the United States turning down the extradition request, Lt Gen Prawut said people with different political stances should seek solutions peacefully, not through violence or bomb attacks.



Ms Suphaphorn has confessed. Photo: The Nation

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# Protect and save our fellow earth dwellers

## FIRST PERSON



**Wanchai Supanaus, 56, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, is the head of the Phang Nga Wildlife Nursery Station. He graduated from Phrae Forestry School in 1979, where he earned a vocational certificate for forestry. He has been head of the station for 15 years.**

Here, he discusses the illegal trade of touting protected species, which is prevalent in Phuket and other tourist-heavy provinces in Thailand, and puts forth suggestions for ending it.

PEOPLE who tout photo opportunities with animals do it because it is an easy way to make money. They can easily earn anywhere from 200 baht to 500 baht per picture, which attracts other people to the illegal trade. These people often hurt or abuse the creatures, such as slow lorises and gibbons, that they show to tourists.

Who is supposed to protect these animals? To be frank, the answer is obvious – everyone is supposed to protect them. People can end this torturous trade by refusing to interact with or even acknowledge the touts. This goes for any animal, protected or not, whether it be a slow loris, gibbon or iguana.

I can say from experience that most foreigners would not want to take a photo with an animal if they knew it was being tortured. Often, the touts play tricks on tourists to lure them toward the animal, and sometimes the touts even threaten them if they do not cough up any cash. Foreigners have no choice but to pay, as they are scared of retribution.

At our nursery, we received many gibbons last year. Now, we are starting to receive more and more slow lorises from police officers in Phuket, Krabi and Phang Nga.

Slow lorises are sent to us after they are seized by police

from people who tout them on the streets of these popular tourist provinces. The lorises, which we believe are captured from the jungles in Deep South provinces, such as Yala and Satun, always have their teeth either removed or shaved down to prevent them from scratching or biting people who choose to pose for pictures with them.

Many of these recently attained lorises died mysteriously after they arrived at the nursery. This was very disconcerting. We believe that the people who use these poor creatures to make money on the street feed them *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills to keep the animals awake and alert.

When slow lorises are taken out of their jungle habitats, they

quickly forget their natural behaviors and become unable to take care of themselves. Depending on the animal's health and mental state, it can take anywhere from two months to 10 years to rehabilitate a slow loris before it can be released into the jungle. However, some are so badly abused that we are unable to rehabilitate them; they cannot be freed into their natural homes.

Phuket probably has the most problems with animal abuse of this nature, followed by Krabi and Phang Nga.

As you can see on television and in the newspapers, police frequently arrest people for taking part in the illegal business of touting protected species on the streets.

Anyone who sees a tout with an animal should call police immediately. Tourists should be aware of the trade, and urge their friends and loved ones to refrain from supporting it. We must stop this vicious cycle of animal abuse.

This is just the first step we can all take in protecting our wildlife and preventing abusive behaviors.

I hope that someday, the Phang Nga Wildlife Nursery Station will no longer have to take in any abused animals.



**! We believe that the people who use these poor creatures to make money on the street feed them *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills to keep the animals awake and alert. !**



Tour guides should take their guests to Phuket Town to explore.

## Discover Thainess

### Island View

By Rae Kelly

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

THE Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) recently launched a multi-million-baht tourism campaign to lure foreign visitors to the Land of Smiles under the banner 'Discover Thainess'.

What they did not do is explain what "Thainess" is before unleashing their latest marketing ploy.

A catchy campaign and slogan with so much potential was immediately lost in translation. Tourists new to Thailand or who come for resort holidays in tourist provinces like Phuket likely have no idea what is meant by the word 'Thainess', or how they are supposed to discover it.

This became painfully clear in a recent *Phuket Today* segment, in which the crew went to Patong to ask tourists what they thought Thainess was, and if they had discovered it. The tourists responded with such answers as, "I don't understand 'Thainess'". What is it?" and "I have no idea."

In the segment, Anoma Wongyai, president of the TAT Phuket office, described Thainess as "the way of Thai life, culture and traditions. What Thai people do in their daily lives." She went on to say that it should highlight some of the most beloved elements of Thai culture, such as Thai cooking and boxing, as well as the warm smiles of Thai people.

Ms Anoma said that Thai people should be proud to showcase these aspects of their lives and culture to the world, and she is right.

However, it is difficult to understand Thainess without ever having been to the country or interacted with its people. Rather than expecting a clever slogan to do all the work for them, the TAT

should have been prepared to launch the campaign in a way that highlights the true meaning of Thainess so that tourists can look out for it or plan their holiday so that it includes a trip to a temple, muaythai fight or a cooking class.

I have discovered Thainess many times on this island, which far too often gets a bad rap from those who have been jaded by a bad experience or two. I never discovered Thainess during nights out in Patong or when visiting tourist attractions. I discovered it in everyday life, when interacting with locals and doing everyday tasks.

Perhaps the TAT could approach tour companies with a option that highlights more everyday "Thai" experiences – promote trips that take tourists to one of the many weekly markets or leave them to explore Phuket Old Town for a day. They should promote the temple and food festivals and have hotels notify guests of the lesser-known coffee shops or swanky Phuket Town bars.

Some tourists will prefer their resort holidays, but some will want to go after the culture-finding experience, and that's who TAT needs to target with this campaign.

All they need to do is explain what Thainess is and tell tourists where they might find it.

There are so many ways to discover Thainess in Phuket, but it won't be in a resort, at a go-go bar or inside a tourist trap.

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

### Early driving licence renewal

I HAVE a one-year Thai driving licence which will expire on June 20. How early can I renew this licence before it expires?

I may need to leave Thailand for four months, from early May. Thank for your assistance.

*Raymond Chang, Thalang*

**Amphaiporn Kochaphakdee, chief registrar at the Driving Licence Division, Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO), replies:**

You can renew your licence up to two months before it expires. You need to bring your licence, as well as your passport and your current visa, plus one signed copy

of the face page and the visa page to our office.

Renewing a one-year car driving licence costs 205 baht, but it costs 50 baht extra for changing each detail on the licence, such as your residential address.

The base fee for a one-year motorbike driving licence is 155 baht, plus extra fees for changes.

I suggest that you come to our office before 9:30am on the day you want to renew your licence.

If you must depart the country before the early renewal period, just renew your licence when you get back. We can renew it for you if your licence has not been expired for more than one year.

### Coastal road parking habits wreaking havoc

EVERY week, the problem with the cars and motorbikes parked along the road in front of the restaurants on the hills between Kata and Rawai gets worse.

Every week, I see some form of an accident there because of the cars and motorbikes parked along the road.

Are these restaurants legal? Can their guests park along the road?

*Bjorn Ronningen, Phuket*

**Weerasak Anekwongsawat, chief administrative officer at Karon Municipality, replies:**

In order for us to check whether or not there is a building

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)

pality Office Building, Kata Road, T Karon, A Muang Phuket, 83100, Thailand.

However, it is best if you come to our office in person so that we can ask any questions we have, and you can fill out the form correctly.

**Col Sompong Boonrat, superintendent of the Karon Police, replies:**

We are aware of the problem. I have asked our officers to place traffic cones along that section of road as a temporary measure to prevent vehicles from parking.

I will ask that Karon Municipality to mark the roadside as a red-white 'no parking' zone.

permit for a particular site, we need you to come to file a request for us to investigate it.

You can email your request to us at [info@karoncity.go.th](mailto:info@karoncity.go.th) or you can mail it to us at: Karon Mayor Tawee Thongcham, Karon Municipality

# Out of range

THE *Phuket Gazette* joins the rest of the island in extending its condolences to the family of young Scotsman Liam Colven, who died at a newly-opened shooting range in Thalang from a gunshot to the head earlier this week (see page 1).

News of the death has resonated in the social media as the story touches on so many relevant issues here in Phuket, including the widely-perceived, yet statistically unproven, high incidence of foreigners who choose the island as a 'last resort' destination to end their lives.

Detailed accounts of what specifically led to Mr Colven's death have yet to be revealed as this goes to press. By all accounts, it followed a heated telephone argument that sent him in search of a place 'to shoot' – a wish quickly and easily obliged to by a local taxi driver in Thalang, home to the island's newest and growing number of tourist-oriented shooting ranges.

Reaction among older readers is almost unanimous in recognizing that the greatest tragedy is the young age at which Liam's life ended: just 21. Many of us remember the intense emotions that engulfed us when we were of a similar age, when a broken heart or similar negative passion could feel so overwhelming as to make life itself seem no longer worth living.

Most of us who have lived through similar experiences see in hindsight that they ultimately make us stronger, more insightful and wiser in the long run, deepening our appreciation for this inconceivably precious gift of sentient existence – even if it comes at the stiff admission price of being aware of one's mortality.

The issue of terminally-ill patients in chronic pain choosing to end their own lives, as well as to have such decisions respected and supported by society, are often understood, but the *Gazette* deeply laments deaths like this one among young people apparently acting on impulse alone.

As for the proliferation of tourist-oriented shooting ranges on the island, we hope this tragedy will at least prompt authorities to review their role in the island's tourism industry. Do we really want island roads lined with huge billboards filled with graphic images promoting gun use?

Further, is it wise to allow such facilities on a tourist island that has at least once been linked to the ongoing insurgency in the Deep South, where more than 6,000 people have been killed over the past decade and the sight of soldiers carrying automatic assault rifles is all some school children have ever known?

We need to carefully consider how well these shooting ranges really mesh with the oft-stated goal of attracting 'quality tourists', as well as the wider safety ramifications of handing over firearms and ammunition to each and every tourist who asks for them, no questions asked.

After all, in this day and age, it is far from inconceivable that the next tragedy could involve a customer turning his rented weapon on fellow shooters, with even more horrific results.



## Going directly to the root of corruption in Phuket

*Re: Gazette online, Suspects yet to be charged for billion-baht illegal beach rental scheme, March 22*

This goes right to the root of Phuket's corruption problems.

As Maj Gen Paween stated, more than enough information was presented to go to trial, but we can clearly see the plan now to stall this out and make the problem fade away.

I wish Thai people would stand up for a change and demand that people like Mayor Tawee and the Keesin brothers be held accountable for their actions.

*Corruption kills Phuket  
Gazette forum*

## Big thank you to the good samaritan

I was riding a motorcycle on the highway near the airport on Saturday and lost my wallet.

Some excellent person found it, looked inside at the motorcycle rental contract and then went out of their way to return it to the rental company who returned it to me.

I don't know who this was, but I would like to express my appreciation to them.

*Wayne Wilson  
Phuket*

## Take down the Surin Beach clubs for good

*Re: Gazette online, Government evicts Surin Beach clubs, March 20*

The *OrBorTor* here is the worst. They continue to talk out of both sides of their mouths, depending on which way the wind is blowing.

They were supposed to protect the beach, but instead they sold it off to the highest bidder.

I live for the day I see Surin

## Letters to the Editor

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

Beach cleared of these so-called 'beach clubs'.

I'm ecstatic to see all the illegal businesses being demolished.

The owners saying they did everything legally... please. Level it.

*Pinot  
Gazette forum*

## Stop leaving it up to the checkpoints

*Re: Gazette online, Teen dies in motorcycle crash, March 21*

"We cannot protect you from yourself." True, but you could stop every motorcyclist you see not wearing a helmet and fine them right there and then, instead of only stopping them at well-known checkpoints.

You could also tell your officers to enforce all traffic laws, including those concerning people in side-cars not wearing helmets, and tell them to not break the law.

*Chas  
Gazette forum*

## Please, leave it closed

*Re: Gazette online, Critical underpass intersection to remain closed until end of year, March 19*

Shutting down the east-west traffic was the best thing that's happened since the project began.

Ever since they did it, we can sail through that intersection beautifully, with no jams or delays at all.

Let us hope the east-west shutdown will continue until at least the end of the year.

*Roger Franklin  
Gazette forum*

## Re-evaluate the rules

To the leaders of Thailand: You have settled down the situation in this great land loved by many – well done. You have made tough decisions and applied discipline, which was needed in most cases.

However, you have made a tourism error on Patong Beach.

Why have you cut out one of the features tourists need and love, an umbrella and a beach chair to be comfortable and enjoy the day and fun and life on the beach? This exclusion is absurd and power has been used very poorly. This decision lacks understanding of one of the great joys people come to Phuket for – the beach.

It seems that some are oblivious to much worse and much more harmful conduct. The corrupt and questionable tuk-tuks are allowed to do as they like. Why not have proper taxis with meters?

There is sleet all over and a family cannot enjoy the beach in comfort and shade.

Some very unusual imposts on locals need to be reviewed, and how these people can make a living connecting with tourists on the beach. They contributed to the smiles in this land. Give them back their places on the beach.

*Stuart  
Australia*

## Why have guns at all?

*Re: Gazette online, No further safety measures at shooting range after tourist kills self, March 24*

Why bring guns into the mix of attractions on Phuket?

How could any sort of safety measure prevent a tragic event like this from happening again?

I feel for Mr Colven, his family, and the person who tried to take the gun away.

Authorities should re-evaluate the necessity of such attractions.

*Charlise Renot  
Chalong*

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# Invest as consumers spend



Finance

By Don Freeman

WHEN it comes to investing, many make it more complicated than it actually is. What I try to do is use common sense and simplify the process.

The two big factors driving global markets right now are central banks and the drop in oil prices. Banks have been pumping trillions of dollars into the global financial system ever since the financial crisis of 2008 and 2009. This flood of money has caused the 'bull run' in stock prices over the past few years.

A lot of people were worried that all the printing by central banks was going to create inflation. This is what the gold bugs have been saying for the past few years. However, inflation has remained low and that's why gold has dropped from more than US\$1,900 an ounce to under US\$1,300.

With oil prices now dropping from more than US\$100 a barrel to less than US\$50, that will further keep inflation in check. This is all good news for the stock market because inflation and stocks do not like one another. Inflation makes things more expensive and takes a bite out of corporate profits.

But the biggest beneficiary from the oil price drop is the consumer. Whether it's the consumer in America, Europe or right here in Thailand, everyone benefits. By having to spend less on gas, the consumer now has extra money left over from their weekly paychecks. It is estimated that the economies of North America, Europe and Asia will save anywhere



Lower gas prices save consumers money, which can in turn be used to buy luxury items. Photo: TaxRebate.org.uk

between US\$350 billion and US\$500 billion due to the drop in oil prices. Last month in California, USA, one gallon of gasoline was US\$2.50 a gallon down from US\$4.25 in 2012. Even in Thailand to fill my tank costs one-third less.

This new-found money will go to fuel purchases of items such as cars, washing machines, TVs and other luxury items. Car companies will particularly benefit because consumers will buy more SUVs because of the lower gas prices. SUVs have higher profit margins than cars. This will boost profits at Ford and General Motors and take their share prices higher.

The one area short term where

you don't want to invest is in the oil companies. While no one can predict the price of oil, the fact remains that this price drop came about because of more supply than demand.

For the past six years, oil prices have averaged US\$93 per barrel. This made every oil exploration project economically feasible. This included everything from oil sands to offshore drilling to Arctic exploration to shale exploration in the US. Oil companies and their investment bankers pumped billions of dollars into these projects. Now with oil below US\$50, many of these investments are now underwater and that's not good for

oil stocks in general. Some companies will thrive and find ways to be more efficient and generate profit.

But even with this being the case, there are no signs that anyone is willing to slow down on pumping oil. OPEC is pumping at full throttle. So is Russia, Exxon Mobil, Chevron and every other major producer. They all need money and US\$50 is better than nothing. The only way for prices to go back higher quickly would be for them to turn off the taps. I don't see anyone willing to do that.

So, the question then becomes: how are investors to play this? There are several things

investors can do.

One, investors want to stick with solid growth stocks like Apple and Facebook. Second, investors can play Ford and General Motors. Both stocks underperformed the S&P 500 last year and I look for a rebound this year. Third, as my readers and clients know, I like the Alerian MLP Index. With the increase in the supply of oil, the pipelines that transport oil will continue to benefit. Pipelines make money based on volume and not on the price of oil. This ETF also has a 6.48% dividend yield and pays a lot more than any of us are getting at Bangkok Bank.

Right now the best place for investors is the stock market. The average consumer is spending. I saw that on my last visit to the US where car dealers like AutoNation and CarMax reported strong sales. This is great news for the US economy. The drop in oil prices will only help keep this momentum going.

I know many are scared that they missed the boat, but it's never too late. Take control of your finances and give me a call. I can help design a program that's right for you based on your goals and requirement needs. Don't wait another year and miss the opportunity of adding to your nest egg.

Don Freeman is president of Freeman Capital Management, a Registered Investment Advisor with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), based in Phuket, Thailand. He has more than 15 years experience and provides personal financial planning and wealth management to expatriates. Specializing in UK and US pension transfers. Call 089-970-5795 or email: freemancapital@gmail.com.

## Anthony Lark takes over Trisara

WIDELY respected hotelier Anthony Lark has been appointed managing director and general manager of Trisara, a high-end resort of 48 pool villas and 20 privately owned residences on Phuket's west coast.

In his new role, Mr Lark will continue to provide hospitality advisory services to the clients of the Montara Hospitality Group, which operates the resort, and will develop the next generation of young hoteliers to steer the group's careful expansion, stated a press release issued on Monday.

"Anthony was the first general manager of Trisara and helped us build the foundation, which made us successful. We are pleased to have him back on board to ensure that the resort continues to evolve with the changing needs of our clients," said Bill Black, president of Montara Hospitality.

Mr Lark's return coincides with the start of Trisara's three-year renovation plan, which aims to increase the resort's guest satisfaction by improving the look



Mr Lark has re-joined Trisara.

and feel of the resort, while innovating to meet traveler's demands.

"What sets Trisara apart from competitors is our amazing staff and focus on the finer details of a guest's overall experience. We understand that our guests value privacy and attention to detail as a standard of luxury," said Mr Lark.

"This has become one of the key elements we provide at Trisara. We also understand that change is inevitable, so during the ongoing commitment to renovation, we will also embrace the changing guest demographic and technological advancements to ensure that we are always able to exceed guests' expectations." - *Phuket Gazette*

## Changes to Cane and Sugar Act sought for opening of new plants

INDUSTRY Minister Chakramon Phasukavanich said Monday that the ministry would ask the Cabinet to amend the Cane and Sugar Act to facilitate the opening of about 50 sugar plants this year.

The Cane and Sugar Act does not allow sugar factories to be located within 80km of each other.

This regulation is preventing some operators from expanding their manufacturing bases and discouraging some rice operators from switching to sugar.



A sugar farmer. Photo: Milei.vencel

"More than 50 sugar factories are waiting for construction approval and we're aiming to clear them within 90 days so that we can know which factory will be allowed to open," Mr Chakramon said at the annual Federation of Thai Industries meeting. - *The Nation*

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Tel : 091-078 9595

info@phuketinternationallaw.com

www.phuketinternationallaw.com

# Jungceylon Sultry Summer

## 10 - 70% off



It's sultry time for fashion-forward folks  
and the deals are hotting up!

28 March – 6 April 2015

### **Sultry Sales 10 - 70% off**

Hunt for summer's must-have trends with sizzling savings on big name brands throughout Jungceylon

\*Ask for more privileges & details at participating shops

### **Sultry Games**

Keep the energy levels high with exciting games to win Jungceylon Summer Collection.

Spend 1,000 - 2,000 THB, get a chance to play 1 game.

Spend 3,000 THB, get a chance to play 2 games.

\*Read full T & C @ Promotion Booth, The Port Arena

### **Sultry Summer Hashtag**

28 - 29 March 2015 Only

Special for Instagram and Polaroid lover. Just post your best summer photo on Instagram and hashtag #Jungceylon, get free a glossy-polaroid print!

You share it unlimited: we print it unlimited.



**JUNGCEYLON**  
SHOPPING DESTINATION

PATONG - PHUKET

# Sultry Events

This summer, Jungceylon will be hotter than ever!



## SUMMER & TRAVEL 2015

28 March 2015, 07.00 pm  
@ The Port Arena

Be wowed by hotcha models rolling out fabulous swimsuits and casual wear on the catwalk at offering great choices for the beach and beyond.



29 March 2015, 07.00 pm  
@ The Port Arena

Undoubtedly, one of the sexiest lingerie and swimwear fashion moments of the year. Don't miss!



04 April 2015, 07.00 pm  
@ The Port Arena

This iconic fashion brand is sure to turn the heat up as playmates take to the runway in the latest swimwear & casual wear summer collection.



Mar 28 – Apr 6, 2015  
@ Havaianas Booth,  
The Port Arena



Customize the color, straps and pins to make them fit your unique style.  
[www.facebook.com/havaianas](http://www.facebook.com/havaianas)  
Instagram : Havaianasthailand

## Easter Day

05 April 2015, 07.00 pm. all day activity  
@ The Port Arena

Join us for lots of cutie activities bringing out the joy and happiness of Easter festival.



## The 21st Annual Phuket Bike Week

11 April 2015, 05.00 pm. onwards  
@ The Port Arena

Vote & Cheer for your favourite Miss Phuket Bike Week Contestant to find who will be Miss Popular Vote!



## The Splash Water Festival

13 April 2015, all day activity  
@ Front Plaza and The Port Arena

Embrace Songkran spirit while soaking everyone in sight with cool splashes as the music keeps playing all day long.



# YOUR Phuket

## Supersports 10 Miles International Run 2015



The Supersports 10 Miles International Run 2015 Phuket hosted by Thanyapura was hailed as a huge success, with more than 1,100 runners from 15 nationalities. The event was attended by national Thai runners Sanchai Namkhet, Boonthung Srisung, Nattaya Thanaronnawat and Jane Vongvorachoti, as well as Thai rocker Toon Bodyslam, which created a stir among his fans at the event.

## Two Chefs Kamala closing party



Raveewit Paladsri (L), restaurant manager for Two Chefs, and Dj Nemo Cools party at the Two Chefs Kamala closing party, which also played host to the announcement of a new branch opening at Serenity Resort & Residences in Rawai.

# That time of the month for Skal

Hansruedi Frutiger, general manager for Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket, welcomes Skal International Phuket Club members to Karon Beach Square, the island's newest dining and entertainment hub.



Holger Schwab (L), owner and managing director of Sea Bees, joins Liana Doyle, owner of Phuket L&P, and Hansruedi Frutiger, general manager of Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket.



SKAL (L to R): Jens Frank-Mikkelsen, director of business development for Hilton Arcadia; Hansruedi Frutiger, general manager of Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket; Santhaya Kaewpradit, executive chef at The Kee Resort; and Somchai Pantong, general manager of The Kee Resort.

# Sleep With Me – I need your blood

Sleep With Me Hotel in Patong joined forces with Vachira Phuket Hospital staff for a blood donation clinic on Mar 24 at the hotel. Many people turned up at the event to take advantage of the opportunity to give something back to their community.



Sittichai Tanakorncharoen (8<sup>th</sup> from right), general manager of Sleep With Me Hotel, and Worraporn Nailadtee (3<sup>rd</sup> from right), public relations and marketing manager, join other hotel employees, as well as hospital staff, at the event.

# Bangkok Airways flys in to thank media

Bangkok Airways hosted their 'Media Thank You' party on March 18 at the Rumduel restaurant and bar. The event saw most of the island's major players in the media come together with members of the Bangkok Airways team for a few drinks, laughs and even a lucky draw for flight tickets.



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

# ISLAND TRADER

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

March 28 - April 3, 2015 | [PhuketGazette.Net](http://PhuketGazette.Net)

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

**PROPERTY of the week**

## ENTERTAINMENT PALACE



See page 17

**JOB of the week**

## Bang Tao Beach Ltd

Luxury Residential  
Villa Estate Project  
at Layan

See page 19

**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES of the week**

LOOKING  
FOR 50%  
PARTNER



See page 20

**BOAT & MARINE of the week**

**BOAT**  
INSURANCE



See page 21

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**.

# Property Classifieds

## Properties For Sale

### 22 RAI @ 400,000 BT PER RAI

Beautiful plot of land with nice mountain views. Has paved road access and electricity. Located 5km from Tablamu golf course and 10km south of Khao Lak. Price: 8.8 million baht. Tel: 087-277 7794(English&Thai). Email: patchanee.samranjai@gmail.com

### BAMBOO HOUSE RESTAURANT

Rawai/Nai Ham. Popular & well established. Great location. Ample parking. Restaurant equipment. 2 bedrm (unfurnished). Aircon. Large bath. 1.2mb plus monthly rent. Tel: 089-403 8471, 099-359 8657.

### OCEAN VIEW LAND IN KAMALA

797 sqm. Sealed Road. Power. Levelled. Ready to Build. Must sell for 6.75 MB. Tel: 090-492 3101 (Eng), 093-768 6694(Thai).

**All classifieds in these pages are PAID!**

— your assurance that whatever’s advertised here is seriously for sale.

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

**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 140 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.

### TOWNHOUSE - SUPALAI CITY HILL



Townhouse for sale (2.8mn baht) or rent (12,000Bt/mo) in Supalai City Hill estate, Phuket Town. 3BR, 2Bath. Quiet, convenient location. Furnished, full kitchen, decor, garden, car park, 2 ACs. Good for family. Avail. from 5/2015. Tel: 089-874 0061, 086-291 4115. Email: stephenfein@gmail.com

### HOUSE CHALONG

400sqm. Fully furnished. 3 bedrooms. 2 bathroom. Jacuzzi. Euro kitchen. 4 aircon. Swimming pool. Only 4.7MB. Tel: 082-809 2873.

## CONDO FOR SALE




Royal place condo, 3fl at the corner with swimming pool view, 45sqm. Fully furnished.

Pls contact 086-4769612 | annanoi1@hotmail.com

### KAMALA NEW HOUSE

Living room. Bedroom. Bathroom. Terrace. Cable TV. Internet. Quick Sale 2,500,000 baht. Secure place. Tel: 098-045 5421.

### SALE NEW CONDO

1.8 Million THB. Size 29.70 sqm. Freehold, Fully Furnished. Swimming Pool, Big Buddha Area. Tel: 085-889 7758.

### LAND IN KAMALA

800 sqm of scenic, ready to build land for sale in Kamala. Underground electric and water supply. For sale by owner. Agents are welcome. Price: 3.5 million baht. Tel: 087-277 7794(English & Thai). Email: patchanee.samranjai@gmail.com

### NAKA ISLAND



Unique 4-bedroom beach front house, panoramic views to the south, 10 minutes to Ao Por pier. 240sqm on 2 floors, 750sqm plot, separate house for staff. Tel: 084-846 1270(English). Email: ahcopse@gmail.com

### LAND FOR SALE IN KARON

Chanote title. 1,200sqm. Sea view, close to Kanita resort. 15 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 083-109 0620 (English & Thai).

### RAWAI HOTEL SALE 12 MB

Siam BB Resort: 680sqm land. 9 bed. 1 shop. 1 restaurant. Agoda booking. 60m to Rawai Pier. Tel: 098-331 6449. Email: Rawai4@yahoo.com

### APARTMENT SALE / RENT

Studio apartment, freehold. Close to Laguna Phuket. Email: ptkthai1@gmail.com

### FREEHOLD CONDO FOR SALE

Patong Tower building. One bedroom with 270-degree view of Patong Beach and town, 10<sup>th</sup> floor, 54.35sqm. 11 million baht ONO. Contact Songpan. Genuine buyers only. No brokers please. Tel: 081-737 8662.

### 3-BED LRG GARDEN

Chuan Cheun Lagoon, near BIS & Boat Lagoon Marina (gym, pool). Chanote land title. 584sqm. Secure. Private. Cul-de-sac location. Open plan, large kitchen. 6.45 mil baht. Tel: 081-979 6707 (English & Thai).

## PATONG SEAVIEW TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE 6.3m BANT



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


**206/4 PRABARAMEE ROAD**

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

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

**Best Sea View Deal in Patong**

### PROPERTY AND MOTOR INSURANCE



## Lambert Brothers Insurance Brokers

- Property Insurance
- Construction
- Public Liability
- Professional Indemnity, Director and Officers
- Group Health and Individual
- Personal Accident and Travel
- Motor insurance

Contact: Paew, Ton, Jane  
Phuket Boat Lagoon  
info@lambertbrothers.co.th  
Tel: + 66 76 273 385

www.lambertbrothers.co.th

### SUPER MODERN

This super modern Phuket house just came for sale in Rawai. The house is insulated in European style. Price 13 million. For more info contact 080-530 6880 (English). Email: soi.saliga@gmail.com

## Live in Cherng 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)**

**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!**



## Properties For Sale

### POOL VILLAS RAWAI



New top design pool villas, 2 & 3 bedrooms and bathrooms, large 5x8 pool, nice green area, Rawai, close to MACRO. Start 9mn THB. Tel: 096-284 2463 (English & Thai) , 084-898 8258 (English & Thai). Email: p.bum.rung515@gmail.com

### 10% NET INCOME



On your investment, In Kata Beach. Suite/Hotel. Full guarantee. Minimum investment 2.5 million baht. Tel: 081-788 8280.

### CHALONG HOUSE SALE BY OWNER

Chanote title. 412sqm. 2bed, 2 bath, in- and outdoor kitchen, beautiful garden. 4.2 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 093-737 1242. Email: konradantonsson@gmail.com

### BEAUTIFUL LAND PLOT FOR SALE



Very conveniently located in a secure estate with underground electricity, less than 10 mins from Phuket International Academy, airport, Tesco, Nai Yang beach, Ao Po Grand marina, in a peaceful foreign community. Chanote title, 1,100sqm. Flat land with fences around, mountain view, ready to build, good investment. For quick sale direct from owner only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-343 0777.

### ANDAMAN BEACH SUITE

Spectacular sea-view condo located on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor in Patong. This 127sqm apartment, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 balconies and a spacious living/dining room, has everything you need for comfortable living. Close to shops, the beach (2 minute walk), access to swimming pool and other facilities. Tel: 081-691 1580 (English & Thai).

### NICE SEAVIEW CONDO

100% foreigner freehold. 100sqm. Sea view. Car parking. Common pool. 12th floor. 1 living room, 1 bath, 1 bedroom. Western kitchen. 2 terraces. Plus a separate second apartment with bath and nice kitchen. Good for family, friends or rental income. B7.6mn. Tel: 081-824 1385 (English). Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.com

### 60SQM SUITE / APARTMENT



Kata Beach. From 2 million baht, includes furnishing + 10% return on your investment. Tel: 081-788 8280.

### HUGE FIVE BED BIG POOL VILLA

This huge five bedroom villa with massive feature pool in Rawai is greatly reduced for urgent sale at 12.5 MB. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

### LAND HOUSE FOR SALE

400sqm, seaview, Karon: 3.9 million baht. Also, house and land (120sqm, 400sqm) : 7 million baht. Tel: 091-040 2471. Email: naruchai@gmx.de

### QUICK SALE HOUSE

2 bedrooms. Near Laguna. Fully furnished. Only 2.2 mb. Tel: 093-713 2278.

### KATA HOUSE SALE

4-bedrooms. Reduced price, must sell. Was 3.5 million baht and now 2.99 million baht. Tel: 082-4659 939.

### URGENT PATONG VILLA 4 BED



Fire sale price - sudden departure - direct from owner - now 19.9 million baht, estimated 29 million baht - Luxury 4-bedroom villa, mountainside, panoramic seaview of Patong bay, 4 bathrooms, private pool, tennis, fully furnished modern style, 270sqm. Tel: 081-832 8154 (English).

**LAND & RESORT IN YOUR BUDGET**  
Your Dreamy Pool Villa "The Andaburee Phuket"  
Seaview, mountain view, Mission Hills Golf Resort view.  
Starting from 18 million baht.  
(include Steak furniture and home theater)  
Contact: 083-389 7799, 082-894 6699  
Email: pee\_bang56@hotmail.com

### AMAZING VILLA

Modern villa, swimming pool in Rawai, 3 beds, 3 baths, seaview, fully furnished, 3 floors, close to beach & shops. Not for long price only 9 million baht, no brokers. Tel: 098-464 9220.

### STUDIO FOR SALE

In Phuket Town. 5 min to Central, Big C. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 33sqm. Kitchen, furnished. Price 680,000 baht. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: jassarabee@gmail.com

### NICE HOUSE CHALONG

400sqm. Furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, European kitchen, 4 aircons, swimming pool, Sale 4.9 million baht. Tel: 081-787 4831.

### KARON BEACH CONDO

This 1-bedroom Karon apartment is for sale. Ground floor with direct pool access. Tel: 087-892 3876 (English). Email: info@phuketcondo.net, www.phuketcondo.net

### PANORAMA SEA VIEW LAND



For sale 5.5 rai, Ao Makham, Chanote title, 12 million baht / rai call 089-649 9939. Email: siriphuket@changrunner.com

### OCEAN VIEWS, KATA

New 1-bed condo, 44sqm. Great views, in-house management & rental program available, investment. Ready move in. 3.98 million baht ONO. Email: lanscondo@yahoo.com

### 3-BED HOUSE - LARGE GARDEN

Chuan Cheun Lagoon, close to British International School and the Boat Lagoon Marina. Chanote land title, 146sqm. (584 sqm), private cul-de-sac location in secure, clean village. Cool, bright, open plan with large Western kitchen and good water supply. Large car park, patios. 6.85 million baht, negotiable. For sale by owner. Contact for more photos and info. Tel: 086-040 6866 (English), 081-979 6707 (Thai). Email: adrian.j.simpson@gmail.com

### REDUCED PRICE PATONG

Condo. Pool. Security. 46sqm. Freehold 2.4 million baht. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad14@yahoo.com

### 3 BED FOR SALE / RENT



Furnished house in Chalong. Sale 3.95 million baht, rent 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-922 2800. Email: simonchinner@yahoo.com

### NISEKO, JAPAN ASIA'S TOP SKI RESORT

HOTSPRING VILLAGE LAND | US \$16,000, (THB 520,000)

- Freehold, fully serviced residential blocks
- Nestled below Mt. Annupuri
- 5 mins to ski lifts
- 100% foreign ownership Okay.
- Proven growth area
- Land bank or build now
- Limited release

ph +852 5688 3783 | e-mail: northpngps@gmail.com

### OCEAN FRONT VILLA



Brand new, fully furnished, 3-4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 10-meter infinity swimming pool, beautiful view. For quick sale only 19.5 mn. Tel: 081-343 0777.

### 1-BED APT SALE / RENT



Fully furnished apt in Chalong. Sale 1.95 million baht, rent 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-922 2800. Email: simonchinner@yahoo.com

### NAI HARN POOL VILLA

Pool villa with four bedrooms in the famous Baan Bua for urgent sale at 10.6MB. Walk to beach and center of Nai Harn. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

### RAWAI BEACHFRONT CONDO

New fully furnished with amenities, 2-bed 2-bath. Great location. Must see. Only 7.2 million baht. Tel: 081-892 6710 (English), 081-895 7908 (English & Thai). Email: peterh@asianwind.biz

### THE DECK CONDO FOR SALE

2 units condo for sale at the center of Patong. The Deck Project Studio unit no.0103309 Floor 3 Building A 31 Sqm. Price 3.5 million baht. And 1 Bedroom Unit no.010310 area 41.5 Sqm. Price 4.5 Million THB. Full-furnished, ready to move in May 2015. Tel: 081-085 7550 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-344789. Email: orn holland@hotmail.com

### ENTERTAINMENT PALACE



Magnificent penthouse in Karon with panoramic sea view. Reduced by 10 million baht for quick sale, includes an additional two-bedroom apartment. Now 46 million baht. Freehold. Please call 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

### LAND IN NAI HARN FOR SALE

Nai Harn. Chanote title. 1 rai. 300m to the beach. 13 million baht. Tel: 086-943 0871 (English). Email: Vodorod12@mail.ru

### KARON HOUSE SALE OF OWNER

2 bed, sitting room, kitchen, bathroom, toilet, furnished. 4 mn baht. Tel: 087-886 7029.

### KAMALA



Large 4-bed house, 3 bath, guest Water Close, 5 aircons, ADSL, close to sea. Tel: 085-250 4197.

### OCEAN VIEWS, KATA

New 1-bed condo 44sqm. Great views. In-house management & rental program. A valuable investment. Ready to move in. 3.98 million baht. ONO Email: lanscondo@yahoo.com

### 2-BEDROOM BEACHFRONT CONDO RAWAI

2 bdr / 2bath, huge balcony with direct walk out to pool, beach, restaurant, in 5-star resort with access to gym, spa, ideal for family, separate storage, furniture incl, fast owner sale, leaving Asia, 13.9 million baht. neg. Tel: 096-532849 (English). Email: laura@tilaholdings.com



## Luxury Residential Villa Estate Project at Layan

The company is an affiliate of a multi-national real estate developer, owning 600 rai of land in Layan Area, Cherg Talay and Thalang. The first phase of a project to develop a luxury residential villa estate is under construction.

### Property Management Coordinator (1 position)

In charge of operating and maintaining residential villa estate property  
 ▶ Experience working for luxury villa estate or hotel is preferred

### Mechanical and Electrical Engineer / Supervisor (operation and maintenance 1-3 positions)

In charge of supervising operation and maintenance of MEP equipment and common area service systems for residential villa estate property  
 ▶ Experience working for luxury villa estate or hotel is preferred

### Landscape Engineer / Supervisor (on site) (1 position)

In charge of landscape development and maintenance program for 600-rai resort project  
 ▶ Experience and knowledge of landscape / horticulture / irrigation

### Property Sales Executive (1 position)

Assisting Sales Manager for property sales activities  
 ▶ Good knowledge of laws related to real-estate transactions  
 ▶ Capable of using office computer software, including MS-Access  
 ▶ Working on weekends and public holidays

### Project Architect (1 position)

### Project Quantity Surveyor (1 position)

Applicant must:

- ◆ Thai national
- ◆ Have 5 years' or more experience at same or similar position to apply
- ◆ Speak and write English fairly well

Please send your C/V by email to: [hr@bangtaobeachltd.co.th](mailto:hr@bangtaobeachltd.co.th)  
 (All applicants will be treated in strict confidence)

## Bang Tao Beach Ltd

### PERSONAL ASSISTANT WANTED

Smart, attractive, single female under 35 years old. Reliable and kind. Excellent English. Cooking. Shopping. Act as travel guide for UK/Canadian businessman. Option to travel abroad. Right candidate will receive very good remuneration. 1st-class resort accommodation and meals included. Tel: 089-054 4354. Email: [bggvirgo@gmail.com](mailto:bggvirgo@gmail.com)

### WEB PROJECT MANAGER WANTED

Bitsiren - Bespoke IT & Marketing Solutions - is looking for a talented senior web developer with a positive and "can do" attitude to join us and work in a fun and creative working environment! BitSiren offers a competitive compensation package including: 5 day work week, work permit, health insurance and social insurance contribution. Tel: 076-319179, 089-973 4421. Fax 076-319 178. [www.bitsiren.com/about-bitsiren/career/senior-web-developer.html](http://www.bitsiren.com/about-bitsiren/career/senior-web-developer.html)

### HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED

To manage and ensure the cleanliness of our operation. Must be a dynamic team worker with a pleasant personality. Contact us. Tel: 081-893 5492 (English & Thai).

### THAI RECEPTIONIST

Small hotel in Patong. Two days off per week. Must speak English well. Tel: 081-8921 621.

### CHINESE TOUR GUIDE WANTED

Chinese speaking tour guide wanted. Good pay. Email me for details. Tel: 98-487 4168(English). Email: [enquire@ilike-phuket.com](mailto:enquire@ilike-phuket.com)

### LIVE-IN VILLA MANAGER

Thai, experienced Villa Manager required (Kamala & Natai) Managing an in-house team for maintenance, HK and F&B 5-star manner operate, strong leadership, excellent English. Own car & driving license. call (9am-5pm). Send CV to: [hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com](mailto:hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com) us Or call (9am-5pm) Tel: 087-881 0003.

### THAILAND MANAGER REQUIRED

We are a global company and we are now seeking an experienced Thai Manager for our Phuket Office. We are looking for a dynamic, well-presented individual from Thailand, ideally degree qualified but this is not essential, to take over the administrative running of the Phuket office. Tel: 087-022 6697(English).

## Phuket Gazette

As part of its continued expansion, the Phuket Gazette seeks two advertising sales representatives.

### Advertising Sales

- ▶ Thai, age at least 26, with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Bachelor's degree in marketing or related fields
- ▶ Experience in sales and marketing
- ▶ Good command of spoken and written English
- ▶ Must have own transportation and driver's licence
- ▶ Alert, self motivated and goal driven

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to [Anna@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:Anna@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

## Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

### CLASSIFIEDS ADMINISTRATION 2 POSITIONS

#### Qualified candidates will be:

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged 22 years up
- ▶ Service-minded with an outgoing personality
- ▶ Able to work well with large numbers of advertisers, both foreign and Thai

#### and should have:

- ▶ A Bachelor's Degree from a recognizable university
- ▶ A good sense of organization and respect for details
- ▶ Knowledge of basic office software, InDesign and PageMaker would be a plus.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Kookai at [Kookai@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:Kookai@PhuketGazette.Net)

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd  
 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew  
 A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
 Tel: 076-273555, ext 207 Fax: 076-615240

## Phuket Gazette

**Chief Sub-Editor Wanted:** Looking for an experienced editor with a deep respect for the English language, who wants to stay hand on while developing, maintaining high-quality copy.

### CHIEF SUB-EDITOR

- Native English speaker
- 3-5 years of full-time editing experience, preferably within the news industry
- Interested in relocating to Phuket
- Commercial Social Media and SEO experience a plus

[Isaac@PhuketGazette.net](mailto:Isaac@PhuketGazette.net)

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd  
 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000  
 Tel: 076-273555 Ext 301 Mobile: 080-526 5362

### Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG	
▶ Julapan Stationery (Chaofa East Rd)	Tel: 076-282254
▶ KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalongs Circle)	Tel: 076-280400
▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd)	Tel: 076-282403
PATONG	
<b>NEW</b> Andy's Real Estate Agency (Opp. Savoey Seafood)	Tel: 076-341644
▶ Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza)	Tel: 076-344521-2
▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza)	Tel: 076-290468
PHUKET CITY	
▶ Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd)	Tel: 076-232398
▶ Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd)	Tel: 076-258369
▶ iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone	Tel: 076-255425
CHERNG TALAY	
▶ Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)	Tel: 076-325586
RAWAI	
▶ The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd)	Tel: 076-388144
KARON	
▶ EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)	Tel: 076-396911



### SR MARINE BOAT MANUFACTURER

SR Marine Boat manufacturer. 18-49ft. Used outboards from Japan. Visit our showroom in Rawai. Tel: 081-782 092, 081-782 0921 (English & Thai).

### WOODEN TEAK JUNK BOAT

45ft HK teak junk, excellent family day boat. Extensive refit, single engine Caterpillar, full galley and bathroom. USD 105,000. Tel: Hong Kong 852-9238 9114. Email: blanny2000@yahoo.com

### A STEAL FOR A QUICK SALE



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A top quality well-built yacht. Excellent condition and lightly used. Well-priced at US\$ 280,000. Contact Alan Giles at Boatshedphuket.com on 084-842 6146. or alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

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Four double cabins Twin Vetus 42 Hp Diesels. Reduced to US\$160,000. Contact Alan Giles at Boatshedphuket.com on 084-842 6146 or alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

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M +66 (0)8 1894 1530  
E info@multihullsolutions.asia  
[www.multihullsolutions.asia](http://www.multihullsolutions.asia)

**Schionning Wilderness 1620 (2007)**  
Asking **\$699,000 AUD**

Built light and strong with top speeds of up to 20 knots under sail, Thor offers comprehensive electronics and the latest technologies, along with air-con and luxurious accommodations.  
Lying: Phuket, Thailand

**Leopard 46 (2009)**  
Asking **420,000 USD**

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Lying: Phuket, Thailand.

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### THE SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

### Cryptic Crossword



Abbreviations: UPPERCASE (if used as part of anagram, in brackets).  
Normal spelling: lower case.  
Anagrams: italic (indicated in clue by words 'out', 'possibly', 'strangely', 'wild', or similar).  
Letters left out: underlined.  
Across:  
8. CALLOUS: Cal.-soul 9. CONUNDRUM: con-un-drum 13. RAGES: gears 14. RARER: rare-R 15. LEISURE: le-1-sure 16. SURREAL: *asruler* 17. HEELS: he-el-s 18. IDLED: I'd-led 20. YEATS: *steady* 22. UNIQUE: *inqueue* 23. INFORM: in form 25. ANNUALS: annuals 27. VILLAIN: *invilla* 30. FALANG: *galfan* 31. TENNIS: *sentit* 32. PLEAT: *plate* 35. SCRAM: marcs[rev] 36. OUTRE: 0-true 37. LINSEED: *seedling* 39. EVEREST: *ever-set* 41. POSIT: P.O.-sit 42. ANGLE: point of view 43. FREETRADE: *deferrate* 44. COLLAGE: *acollege*  
Down:  
1. DANGER: D-anger 2. FLUSTERS: *letfuss(R)* 3. QUERULOUSLY: *usquellyour* 4. COURTEOUS: *courseout* 5. CUTLASS: Cu.-lasts 6. ADDITIONAL: *idontdiala* 7. TUTU: tu-tu 10. TRASHY: *tryhas* 11. ARCHAIK: arch-CIA[up] 12. SEEDAM: see-dam 19. LEONINE: *oneline* 21. ANNULAR: a-N-lunar 24. DISSOLUTION: dissolution 26. UNNUMBERED: U.N.-counted 28. CENTIPEDE: *netpieced* 29. INCENSE: incense 30. FASTEN: *fanset* 32. PINNACLE: *placeinn* 33. TIDIER: *itried* 34. CONTORT: con-tort 38. ENGAGE; *geenag* 40. EARN: *near*

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## Private Aircraft and Flight Services in Phuket

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 (in Thailand for the last 6 years)  
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 N479GE – USA  
 I-ECCE – Italy  
 G-BVNL – UK



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

**Specs:**

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 G1-106A 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)

**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, K1203 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](mailto:thos_w@hotmail.com)

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**TECNAM P-92**

- Price: 1.5 million baht
- Registration: U-B08
- Year of Manufacture: 2002
- Equipment: Full standard equipment
- Engine: Rotax 912-80HP 350hrs. Tel: 081-840 8418.

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**AIRPLAY ALTIS MICROLIGHT**

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# Hospitality for Iranian flight

Airport of Thailand (AOT) and the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) welcomes two charter flights of Iranian tourists as they arrive on the island at the Phuket International Airport on March 22.



Anoma Wongyai, director of TAT Phuket office, gives warm welcomes Iran tourists. Photo: Patcharawat Wasikarn

# Best Local TV News promotes education



Following PGTV's success at the first-ever Phuket Reporter Awards, the team visited rubber tapper Sangwien – the subject of the report that won the 'Best Local TV News' award – and his family at their Krabi smallholding, to donate the prize money that came with the award to help keep Sangwien's children in school.

# Fatboy Slim gets you Higher



Fatboy Slim, winner of ten MTV Video Music Awards, takes it to the next level at Higher in Phuket's premier party town, Patong. Photo: Adriano Trapani

# Phuket United ready for 2015



Phuket United has invited all island residents to watch their 2015 futsal team play at the 4,000-seat indoor gymnasium at Saphan Hin in Phuket Town on March 17 .



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“All my life, I always wanted to be somebody. Now I see that I should have been more specific.”

– Jane Wagner

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

**SUDOKU:** Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

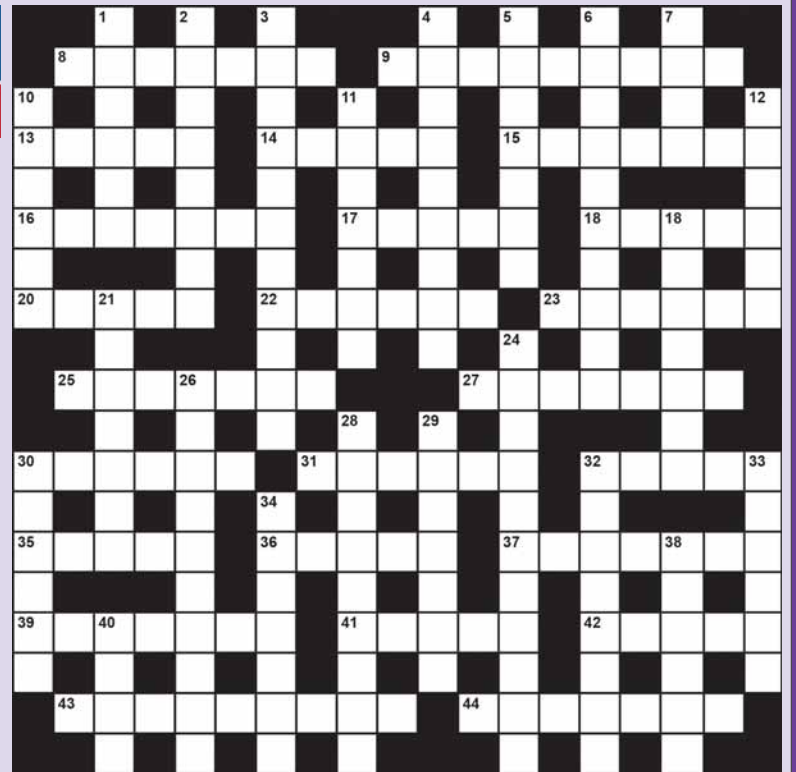
**COFFEE**

**break**

**Cryptic Crossword**

**Across**

- 8. California soul, wild, unfeeling (7)
- 9. Against one French instrument, a puzzle! (9)
- 13. Different gear's crazes (5)
- 14. Not so often seen underdone, right? (5)
- 15. Time off for the French one, certainly (7)
- 16. Bizarre as ruler perhaps (7)
- 17. Leans over the Spanish, he's out (5)
- 18. I'd gone in front, took it easy (5)
- 20. Irish poet could be steady losing daughter (5)
- 22. Individual bursting in queue out East (6)
- 23. Report playing well (6)
- 25. Plants for one year in books published every twelve months (7)
- 27. Scoundrel moving in villa (7)
- 30. Gal fan moved Western chap in Thailand (6)
- 31. Sent in injured for sport (6)
- 32. Fold plate carefully (5)
- 35. Be off, Marc's come back (5)
- 36. Eccentric, nothing true changed! (5)
- 37. Flax from misshapen seedling not grand (7)
- 39. Always set out for the highest peak (7)
- 41. Put forward Petty Officer to take seat (5)
- 42. Point of view of fish! (5)
- 43. Possibly defer rate for unrestricted international business



**Down**

- 1. Risk rage after date (6)
- 2. Unsettles, let fuss upset Romeo inside (8)
- 3. Petulantly makes us quell your disruption (11)
- 4. Obliging to move course out (9)
- 5. Copper lasts out sailor's sword (7)
- 6. Further, I don't dial a new order (10)
- 7. Short frilly skirt you French familiarly show twice (4)
- 10. Possibly try, has poor quality (6)
- 11. Cunning C.I.A. backs out of date (7)
- 12. Observe animal's mother as black color in Thailand (3,3)
- 19. Arranging one line of lions (7)
- 21. A new lunar disturbance making a ring (7)
- 24. Undoing partnership in dissipation (11)
- 26. United Nations counted very great (10)
- 28. Net pieced together to get crawling creature (9)
- 29. Infuriate by religious odor (7)
- 30. Fan set out to bolt (6)
- 32. Possibly place inn at the highest level (8)
- 33. Disorganized, I tried to be neater (6)
- 34. Distort, being against civil wrong (7)
- 38. Take on, gee, nag wildly (6)
- 40. Deserve to move near (4)

**ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):**



Ready for action? If so, this week's influences encourage you to pause for thought. Not only because it can help to reflect on your plans, but also because an inspired idea could be waiting in the wings. Over the weekend it may be well worth going to a one-off social event, not least for the interesting people you might meet.

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



Pay attention to those subtle intuitive hunches, as they might help you make better progress this week, particularly with a friendship or budding romance. Also, think about investing in an idea that solves several issues at once. By dealing with key challenges this way you'll have energy over to enjoy the weekend.

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



There's an easy-going pace to the week, but don't let it lull you into thinking you can let key things slide, especially early on. You'll find you benefit most

when you put daily effort into getting a personal plan off the ground. Later in the week, the chance to be alone with your thoughts allows you access to some very imaginative solutions.

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



A friend's suggestion may lead you to explore possibilities that dovetail perfectly into your current agenda. In addition, a little effort can mean solid progress is made regarding financial matters, helping you feel more secure in the long term. By the end of the week a chance to join a lively group could zip up life's fun factor.

**LEO (July 24-Aug 23):**



A co-operative approach enhances success, though this might involve putting a lot of energy and effort into a group project. You might not get much in the way of financial recompense for your hard work, yet rewards could show up in other ways. The weekend offers the chance of a unique opportunity you won't want to miss, so pay attention.

**YOUR**

**horoscope**

By Patrick Arundell

**VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23):**



Make time early on to review any changes you would like to implement. Once you've made a decision, the Sun-Saturn connection can be the catalyst that sees you investing money in those very ideas – and making good progress too. Later, the quarter moon in Cancer could unleash an arrow of romantic desire your way. Wow!

**LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):**



Relationships with others seem fast paced, so you'll need to keep your wits about you to keep up with their plans – or even demands. However, the presence of Venus in Taurus inspires you to indulge in more soothing and relaxing pursuits. If you need to recharge make time for a massage, a walk somewhere peaceful, en-

joying nature or creative pastimes.

**SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):**



A very well deserved compliment gets the week off to a pleasant start. And, the resulting good feeling may boost your confidence, impressing someone enough to offer you a way to earn extra cash. You might find yourself in the spotlight over the weekend too, which could be useful for furthering a plan or a serious relationship.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):**



Positive aspects brighten your prospects for success, particularly if you're willing to put effort into creating the necessary momentum. However, be alert for inspirational thoughts about how you could make money in the future. Later this week, a fab Venus Jupiter connection encourages you to unwind and to make time to recharge.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):**



Success can be all about timing. Though plans may seem vague early on, a window of

opportunity opens midweek that grounds ideas and helps you forge ahead. Later, the quarter moon can spotlight a household conflict. However, a decision that works for everyone involved could be reached which will nurture peace and harmony.

**AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):**



A solution to an edgy financial issue may bring relief as small profits from a number of sources begin to add up. Later this week, a constructive Saturn influence encourages collaboration on projects which you may find rewarding in the long-term. This weekend though, make time to unwind with good friends or a romantic partner.

**PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):**



The wise handling of resources can make a difference, as spending less and investing with care leaves you feeling happier and more secure. There's also a chance of a job or project that might bring in extra income, with a suggestion it could be ongoing. From Friday you'll be ready for a get-together and enjoy a chance to indulge your senses.



**WHAT'S ON  
in Phuket**

**March 28, 10am to 8pm. Phuket Cycling Fest 2015**

The Tourism Authority of Thailand Phuket office is launching 'Pan Kan Roy Pan Kan Lao' (Spinning Fun, Spinning Again).

This will be the first annual cycling festival in the province to promote cycling tourism in Phuket.

Everyone is invited watch riders as they make their way from Saphan Hin to Laem Promthep and back.

There will also be an outdoor festival at Saphan Hin.

**March 28-29, 4pm to 10pm. Lighthouse Market**

Another weekend of entertainment is in store at Phuket's hippest family fun spot, the Boat Lagoon Lighthouse Weekend Market.

Back by popular demand, the Boat Lagoon Lighthouse Market returns this weekend offering more entertaining evenings along Phuket's most vibrant boardwalk.

This month's Lighthouse Market promises to be bigger and better with a variety of exciting new stalls along the bustling dockside walking street, including a Champagne bar, a seafood bar, sweet treats and more organic delights.

**March 28-29, 9:30am to 6pm**



**Social Media Mastery – 2-Day Weekend Workshop**

In today's competitive business world, social media marketing is the standout method to build brand awareness, grow your customer database and increase sales.

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We cover Facebook, Twitter, email marketing, blogging, build-

ing sales funnels, SEO, branding and a whole lot more.

Don't have a business? No problem. We will show you how you can leverage Google, Amazon and other global brands to create new income streams.

After this workshop, you will be far more successful in your business – guaranteed.

Contact Phuket Online Marketing at [PhuketOnlineMarketing@gmail.com](mailto:PhuketOnlineMarketing@gmail.com) or 095-085 3355.

**March 29, 11:30am to 3:30pm. Casual BBQ Sunday Brunch at the Pool Bar.**

Enjoy a sumptuous brunch featuring a lavish spread of international delicacies with a variety of stations – roasts, seafood BBQ, freshly shucked Fin de Claire oysters, pasta, wood-fired pizzas and a children's food corner, plus our free flow bloody mary or white wine sangria beverage stations with pool access.

Brunch is available every Sunday from 11:45am to 3:45pm. Prices start at 1,500++ baht for adults and 750++ baht for children under 12.

**April 5, 5pm until late. Laguna Market on First**

Come join "Laguna Market on First" and shop for the best Phuket has to offer.

Laguna Phuket invites you to experience "Laguna Market on First" in the park at Laguna Grove by the beautiful lagoon.

Enjoy a variety of goods from food stalls, clothing, home décor, arts and crafts, music and performances, a dining area and much more.

There will be concerts by "Lula" and "Klear". Don't miss the "Laguna Markets on First" at Laguna Grove!



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# Bargains from up on high

Smart buyers are taking to the hills for stunning views at cheaper prices



Phuket Pads

Patrick Lusted

ASIDE from the wishful thinkers who request beachfront properties, the majority of inquiries for properties in Phuket are for those with a sea view.

Thankfully, as the island boasts 70 per cent hillside coverage, there are many properties on the island that fit this description. It just depends on how close of a view you wish to have.

However, some home owners like to boast 'sea view' from their perch many kilometers inland. With such properties, one would require a good quality pair of binoculars to really benefit from the distant view. In cases like these, it may be more beneficial for the buyer to look for properties inland.

So what is the difference in price between an inland property and a seaview property? The answer can be quite substantial and depends on how close you wish to be from the water.

Generally, the closer the property is to the sea, the higher the price of the property, but experience tells us that it all boils down to a buyer's budget and what bang they can get for their buck, so to speak.

Once buyers have seen the island and appreciate how close everything is, not only to each other but to the sea as well, they are much more receptive to viewing inland properties that offer great houses, villas, condos and private estates with security, and at prices lower than many seaview properties offer.



THE HIGH LIFE: This property in Chalong takes advantage of its perch among the hills to offer stunning views.



The well-appointed kitchen.



The stunning pool garden.



A room to dine for.

The savings that can be made on inland properties are well worth it, and one can find very quickly that having a property inland with wonderful mountain views and many conveniences is a great substitute for a sea view.

One sterling example of an excellent inland property— with a

touch of water provided by the private pool – is this three to four-bedroom house nestled into an exclusive estate in Chalong.

There are three main bedrooms, as well as an extra room that could be used as a fourth bedroom or an office. The second floor holds two bedrooms along with the ex-

tra room, while the remaining bedroom is on the ground floor.

Built in 2006, this property has been very well maintained and is in excellent condition. The pool and garden area contains an automatic watering system, with a large open space behind the house providing at least 10 meters

between the property and the nearest neighbor.

A lake with a small island, local wildlife and surrounding ponds create an environment akin to a nature reserve. The garden has both an open and a covered terrace, along with a large balcony that provides a choice of outdoor spaces where one can relax and dine.

The property is fully equipped and furnished; ready to move into. Every detail has been thoughtfully considered, from the modern Asian styling, vaulted ceilings, granite kitchen counters and bathrooms with black slate, to the home security system, water-filtration system and solar-heated water.

There is also central air conditioning and a laundry room, as well as mosquito screens in the master bedroom, bathroom and office. Indoor area is 240 square meters, with a total area of 403sqm.

Monthly expenses include: common area maintenance at 1,300 baht, electricity at about 4,000 baht and water at about 700 baht. Pest control is a yearly expense at 18,000 baht. There is a 3,000-liter backup water tank and the owner has the right to sign over to freehold.

The property is located in the very north of Chalong, near Phuket Town, which is a great central location with easy access to shopping, schools, hospitals and many other amenities.

The sale price is 16.45 million baht.

For more information contact: Patrick Lusted at Siam Real Estate, quote reference number: HSIL4022. Tel: 076-288908 Website: SiamRealEstate.com

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## Supalai eyes annual growth of 15%

PROPERTY developer Supalai has set a five-year target of doubling its presales and total revenue to 45 billion baht and 36bn baht, respectively, by 2019, via an average annual growth of 15% during the period, president Prateep Tangmatitham said this week.

To achieve the growth goal, the company plans to invest between 15bn baht and 20bn baht a year, with up to 35% of the budget going towards the purchase of undeveloped land and the remainder being spent on construction of infrastructure and residential projects, he said.

The listed company also plans to launch between 28 and 30 new projects, worth up to 30bn baht combined, each year during the period.

More than half of the investment budget will come from the company's cash flow, and the remainder from bank borrowings and debenture issuance, he said.

"Our growth strategy is to



Prateep Tangmatitham

average 15% a year, a level that is sustainable for us to do business, based on the country's economy expanding by 3.5% to 5% a year," Mr Prateep explained.

Last year, Supalai recorded presales of 19.4bn baht, overall revenue of 18.67bn baht and a net profit of 4.47bn baht, up 4%, 46% and 55%, respectively, from 2013.

The company targets presales of 23bn baht and revenue growth of 15% this year.

Presales income will come from existing residential projects and 28 projects worth 31.1bn baht combined that will be launched over the course of the year.

Up to 30% of this year's new projects will be located in the provinces, including in Haad Yai, in Songkhla province.

Supalai has set aside an investment budget of about 17bn baht for the year, 6bn baht of which is for buying undeveloped land and the rest for spending on infrastructure and the construction of housing set to be delivered to customers during the year.

The company's 49.9%-owned subsidiary Had Yai Nakarin plans to launch two detached-housing projects worth up to 1bn baht combined this year. This will boost the unit's overall revenue to 850 million baht, nearly double last year's 450mn baht. – *The Nation*

# Self-centered Patong



By Nina Suebsukcharoen

PATONG remains Phuket's epicenter of development, as it attracts seven new hotels to its shores.

Hoteliers investing in Patong see the non-seasonal beach as establishing a stable market, while some believe that other beaches such as Kata and Nai Thon are perceived by visitors as being more seasonal, explained Bill Barnett, managing director of C9 Hotelworks and *Gazette* columnist.

However, Mr Barnett warned that while Patong is becoming a much bigger catchment area, it does face challenging issues.

One glaring issue is greater congestion, and, on top of this, several beachfront hotels are not full-service, thus greatly affected by the recent no sunlounger rule.

According to C9 Hotelworks' latest research, the seven new hotels being built in Patong – Fisherman Harbour Luxury Hotel and Spa, Ramada Phuket Deevana, X2 Vibe Phuket Patong, Patong Bay Hill Hotel and Resort, Hyatt Place Phuket, Four Points by Sheraton and Centara Grand Moringa Resort and Spa Phuket – will collectively add 1,880 of the 4,727 rooms entering the Phuket market by 2018.

This would substantially increase the current supply of 46,803 registered accom-

modations in 750 licensed establishments.

Moreover, property developers too are gung-ho about Patong, with major Thai developer Sansiri Plc having launched The Deck condominium project, which consists of two seven-storey buildings with a total of 270 units, while Proliving Company has introduced The Charm Residence condominium, comprising four buildings with a total of 246 units.

Luxury projects are also appearing in Patong with Rosewood Hotels and Resorts moving to unveil its second Asian property after opening Rosewood Beijing in 2014. The new property, Emerald Bay, is situated on the headland just south of Patong, comprising 87 villas, 20 residences and five hideaway homes.

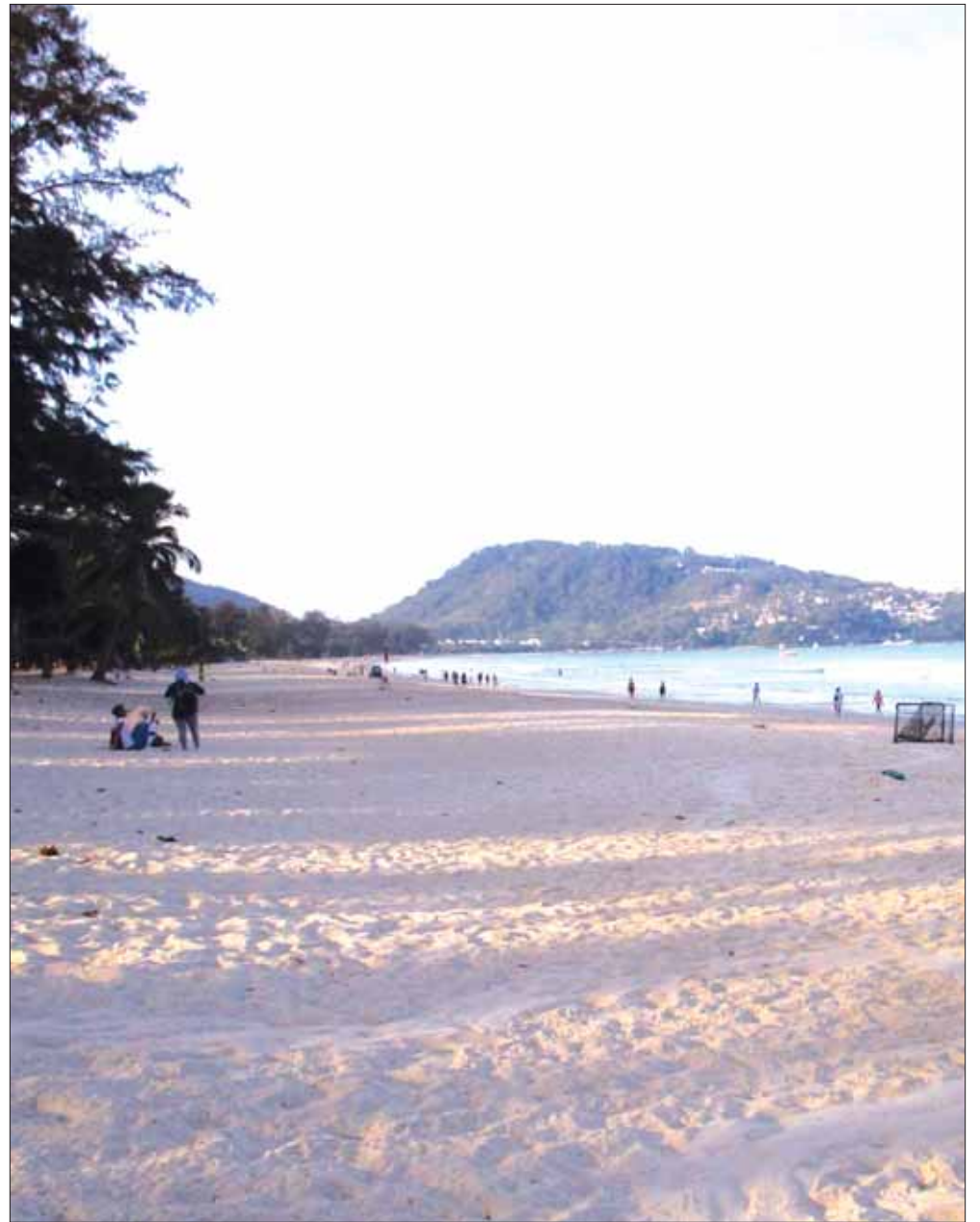
The Amari Residences is already situated on the southern end of Patong Bay with a total of 148 apartments and 12 villas.

However, Jean-Christophe Nager, general manager of the five-star luxury resort The Pavilions, Phuket, said that the island attracts two kinds of travellers, with the younger set who are seeking a happening place with lots of restaurants, bars, nightlife and shopping mostly heading to Patong, while the mid- to up-stream vacationers are generally wanting something quieter and more secluded.

Mr Barnett pointed out that other markets, such as Waikiki beach in Hawaii, have developed urban beach areas. He also pointed out that it will be interesting to see if there is any re-development of existing buildings in Patong, similar to what land scarcity has propelled in the center

of Bangkok and Singapore. "I think they will go to Patong once and are happy to be back. So they will gladly spend an evening during their holidays there or shopping in the afternoon," Mr Nager said.

Mr Barnett pointed out that other markets, such as Waikiki beach in Hawaii, have developed urban beach areas. He also pointed out that it will be interesting to see if there is any re-development of existing buildings in Patong, similar to what land scarcity has propelled in the center



The 'no sunlounger' rule in Patong poses a problem for hotels that are not full-service.

of Bangkok and Singapore.

"The point is the height restriction – there is still debate whether they should allow high-rise buildings to come up in that area," Mr Barnett said.

"There are a few legacy buildings ... I think if you go to Cha-Am today and see how everything has been built there – that makes some sense in terms of getting high-rises."

## Property firms to cut lending cost through debenture issue

FOLLOWING the decision by the central bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on March 11 to cut the benchmark rate by 25 basis points, property firms will be challenged to speed up their debenture issues to cut financial costs this year.

According to a survey by *The Nation*, 10 listed firms have announced plans to issue debentures worth a total of 34.2bn baht for business expansion this year. Some of them will utilize the funds to repay some debentures that expire this year, while others will use the amount for business expansion.

Most of them announced their plans before the decision by the MPC to cut the benchmark rate. However, the decision by the MPC will pose a challenge for them to reduce their debenture cost from previous estimates.

Most of them also plan to issue



debentures between the middle of this year until the last quarter of this year.

Not only can the property firms set a lower debenture interest rate, they can also avail of a lower interest rate for project loans, while home loans will also pay a lower interest.

Meanwhile, homebuyers will pay a lower interest rate on their mortgages following the cut in the

benchmark rate.

For example, homebuyers with a 1-million-baht mortgage will pay interest at 6.975 per cent, with monthly installments of 8,000 baht per month – 5,732 baht toward interest and 2,268 baht principal amount. Now that the mortgage interest rate has been cut by about 0.125 percentage points, the mortgage interest rate will reduce from 6.975 per cent to 6.85 per cent.

After the MPC decision to cut the benchmark rate, two commercial banks – Siam Commercial Bank and Bangkok Bank – followed suit and cut their interest rates for both lending and deposits.

Siam Commercial Bank is the first bank to lower its minimum loan rate (MLR) and its fixed deposit rate by 0.20 percentage points, followed by Bangkok Bank, which cut its MLR and fixed deposit rate by 0.125 of a percentage point.

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# Developing the legacy



**Island Fever**  
By Bill Barnett

FOR Thais, there is little doubt that Hua Hin remains a keen object of desire, be it for a holiday, or a property purchase. Call it legacy, or location, but the magnetic draw of the beach town continues to be a key driver of demand.

A few weeks ago I visited the destination and found the extreme makeover movement firmly intact. One of the most prolific developments over the past few years is the InterContinental Hotel, which has entrenched itself on a prime beachfront location.

More so the same developer, the Proud Group, recently opened the massive water park Vana Nava, not far away. This is a serious international-quality project and is certain to attract a large following. Proud is also developing the Bluport upscale shopping center with Bangkok's Mall Group, and a Holiday Inn branded resort.

As Hua Hin continues its push to modernize, the dominance of the domestic tourism market does cast a shadow over trading. Last year, 72 per cent of travellers to the destination came from within the country. That number grew one per cent over the previous year. Adding into the one-trick pony theme is the heavy weighting of hotel occupancy during the Friday, Saturday and public holiday period.

Looking at last year, Hua Hin suffered fallout from the Thai political crisis as market-wide occupancy declined four per cent compared to 2013. Granted, the drop was less than most other resort destinations in the country. Occupancy did remain a strong local demand, with an impressive

full-year figure of 68 per cent.

There is little doubt the new hotels and other amenities are increasing in number. As we have seen throughout Thailand, China is a key growth market, though Europe continues to be positioned as the key international segment, which is dominated mainly by snowbirds from the West. A rising tide of integrated golf resorts, such as Black Mountain, has continued to diversify its offering and attract a wide client base.

On the real-estate front, aside from the massive market condo surge in Cha Am, one of the most impressive projects underway is Pace Development's luxury MahaSamutr multi-million-dollar estate. Despite being well off-beach, the theme is a crystal clear man-made lagoon and private club.

A number of property agents I spoke to suggested the up-and-coming Hua Hin International School at Black Mountain as a key catalyst, but an inspection trip resulted in a very small footprint and limited work on a project that is projecting completion for the third quarter of this year.

Taking a broad view of Hua Hin, there is little doubt that thriving demand will continue to grow from Thailand given its location near the nation's capital and main population base. Though, unlike Pattaya and the eastern seaboard, who have benefited from an impressive improvement in toll roads and infrastructure, the road south remains sadly lacking.

There remains a single artery though Hua Hin and, especially in weekend traffic, it is mind boggling. Even flying into Bangkok and driving down can be an arduous task, given a broad maze of interconnected roads.



Thailand's ailing lack of forward planning is no more apparent than in Hua Hin, where the country's key north-south highway remains a patchwork quilt.

In perspective, continued growth is a given, and the corridor between Cha Am and Hua Hin has a number of mega-projects in the works, including development giant's TCC.

That said, it remains to be seen if a broader international appeal can drive up international tourism numbers in a more substantial way than seen over the past few years.

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## Bank relaxes with promising property market on horizon

KIATNAKIN Bank has relaxed its criteria for some project loans as the demand for home purchases returns. The bank expects the property market to grow by 10-15 per cent this year.

However, the bank has maintained restrictions on loans for projects it considers risky because of their locations or heavy competition. These include condominiums close to the mass-transit extension from Bang Sue to Bang Yai, as a lot of property firms plan launches along that route, Sarawut Charuchinda, head of the commercial lending group of Kiatnakin Bank, said at a seminar it hosted on Monday.

"We have to monitor whether the condominiums near the Purple Line that will be complete this year can transfer to customers or not. We have to wait and see whether the demand for condominiums in



Mr Sarawut of Kiatnakin Bank believes there will be an improvement in the property market compared with last year.

this location is real demand by people who actually want to live there or is driven by speculators. If there are a lot of speculators, that means the project cannot transfer to customers. This would pose a risk for the bank that provided the project loan," Mr Sarawut said.

However, overall, Mr Sarawut

believes that the property market this year will be better than in 2014, especially for low-rise homes such as detached houses and townhouses. Condominium sales should also improve thanks to government investment in new mass-transit routes in Greater Bangkok.

- The Nation

# Autism isn't misbehaving



Locals are invited to join a support meeting hosted by the Balance Group on World Autism Day, April 2. Photo: Reuters



disorder defined by a certain set of behaviors that impact an individual's ability to interact with the world around them.

ROBERT, a 7-year-old boy, had been anxious about his upcoming trip for weeks. His mother's job involved an overseas relocation and the family had to take both him and his older sister on a plane journey to visit new potential schools and houses, check out locations and all the usual rigmarole involved in moving countries.

Children with autism tend to display social and communication difficulties as well as behavioral difficulties such as anger, restricted and repetitive behavior, obsessions, intense preoccupation with certain activities or interests and sensitivity to loud noise, bright lights or physical touch.

Robert's family had prepared him for the journey in the best way they felt possible, but at the boarding gate, he had a complete meltdown.

We're not here to harp on about causes or interventions for autism, of which there are many, but to simply bring awareness to human differences. Let's step back for a moment from our judgmental stance and be mindful and appreciative of people's positive attributes. Let's look at adjusting our own perceptions of what is normal.

However, his mother was able to coax him onto the plane by using various strategies. After they settled down in their seats, the usual safety video was played, which set Robert off into another meltdown.

Raising a child with autism is a stressful, challenging journey, and one that affects siblings, extended family and close friends. And to provide support to these people, Autism Support – Phuket is out on a mission.

We have all been that person, getting upset about kids' behavior on a flight, and possibly even wondering why they were allowed to get on board.

We intend to bring autism awareness to the Thai and international communities of Phuket. Through education, shared experiences, empathy and enhanced relationships, we aim to support those touched by autism.

Do we ever consider, even for a moment, that the child may not be "spoiled" or "misbehaving", and that it is not down to poor parenting or parental behavior? For the majority of us, probably not.

Join us on World Autism Day, April 2, for our support meeting.

Most of us have heard about autism or autistic spectrum disorders, a complex neuro-developmental condition which now affects around 1 in 100 of the population.

Join us on World Autism Day, April 2, for our support meeting.

You may first have become aware of autism through Dustin Hoffman in *Rainman* or even through gifted people such as Temple Grandin, who became a top scientist of humane livestock handling.

*Rita Dobson, MBPS, BACP, is a professional counselor with a graduate diploma in psychology and an MA in counseling from Monash University. Rita has lived in Southeast Asia for more than 20 years. She has been working with youths in community centers, schools and young offenders' institutions, as well as supporting their families. Rita can be reached at rita@balancegroup.asia.*

But how much do you really know about this condition and how it affects day-to-day life? Simply put, autism is a spectrum



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# Nature's greatest enemy

By Patrick Campbell

ALMOST all of us can point to what James Joyce called "epiphanies": moments or experiences in our lives that ineradicably changed us or our world view forever. Such events may have been seared in our memories by pain or fear, others may have been moments of insight or ecstasy.

One such experience for me came from reading a book in 1962, soon after my return from university teaching in North

America. It was called, with suitable prescience, *Silent Spring*, taking its inspiration from Keats's haunting ballad, "La Belle Dame Sans Merci", chronicled the disastrous impact on our fragile environment of the indiscriminate use of pesticides and herbicides, particularly in relation to the lifecycles of birds and fishes.

Rachel Carson, for that was her name, was eloquent in her denunciation of current agricultural practices. One was the use of toxic and ineradicable biocides, which not only poisoned pestivorous insects such as mosquitoes or undesirable weeds, but passed up the food chain in a process known as bioaccumulation.

For example, raptors such as ospreys which prey on fish, or peregrine falcons which feed mainly on small insect- or seed-eating birds, themselves became prey to accumulated toxins which

subsequently caused infertility and worse.

In a powerful passage about squirrel mortality Ms Carson observed, "The head and neck were outstretched and the mouth often contained dirt, suggesting that the dying animal had been biting at the ground," adding "By acquiescing in an act that causes such suffering to a living creature, who among us is not diminished as a human being."

The problem was not peculiar to animals and birds. Herbicides such as 2,4-D were – and still are – spread across entire agricultural fields. Runoff, which may amount to a staggering 90 per cent of the initial application, is carried into lakes, rivers and seas.

[*Silent Spring*] changed, arguably forever, the simplistic notion that man was the environment's supreme benefactor, that he was triumphing in the war against disease through the control of insect vectors of infection. /

As Ms Carson knew, the problem was not confined to wild creatures. DDT, it was later confirmed, was also potentially carcinogenic to human beings. And not only was the balance of nature upset by its indiscriminate use, intended victims such as mosquitoes became capable of developing resistance to such chemicals.

Mass spraying with DDT to control pests was abandoned in developing countries such as Sri Lanka in the 1980s, mainly because it was no longer fully effective. In 2009, India was still producing the synthetic chemical. In Thailand, it was in use even later. A relative of my Thai partner, whose work consisted of



The book chronicles the impact indiscriminate use of pesticides has on nature. Photo: jetsandzeppelins

spraying rubber plantations, has been permanently afflicted by the daily contact. Enough to confirm Ms Carson's central thesis, now echoed by environmentalists everywhere: we exercise an inexorable but all too often negative impact on our precious natural world.

Of course *Silent Spring* created a furore, condemned both by conservative politicians and lobbyists for the chemical industry. But it changed, arguably forever, the simplistic notion that man was the environment's supreme benefactor, that he was triumphing in the war against disease through the control of insect vectors of infection. Blindingly, we were made

aware that man was more destroyer than protector of our environment. If humankind could poison nature, then nature would in turn poison humankind. As the *New York Times* declared, "It ignited the environmental movement".

This movement is now not only worldwide, but it has taken on board a whole spectrum of issues, including the hot topic of greenhouse gases and climate change. In Ms Carson's day, this burning issue had not yet fired the public imagination. But she would have deplored the existence of a dump of plastic particulates at least the size of Texas in the Pacific Ocean, many of which end up in the stomachs of sea turtles, or the

death of countless albatross whose young mistake bits of discarded plastic for food and suffocate or starve to death.

She would have lamented the loss of 98 per cent of the population of carrion-feeding Indian vultures to a drug called diclofenac, used to prolong the life of overworked beasts of burden.

On the other hand, she would have applauded the first entirely self-sufficient buildings, the global harnessing of wind and sun and Obama's vetoing of Keystone XL – a pipeline destined to disgorge the world's dirtiest fuels, bitumen and petroleum coke, into the American landscape.

Her spirit lives on...

## Safety first for Nai Yang reef

OFFICERS at Sirinath National Park on Monday began installing floating markers off Nai Yang Beach to protect a young reef system discovered only last month.

The markers are to establish an exclusion zone preventing swimmers and boats from entering the area, explained deputy park chief Neramit Songsaeng.

"Officers from the Phuket Marine National Parks and Protected Areas Innovation Center arrived to inspect the area last month, and found a multitude of coral frags that urgently needed protection," he said.

The "no go" zone covers about 10 rai from right in front of Sirinath National Park main office on Nai Yang Beach, just south of Phuket International Airport, to Koh Pling, which lies directly offshore.

"The markers are to prevent tourists from swimming inside the area, and to prevent boats from dropping anchors onto the corals," said Mr Neramit.



Lifeguards help move cement blocks out for the floating markers.

"We have already posted signs on the island to prevent tourists from entering the area from over there."

Officers at the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) have been contacted to provide long-term support to protect the reef, Mr Neramit added.

"We have asked the DNP to provide us with more officers so

we can keep a close eye on that protected area," he explained.

"We also requested the DNP to send experts to appraise the protection measures taken. Such experts might find better ways to protect the reef.

"If the corals grow well, the reef will become a new attraction for snorkelling and diving," he added.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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# Southern comforts

By Phoowadon Duangmee

“WE SHOULD have gained more land beyond this temple when Siam and the British were discussing divisions,” says our driver firmly as we enter the grounds of Wat Chothara Singhe, a Buddhist temple in Tak Bai – one of the southernmost districts of Narathiwat province in Thailand’s Deep South.

“Back then, when the British called the Siamese for a meeting in Kelantan forest, our representatives couldn’t make it. They were so drunk that they’d passed out at this temple.”

The rest isn’t hard to guess.

The British, who had little patience with such behavior, were terribly disappointed by the Siamese for keeping them waiting in the jungle in Kelantan and showed their displeasure by announcing the land where the Siamese had snored off their excesses belonged to Siam, and that everything beyond it was under protection of the United Kingdom.

It’s an amusing tale and I laugh. And Wat Chothara Singhe is indeed the demarcation between Thailand and Malaysia. The truth, however, is the other way around.

The old Buddhist temple was established in 1873. During the negotiations between the UK and the Kingdom of Siam prior to the signing of the Anglo-Siamese Treaty of 1909, which divided the land into what was to become Northern Malaysia and Southern Thailand, the Siamese insisted that the area around Chothara Singhe belonged to Siam. Both sides agreed on this point and the evidence is kept in the small temple



Often, the most exciting part of a Tak Bai resident’s day is seeing a fishing boat arrive. Photo: Preetamrai

museum, which also boasts life-sized models of the Siamese and British representatives, Prince Devawong Varoprakar and Ralph Paget, signing the treaty in Bangkok on March 10, 1909.

Tucked away in Thailand’s far south with the Gulf of Thailand lapping its beaches, Narathiwat is the easternmost of the four southern provinces that border Malaysia. Once a small coastal town village on the estuary of the Bang Nara River, it was known as Bang Nara until the visit of King Rama VI, who renamed it Narathiwat – literally, “the land of good people”.

The southern coastal province

has been a center for trade between Thailand’s south and Malaysia’s north ever since and over the years has drawn many Chinese to its shores. The town itself is a melting pot of ethnic diversity with Chinese shrines standing shoulder to shoulder with Muslim mosques and Buddhist temples.

While Narathiwat folk pursue different faiths, daily life binds them together. At the food market in downtown Narathiwat, where vendors jostle to offer us fresh meat and vegetables, I observe elderly Chinese women and Muslim girls in their hijabs exchanging jokes while negotiating with the

tors. Today few visitors come, scared off by the ongoing insurgency in Thailand’s Deep South.

We travel around with a fully armed security escort and are regularly made to stop at checkpoints, where young policemen make sure we’re “good people”.

We visit Samanmit School in Yi-ngor district where the local Muslim teacher shares with us the revelations of God. On the table are several old copies of the Koran along with equally ancient tomes of folktales written in Arabic on parchment scrolls.

Our driver also takes us along the beach, which is rustic, original and empty apart from a few children and some goats. For them, the biggest excitement of the day is the arrival of a fishing boat.

And what a fishing boat it is too! The traditional and colorful kolae are as unique as they are beautiful. In Tak Bai, we talk to local boat-builders – two Muslim brothers. They, like almost all the people I meet in Narathiwat, are quiet but warm-hearted and politely curious about the visitors in their midst. The elder brother builds the boat, while the younger one paints it.

“The design combines Malay, Javanese and Thai culture,” says one of the boat makers. “You can find plenty of boats like this along the coasts of Malaysia and Indonesia, but unless they are painted like ours, they’re deadly dull.”

And so the boat-builder creates artistic statements with such Thai patterns as running scrolls, the lotus, serpents, magic monkeys, and heads of birds found in the forest.

In Narathiwat, it’s said that a person without a kolae is like a man without clothes. – *The Nation*



Narathiwat is a Gulf of Thailand coastal province. Photo: (WT-en) Abstinent

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\* Channels and schedules: See page 34, this issue of the Gazette.

**Phuket Gazette**



# Tales of the understory



A FEW weeks ago two men, Tommy Caldwell and Kevin Jorgeson, free-climbed El Capitan (The Chief), a sheer rock face in Yosemite Park, California. Nothing special about that, you might say. But consider the circumstances. The rock is composed of granite and is 3,000 feet high. Climbing the monolith has been likened to scaling three Empire State Buildings while gripping holds no bigger than a fingernail.

Climbers in the plant kingdom don't attract fame in the same way. Their progress upwards is not down to qualities of courage, to the triumph of mind over matter. But they do possess the virtues of tenacity and persistence: when their very survival is at stake, they will seek out the merest crevices in order to clamber ever upwards in search of animating light.

In the wild, vines such as lianas may climb a hundred feet in search of that elusive blue beyond. All plants need light in order to promote photosynthesis.

But the nature and intensity of the light source does make a massive difference. Many tropical



Morning glory will quickly look sickly if not exposed to direct sunlight. Photo: Chilepine

plants need hours of direct sunlight: vines such as bougainvilleas, allamandas, coral vines, *solandras*, *odontadenias*, passion flowers and *ipomoeas* (morning glory) soon look sickly without exposure to the full glare of the sun. For others, that is not the primary requirement: they need filtered sunlight or shade which allows only reflected or indirect light. After all, that is what the understory plants in the jungle are used to and adapted for. They not only appreciate the cooler,

moister environment of the rainforest floor where the air is damp and still, they are able to utilize relatively small amounts of light in order to thrive.

There are also factors which help them in their search for survival. Most tall rainforest trees have a short period during which they shed most of their leaves: during this period of one to two weeks, there is an opening in the canopy which allows a limited amount of light to penetrate the

darker recesses of the forest. At this time, the understory plants sprout foliage which takes advantage of the filtered sunlight, producing a carbon balance that, with luck, will last all year.

Furthermore, these understory plants can utilize light wavelengths that most canopy trees cannot, so indirect light is more beneficial to them than to their taller neighbors. In part, this propensity is due to the range of foliage coloration (think the multicolored leaves of

the prayer plant), in part it is the result of broad leaves which make the most of what light is available.

Is that what makes your *dieffenbachias* and *aglaonemas* so popular as house plants? Actually, it is both their dramatic foliage and their ability to utilize low levels of light that makes them sought after.

I conclude with a cautionary tale which illustrates my point about light levels. I recently pruned a senna tree. Sadly, it is too big for my garden but I am reluctant to cut it down. Entwined around its trunk is a variegated *clerodendron* (now confusingly called an *epipremnum*), one of those understory plants. It has huge heart-shaped leaves to help it survive the forest understory. But here, abruptly exposed to direct sunlight, scorch marks are disfiguring its handsome foliage. Some leaves have already died.

All is not lost. It is slowly moving its main stems to the shady side of the tree trunk.

Like our resourceful human climbers, it will survive.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, email: [drpaccampbell@gmail.com](mailto:drpaccampbell@gmail.com). More information about this gardening series and other work can be found at: [patrickaccampbell.wordpress.com](http://patrickaccampbell.wordpress.com)



Direct sunlight can damage these delicate leaves. Photo: Forest & Kim Starr

## Tip of the Week Growing annuals

ANNUALS germinate, grow, set seed and die, all within the course of a year, thereby providing a splash of rapid and vivid color. They are normally grown from seed. You can collect your own seeds when you dead-head flowers (which encourages more flowering), but ensure that the seeds are dry and fully mature first. Annuals you might consider growing here include cosmos daisies, sunflowers (*helianthus*), and African marigolds (*tagetes*). Personal favorites include *zinnias*, magenta globe amaranths (*gomphrena globosa*) and the low-growing and multi-hued rose moss (*portulaca*).

Annuals can be also be bought as packaged seeds, and should



Consider growing sunflowers here in Phuket. Photo: Elnaz Sarbar

be sown either in prepared open ground, or, even better, in containers where their progress can be monitored. You can also buy annuals in small pots, which you should water regularly. Keep the soil moist but not soggy: annuals have shallow root systems, but because they grow quickly, they need water and, in time, nutrients.

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Lifeguards in training at Nai Harn. Photo: PLC

## Lifeguards vie for victory in Vietnam

MEMBERS of the Phuket Lifeguard Club (PLC), best known for their life-saving role patrolling the island's beaches, are in training for an international life-saving skills competition in Vietnam at the end of April.

Last year, Phuket lifeguards won gold in the three-man board rescue relay and placed second overall at the annual event: the Da Nang International Lifeguard Competition.

"Only four members will be chosen to join the competition this year," said PLC president Prathaiyut Chuayuan.

A group selected as the shortlist candidates are already in training, he added.

"These candidates will compete against each other on March 29, when we will announce the final four," Mr Prathaiyut said.

"These four will continue their training several days a week ahead of the competition in Da Nang."

The exact dates for the Da Nang event have yet to be confirmed, he added.

"I think our members are ready for this, but we have yet to secure the budget. Last year, a private company funded the trip," Mr Prathaiyut said.

"We are in the process of raising the funds, but the event in Vietnam is organized by the government in order to promote tourism to Da Nang, which is something I think Phuket should do as well."

- Kongleaphy Keam

# Kingdom's Platu du jour

## Phuket sailors fly high at inaugural Platu TransWorld

By Phuket Gazette

Local yachtsman Scott Duncanson and his crew Trent Pedersen, Alfie Rowson, Tony Harman and Paul Burke on *Kingdom Property* have won second place in the inaugural Platu TransWorld Invitational.

The four-day international competition based at the Ocean Marina Yacht Club in Pattaya featured crews from Sweden, Russia, Singapore, Japan, Holland, the United Kingdom and Australia, but was ultimately won by *Platu 017* skippered by professional match-racer Matti Sepp from Estonia.

Day one of the regatta started in near-perfect seven to 10-knot sailing conditions.

Four races were held, with Sepp jumping to an early points lead over *Kingdom Property*, followed by *Platu 154*, Rolf Heemskirk and world number-five match racer Bjorn Hansen from Sweden getting off to a slow start.

The results were subject to a reshuffle, however, after a protest saw *Kingdom Property* disqualified for a marginal rules breach and pushed down the leader board.

Yet, the *Kingdom* crew responded well in 10 to 15-knot conditions on day two, with 3-3-1-1 placings to win boat of the day.

Hansen also found form to record a 1-2-2-4 and move into third place, but it was the ever-consistent Sepp who continued his march to the title by finishing every race on the podium, with 2-1-3-3 placings.

The whimsical conditions on the final day saw a mixed bag of results. Chris Way's *Easy Tiger* finally found some form to win Race 9, followed by the 'all-ladies' crew from Singapore on *The Ferret* in second place, and *Platu 114* finishing third.

Sepp, knowing that he had only to finish



Kingdom Property were outsailed only by pro match-racer Matti Sepp. Photo: Kevin Scott

in front of *Kingdom Property* to win the regatta, applied some very close covering and blocking tactics to sail *Kingdom* down through the fleet to eighth – and himself to fifth place – thus edging himself closer to victory.

Heemskirk won Race 10, but Sepp again sailed almost flawlessly to claim second place and seal first place overall with a race to spare.

In a building breeze and with one race remaining, the fight was on for the remaining podium positions. A major wind shift 60 seconds before the start caused a quick change of tactics, and in the fresher conditions *Kingdom Property* jumped to an early

lead that they never relinquished. *Easy Tiger* placed second and Hanson placed third.

The Platu TransWorld invitational was the first regatta of the overall Platu Championship for 2015, which comprises four events throughout the year.

The next scheduled event, the royally affiliated Coronation Cup in early May, is held in celebration of His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej's accession to the throne.

"*Kingdom Property* will be attempting to defend the title they won last year, a feat no crew has achieved in the 19-year history of the class," Duncanson told the *Gazette*.

## Phuket today

Phuket Gazette

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# Patong CC spank Thalang on pitch

By Owen Pringle

PATONG CC proved too hot to handle last Sunday with a clean defeat of visitors Thalang Cricket Team in the Phuket Cricket Group 40-over league competition.

Patong captain Seemant Raju won the toss and sent Thalang in to bat.

The left and right-handed opening combination of Andrew McMillan and Justin Thomatos began strongly, making an opening stand of 114 before Thomatos was dismissed in the 15<sup>th</sup> over on 42 (41 balls).

Carl Baxter joined McMillan at the crease, but made the long walk back to the sheds after Waseem Bhatt bowled him for 1. Simon Wetherell made a valuable stand of 39 runs with McMillan before being bowled by Imtiaz Mustaq for 24 (16 balls) just after the second drinks break.

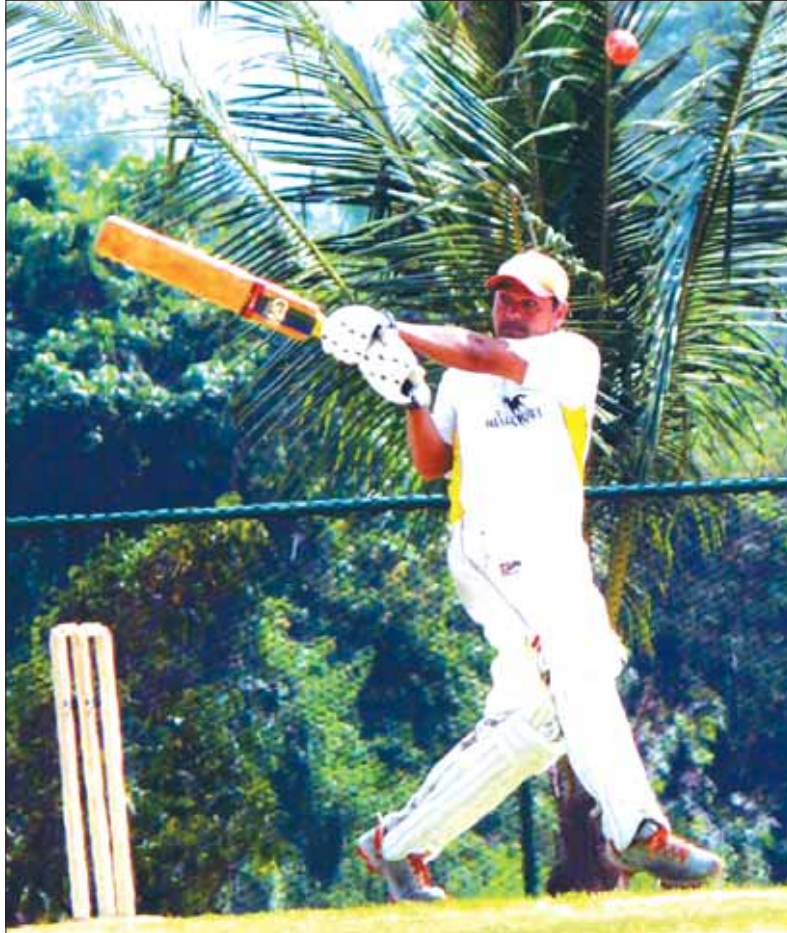
Jean Matthee, one of the two new signings for Thalang, joined McMillan in the center before being run out for 11 runs after an excellent boundary throw by Richard Desmond to Patrick Morton.

Middle-order batsman Craig Murphy entered the fray, but opener McMillan was soon dismissed on 87 (81 balls) after Justin Swart took an excellent outfield catch off the bowling of Morton.

Thalang captain Bill Stahmer made a brief appearance with Murphy on the pitch, until he was declared leg-before-wicket by umpire John King for 1 off the bowling of Mustaq coming on for his second spell off his short run-up.

The felling of Stahmer prompted a tail-end collapse. Thalang started well, and were 3/154 after 20 overs, but were all out for 205, just 11 overs later.

Patong took their turn to bat, and had to negotiate two overs before the luncheon break, which they did, but Raju as opener obviously didn't finish his sandwiches,



Patong CC's Justin Swart (above) joined opener Imtiaz Mustaq to deliver a 145-run stand for the second wicket. Photo: Neil Quail

before he returned to the clubhouse two overs after lunch for 1, caught by wicketkeeper Martin Hill off the bowling of Matthee.

Swart formed a left-right batting combination with Mustaq, resulting in a 145-run stand for the second wicket.

Mustaq was finally dismissed in the 27<sup>th</sup> over on 92 runs from 74 balls faced. Swart soon followed, dismissed for 67 runs (83 balls) by Baxter in the 28<sup>th</sup> over.

Bhatt joined Morton, but an excellent catch in the covers by Matthee ended Bhatt's innings on 7, but with Patong on 4/201, just five runs shy of first innings points.

Owen Pringle joined Morton at the crease and watched Morton hit the points-scoring runs, before

Morton was caught by Baxter for 27 (29 balls) off the bowling of McMillan.

Paul Baker joined Pringle in the center and played two lovely boundary strokes before his cameo ended when caught by Murphy at mid-on, off the bowling of Gary Lane, for 8 runs off 7 balls.

Neil Quail was bowled by Lane for 4, bringing Richard Desmond to the center to join Pringle, who was bowled off the final delivery for 10 runs by Wetherell.

Desmond remained not out for 1, with Patong 8/247 at the end of the match.

Patong returns this weekend to face Laguna at the Alan Cooke Ground in Thalang this Sunday (March 29). The match starts at 10am.



A stunning swing by Ladies European Tour player Klara Spilkova at Laguna.

## Swinger at Laguna

LADIES European Tour player Klara Spilkova recently visited Laguna Phuket Golf Club's newly upgraded course, designed by renowned golf architect Paul Jansen, ahead of her first event of the 2015 season.

As part of her stay, Spilkova conducted a golf demonstration, showcasing her golf talents to Laguna Phuket Golf Club's lucky lady members.

"It was such a terrific eye-opening experience," said one member. "Klara has shown us many different golf shots this morning, which are very helpful for us as amateur golfers."

Just 20 years old, the Czech national Spilkova is starting her remarkable fifth year on the Ladies European Tour.

"It has been a beautiful week at Laguna Phuket. I have been playing golf, but also taken some

time off to enjoy this beautiful place," she said.

"The quality of golf course is excellent and I love the new design very much. Most impressive of all are the world-class practice facilities, where you can practice all day long."

Asked about her key golfing tips as a professional player, she answered, "The most important thing is to be happy and play golf with a positive mindset."

"Every golfer faces different kinds of pressures once they step onto the first tee, it is most important to control your breathing and think of the most positive things in your life."

Measuring 6,719 yards, the thoroughly redesigned Laguna course features a wealth of scenic lagoons, coconut groves and undulating fairways.

- *Phuket Gazette*

## Satree stages fun run for facilities

SATREE Phuket School will hold a mini-marathon this Sunday dedicated in honor of the 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, which will be observed throughout the country on April 2.

The event, held in association with the Sport Association of Phuket, will also serve as a fundraiser for the school's new, high-standard sports facility, said Koson Saikao, principal of Satree Phuket School.

"The new sports complex will cost between five and 10 million



Satree Principal Mr Koson

baht. We are expecting to raise 2mn baht at the Satree Phuket mini marathon event," said Mr Koson.

"After the building is complete,

it will be used for sports lessons and practice, as well as national sports competitions."

The event will consist of two runs: a 3.5-kilometer fun run and a 10.5km run. Winners will receive a trophy and medal.

The registration fee will be 300 baht. All registrants will receive a participation t-shirt.

Registration before race start is at the school from 4:30 to 5:30am. The 10.5km run will get underway at 6am, with runners lining up for the 3.5km course starting at 6:05am. - *Phuket Gazette*

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# START YOUR ENGINES

By Kongleapy Keam

PHUKET's famed Sarasin Bridge at the northern tip of the island will be the backdrop for the opening round this weekend of the premier jet-ski competition in Thailand – the G-Shock Pro Tour 2015.

Joining the competition will be Chaowalit Kuajaroon, Pro Sport 800 Superstock 2004 world champion and the Thailand Pro-Am Runabout 0-1200 Open champion 2005, Phang Nga Governor Prayoon Rattanasenee announced earlier this week.

Mr Chaowalit competed in the Asian Beach Games held in Phuket last year, but only managed to rank seventh in the Runabout Open division. Instead, fellow Thai Chok-Uthit Molee won gold in that competition.

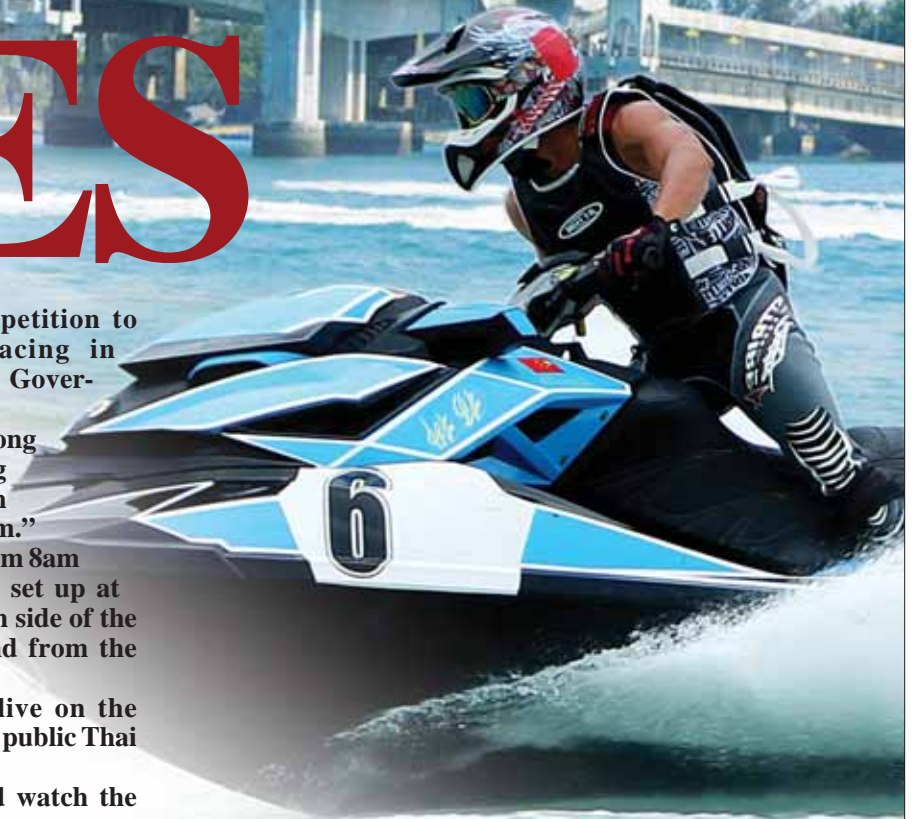
“We arranged to host this competition to support the sport of jet-ski racing in Thailand and to promote tourism,” Governor Prayoon explained.

“Jet-ski as a sport is popular among Thais, as well as tourists. By holding this competition, we can provide an event for the benefit of both of them.”

Competition rounds will be held from 8am to 4pm, with the base of operations set up at Tha Noon in Phang Nga, on the north side of the channel that separates Phuket island from the mainland.

“The racing will be broadcast live on the TrueVisions cable network and on the public Thai Channel 3,” Gov Prayoon said.

“Everyone is invited to come and watch the competition – free of charge.”



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