

# Phuket Gazette

November 12 - 18, 2016

Now inside **THE NATION** every Saturday

56 Pages / 20 Baht

‘I AM HAPPY THAT BUSINESSMEN AND RICH PEOPLE WANT TO HELP PHUKET’

## MILLION-AID

■ Twenty-five shareholders armed with a B100mn form Phuket conglomerate

By Kongleaphy Keam

ALMOST two dozen private entrepreneurs have come together to form a new company aimed at boosting investment and promoting seamless business operations in Phuket.

Named Phuket City Development Co Ltd (PKCD), the new conglomerate aims to develop the province into a functional and successful ‘smart city’ under three core values: innovation; green infrastructure; and green mobility for sustainable development.

PKCD Co Ltd was registered on October 15 with 25 shareholders and a registered capital of 100 million baht. The focus of its operations mainly lies on infrastructure, smart public transport, smart city initiatives, and security and economy.

The owners are keen to build relationships and ease connections between private and government sectors regarding major development projects.

“First of all, we will ease the process of investment for foreigners. Those from outside Phuket or Thailand who want to invest in any project in Phuket – let’s take a bus business, for instance – have no idea about how to deal with the government and tackle all the applicable rules and laws. Additionally, the process is very time consuming.

These types of difficulties make investors lose interest quite quickly, which causes them to withdraw and invest elsewhere,” said shareholder Suradech Taweesaengsakulhai, co-founder of Khon Kean City Development Co Ltd and one



The numerous goals of the venture include ease of investment for foreigners, and a plan to register with the Stock Exchange of Thailand, if successful. Photo: Kongleaphy Keam

of the shareholders of PKCD.

“PKCD will work as the middleman in these cases. We are a local organization and we know how the government sector works. We will help these investors with the laws and requirements. Once permission is obtained, we will open the project for investors. They will no longer have to worry about the law, and we will get more investors this way,” he added.

The PKCD board expects to register the company on the Stock Exchange of Thailand in future if all goes well.

“We do not expect any investors to start handing us money immediately. We want to earn their trust first and know who we are. After seeing the results, we will at-

tract more investors for sure. If they trust what we are doing, they will automatically come to us,” said Mr Suradech.

Mr Suradech added that their goal was to not only create projects but to work with the government to help push through projects that are already in motion.

“We can either join the project ourselves or help expedite its progress by coordinating with the government and developers,” he said.

At this stage, there are five plans on the agenda; the first of which is to help Phuket become a ‘Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Neighborhood Development’ (LEED-ND) city in 20 years.

*Continued on Page 4*

### Royal wreath ceremony held to honor shot soldier

Thanapon Kaewpetch, who was killed in action in the Deep South, was honored in a remembrance ceremony attended by Phuket Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan and other dignitaries this week.

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### BUSINESS



Kata Group launches products for Chinese honey-mooners.

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### PROPERTY



Selling your property isn’t easy and you might just lose a sale.

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### LIFE&STYLE



Patrick Campbell talks about his blooming marvelous annuals.

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## LOCAL NEWS

# Briefly

### Tree feller was a good fella

A GOOD Samaritan who volunteered to help remove trees that had fallen and trapped cars in Pa Khlok on November 6 passed out while he was doing it and was later pronounced dead at Thalang Hospital.

Social media user Suchat Leucha posted a message on Facebook regarding the man. The post read: "Deeply sorry about the passing of a kind old man, who along with his cousin, was helping to cut trees that had fallen on cars in Pa Khlok today. May he rest in peace."

The victim was named as Yusop Plaiguam, 60.

"We found Mr Plaiguam lying on the road and checked his pulse but could not find one. We tried Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation [CPR] before transferring him to hospital," Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers told the *Phuket Gazette* that morning.

Locals at the scene said that Mr Yusop was a well-known tree cutter in the area and that he might have fallen unconscious from exhaustion. However, no details about his cause of death, or any prior medical condition, have surfaced so far.

– Winai Sarot

## Five houses gutted after fallen candle ignites blaze



A total of five houses were gutted in Thalang on the night of November 3. No one was injured in the blaze, which broke out about 10pm in the Baan Mak Prok community and quickly spread to other nearby houses. Tah Chat Chai Police Captain Thanom Thongpan told the *Gazette* that it took firefighters over 2 hours to extinguish the fire. Photo: Winai Sarot

### Man arrested for mugging Russian

A MON man was arrested on November 5 for robbing a Russian woman in a dark alley when she took a ride with him after leaving a night club on Bangla Road at 2am looking

for a taxi.

The 30-year-old victim, named by police only as 'Victoria', said she was beaten and robbed by Samlee Sangjan, 27, after he offered her a ride on the back of his motorcycle to a nearby tuk-tuk stand. Instead, he took her to a deserted spot along Sirirat Road in Patong.

Ms Victoria told police that Mr Samlee pulled over and tried to hug her and then punched her in the face when she refused his advances. He then stole 7,000 baht as well as US\$200 from her before fleeing on his bike.

Police chief Lt Somsak Thongklian said Patong Police tracked down Mr Samlee to a motorcycle taxi stand on Bangla Road after reviewing CCTV footage and arrested him there.

Mr Samlee confessed to robbing the Ms Victoria, but denied the charges of assault and attempted rape brought against him.

During their investigations, police discovered that the man, who is of Mon descent, (therefore not classified as a Thai citizen), was working illegally without a permit.

Mr Samlee, police found, had also entered Thailand illegally.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

### Man murdered after drinking session

A 23-year-old man died in Thalang on the night of November 4 after he was stabbed in the neck and chest by his 31-year-old drinking buddy.

Thalang police confirmed that the body of Boonnam Ravea, 23, was found in a pool of blood at a house in Moo 7 in Srisoonthorn at 12:30am.

Mr Boonnam's body had stab wounds under his chin, left shoulder, under his right arm and on the left side of his chest," Thalang Police Lt Sunan Petnhu told the *Gazette*.

Eye witnesses told police that Mr Boonnam had been drinking with his friend, Suriyan Phudinsai, 31, and that the pair got into an argument that escalated into a physical fight.

Mr Suriyan fled the scene on a motorbike with his girlfriend, it was reported, but returned to the scene about 3:30am still armed with a 38cm-long knife and was promptly arrested.

Meanwhile, Mr Boonnam's body was taken to Thalang Hospital.

Police confirmed that Mr Suriyan confessed to killing his drinking buddy and has been charged with murder with intent while police nail down further details of the argument.

– Winai Sarot

### Tourist lands in hospital after elephant attack

AN AUSTRALIAN tourist was hospitalized after he was attacked by an elephant chained to a tree inside a forest in Mai Khao on October 31.

"Chan Yong Shun, 62, had gone for a walk in the area on October 31, when he came across the four-year-old elephant named Namwan and moved closer to take a picture," said Tah Chat Chai Police Superintendent Prawit Suttiruengarun.

The elephant attacked Mr Shun with his trunk, breaking several of his ribs and causing bleeding in his lungs.

The victim is currently undergoing treatment at Bangkok Hospital Phuket. His son, Teho Shun, 32, reported the incident to police.

"The elephant was confiscated from its owner, Suwanchai Kamthip, by the Phuket Livestock Office. Mr Suwanchai was charged for transporting the animal without a permit on August 3 and was sent to court to await judgment on the case," Col Prawit told the *Gazette*.

Wongsaphat Janchaiyuth of the Phuket Livestock Office (PLO) said that Mr Suwanchai's deadline for moving the animal from Phuket had expired on September 3, but he had requested an extension.

"The elephant underwent regular health checks by the PLO and was kept in a designated area inside the forest until his owner could find a place to move him," said Mr Wongsaphat.

"We kept him in the forest, far away from the tourists. It was the tourist himself who walked closer to the elephant and got injured."

Namwan was finally moved from Phuket to a sanctuary in Phang Nga on November 2.

"Mr Shun understands that this was an accident. No charges were pressed and his medical expenses are covered by health insurance," said Col Prawit.

– Kongleaphy Keam

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# Drug dealing ex-con busted

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

Narcotics police arrested a 21-year-old female ex-convict on November 3 who was found 'looking after' 48,700 amphetamine pills (ya bah). However, her two accomplices escaped and are on the run.

Papawadee Yuanset was arrested near a mangrove forest in Pa Khlok at about 5pm. She had previously been sentenced for possession of ya ice (crystal methamphetamine) with intent to sell and was released from prison about a year ago.

"We received a tip-off about a large amount of ya bah stocked at this location, waiting to be sold," Region 8 Deputy Police Commander Chalit Thinthanee told the *Gazette*.

"Our team went there to investigate but could not reach the exact location because the area is in the middle of a mangrove forest. So our officers got out of their vehicles and covered the last few hundred meters on foot."

At the scene, the police found all three suspects, but they ran when they saw the officers approaching.



Two suspects bolted when they saw the officers approaching. Photo: Phuket Provincial Police

"Two of them managed to escape as they knew the area very well. Ms Papawadee was apprehended and taken into custody," said Gen Chalit.

The two suspects on the run were named as Adisak Homwan and another man named only as 'Pai'.

"We questioned Ms Papa-

wadee, who led us to a boat nearby where the drugs were hidden. She claimed that she was only 'looking after' the drugs, and that they belonged to Mr Adisak, who has at least three other arrest warrants for drugs and firearms issued against him," said Gen Chalit.

Police also seized about

10,000 baht in cash, a firearm, bankbooks, ATM cards, a long tail boat engine, drug paraphernalia, a motorcycle and several mobile phones, which they believe are being used for drug trafficking.

"We are tracking down the other two suspects and hope to apprehend them soon," said Gen Chalit.

# Treatment plant fire costs B5mn

A POWER controller at the Patong water treatment plant caught fire on November 1, causing about 5 million baht worth of damages.

"Firefighters took 20 minutes to put out the blaze. Nearby residents reported a loud explosion, followed by smoke and flames from the plant," said Patong Police chief Lt Col Weerapong Rakhito, who inspected the site soon after the incident.

Police believe the fire may have been caused by a short circuit in the power controller.

"For now, the municipality is coordinating with hotels in the area to treat their water supply with oxygen, until a new controller is purchased," said Col Weerapong.

Purchasing a new controller is expected to take 10 days, Patong Municipality officials confirmed.

Officials are also coordinating with the Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority office in Patong to supply power directly to the plant without a controller, until the new one is available.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

# Russian drowns at Bang Tao Beach



Bangtao surf claimed another victim on November 8. Photo: Gazette file

A RUSSIAN tourist who went swimming at Bang Tao Beach on the evening of November 8 was pronounced dead shortly after lifeguards pulled him from the sea.

"Petr Agapov, 57, and his wife had been staying at the Amora Beach Resort in Cherngtalay since November 2," Phuket City Police Major Nattaya Suphanpong told the *Gazette*, after receiving confir-

mation at 9pm from Vachira Phuket Hospital that the man had not recovered.

The Russian Embassy has been informed of the death and is assisting Mr Agapov's wife in returning home with her husband's body.

Another Russian tourist who went missing while swimming in the Similan Islands last week has still not been found.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

# Big time Burmese drug duo busted in rental apartment

POLICE arrested two Myanmar nationals on November 6 for drug dealing after raiding a rented apartment room in Rassada, where they found 5,000 methamphetamine pills (ya bah) and 400 grams of crystal meth (ya ice).

Aye Ayemaung was arrested in possession of 3,533 ya bah pills and 366.14 grams of ya ice, along with drug paraphernalia," confirmed Phuket City Police Lt Col Naruebadin Pangleesen.

Tor Miew U was also in the room when the police carried out the raid, was arrested after police found 1,687 ya bah pills and 30.66 grams of crystal meth stashed in his Honda motorbike parked outside the apartment.

Police charged the pair with possession of category 1 drugs with intent to sell.

"The drugs were intended to be sold exclusively to Burmese users in the Koh Sirey area. The suspects were big-time



The two Burmese nationals were arrested with thousands of pills after police raided an apartment in Rassada. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

dealers in the island's Burmese community. We believe they were shipped to Phuket directly

from Myanmar," said Col Naruebadin.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

# Special delivery: Laos mother gives birth in car

A LAO woman gave birth to a 2kg baby boy in a car in Koh Kaew on November 7.

Keothong Somthaly, 27, was being driven to hospital by her husband after she went into labor a month earlier than expected, but ended up delivering her child in the car with help from paramedics after her husband parked on Soi Koh Kaew 24 and called emergency services for help about 6pm.

The couple had only driven about 300 meters down the road from their home after Ms Keothong went into labor unexpectedly.

Srisoonthorn and Kusoldharm rescue workers arrived just in time to help Ms Keothong deliver her baby, whose head was already showing, in the back of the couple's Toyota Vios.

"There wasn't time to take



As there was no time to take Ms Keothong to the hospital, first responders helped to deliver the baby in the car. Photo: Winai Sarot

her to hospital," said first responder Thawit Billabdullar. "Mother and baby were then

taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital in an ambulance," he said.

– Winai Sarot

# Free ride to BKK for the people of Phuket



Phuketians look forward to the free transport offer. Photo: The Nation

PHUKETIANS wishing to pay their respects to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej can avail themselves of a free trip to the Grand Palace in Bangkok.

"The Ministry of Interior has made arrangements for people to visit the Grand Palace. The buses will leave on November 25, December 14 and January 4," said Phuket Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan. "On each trip, we can take up to 750 people. Those who want to

avail the service can register at the respective municipality."

As the trips are organized by individual municipalities, details of departure time and place can be obtained directly from their offices.

The governor is urging people to strictly follow the dress code set out by the office of the Prime Minister, which stipulates that mourners should wear black clothes and shoes. However, if someone wishes to dress according to their religious beliefs, they are permitted to do so.

For women, skirts should be below the knees. No alcohol, weapons or drugs are allowed, and people are advised not to carry too many valuables.

"It's important that those who undertake the journey must have sincere intentions of paying respect to the late King," said Governor Chokchai.

– Chutharat Plerin

# Flash floods in Phuket cause major traffic jam



Police and rescue workers push a partly submerged car. Photo: Winai Sarot

FLASH flooding caused a major traffic jam on Thepkrasatri Road southbound on November 4, with hundreds of vehicles trying to make their way through the catastrophe that ensued.

Police and Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers redirected small vehicles and motorcycles to use the alternative road in front of Phuket Muang Thalang School.

The flood occurred north of Thalang Town after hours of heavy rains in the morning, while downpours were still occurring intermittently throughout the island.

"Cars and motorcycles could not get through the flood. Vans, four-wheel-drive pickup trucks and bigger trucks had a better chance of making it through the water," a rescue worker at the scene told the *Gazette* early that afternoon.

"We suggest that anyone who can avoid using the road should do so for now," he added.

Two weeks ago, incessant rains flooded large areas in Patong and Phuket Town, as officials scrambled to help tourists get to safety by using boats and 4x4 vehicles.

– Winai Sarot

# Businesspeople bandy together for hometown

*Continued from Page 1*

...Secondly, to cooperate with the *OrBorJor* in order to improve bus services in Phuket, including smart buses with front and back CCTV cameras, a strict schedule of arrival and departure and a system to keep track of bus drivers.

Thirdly, creating a mobile app to help tourists. The application will feature tourist attractions, food, accommodation, and land, marine and air maps. This app will be a cross between Grap, Wongnai, Agoda and TripAdvisor.

Next, turn Phuket into a 'Smart Innovation Hub' to boost creative thinking, especially among youth, and help them generate income.

Lastly, promoting Phuket as a venue for an Asian Expo will help Phuket become a Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibition (MICE) center and promote tourism in Phuket and other Andaman provinces.

PKCD is using Khon Kaen City Development Co Ltd, which has been in operation for many years already, as a busi-

ness model to follow, but with a long-term focus. At present, company representatives could not provide details of when the first project is expected to start.

"In Phuket, the first thing that we want to do is to improve the bus system in cooperation with the *OrBorJor*. The exact date is not yet decided. We still plan to keep the local buses (Pho Thong) functioning, as they are a unique part of the identity of Phuket. However, we also intend to incorporate a more modernized transport system in Phuket," said Montawee Hongyok, one of the shareholders of PKCD.

Additionally, the company intends to work closely with the Software Industry Promotion Agency and other related offices to help promote their agenda.

"We are doing this for the benefit of our future generations. I don't want to say exactly who will reap the benefits, as no one will trust me on this right now. But please wait to see the results yourselves. All the shareholders of the company are Phuketians, and we all want to come to-

gether and improve Phuket," said Mr Suradech.

"From an economic point of view, if the whole of Phuket improves and becomes a developed city, it will certainly help every business in Phuket get better as well. Not only big businesses, but the whole system, including the locals, will also reap the benefits," he added.

Phuket Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan commended the company's plans and said he hoped to see their vision become a reality before long.

"I am happy to see that businesspeople and rich people in Phuket want to help their hometown. I completely support the idea. If Phuket people themselves will not do anything for Phuket, then who else will," said Governor Chokchai.

"However, all I see right now is a plan. I have seen a lot of plans already, but what I really want to see is the plans being turned into reality. I am glad to offer help and support on behalf of the government, as long as it's legal and above board," he added.

# Fallen soldier honored by Royalty

By Chutharat Plerin

A ROYAL wreath-placing ceremony was held at Wat Sophon Wanaram (Pa Khlok Temple) on November 5 to honor Private Thanapon Kaewpetch, a native of Phuket, who was shot dead while on duty in Pattani, the Deep South on November 2.

Private Thanapon, 23, had joined the military on November 1 last year. He was killed while guarding the Thai military installation in Muang Pattani District.

Phuket Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan led the ceremony and was joined by local dignitaries, placing wreaths bestowed by Her Majesty Queen Sirikit and members of the Royal Family in front of the coffin.

Private Thanapon's body was taken to his home in Pa Khlok sub-district by helicopter on November 3.

Private Thanapon had com-



Left: Private Thanapon's body was flown into Thalang. Right: Governor Chokchai led the funeral rituals. Photo: Chutharat Plerin and Phuket PR

pleted his term as a soldier, but had been carrying on his duty voluntarily.

Phuket officials and army personnel, led by Gen Akom Pongprom of the 41st Military

Circle, were present at the Phuket Airpark when the soldier's coffin was flown in.

The soldier's grieving parents – Klanarong Kaewpetch and Chanida Pattamapaneewong –

and brother were also present. Ms Chanida passed out when she saw her son's coffin draped in the Thai flag.

*The Nation* reported several bombings in Pattani the same

night.

The soldier's funeral rituals were performed at Pa Khlok Temple, where his cremation rites were also performed on November 9.

# Russians rescued from leaky boat



All seven victims were rescued after their boat sank in Phang Nga Bay. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

A RUSSIAN family of five, a guide and boat captain were rescued on November 8 after their speedboat sprang a leak and sank in Phang Nga Bay.

Thanbok Khoranee National Park Chief Champen Pompakdee and a team of officers arrived at the scene – 5 sea miles (over 9 kilometers) from Koh Hong – in three boats and successfully rescued all seven passengers and crew. The family comprised a husband and wife and their three daughters.

“They were floating in the sea with the help of life jackets and buoys. The 25-meter

speedboat, almost completely submerged, was nearby,” said chief Champen. He did not reveal the names of the tourists.

“The 35-year-old guide, named as Manasya Hirano, told us that she took the family from Phuket and stopped by Koh Hong before heading to Koh Kai.

At 4pm, they were making their way back to Phuket from Koh Kai when the rear end of the boat started leaking. Ms Manasya called us in when the boat started to sink,” he said.

The survivors were safely back on Phuket by 6pm.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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# Search continues for missing Russian

By Chutharat Plerin

THE NAVY is still searching for a Russian man who went missing on October 30 while swimming at Koh Payan, Similan Islands.

Aleksei Stashkov reportedly disappeared while swimming on a trip with his cousin, Mikhail Kolmogorov, 60.

Mr Kolmogorov filed a missing persons report on Tuesday after he came across navy personnel from the Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command, while searching for his cousin at Koh Miang.

He was taken to Kuraburi Police Station to lodge an official report, which had to be translated via phone as Mr Kolmogorov couldn't speak any English.

"Mr Stashkov and I are cousins. We left Chalong Pier on a yacht on October 29 at 9pm, to head to the Similan Islands," read Mr Kolmogorov's translated statement to the police.

"We arrived at Koh Payan early next morning, where Mr Stashkov went to swim about 9am. Some time later, I heard him shouting for help, so I threw him a roped-dinghy.

"However, the waves were



The victim's cousin was taken to Kuraburi Police Station to file a missing persons report. Photo: RTN3

very rough and he could not reach it. So I started cutting the rope tying the boat to the buoy. This took about 10 minutes, and when I finally managed to free the boat, he had disappeared. I then called my friends and brother in Phuket to inform them of the incident.

"The next day, I sailed the yacht around Koh Payan and

Koh Hu Yong to search for him, but to no avail. The day after that, I was searching for him in Koh Miang when I came across Navy officials and informed them of the incident."

Navy personnel launched an air and sea search operation. They are also coordinating with fishing and tour boats to help look for Mr Stashkov, who had still not been found at the time

of going to print.

"We currently have no updates on Mr Stashkov," stated Lt Kwanjai Kerwan of the RTN Third Area Command, after his team searched for Mr Stashkov for at least a week.

"Our officers are patrolling the area every day. For now, we will continue the sea and air search, despite difficult weather conditions."

# Krabi floods drained

THE Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) Krabi began draining water from about 50 rai of land on November 6, after heavy rains in Khao Kram sub-district flooded a mosque, a house and a road in the area.

The water level was measured to be 1.5 meters deep, and sometimes goes up to two meters during periods of heavy rainfall.

"We tried to drain the affected areas as quickly as possible," said Krabi DDPM chief Paisarn Kunsri. "We only just procured two drainage pumps from DDPM 18 and installed one on November 5 and the other one the day after."

Collectively, both pumps can transfer up to 10,000 liters of water per minute.

"It will take about four to five days for the water to be completely drained. Then Muslims in the area will be able to pray in their mosque again – they had to pray outside in tents during this time," said Mr Paisarn.

At least 20 houses were flooded and 400-500 rai of rubber plantations were affected by severe floods in Krabi last month.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

# One killed in double decker bus crash



The bus flipped onto its side, crumpling the upper deck and killing a naval officer. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

ONE man was killed and 26 passengers injured when the driver of a double-decker coach lost control on a sharp bend on a slippery road in Phang Nga on the afternoon of November 4.

The bus left the road and flipped, ending up on its side, crumpling the top deck, killing a naval officer based at the Third Area Naval Command in Phuket who has been named as Nanthachai Boon-tharit.

The accident occurred at 1pm on Phet Kasem Road in Takuapa, Phang Nga, about 300 meters from Taimuang Hospital, con-

firmed Taimuang Police captain Chalernsak Aksornpien.

Six foreign passengers were among the injured, emergency service personnel told the *Gazette*.

The driver, Pramual Mande, 39, from Nakhon Sri Thammarat, said the coach was carrying a total of 35 passengers after departing from Surat Thani heading for Phuket.

So far no charges have been brought against the driver while investigations continue, said police.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

# Foreigners arrested for theft

FOUR foreigners were arrested in Hua Hin on November 2 for breaking into a car and stealing 188,000 baht in cash in Surat Thani on October 31.

The suspects were named as Nofadly Bin Bakhtiar from Malaysia, and Asis Bin Bakar, Agung Pratama and Arie Darma from Indonesia.

"On October 31, the victim, 72-year-old Niyom Srisawat, withdrew 188,000 baht in cash from a Krung Thai Bank branch in Surat Thani about 10:30am. He put the money in a brown envelope inside his pick-up truck and then drove to Wat Klang Mai," said Surat Thani Provincial Police Commander Apichart Boonsriroj. "He parked his truck there and walked into the temple. When he returned to his truck about 12:30pm, he found that the window of his truck had been smashed and the cash taken."

The suspects had rented a car in Chonburi about two weeks ago. CCTV footage showed them fleeing to Hua Hin after the incident, so Surat



The four foreigners, arrested in Hua Hin, broke into a car and stole about 190,000 baht in cash. Photo: Suchat Hankij

Thani Police coordinated with their counterparts in Hua Hin to make the arrest.

Mr Bakhtiar was the driver, and Mr Bakar and Mr Pratama kept lookout while Mr Darma kept breaking into the car and stole the money.

All four men confessed to conspiring and were charged with theft.

The suspects had reportedly already spent about 20,000 baht of the stolen money, but Mr

Niyom was able to recover the rest.

A similar incident occurred in Surat Thani last month when a group of foreigners broke into a car, smashed the window, stole 1.5 million baht and fled the country.

"Please be careful when handling large amounts of cash, and if you see something suspicious, report it to the police as soon as possible," said Gen Apichart.

– *Suchat Hankij*

## Phetchaburi floods under control

THE flood situation in Phetchaburi province should return to normal by the end of the week thanks to the integrated response to tackling the problem, the Government said.

Government Spokesman Maj-General Sansern Kaewkamnerd said on November 5 that the inundation in the province's Muang, Ban Lad and Tha Yang districts had eased as the Royal Irrigation Department (RID) had reduced the water discharging rate to only 64 cubic meters per second into the Phetchaburi River.

He said that had been combined with 21 water pumps draining floodwater from affected areas – the economic zone of Muang.

Gen Sansern said that eight water-pumping devices were installed in the river to accelerate the water flowing into the sea. As a result, he said the RID believed the situation should return to normal in two days.

He said Prime Minister General Prayuth Chan-o-cha had urged officials to aid flood victims and give encouragement to officials and victims to overcome the crisis.

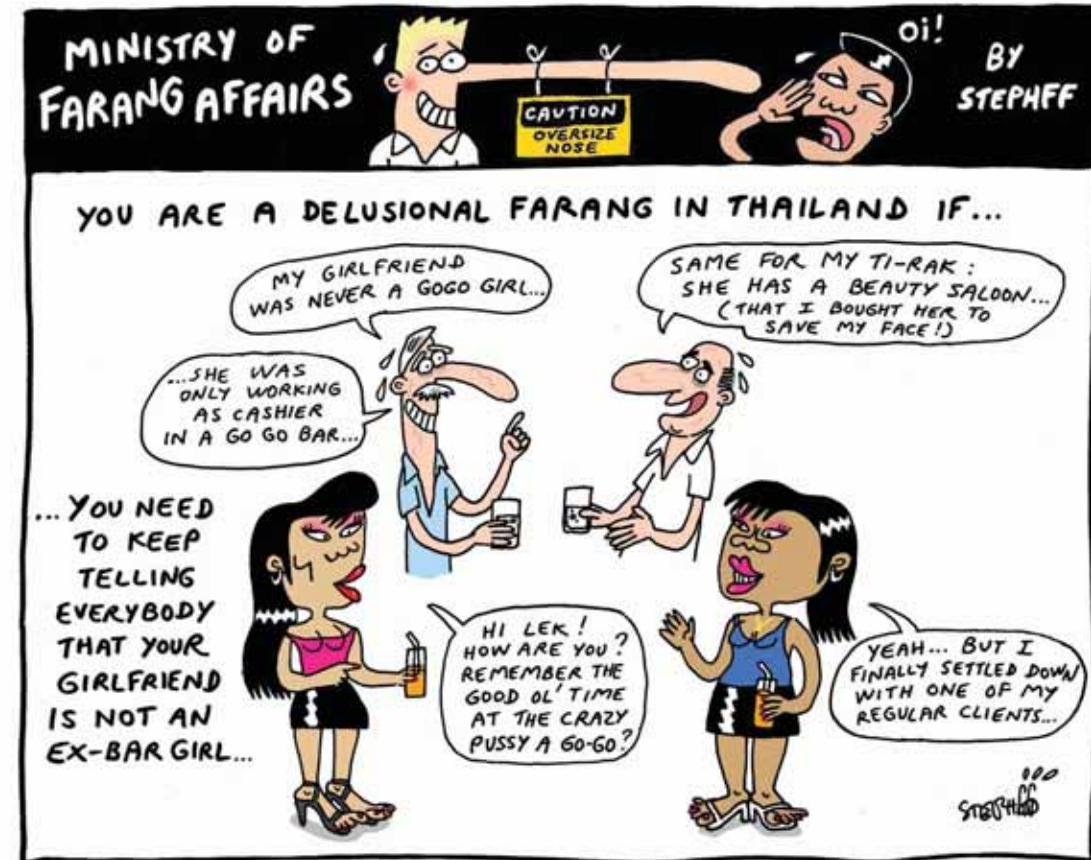
## Movement of people to be prioritized

THE Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) has told volunteers to suspend providing haircut, massage and clothes-dyeing services at Sanam Luang to prioritise the movement of people descending on the area to pay their respects to the King.

Deputy BMA Governor Amnuay Nimmano said that of the some 130,000 people going to Sanam Luang each day, about 30,000 were there to pay respects before His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Royal Urn at the Grand Palace's Dusit Maha Prasart Throne Hall adjacent to the park. The rest took advantage of services provided by volunteers at Sanam Luang, he said.

As a result, he said the Joint Administration Center for Maintaining Peace and Order wanted volunteers providing the services to suspend them to make way for mourners.

As an example, he cited the



distribution of meals being adjusted to three sessions a day to promote better order.

Amnuay also said authorities would act against people who took advantage of mourners such as vendors who sold inappropriate items or services to naive people from the provinces and 'volunteer' motorists that charged people.

Meanwhile, Thammasat University deputy rector Parinya Thewanarumitkul, the director of the Volunteers for Dad coordination centre, revealed that 22,184 people had joined the Volunteers for Dad group to provide services to mourners.

## TV host's clip punching man goes viral

TV HOST Acharanat "Nott" Ariyaratwikel on November 6 sparked anger on the internet after a clip of him furiously punching a motorcycle rider went viral on social media.

The recorded clip shows Acharanat dragging the motorcyclist, Kittisak Singto, by his sweater collar, after he accused Kittisak of scratching the back of his Mini Cooper car. The video shows the TV host punching the motorcyclist in the face a couple of times, and demanding that he prostrate himself before the car.

The incident took place on November 4 in Bangkok's Yannawa district.

According to a local traffic police officer, the 28-year-old

## NATIONAL NEWS Briefly

TV host and Mr Kittisak decided to settle the complaint filed at Yannawa Police Station on the day. Both apologised to each other and no charges were pressed by either one.

Mr Kittisak, according to a traffic policeman, explained

that his motorcycle was bumped from behind by a taxi, which led to his two-wheeler ramming into the Mini Cooper.

Kittisak was unsuccessful in chasing the fleeing taxi but when he returned to the site of the incident, he ran into an angry Acharanat, who allegedly assaulted him.

The motorcyclist, who suffered a broken nose and a swollen face, planned to file a police complaint, along with medical certificates and the clip as evidence.

## More cash crops promoted over rice

THE government is pushing for a comprehensive set of long-term measures to reduce the rice acreage and promoting alternative crops to prevent a repeat of the current rice price slump.

Both short-term and long-term measures were discussed at a second special meeting of the National Rice Policy Committee on November 7, chaired by Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha, as the government is under pressure to help rice farmers hit hard by a record low paddy prices.

Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives Ministry permanent secretary Thirapat Prayoonsithi, held a meeting of senior agriculture officials, and said the ministry would implement proactive measures to encourage farmers to grow cash crops along with rice in a bid to reduce the overall rice acreage.

At present, the first annual rice crop yields about 23 million tonnes of paddy, while the second crop yields another 8 million tonnes. But the government aims to halve the second crop to just 4 million tonnes to prevent an oversupply of milled rice.

Domestic consumption is now about 10 million tonnes of milled rice, while annual exports range from 8-10 million tonnes.

## Phuket Gazette

## The big guns

REPORTS that the newly-formed Phuket Development Company [see page 1] plans long-term investment in the province as a future 'smart city' and regional hub for so-called 'MICE' tourism is potential good news for the island.

The *Phuket Gazette* hopes that in addition to the group's business goals, sustainability and environmental conservation will be included while planning its objectives.

The list of investors in the venture includes members of some of the island's wealthiest families, that have long sought influence over, and support from, the powers-that-be in Bangkok.

The levels of support Phuket has enjoyed have waxed and waned over the years, most notably depending on the relative successes of the locally-powerful Democrat Party and its arch-rival Thai Rak Thai Party – and subsequent reincarnations – under former PM Thaksin Shinawatra.

Perhaps that best example of the how this political ebb-and-flow has stilted Phuket's growth can be seen with the island's decades-old effort to build an international conference and exhibition center somewhere on the island.

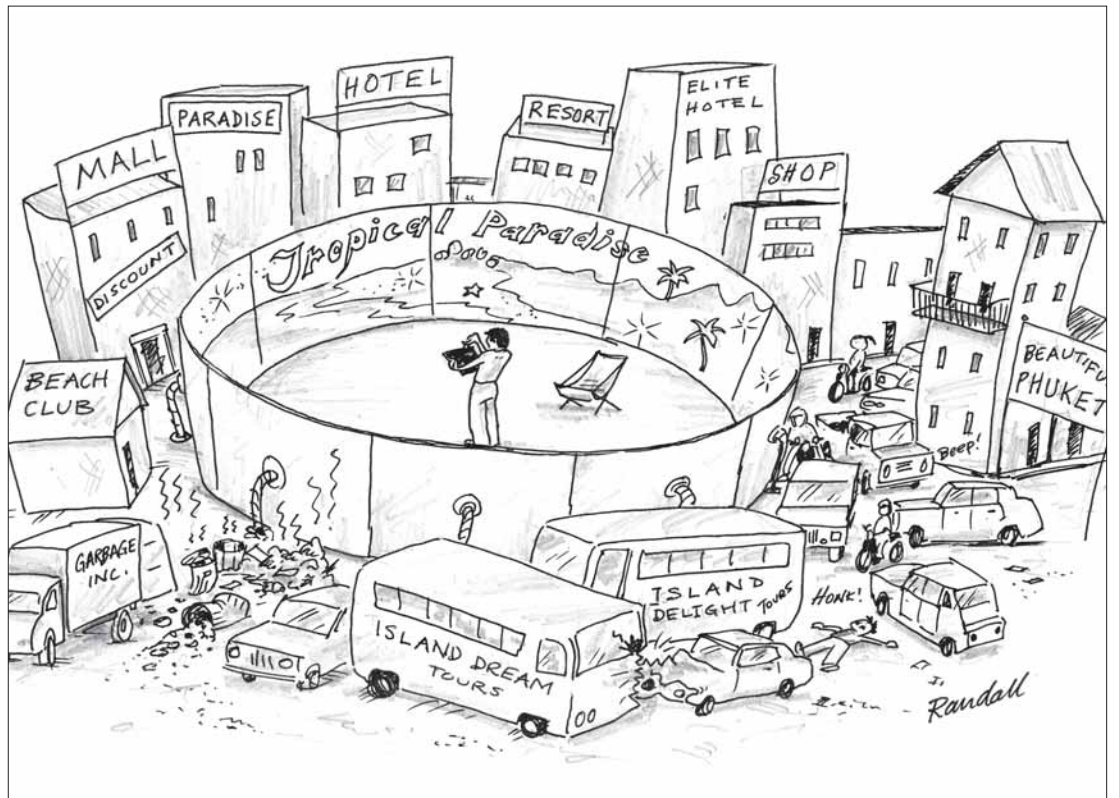
For years, politicians have delayed efforts to find the most suitable location for such a facility, with these families cheerleading sites either located on their own landholdings or close enough to ensure benefits thereto. In the one instance when a site was found and ready to be funded, the project was nixed at the last minute by then premier Yingluck Shinawatra.

It is also worth remembering how these families amassed such enormous wealth. For some, it started during the tin mining era, when members of these families were granted lucrative government concessions to extract tin from state land.

Although these concessions clearly stated that the land was to be returned to the state in a restored condition, many simply planted agricultural products and began paying property tax after their work was complete. This was the first step in the process of claiming it through legally-issued land title deeds. The families were thus able to parley their landholdings into vast fortunes we now see.

Phuket can no longer rely on its natural beauty as the sole means of attracting tourists. As we embark on the ambitious journey, we need to do what we can to preserve what remains.

Any 'development' that sacrifices the environment at the altar of short-term profit is unacceptable.



## RIP to this brave, selfless soldier

Re: Royal wreath ceremony held to honor fallen Phuket soldier, Nov 8

RIP. Thank you to the Thai soldiers who, without my asking, escorted me through Nurathiwat and Pattani for two days as I rode my bicycle into Thailand from Malaysia last year.

All of my experiences with the huge number of soldiers I met on the roads and in the towns of South Eastern Thailand were positive as was the way I was treated by the local people.

Thai hospitality at its best in a troubled part of the country. Thanks again.

Nick Mallett  
Facebook

## Congratulations on the award

Re: *Phuket Gazette* bags 'Best Newspaper in South Thailand' award, Nov 7

Congratulations on the award as best newspaper in the South. Very informative, and love the opportunity to comment on articles in the paper and to read what is happening in and around Phuket.

Keep up the good work. Thank you.

bazza  
Gazette forum

## This tropical paradise is dying

Re: *Opinion: Every cloud has*

Letters  
to the Editor

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

a silver lining, Nov 6

Over the years Patong has generated billions of baht from tourism. Where has this money gone? Certainly not on improving the infrastructure.

It's time officials in Patong and Phuket in general developed some sense of propriety and put something back into this island.

Open your eyes, people; this once tropical paradise is rapidly dying.

arealist  
Gazette forum

## Sympathies for a kind man

Re: *Phuket man dies during final act of kindness*, Nov 7

We can find comfort in knowing he died doing what he loved. RIP kind man.

Tenille Williams  
Facebook

## Teach tourists to be polite and cultured

Re: *Tourist associations tackle overcharging of Chinese visitors*, Nov 8

They should be taught to be polite and about Thai culture and customs first and then they will be welcomed and the over-

charging for the rudeness will stop.

They should be taught not to swim when the red flags are out and never use the cheap speed boat snorkeling trips which costs them so many lives each year.

Surely that's more important than saving them a few hundred baht.

Simon Lomas  
Facebook

## Vendors don't deserve this space

Re: *Patong Mayor unmoved by beach vendors' pleas*, Nov 7

Dear Patong Mayor Chalermluck Kepsup, if you give just one vendor space you most give to everybody, and I think not many off these vendors have ever paid any tax over the last 20 years to the Patong Tax Office. The same with the jet-skis. You get in some tax money from them and the tuk-tuk drivers. Don't give the vendors space.

Bjorn Ronningen  
Gazette forum

## Need to end online hate speech

Re: *Business Buzz: Think before you share online*, Nov 11

Very appropriate, especially given all the hate speech and nonsense being posted online this election season.

Mallory Wharton  
Facebook

The Phuket Gazette is Published  
in association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

Managing Director: Oranee Hildebrand  
General Manager: Natthira Susangrat  
Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

## Contact us:

Editorial: news@phuketgazette.net  
Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net  
Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net  
Website services: anna@phuketgazette.net  
Gazette Guide: guide@phuketgazette.net  
Events Sponsorship: events@phuketgazette.net  
General: info@phuketgazette.net

Telephone: 076 273555 (10 lines) Fax 076 615240  
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket

The views expressed in the *Phuket Gazette* are often those of the writers and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Publisher, the Editor, the shareholders or the directors of The *Phuket Gazette* Co Ltd.

Volume 23 Issue 46

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# Nobody said it was a man's world

## V/Gov Siwaporn says being a woman has nothing to do with her job

### FIRST PERSON

HAVING worked in the Land Department prior to being appointed as the vice governor, I never felt as if I needed to act any differently from the men in my field. However, I do acknowledge that there are some differences between men and women in the workplace. For my part, I always push myself to be better and stronger. In my capacity as vice governor, I am required to go out for inspections. Therefore I must keep myself prepared at all times, for any kind of situation.

I personally believe that as long as I do my best, nobody can say anything. I have always been sincere in my job and given it my best. If we start choosing what jobs are good for men and which ones for women, we won't get anywhere. When I was an inspector, I did not choose to work elsewhere, I was sent and so I had to go.

Once I became the Land Office Chief, I chose to work in Sisaket, a Northeastern province of Thailand. Many people have asked me why I, as a female, chose that province, as it was very far away from all that was familiar and comfortable. The thing is, I never thought of it as a 'man's job' or 'woman's job'. I believe that the quality of the work you do should be the only indicator of the respect and acceptability you gain.

I admit that the position of vice governor is a different field from my previous job, but



**Phuket Vice Governor Siwaporn Chuasawad** is originally from Bangkok, but her family later moved to Samut Prakan in an official capacity, as her father worked for the Royal Thai Navy. She assumed her current post on October 10, together with two other vice governors. Her husband has recently been appointed as Deputy Director of the Phuket Land Department.

V/Gov Siwaporn earned her Bachelor's in Law from Thammasat University and Master's in Public Administration from Burapha University.

She started her career in 1987 as a technocrat in the Land Department. She has worked in several provinces in Thailand, including Phuket, before taking up the post of Phuket Vice Governor. She was previously working as an inspector at the Land Department in Bangkok.

Here she talks about the different aspects and challenges of her position as a high ranking official.

I have done my research in the past weeks and rapidly learnt about what needs to be done here on the island.

As per Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan's orders, I am in charge of societal and economic matters. This is a large area and requires me to coordinate with several departments to get the job done. These fields are interconnected in many ways. Societal matters are concerned with migrant workers and laborers, including issues of social security. This, in turn, is connected to the economy and tourism. So several departments are included in the process and we need to work

**I always push myself to be better and stronger. I personally believe that as long as I do my best, nobody can say anything. I have always been sincere to my job and given it my best**

— **Phuket Vice Governor Siwaporn Chuasawad**

with all of them. Each department has its own responsibility and authority. I work as a point of contact for everyone and ensure that all aspects of the situation are evaluated and considered. This prevents bias and one-sided opinions.

I understand that the government has rules and procedures that must be followed. However, when things get delayed sometimes, it is my job to ensure that the concerned department gets the necessary push to expedite the process.

One of the most important

things, from my point of view, is having a database. If we work with confusing, inaccurate or slow to extract information, it affects important decisions, causing them to be delayed or misjudged. That is why I am urging each department under my watch to have an accurate, up-to-date database of information. It is also important to connect with others and share relevant information with them, so that all departments can benefit from it and provide better services to the public.

For instance, the Tourism Association records a certain number of tourists, while hotel associations may have a completely different one. So we have to find out what information is missing and why, and make it more accurate and complete. Governor Chokchai expressed a similar point of view when he spoke of the concept of 'one information'. I know that it is a complicated

and time consuming task, but we are working on it.

The main challenge is how to get an updated database from all departments, both official and private. My job becomes that much more challenging when I have little or outdated information to work with. It is essential for me to know as much as possible, in order to make informed, insightful decisions.

I always remember His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's royal words to guide me in my work. Every official has surely faced this problem in their life, that they feel they are working hard, but are not moving forward in their work. So I think of His Majesty's words, "We work to fulfill our duty, not for the sake of rewards. When we do our best in our endeavors, that is the greatest reward in itself".

I have been reading these words since I was very young. Sometimes I felt like I was doing a great job, but not getting promoted, while others around me were prospering even though they hadn't worked as hard as I had. So I always remind myself of these words for inspiration.

Another saying of His Majesty tells us that we must have knowledge in three areas: academics, coordination and procedure. These are truly the most useful skills of all.

As I said before, we cannot work alone. We must connect and network with each other. Neither government, nor private sectors can work alone. This includes the media as well. We all need to pool our knowledge and resources to work together and move forward.

## Words from the Wise

**"I have made the tough decisions, always with an eye toward the bottom line. Perhaps it's time America was run like a business."**

— *Donald Trump*

**"The worst thing that can happen in a democracy - as well as in an individual's life - is to become cynical about the future and lose hope."**

— *Hillary Clinton*

## Issues & Answers

### How do I file a report for stolen helmet?

I PARKED my bike outside the domestic terminal at Phuket International Airport over the weekend. When I came back, my helmet had been stolen.

I asked around, but was told that there were no security cameras. It seems to me like airport officials are not taking any responsibility about lost items in their area. Is there really no CCTV on the premises?

Concerned  
Phuket

**Phuket Airport Security Center Officer Wisarut Massaman replied:**

We do have CCTV cameras

on the premises. However, you have to report to Saku Police Station that your helmet has been stolen, in order to take a look at the CCTV footage.

This is because we have a security policy for CCTV inspection and cannot allow you to view it without a proper report.

Sorry for any inconvenience caused to you. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any further queries. You can call the airport directly at 076-351111.

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)

## Bank of Thailand reports rise in public spending



Consumer confidence is up this year. Photo: Snapwiresnaps

THE country's economy in the third quarter of this year expanded on the back of public spending and saw a steady growth in private consumption, according to the latest analysis by the Bank of Thailand.

In particular, consumer confidence improved from the previous quarter, thanks to domestic factors such as a rise in income for farmers as they recovered from drought earlier in the year.

Exports have picked up and the tourism sector has continued to expand, despite the Mother's Day bombing incidents and the Government's clamp down on zero-dollar tour operators.

However, private investment contracted with the import of capital goods remaining lower than the same period in 2015. The construction sector also slowed along with a decline in real estate development.

The rate of inflation declined slightly from last quarter as raw food prices dropped following the end of the drought. Unemployment marginally decreased, mainly owing to

greater employment in the agricultural sector.

The current account posted a surplus, thanks both to the low level of imports and to high tourism receipts.

In September, the Thai economy expanded at a greater pace than in August with public spending expanding well and remaining an important growth driver, the report stated, revealing that the value of merchandise exports improved in several categories, which helped compensate for the initial effects on tourism, following the Government's regulation on zero-dollar tour operators.

Private investment in September increased slightly with larger imports of capital goods of export-oriented manufacturing sectors. Meanwhile, private consumption expanded at a slower pace relative to earlier periods, owing to lower spending on non-durable goods.

An increase in the headline inflation rate was attributed to higher domestic petroleum prices.

— *The Nation*

# Kata Group taps into trillion-yuan wedding market



Phuket-based Kata Group has launched a range of hospitality products aimed at attracting thousands of Chinese honeymooners to Phuket over the next three years. Photo: Kata Group

By Chutharat Plerin

KATA Group Resorts Thailand aims to host up to 2,000 weddings in Phuket over the next three years after forming an alliance with Travel Wedding (Beijing) to exploit the growing market of Chinese honeymooners.

The group, which owns seven hotels in Thailand, this month launched a range of wedding and honeymoon products to be exclusively promoted in China, to the country's outbound tourist market, with their China-based strategic partner Hunluhao Co, which operates Travel Wedding Beijing.

Pramookpisitt Achariya-chai, Kata Group Resort's chairman, said that China has become Thailand's largest and fastest growing tourism market since the visa-on-arrival policy was introduced.

"We aim to solidify the group's leading position in the wedding and honeymoon industry and make Phuket known as a must-go wedding

destination," he said.

Hunluhao's CEO Zhang Sihua said almost half of the 12 million Chinese couples getting married each year go abroad for their honeymoons.

"China's population is more than 1.3 billion and the wedding industry has expanded to 1.5 trillion renminbi (yuan) a year, which is 2.7 per cent of China's GDP. More than 5 million Chinese go abroad each year to take wedding photos," he said.

"With increasing incomes, information symmetry and rapid improvements in transportation infrastructure, foreign destinations have become an ever more popular choice for potential newlyweds," said the CEO.

"Destination weddings, wedding dress photo shoots and honeymooning will allow Chinese couples to experience something completely different to a domestic wedding – stunning scenery, foreign cultures and a honey-

moon all at the same time.

"This is the project's core competency. Through Sino-Thai vertical integration, our products will have a leading advantage in terms of service, markets, and channels, giving us a competitive edge in the Chinese market," he said.

Mr Pramookpisitt added that the resort chain will offer global-standard products and services especially for the Chinese market.

"This strategic cooperation with China is part of Kata Group's strategy to differentiate products, shift into the high-end segment and penetrate deeply into the market," said Mr Pramookpisitt.

"The group benefits from this vertical integration cooperation as it allows us to more thoroughly understand the Chinese consumer. With a united and consistent sales and marketing strategy, our coalition will raise product awareness and sales."

	<b>Siam International</b> 38/54 Nanai Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150	
	❖ Legal consultation ❖ Company formations ❖ Notarial certifications ❖ Contracts ❖ Work permits ❖ Bookkeeping ❖ Visa service ❖ Translations	Contact: K. Joy Tel: 076 346 149 : 076 346 150 Fax: 076 345 413 Email: joy_siaminter@hotmail.com siamint@loxinfo.co.th

# Thailand's iPhone 7 cheapest in SEA

THE cost of the new iPhone 7 in the US is significantly cheaper than other countries, including Thailand. Reasons for this difference in pricing range from export/import costs, tax and fees imposed by the countries respective governments.

In Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines, where the iPhone 7 has yet to be officially launched, Apple enthusiasts have resorted to getting the phone from abroad in the hope of being one of the first to own it.

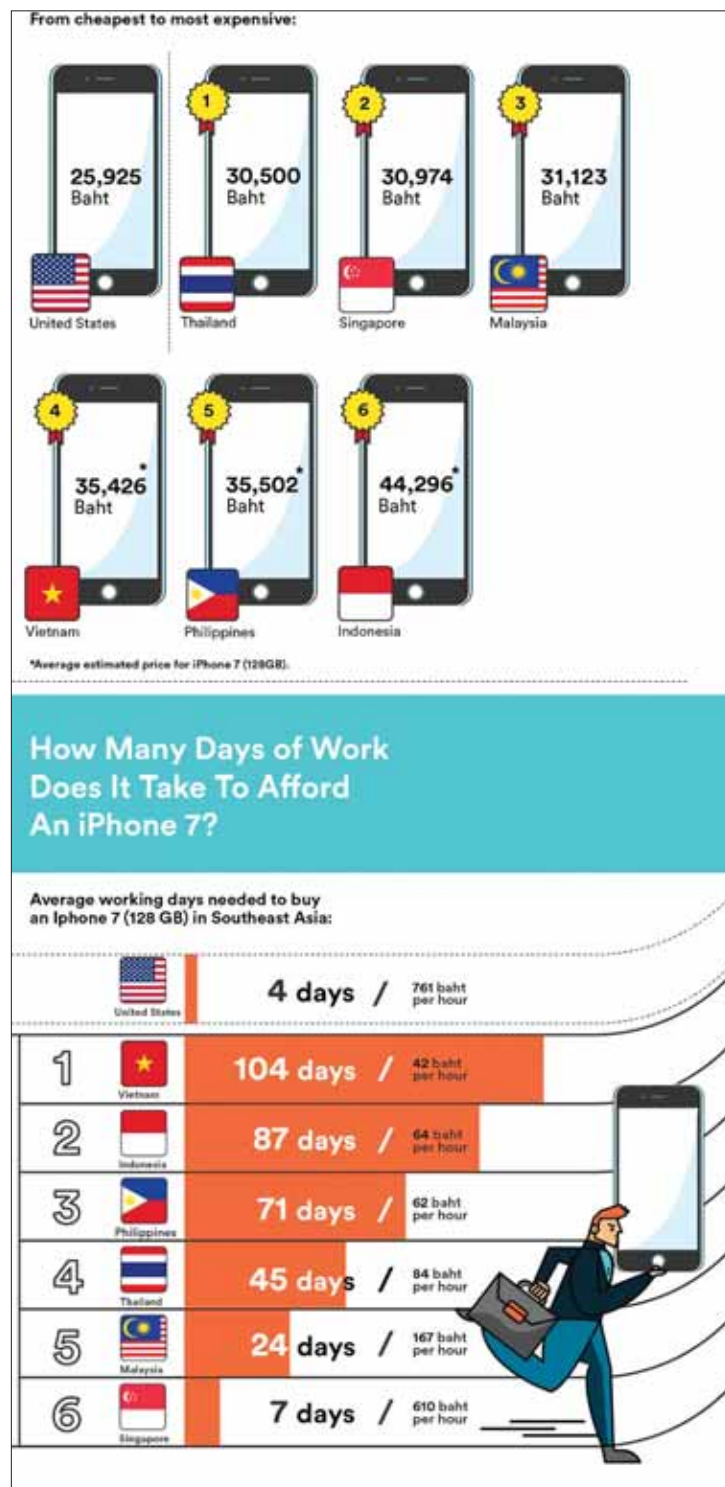
Unauthorized retailers are purchasing this latest model from countries including Singapore and Hong Kong, where it has been officially launched. The phones are then

resold in their respective countries at higher prices, which can go up by 14 per cent in Vietnam.

Compared with other South-east Asian countries, unauthorized stores in Thailand were initially offering the new iPhone at the highest price point, US\$1,340.

The iPhone 7 was officially launched on October 21 by AIS, Dtac and True. The price is in the range of US\$800-900 (30,000 baht) for a 128 GB model. Thai people now enjoy the cheapest price of iPhone 7 in Southeast Asia; they are willing to work for approximately 45 days to get this latest technology.

- *Phuket Gazette*



# Phuket Gazette bags 'Best Regional Newspaper in Southern Thailand' award

THE *Phuket Gazette* is honored to have been named 'Best Newspaper in South Thailand' at the prestigious Thailand Professionals Business & Lifestyle Awards in Bangkok on November 5.

In presenting the award, the organizers noted that readership was the key criterion in arriving at their decision to favor the *Gazette*.

With national distribution throughout Thailand, the newspaper is the largest English-language publication in or about Phuket. Additionally, it ranks as the third largest English-language newspaper in Thailand.

The *Gazette* became a national newspaper in June of last year when it switched to compact format (like the *Wall Street Journal* and *Daily Telegraph*) and became an integral part of *The Nation*, with a circulation of 30,000 copies every weekend, vs the roughly 5,000 it had when restricted as a purely provincial publication in Phuket alone.

"One of the main reasons we moved to compact was that we wanted to reach not only the locally resident international communities all over Thailand, but also tourists at the most effective gateway, which we took to be the airlines," said John Magee, the paper's publisher.

"By simply changing the shape and weight of our product, we immediately got several



The *Phuket Gazette* is aboard all 12 major world airlines arriving into Bangkok and/or Phuket every weekend.

thousand newspapers aboard all 12 major world airlines arriving into Bangkok and/or Phuket every weekend," he added.

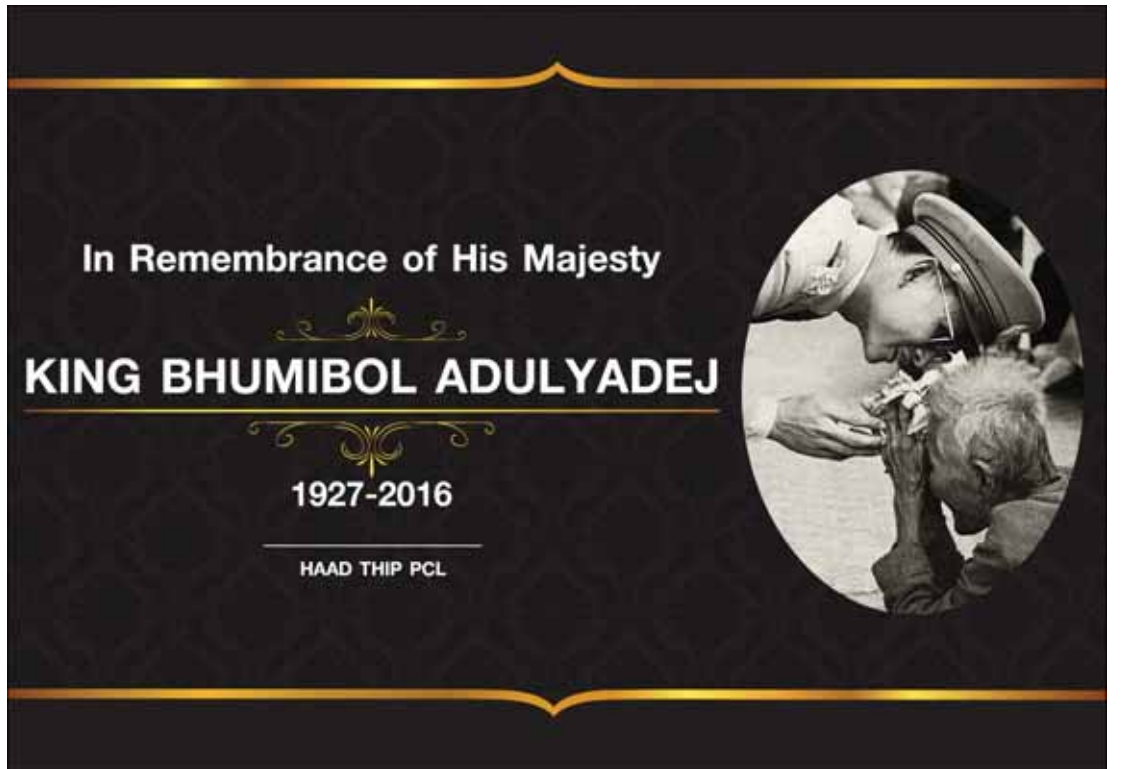
Domestically, the *Gazette* is also aboard all Thai Airways flights between Bangkok and Phuket.

The newspaper was established in 1993 and now offers the *Gazette Online*, the most heavily trafficked English-language website on the island (Source: Google

*Analytics*); the leading Facebook page, with more than 130,000 Likes; and PGTV, the well known video production business.

On September 29, the company launched *Gazette Radio* [phuketgazette.net/phuketradio], which, according to its producer Simon Hand, broadcasts "news all day, as well as some of the best jazz, blues and lounge music on air".

- *Phuket Gazette*



# Jungceylon populates reefs

Jungceylon Patong Phuket executives released 10,000 fish and other aquatic animals into the sea at Hae Island last week to help revive marine stocks in the area, where they have placed artificial reefs.



Jungceylon Chief Executive Officer Prawit Janyasittikul (4th right) and Dr Kritsanadej Jaroensutasinee, director of the Center of Excellence for Eco informatics, with Jungceylon staff on Hae Island, where the organization has sponsored the building of artificial reefs.



Jungceylon CEO Prawit Janyasittikul (left) and Dr Kritsanadej Jaroensutasinee with one of the lobsters that was released.

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**Events in Paradise**

**Gecko kids and Marriott associates team up to clean up Nai Yang Beach**

Phuket Marriott Resort & Spa, Nai Yang Beach, joined forces with children from Gecko school for a major beach cleaning exercise on October 31.



Students and teachers from Phuket's Gecko School descended on Nai Yang Beach on the west coast along with associates from the resort to remove litter from the sand and keep the area pristine for locals and resort guests.

**Gazette greets Phuket Governor Chokchai**

Phuket Gazette executives paid a visit to the Governor's Office on November 2 to greet the province's latest governor, Dr Chokchai Dejamornthan.



Publisher of the Phuket Gazette John Magee (2nd right) and General Manager Natthira Susangrat with Phuket Governor Chokchai Detamornthan and the CEO of Scholars Co, Aine Kaahui (right).

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# Photographer recreates photos of HM

WITH THE entire nation still in a state of mourning after the passing of His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej, his subjects are choosing to remember him in various ways. Some are making merit for their beloved King by feeding mourners at Sanam Luang, others through art and music. Apisit Supakitcharoen, however, has come up with a novel way of honoring the late King.

Two weeks after the Monarch passed away, Mr Apisit posted a series of photos of himself holding a picture of the King, using the background of the original shot as the backdrop for his own photo. Gripping the hearts of thousands of Thais, the photos quickly went viral and have been shared more than 50,000 times in less than a month.

Mr Apisit, 35, an amateur shutterbug, says he took the photos in an attempt to spread the word about the King's



Left: His Majesty at Wat Bowonniwet Vihara. Right: HM paying his respects at a statue of King Rama V. Photos: Apisit Supakitcharoen



good deeds.

"It took me by surprise when my little project went viral. When my friends saw the photos, they asked me to set the privacy level to public so they could share it with their friends and in less than a day, my photos were everywhere. My Facebook followers went

from about 100 to 6,000," he said.

Mr Apisit went through the internet to search for photos and information about the locations in which the originals were shot, then planned his trips.

"They brought a smile to my face when I was shooting

them," he says. "I really love this set of photos. Taking them made me feel like I was there with the King and the royal family. I felt like I was the official photographer for that day. I was so thrilled."

"My generation was probably the last that had a chance to see His Majesty when he was

still active and going on field trips to develop the land. That formed a close bond between the King and his people. The younger generation – or 'Gen Me' – have only seen the old footage or old photos so they never really understand how dedicated our King was."

– *The Nation*

## Kata Group to host its 18th King's Cup Regatta

THE Phuket King's Cup Regatta Under Royal Patronage will once again be hosted at Kata Beach Resort & Spa, one of six properties owned and managed by Kata Group.

The resort is the long-established home of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta with a partnership that stretches back to 1998. With its beachfront location on one of Phuket's most scenic bays, Regatta participants and general tourists at large return year-after-year to enjoy this special home of the King's Cup.

Kata Beach Resort and Spa serves as Race Control center, media center, and venue for the Opening Ceremony (December 4, 2016) and Closing Award Ceremony (December 10, 2016). The group also houses staff of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee and its support teams, as well as providing high quality accommodation to sponsor representatives and VIP attendees.

Pramookpisitt Achariyachai, President of Kata Group Resorts Thailand, said, "Kata Group Resorts is proud to be supporting one of HM the late King Bhumibol of Thailand's worthy causes, namely his dedication to the sport of sailing in Thailand. To host the regatta is an honor and I personally believe that Phuket has all the right ingredients for the



Kevin Whitcraft (left), President of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee welcomes Pramookpisitt Achariyachai (right), President of Kata Group Resorts Thailand, the Host Sponsor of the 30th Anniversary Phuket King's Cup Regatta. Photo: Gazette file

regatta to keep growing. Being a host sponsor of such a prestigious event can draw in crowds and interest on the global scale, helping promote Phuket as one of the top sailing destinations. It also serves to support the province's policy in making Phuket a world sports paradise, as it attempts to attract notable sporting events such as golf, tennis and beach volleyball."

Kevin Whitcraft, President of the Regatta's Organizing Committee, said, "On behalf on the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee, we are delighted that Kata Group has decided to continue its sponsorship into its 18th consecutive year. The resort really is part of our very own heritage of passion. Over the years, the Phuket King's Cup Regatta has been

the arena for epic, close-quarter sailing action, whilst it also enjoys a reputation for its hospitality and a series of opening and closing ceremonies.

Kata Group has an exceptional reputation for supporting tourism in Phuket, and has made a massive and ongoing contribution to Phuket becoming one of Asia's leading sporting destinations."

The Phuket King's Cup Regatta will go ahead as planned with its 30th Anniversary this year. The regatta was inaugurated in 1987 to mark the 60th birthday of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, and now continues to commemorate the Royal grace of HM the King, who for decades encouraged the promotion of sailing as a sport in Thailand. This year's event serves to honor the memory of the late King, his life and his countless achievements in the name of his beloved country.

The Phuket King's Cup Regatta is Asia's biggest regatta, and has recently been awarded the prestigious 2016 Asia Boating Awards – Best Asian Regatta. It is a one-week event held annually in Phuket which will be held off Kata Beach from 3-10 December, 2016.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, and the large fleet of sailors scheduled to take part in the event, the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Under Royal Patronage is honored to commemorate the late King, his dedication to all Thai people, and particularly his skills, passion and contribution to the world of sailing.

The *Phuket Gazette* is proud to be a media partner of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta.

– *Phuket Gazette*

# M/Y Narvalo wins superyacht design award



Cantiere delle Marche's explorer yacht M/Y Narvalo won the 'ISS Leadership And Design Award 2016' in the category Best Interior Design. Photo: Cantiere delle Marche

THE International Superyacht Society (ISS) has awarded Cantiere delle Marche's explorer yacht M/Y Narvalo the 'ISS Leadership And Design Award 2016' in the category Best Interior Design.

Designed by Nauta Yachts and built at the Ancona shipyard in Italy, the 108-foot steel and aluminum vessel was given the prestigious award after a highly selective voting mechanism, according to the society. The votes are from competent and objective individuals such as professionals, designers and, in many cases, even owners or Super Megayacht construction sites managers.

Joshua Lee, founder and managing director of Phuket-

based yacht dealership Lee Marine – the sole distributor for Cantiere delle Marche vessels in the Asia-Pacific region – said: "M/Y Narvalo impressed the judges for the wise use of items that are recognized as icons of Italian style, placed and mixed with the elegant and timeless architecture, interior design and carpentry, typical of Nauta Yachts."

"We congratulate Cantiere delle Marche for their well-deserved award. This yacht builder has revolutionized the world of explorer yachts, making them lightweight yet strong enough to sail the oceans in the most severe weather conditions," said Mr Lee.

– *Phuket Gazette*

# All aboard for the second Thailand Yacht Show

THE forthcoming edition of the Thailand Yacht Show is gearing up to take place at Ao Po Grand Marina from December 15-18.

The show will offer something for everyone, and we've put together a list of some of the show's highlights. Make sure you don't miss out on any of the excitement.

– *Phuket Gazette*



Ocean Emerald cruises back into the Thailand Yacht Show.



L-R: Boat Lagoon's Prestige 500, Lee Marine's Atari VI and Simpson Marine's Sanlorenzo 46 Steel, Forwin.



L-R: 5. The Demo Platform at the TYS and Leopard Catamarans' Leopard 51 PC.



L-R: Galeon 450's Asian Premier, Hype Lounge returning with daily morning cruises and a magnificent early morning view of Phang Nga Bay.

# French Consul holds first aid workshop



THE French Honorary Consul of Phuket is holding the first in a series of basic first aid workshops at Bangkok Hospital Phuket on November 17.

Organized in collaboration with Bonjour Phuket, the workshop starts at 7pm and will be conducted in French, compris-

ing about 15 minutes of theory by a qualified medic from Noumea Hospital, followed by practical demonstration by a member of the Paris Fire Brigade.

"All are welcome to join. However the number of participants is limited to 20. The session is free of charge for Bonjour Phuket members but there is a 100 baht fee for non-members," said organizer Eric Bianchetti.

For more information about the November 17 workshop and future sessions, contact Bonjour Phuket. Tel: 062-242 3006.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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# Pattaya jumps aboard marine tourism trend



YACHTING in the Gulf of Thailand is nothing new but it is fair to say that the Andaman Sea region has grown much more quickly and has a much larger marine leisure industry than the Gulf of Thailand.

Think Phuket and Pattaya; some would say they are chalk and cheese on so many levels.

While Phuket's abundance of nearby islands and stunning cruising grounds are known around the globe and exploited by the TAT at every opportunity, Pattaya and surrounds are often given scant attention. The region is overlooked.

Not for much longer.

The Gulf of Thailand, however, is home to 187 islands – a fact often unknown or conveniently ignored (you decide). Ocean Marina – the only international standard marina in the area – is in fact the largest in Southeast Asia. It has more than 380 berths and space for further expansion.

Pattaya's marine industry is driven by boats predominantly owned by Thai and expat residents, and the marine tourism craft used predominantly for day trips.

The number of visiting international yachts are few and far between. While Phuket welcomes between 1,200 and



Ocean Marina and the Pattaya region are ready for boom in marine tourism. Photo: Gazette file

1,500 international yachts in any given year, the number that visit Pattaya annually can be counted on two hands.

The problem isn't the on-shore facilities, which are impressive. The issue has been with the Customs Department, and in particular the application of the law on the temporary import of personal vehicles, under which yachts fall.

The law itself is quite clear. An international visiting yacht can receive six months stay upon request, which can be extended another six months and potentially up to 18 months if all relevant conditions are met. This has been the case for a long time in Phuket and the re-

sults are there for all to see. However, application in Pattaya has not been the same.

In general, the Customs Department in Pattaya have followed the Immigration Department's lead. When a skipper receives a visa upon arrival, the Customs Department allows the yacht to be temporarily imported for between two to four weeks to match the skipper's visa.

This results in few international yachts entering the Gulf of Thailand but this has now changed following a recent announcement by the region's Customs Department.

"The Customs Department in Pattaya has agreed that the 'Tem-

porary Importation Permit for Visiting Foreign Vessels' will allow international yachts to stay for up to six months at a time, and can be extended in-country. This opens up the region's potential to visiting yachts from overseas," noted Mrs Montira Cherdchoo, the director of Map Ta Phut Customs House, at a recent press conference.

Dr Tirachai Pipitsupaphol, the managing director of Ocean Property, who has been lobbying the Customs Department to apply the rule fair and equal for all of Thailand, said, "Many people are not aware of the beauty of this region. There are 187 islands in the Gulf of Thailand with 43 within one hour

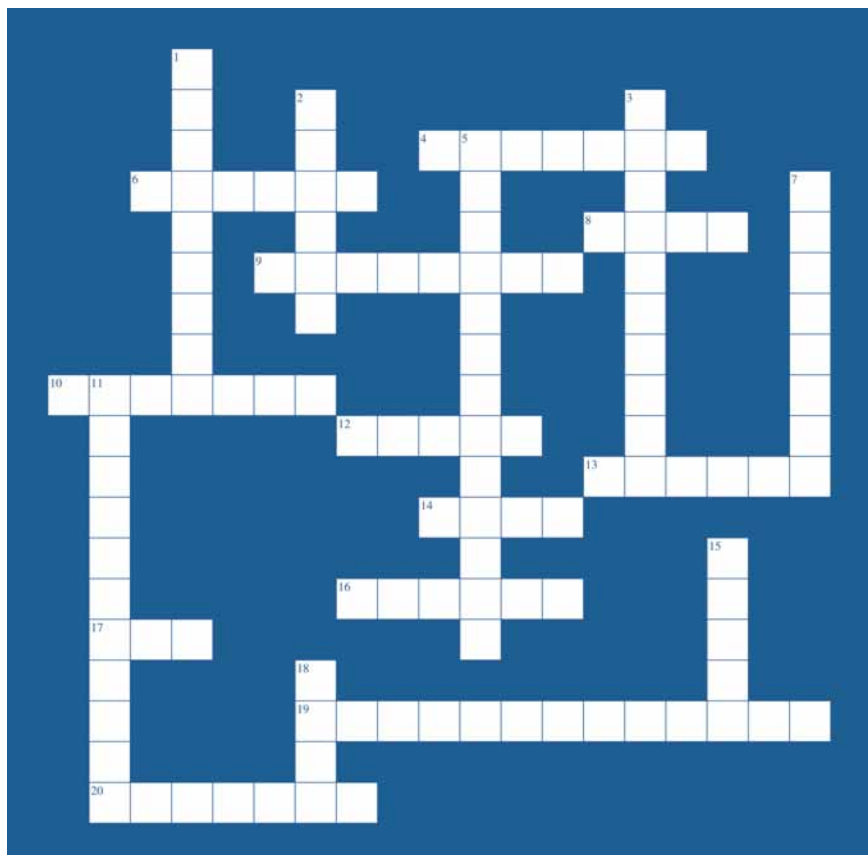
by boat of Ocean Marina itself. The cruising grounds are spectacular and the extended stay allowed for foreign yachts will help open up the region. This is a very positive move and the region is ready to welcome more than a thousand foreign yachts annually."

What does this mean for Pattaya?

There will be two very clear positive impacts for the marine industry. Firstly, more international yachts will visit the area, meaning more money spent in the local economy and marine industry.

Secondly, boats will stay longer in the area. What this means is boats will cruise around the Gulf of Thailand, spending more time and money in the region, and spreading that money around the region further. On the back of this, expect to see the area's refit and repair industry grow. The facilities are there, the skills and craftsmanship is present and Pattaya's proximity to Bangkok adds to the draw. What does this mean for Phuket's marine industry? In one word: competition.

*Duncan Worthington is a long time Phuket resident and through Infinity Communications (www.infinity-comms.com) consults to leading consumer brands, hospitality and marine clients in Thailand. In his 'spare time' he runs the marine portal www.MarineScene.asia. #OnDeckPhuket*



## Gazette Crossword

Test your word power and knowledge.

### Across

- 4. Pink feline
- 6. The Penny Black and Inverted Jenny are these
- 8. Wearing
- 9. North African staple
- 10. Woody Allen sci-fi slapstick
- 12. Alcohol from apples
- 13. Virus or horse
- 14. Mild mannered
- 16. Experienced personal guide
- 17. Peep
- 19. Bird lover
- 20. Gland found in the neck that regulates growth

### Down

- 1. To grow crops
- 2. Convey liquid through a tube
- 3. First in their class
- 5. Accessories
- 7. 26 miles
- 11. Emits light
- 15. Light brown
- 18. Desert in Mongolia / China

Solution on opposite page.



**Family Law/Custody /Divorce/Will**

**Child Adoption**

**Notary Public**

**Litigation (Civil & Criminal Cases)**

**Company Setup**

**Business Contracts Property Law/Due Diligence**

**Visa & Work Permit**

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# Putting annuals on display



ALL GARDENERS know about annuals, biennials and perennials: annuals bloom only once, and will need to be replanted or re-sown the following year. Biennials, on the other hand, generally flower the year after they have been planted and then give up the ghost, while perennials, in the right conditions, will come back year after year.

If the distinction is sometimes blurred in a tropical garden, it is because many flowering plants in Phuket do not die back completely, as the temperature never drops low enough to kill them off. For example, *pelargoniums* [geraniums], which in Europe are generally grown as annuals because of winter frosts, enjoy an extended life-cycle in the tropics.

Nonetheless, general rules of thumb do apply and most annuals in your Phuket garden will flower for only one season. So why bother with them? After all, shrubs will go on year after year, often with minimal maintenance. Many reasons: annuals provide a brilliant range of colors, bloom more-or-less continuously during their solitary season, often possess both single and double forms, and generally flower at a manageable height where their striking hues can be fully appreciated.

Annuals with a low habit include petunias, impatiens [busy



Gerberas are tender annuals and one of the most dazzling of all the daisies. Photo: Mitch Ames

lissies], alyssum, *gazanias*, *gerberas*, pansies and *lobelias*. Taller plants include *rudbeckias* [black-eyed Susan], snapdragons, larkspurs, hollyhocks, statice, and cosmos daisies.

Personal favorites, because they invariably grow well in Phuket, are African marigolds [*tagetes*] and *gomphrenas*. As with the best annuals, *gomphrena globosa* – also known as bachelor button – produces its globular, tightly-packed flowers continuously, especially if you dead-head the old bracts. The standard color is deep magenta, but there is also a russet-red cultivar that can be readily propagated from packeted seed. As it hails from

Central America, it is perfectly at home in a Thai bed or container.

A spectacular member of the sunflower family, *gerberas* are tender annuals that turn up in pots in some garden centers, but less often in actual gardens. It is one of the most dazzling of all the daisies, with large flowers – pink, white, red or yellow – that may be as much as twelve centimeters across, and with a striking center that consists of hundreds of tightly packed florets. Sometimes this center or *capitulum* is a contrasting black. *Gerberas* require full sun, mildly acidic soil for preference, and regular watering in the dry season.

Although they belong to the same family of *asteraceae*, African marigolds are much less fussy about conditions. Moreover, *tagetes erecta* has a happy tendency to self-seed, so last year's crop often reappears, phoenix-like, in the form of seedlings. The large, densely petaled heads are usually chrome yellow or deep orange in color, and are often used to provide a vivid border for flower beds.

The smaller French marigold has a neater habit and russet red flowers often tipped with yellow. Both have attractive, pinnate leaves and both are said to deter certain root-eating invertebrates, such as

*nematodes*. When crushed, the leaves exude a pleasant, musky odor. Packets of seeds are widely available, but you may be able to beg, borrow or steal some from a fellow gardener.

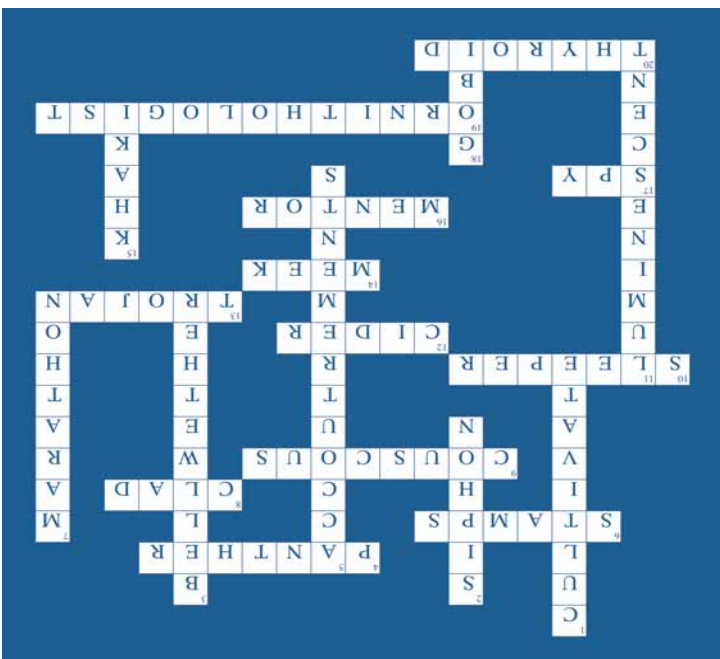
The *zinnia* originates from Mexico and like the other members of the aster family already alluded to, enjoys the sunny climate of south Thailand. *Zinnia violaceae* is one of the most colorful of plants. Apart from the varied flowers which range in shape from dome to daisy-like, the *zinnia* has a palate of colors matched by few flowers: white, yellow, orange, red, purple and even green. The flowers appear, characteristically, as single dramatic blooms at the end of long stems and are much loved by butterflies. Some gardeners grow them expressly to encourage *lepidoptera*.

But they are striking flowers in their own right, easy to grow from seed, and, like African marigolds, usually re-appear as seedlings in the following year. Two observations: though they grow in the wild in central America, they appreciate a moist, humus-rich soil and a modicum of shade. Otherwise they will be stunted and produce small flowers. Secondly, do not expect the re-seeded versions to replicate the colors of their parents. They may well not do so.

If you have gardening or environmental concerns, contact Patrick at [drpaccampbell@gmail.com](mailto:drpaccampbell@gmail.com). Many of his creative and academic publications can be found at his website: [GreenGaloshes.com](http://GreenGaloshes.com).

## Crossword Solution

Turn the page upside down to read the answers.



# How to lose a property sale



**Property Watch**  
Desmond Hughes

SOME of you will have had the feeling of seeing the bus you are waiting for gliding by just seconds before you reach the bus stop. Others will only be able to empathize, perhaps comparing their experience of their Mercedes breaking down and a mechanic not being immediately available to fix the issue. Whatever part of the wealth spectrum you occupy, the sensation of just missing out should not have escaped you.

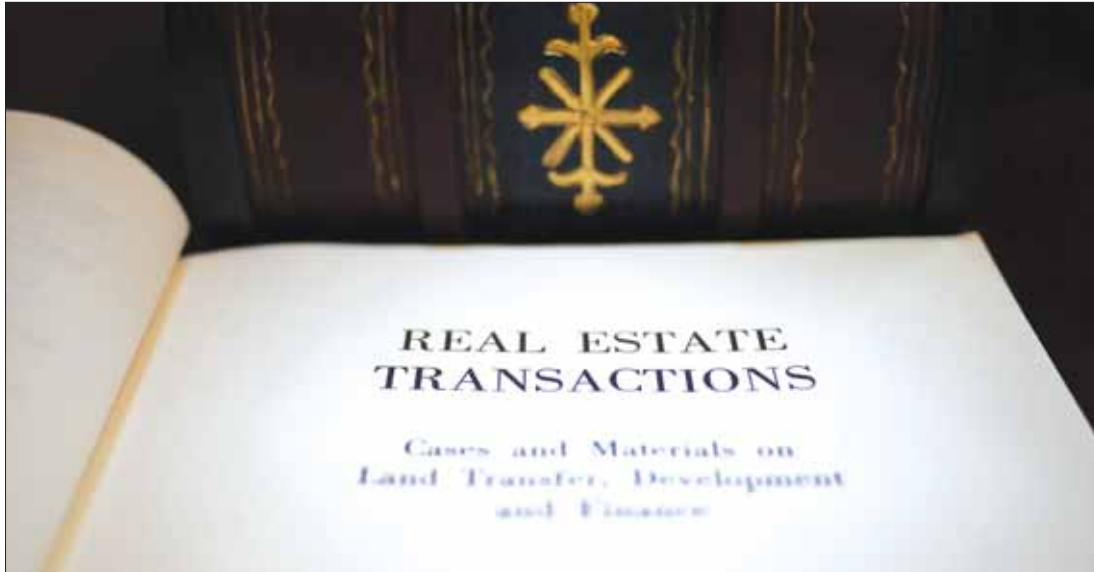
In Phuket it seems that some are destined to experience that feeling in relation to trying to sell their property. Others adopt wiser strategies and some learn the hard way.

Selling a property isn't just a matter of contacting your sales agent to produce particulars, and listing or marketing the property on a website containing hundreds if not thousands of offerings.

Here is a quasi tongue-in-cheek guide on how to partially jeopardize, or worse, completely ruin a potential property sale:

1. Don't fix it up properly or make essential repairs. If you really want to annoy a potential buyer, then totally ignore even the most obvious defects – leaking taps, exposed 'Blue Pipes' – you all know the pipes I am talking about. Leave the outside walls unpainted because you are waiting for the estate manager to do it. If you really want to potentially blow your property sale, be as lazy as possible.

2. Don't bother to inventorize



**Selling a property isn't just a matter of contacting your sales agent to produce particulars, and marketing the property on a website.** Photo: Blogtrepreneur

the contents. It seems that with all the property and home shows on TV these days, everyone who has owned a property once is a property expert. Let's just sell it 'as is' appears to be the solution to not doing anything to actually prepare for the fact that a buyer will want to know if the headboard for the bed will still be there when they move in. You actually will have to inventorise all items, including fixed air conditioning units and preferably state how old they are. This isn't so the buyer can challenge you. It is so the buyer can't ask for this at a time it is inconvenient or too late for you to produce.

3. Start off thinking only about how you want to sell the property, and not what the buyer wants, and then when the buyer states their preferences, change your position without time to prepare. The most common issue is when a property has been

placed into a corporate structure – either in Thailand or through leasehold and building ownership – outside Thailand, but a buyer does not want to take over such a structure, and would prefer a new structure of their own. In these circumstances, a seller will be caught off guard and might have already agreed an 'absolute' purchase price. It is far harder to negotiate backwards than forwards. At the outset a price should link to the way in which the property is sold. If the method of sale is more expensive for a seller, and the buyer insists, the buyer should ideally, from a seller's perspective, pay the difference.

4. Cut and paste an old sale and purchase agreement and change the names of the parties and description of the property. This is like watching a Youtube video of a heart surgeon and trying to perform surgery on your

own. It is also a lazy, cheap way of doing business and will mostly come back to haunt one of the parties – most often the party that took the shortcut. If you don't like paying legal fees to help you buy or sell a property, note some jurisdictions make it mandatory for a buyer or seller to have representation, to avoid issues for the other party. Such rules were made with good reason. If you were admonished at school for copying too many paragraphs from the reading materials in your reports, then you will realize that this type of practice isn't the best way to approach complex tasks.

5. Completely forget about the cost of the transaction and don't allocate them between buyer and seller properly. Googling 'property taxes buyer seller Thailand' isn't the answer. You will see conflicting results and interpretations of the same sets of facts.

6. Be rude to your agent, the other party and their legal counsel, and allow your legal counsel and representatives to also be rude. Amazingly, this aspect of a deal is often overlooked. Background friction can lead to all sorts of strange and perverse behavior and can also mean that a willing buyer and willing seller's objectives can be undermined.

Even if you weren't brought up to be polite, at least pretend to be during the period that you are trying to sell your property.

7. Never be available. I have heard the following types of comments from sellers and their representatives: "I am in the UK right now", "I am travelling" and "my server is having issues". The internet is global, and the areas of the world that don't have internet are few and far in between. If you don't put any effort at all into your transaction, even when you are paying others to help, ultimately that lack of effort can fail.

The list could easily continue. All the effort, and on the most part, the luck of the agent in securing a potential buyer, is only the first step in a long series of communications and exchanges, with which either or both the buyer and seller might be unfamiliar. If you want to make re-sale a better prospect, you may have to crank up your efforts and refine your strategy. The competition for re-sales in Phuket is quite fierce at the moment.

*Desmond Hughes has been an owner and operator of his law firm in Thailand for 14 years, and is a Senior Partner at Hughes Krupica law firm [www.hugheskrupica.com](http://www.hugheskrupica.com)*

## TPrime REIT debut garners strong feedback

THAILAND Prime Property Freehold and Leasehold Real Estate Investment Trust (TPRIME REIT) made its trading debut on October 31 on the Stock Exchange of Thailand with strong feedback, as it has invested in two Grade-A office buildings in Bangkok's prime business districts.

Shares opened at 14 baht, up from its initial-public-offering price of 10 baht. It closed down at 12.70 baht, a 27 per cent increase from its IPO price, on a total trading value of 1.05 billion baht.

Suchad Chiaranussati, a director of SCCP REIT, the manager of TPRIME REIT,



**TPRIME invested in two Grade A office buildings in Bangkok's prime business districts.** Photo: Timur Saglambilek

said the company was planning to add two properties with occupancy rates of more than 90 per cent in the central business

district (CBD) to strengthen the growth of the new trust. He added that TPRIME REIT should be valued at more than

10 billion baht, in line with the existing funds now being traded on the SET.

The two new properties are expected to be added next year.

If the company does not see any more potential in Thai CBDs, the REIT manager will consider buying properties overseas, as SCCP has expertise in investing in foreign properties.

TPRIME REIT raised funds from selling 547.50 million units at 10 baht, totalling 5.475 billion, subscribed from October 4-7, to invest in leasehold rights over the Mercury Tower and freehold rights to Exchange Tower, with total asset

value of 7.2 billion baht.

Both buildings have occupancy rates of more than 97 per cent, and their locations in the CBD near mass-transit routes means they will be able to increase rental fees gradually. Hence TPRIME REIT will be able to generate a healthy rate of return for its investors, expected to be around 6-8 per cent per annum from the Exchange Tower freehold, Mr Suchad said.

Rents at the two buildings are 800-900 baht per square metre, adjustable by 15 per cent at every contract renewal. The contract term is three years.

– *The Nation*

# New hostels fuel flashpacking trend

FLASHPACKING is a fast-growing trend across Southeast Asia. It's basically backpacking with a suitcase and gadgets, while staying in low-budget hotels that offer a touch of class and comfort above the kind of ramshackle guesthouses backpackers would put up with a decade or so ago.

More than a thousand new hostel-style properties offering accommodation to trendy budget travellers have sprouted up in the region over the last year to cater to this crowd.

Southeast Asia's booming tourism trade has helped expand this segment and a second generation of upmarket hostels is now attracting a wider demographic.

With a market size of over 1,200 properties and nearly 52,000 beds, the new and improved product is turning the heads of traditional hotels.

According to a report on Hotel Market Trends in Southeast Asia by leading hospitality consulting group C9 Hotelworks, there was an explosive 42 per cent surge in new beds coming online in the 'flashpacker' category between 2015 and the third quarter of this year.

Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam are now the top three players in the region with Indonesia narrowing the margin with year-on-year growth of 73 per cent.

Speaking about this evolving new accommodation space, C9's Managing Director Bill Barnett said: "Hostels are unlike hotels as average rates are calculated on a per-bed basis, compared to hotels, which use a per-room rate.

"Our research across Southeast Asia shows that if we compare the two accommodation models side by side, the average room rates in newer hostel-style properties are matching or exceeding those in the more established budget hotel tier."

What has surprised many analysts was the growth in upscale hostel properties that now also offer a number of creatively designed private rooms.

"Ultimately, the mix of accommodation and bed types in what are being termed 'poshtels' attract not only solo travellers and couples, but also tap into the fast-tracking friends and family group.



Flashstays: Trendy 'poshtel' Lub d Patong in Phuket offers guests a new creative upscale hostel-style experience with the choice of low-budget dormitory accommodation as well as private rooms. Photo: Lub d Patong

Hostels are also set to take advantage of Asia's low-cost airline carrier trajectory in a significant way," said Mr Barnett.

However, different business models are used depending on whether or not it is an urban location.

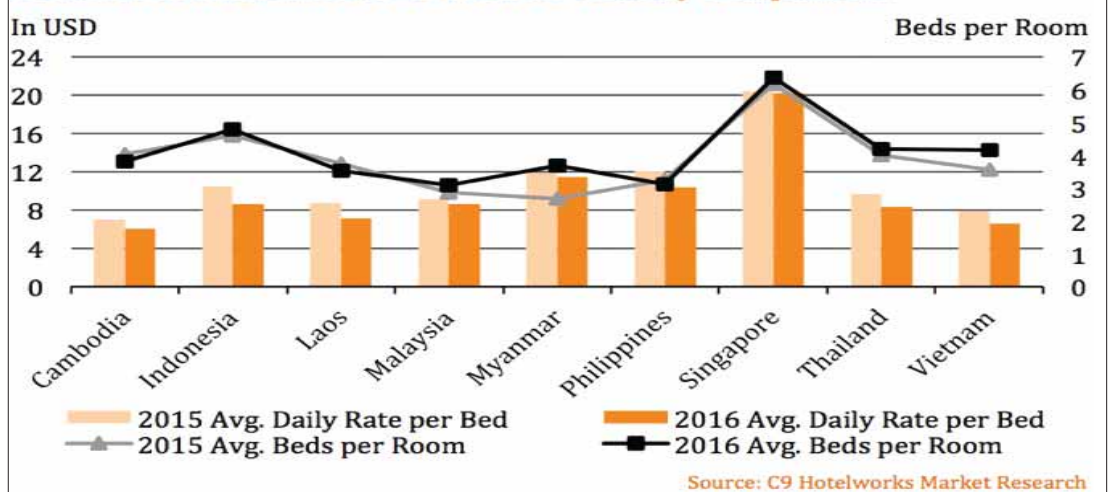
The market average is 4.1 beds per room. This number shoots up in urban locations such as Singapore, where the average is just over six beds per room.

Land prices in urban locations remain a significant factor, although unlike the more inflexible institutional approach to branded budget hotels, hostels can easily adapt to retro-fits and re-purposed real estate. Hence, an increasing number of groups are now developing a critical mass of properties.

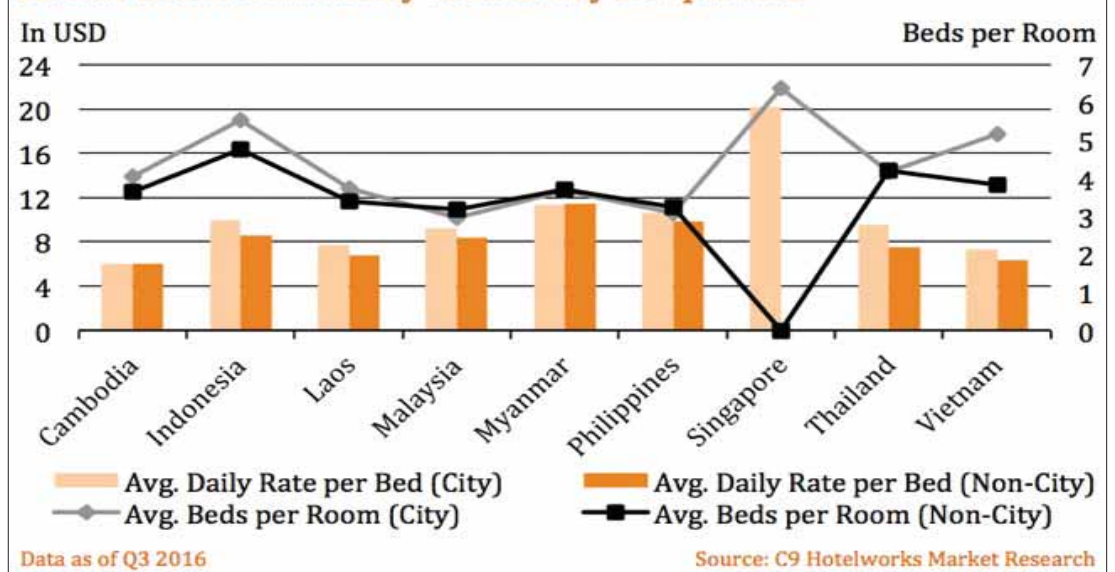
"In Europe, chains such as Generator and Meininger have attracted institutional investment to spur expansion, and we are already seeing private equity players in Southeast Asia start to chase the trail of what is arguably the region's most exciting travel space," said Mr Barnett.

- Phuket Gazette

SE Asia Hostel Market 2016 vs. 2015 Country Comparison



SE Asia Hostel Market City vs. Non-City Comparison



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### UNIQUE MINI RESORT

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### LAND NEAR BIG BUDDHA



Over 3 rai. 6.5 million baht per rai. Or smaller plots from 1.7 million baht. Tel: 081-538 4588.

### POOL VILLA

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### NAI HARN VILLA FOR SALE



4-bedroom house with pool and large garden. Tel: 081-894 2733. Email: Jasmin Consulting@gmx.net



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### POOL VILLA RAWAI



4-bedroom & 3-bathroom guesthouse. Chanote title. 974sqm land, 300sqm building. 12.5 million baht. Please call 085-796 5771 or send email to ornen29@hotmail.com

### BEACHFRONT POOL VILLA FOR SALE / RENT



Chalong Bay. 1 rai. 3 bedrooms. Tel: 089-649 9939. Email: siri\_phuket@chang runner.com

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## PROPERTY FOR RENT

### CHALONG AREA HOUSE

1-3 bedroom. Quiet area. Fully furnished. Tel: 081-892 4311. <http://palaigreen.weebly.com>

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### EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE VILLAS FOR RENT



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### VILLA, 5 MIN FROM MARINA

2-bedroom villa for rent with 2 ensuite, covered car park, new kitchen, fresh painted wardrobes, new fridge. Available for rent also as 4-bedroom house. Located in Ao Po. Tel: 081-537 1356, 090-868 0695. Email: [clem@wdrace.com](mailto:clem@wdrace.com)

### 3-BEDROOM HOUSE FOR RENT

40,000 baht. Quiet location near Wat Chalong. 3 bedrooms. 4 bathrooms. Secure small estate. Uninterrupted lake and mountain views. Parking for three cars. Swimming pool. Internet, cable TV, pool maintenance, gardener all included in price. Available until November 30th, 2016. Tel: 093-793 4258 (English), 085-696 0078 (Thai).

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### LUXURY 1-BEDROOM APARTMENT

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### HOUSE FOR RENT 10MIN TO AIRPORT



2 bedrooms, living room, big sala, garage, aircon, fast internet. 20,000 baht/month. For more information, please call 081-719 7015. Email: [jy.fieviet@gmail.com](mailto:jy.fieviet@gmail.com)

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### HOUSE FOR RENT

Boat Lagoon Phuket. 2 bedrooms, fully furnished. Email: [fon-daki@hotmail.com](mailto:fon-daki@hotmail.com)

### 40 METERS OF BEACHFRONT LAND FOR LEASE

2,400sqm land at Chalong Bay. Contact owner. Please call 081-826 9390.

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### KATHU HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 3 aircons. Tel: 065-041 1634.

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### RAWAI VILLA FOR RENT



4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms. Short/long-term available. LINE ID: dallas26. For more information, please call 085-392 6666. Email: [dchaibut@gmail.com](mailto:dchaibut@gmail.com)

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Quiet location on Chao Fa West Road. Short / long-term rental. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shared pool, cable TV, security camera. Tel: 089-724 3669.

### HOUSEHOLD SERVICES

### FARANG HANDYMAN

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Only 1 year old. Price: 40,000 baht. Tel: 082-421 6414.

### CLUB MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE

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084-307 7408

Email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

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### BAR & RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT

#### RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

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### BUILDING PRODUCTS & SERVICES

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#### BUILDING RENOVATIONS

Villa constructions and renovations. Electric works, plumbing and maintenance. Located in Kathu. Tel: 076-390539, 083-394 8337 (English), 080-141 4577 (Thai). Email: mattias@zionproperty.com, www.zionproperty.com



**VACANT POSITIONS**



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- ▶ At least 3-5 year experience in the field
- ▶ Strong result oriented, people management and leadership skills
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- ▶ Accommodation as per your position at resort

Thai national and foreign applicants will be considered. Please send your CV to [hr@zeavola.com](mailto:hr@zeavola.com) [preecha@zeavola.com](mailto:preecha@zeavola.com) or call [Preecha Onkong](tel:075-627000). Tel: 075-627000 for an appointment.

**Human Resources Department**  
Resort: 11 Moo 8 Laem Tong, Koh Phi Phi, Ao Nang, Muang, Krabi 81000 Thailand  
Tel. 075-627000 ext. 1400 or 1401 and Fax. 075-627025

#### HOUSEKEEPER WANTED IN KAMALA

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#### INTERNS FOR EVENTS

Internships at wedding & event company in Cherng Talay. Must be willing to learn and take an active role in event management and operations. Hard working, good communication skills & computer literate. Tel: 089-973 2159 (English & Thai), 099-316 7023 (English). Email: [meesak@phuketweddingsevents.com](mailto:meesak@phuketweddingsevents.com)

#### OPERATIONS ASSISTANT

Required at weddings & events company in Cherng Talay. Must have experience in events and able to work under pressure. Good organizational skills, hard working and good administration skills. Tel: 089-973 2159 (English & Thai), 099-316 7023. Email: [meesak@phuketweddingsevents.com](mailto:meesak@phuketweddingsevents.com)

#### FEMALE GALLERY MANAGER

Art gallery in Phuket Town needs Thai female with previous sales experience. Good English and Chinese essential. Great salary offered. Located in Phuket Town. Send CV by email. Tel: 087-884 8271 (English & Thai), 086-509 7510 (English). Email: [simon@colonial-connection.com](mailto:simon@colonial-connection.com)

#### PART-TIME MAID

Looking for a maid to clean a house in Kamala, 3 times a week. 8,000 baht / month. Tel: 089-729 9009 (English). Email: [ksenia.kukonos@gmail.com](mailto:ksenia.kukonos@gmail.com)

#### PERSONAL ASSISTANT

PA / Administrator at weddings & events company in Cherng Talay. Must have strong organizational skills & work well under pressure. Able to handle all administration & reporting with good computer skills. Experience in hospitality industry preferred. Must be proficient in English & a good communicator. Thai national required. Tel: 089-973 2159 (English & Thai), 099-316 7023. Email: [meesak@phuketweddingsevents.com](mailto:meesak@phuketweddingsevents.com)

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**Phuket Gazette**

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# From the sidelines to the podium

By Kongleaphy Keam

BANGKOK native Tassawan Sirivongs is a Thai national Ironman, a master's degree holder from France and the Executive Director at Ramkhamhaeng Hospital, Bangkok. She has competed in at least a hundred triathlon competitions worldwide, including events in New York, Japan, Australia and Sweden.

Ms Tassawan is competing in the Laguna Phuket Triathlon to be held in Phuket on November 27. This year, she placed first at the Korean triathlon and last year, she came second at the Japanese triathlon. She has also competed in the world triathlon championships in Australia and Austria over the last two years.

"Joining the world championships is not easy. You have to put everything you have into it. You also have to place first or second in a triathlon race that is on the approved list of countries. Only then are you given a chance to join the world championships. I am very proud that I have had the chance to join the world cham-

pionships for two years running," says Ms Tassawan.

Unlike many other athletes, she has not been training since childhood.

"I have just been a part of these competitions for the past seven years. The first triathlon I attended was as a spectator, cheering on my friends. However, when I saw the others participating, I felt compelled to challenge myself to try it. That's when I started training and preparing for it," Ms Tassawan says.

Swimming being something that came naturally to her, she started practicing the other two skills – cycling and running.

"When I started out, I was not an athlete in the true sense. At first, I thought that I'd join in one race and be done with it. However, after completing the first competition, there was no looking back," Ms Tassawan

says. "I felt as if I was addicted and kept trying to improve my skills with each competi-

tion I participated in. It gave me another purpose and goal to accomplish in life. My dream is to be an Ironman in six continents, and I am

you have to acquire, it doesn't come on it's own. You have to overcome your laziness and stay active and focused. I feel that I have become disciplined and patient in all aspects of my life – including work and personal life – not just when I am practicing or competing," she says.

Another aspect of the competition that Ms Tassawan appreciates is connecting with people and meeting other like-minded sports people.

"I have learned and gained a lot from this experience. Before I used to get sick all the time, catching colds quite frequently. Now, I am much healthier and stronger than I used to be," she added.

Ms Tassawan's advice to aspiring athletes is to make safety a priority.

"Challenging yourself is great, but you also need to know your body's physical limitations. If you don't feel you are ready, do not force yourself to participate. It's not just about winning and losing – your safety should always be your own priority," says Ms Tassawan.



already halfway there."

Her ultimate goal is to participate in the Ironman World Championships in Kona, Hawaii, much like other triathletes all over the world.

Ms Tassawan says that the three most important factors responsible for her success are self-discipline, time management and patience.

"Discipline is something

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ISSN 1905 - 8268