

# Phuket Gazette

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‘WHEN WE CATCH THEM, THEY FIGHT BACK OR EVEN TRY TO STAB US’

## Gibbons return

■ The previously extinct—in-Phuket primates are now breeding in it's wilds.

By Chutharat Plerin

LAST month's discovery of three baby gibbons by the Wild Animal Rescue Foundation of Thailand (WARF) in Phuket, marks an unprecedented victory for conservationists.

Over the past 40 years, dating back to when Phuket first began to earn its reputation as a world-renowned tourist destination, gibbons were hunted to extinction on the island.

"They were hunted down in order to steal their infants who could then be tamed, so that monkey touts could make money from tourists," WARF secretary-general Thanaphat Payakkaporn said.

"In order to get a baby gibbon you have to kill its parents, because when they are young they're nearly inseparable from their mothers' chest. Sometimes, after shooting the parents, the baby would also fall to the ground and die. Our statistics show that only one out of ten infants survive their parents' killing."

The three infants found last month in the Khao Phra Thaeo Wildlife Sanctuary in the island's northeast, descend from three different pairs of gibbons that were rescued from touts and released into the protected forest.

"We released three gibbon couples into the wild several years ago, but hadn't seen them around for almost two years," Mr Thanaphat said. "We were worried about them and wondered if they were okay or not."

Mr Thanaphat said the first family was found on August 14 and the second on



Lek was rescued from gibbon touts. In her arms is her infant son, Peanut. Photo: WARF

August 23, with sanctuary personnel discovering the latest one on September 1.

One of the mothers is 'Namthip', who was born in our project and whose father was rescued from a tout offering tourists photographs in Phuket," said Mr Thanaphat. "We've been wondering about her for more than a year. The next thing we know, she has had a baby."

Mr Thanaphat said that WARF has records of 17 gibbons born in Phuket's wilderness.

"Last year we had twins born in Phuket, but they didn't make it," he said.

"Regardless, we're proud that we are a worldwide model for the successful rehabilitation of gibbons," he said. "Their numbers were sparse in Phuket just a few

years ago, but now they're breeding again and their population is growing. We're glad to see them back on the island after being hunted for tourism."

"The bounce back from extinction is at least partly due to a broad shift in the psyche of the island's residents," said Khao Phra Thaeo Wildlife Sanctuary head Piyawat Sukhon.

Mr Piyawat said that wild animal hunting in Phuket has declined sharply over the past decade due to the efforts of locals to get involved in the protection of wild animals, including gibbons.

"Our main duty is taking care of the non-hunting area," Mr Piyawat said.

Continued on Page 5

### Mother's Day bombings suspects on 'wanted' signs

EIGHT men, wanted in connection with the series of bombings that left four dead and over 30 others injured, have their faces plastered across billboards and wanted posters throughout Phuket.

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### BUSINESS



Governor Chamroen announces plans for a 12-lane super highway. Page 10

### PROPERTY



Property developer Sansiri launches 202 two-storey houses in Phuket. Page 19

### LIFE&STYLE



Phuket is set to host the 'Foremost Ironman 70.3' on November 27. Page 15

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## LOCAL NEWS

# Briefly

### 'Red-plate' bus hits motorbiker

THE Phuket Land Transport Office fined a transportation company 50,000 baht on the morning of September 13 after their unregistered bus killed a 47 year-old biker attempting to make a u-turn on September 12.

The accident occurred in the southbound lanes of Thepkrasattri Road, in Baan Suan Maphrao, northern Phuket.

"We called in Ratcharot Travel to our office this morning and fined them 50,000 baht, which is the maximum penalty for use of an unregistered vehicle," PLTO chief Sommai Sudkhaio told the *Gazette*.

"Furthermore, we have suspended the licence of the bus driver, Tanu Longsamud."

Mr Sommai said that Ratcharot Travel Co is registered in Bangkok, but brought 30 tour buses to the province to expand their business.

"We already told them that they can't use the buses unless they are registered and granted yellow transportation plates."

– *Chutharat Plerin*

### Gloucester man killed in crash

A BRITISH expatriate died after reportedly being cut off by a pickup truck on the night of

## Airport tests international terminal with China flights



Phuket International Airport began testing the facilities of the new international terminal last week with a handful of flights ahead of the official opening of the terminal. Prime Minister Gen Prayuth Chan-o-cha presided over the grand opening of the new facility on September 16. Photo: Phuket Airport

September 10.

Michael Fraser Macpherson, 44, was killed on Kwang Road, in front of the Baan Manee Kram Jomthong Tanee housing complex, when his motorcycle slammed into the side of a pickup truck at about 8:40pm.

Police reported that Mr Macpherson was not wearing a helmet at the time of the accident.

The driver of the pickup, Nipan Karnprakorb, 39, was

turning into the housing complex when he allegedly cut off Mr Macpherson. Also in the vehicle were Mr Nipan's wife and daughter.

"Mr Nipan said he was driving from Chao Fa West Road to Chao Fa East Road," said Lt Patcharee Wongboon of Wichit Police. "While he was turning into the housing complex, Mr Macpherson, who was in the oncoming lane, lost control of his motorbike and hit Mr Nipan's pickup truck. The impact killed the Brit instantly."

Mr Macpherson's body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital, while Mr Nipan and his passengers were questioned at the scene of the crash. Mr Nipan was then taken to Wichit Police Station and charged with reckless driving causing death.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

### Phuket hospital inundated with blood donors

STAFF at Vachira Phuket Hospital's blood bank warned the public to be careful about reacting to requests on social media for urgent blood dona-

tions, after news went viral on September 7 of a teenage motorbike accident victim urgently needing A-type blood donations.

The hospital was inundated with blood donors who had seen the social media posts and believed that the hospital had completely run out of stocks of the A+ blood type needed for the 16-year-old crash victim.

Blood bank technician Siriprapa Salanopakul said the victim needed eight units of blood but there was still plenty in stock. "We have about about 70 to 80 units of A-type blood in stock so there's really nothing to worry about."

"It is better to have a steady flow of blood donations. That's easier to manage. If we take several donations all at once, it means a large supply of blood stocks will expire at the same time," she said.

– *Kongleaphy Keam*

### Snake found in anchovy paste

A PHUKETIAN Facebook user took to social media on September 9, after finding a disfigured snake in her anchovy paste.

Facebook user Wanida Pagamat posted an image of Thai anchovy paste (Pla-ra) with a black snake-like slough in it. She claimed to have bought the paste at a local Phuket store.

"How do you sell this to someone? It looks like a snake. Please check your food before sending it to the store," the post read.

Ms Wanida reportedly filed a complaint with the police.

The owner of the undisclosed shop where Ms Wanida purchased the paste reportedly sent a representative to visit the upset customer.

Ms Wanida said she reported the product's contents to the Consumer Protection Board today, "to encourage that better product examination measures be taken".

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

### Chalong warns motorists of fatal blind spot

CHALONG Municipality released video footage on September 6 of collisions between cars and motorbikes at an accident blind spot on Chao Fa East Road in Chalong, including that of a smash that killed an American motorcyclist on September 5.

Municipality spokesperson Saphawattakan Kunlak said the footage of the fatal accident and other serious smashes involving motorcycles, where Soi Thanuthep opens onto the main road, was released to boost public awareness of the accident blind spot.

American Paul David, 50, was killed while riding along Chao Fa East Road, when he collided with a Toyota Yaris that was turning right out of Soi Thanuthep at about 10:30pm. Another motorcyclist was injured in the collision.

A Thai motorcyclist was seriously injured at 8:30 the next morning when he collided with a Toyota Vios that was pulling out of the same soi to cross Chao Fah East Road.

"There are no traffic lights at this busy intersection. It's an accident black spot. There have been three accidents there in the past few weeks alone," said Mr Saphawattakan.

"Drivers on the main road often do not see vehicles pulling out of the soi in time," he warned.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



## New Gov announced



**Chokchai Detamorntan.** Photo: Maha Sarakam provincial website

THAILAND'S Council of Ministers announced on the morning of September 13 that Chokchai Detamorntan will replace Chamroen Tipayapongtada as the governor of Phuket.

The announcement comes after the cabinet decided to transfer Governor Chamroen to Nakhon Sri Thammarat, effective October 1.

Mr Chokchai, who has been governor of the northeastern Maha Sarakam province since last October, reportedly fired 32 Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor) presidents whom he accused of corruption earlier this month.

In a September 2 letter to the Ministry of Justice, the Maha Sarakam Provincial Office wrote that it had already investigated and finalized cases against the OrBorTor presidents, with Gov Chokchai demanding their immediate removal.

The Cabinet's announcement included the reshuffling of three inspector generals of the Ministry of Interior, and was confirmed by Phuket Provincial Public Relations Office.

- Chutharat Plerin

# Wanted posters of suspected bombers hung up in Phuket

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

WANTED posters with photographs of the August 12 bombing suspects as well the suspects of the Samui bombing last year were put up in four hot spots on the island on September 13.

The four 3x4 meter posters show pictures of the eight suspects. The general public is being urged to contact the 24-hour hotline on 191 if they see anyone resembling the photos on the posters.

Two posters were put up at the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint for inbound and outbound motorists to see. A third was put up at the Phuket International Airport junction and the fourth erected at the Kathu junction just before Patong Hill.

The five suspects from the Mother's Day bombings were named as Asmin Katemmadee, Hakim Dorloh, Seree Vaemamu, Rusalana Baima and Ahama Lengha.

The five suspects of the Central Festival bombing in Samui on April 10 of last year were named as Asmin Katemmadee, Hakim Dorloh, Abdunloh Samae, Amman Vaedaramae and Muhamadyaki Salae.

Two of the suspects are believed to have been involved in both incidents.

Similar posters have also been hung up in several southern provinces, including Krabi.

The Mother's Day attacks



The billboards display the eight men wanted in connection with the bombings. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

killed four people and wounded more than 30 others, including a motorbike taxi operator in Patong.

More than 11 bombs and incendiary devices rocked southern Thailand last month.

The attacks were claimed by Barisan Revolusi Nasional

(BRN) separatist movement at the beginning of September.

Authorities have so far arrested one suspect whom they claim to have carried out the firebombing of a department store in neighboring Phang Nga province.

Thailand's restive Narathi-

wat, Pattani and Yala provinces have seen repeated bombings and attacks over the past decade. August's attacks were unprecedented in that separatists carried out bombings across seven provinces, up until that point untouched by the conflict in the deep south.

## American found dead in Patong apartment

INVESTIGATIONS are underway after an American man was found dead in a rented apartment in Patong on September 14.

The body of 63-year-old Horace Nelson Higdon Jr was found after a house keeping staff member noticed a foul smell coming from inside a third-floor apartment at Fasai Apartment & Home on Pisitkoranee Road.

"The owner of the premises, Boonlert Wanyattikun, reported the dead body to the police at about 8:20pm," said Patong Police Maj Pattapee Srichai.

"He had reportedly not left his room for three days, so Mr Boonlert decided to check on

him. Mr Higdon's room was locked so he climbed in through the window to find his partially rotten, fetid body sitting on the floor, with his head resting face-down on the edge of the bed."

Officers said that there were no signs of struggle or theft and the air-conditioner was still running.

"Mr Higdon's body was taken to Patong Hospital for autopsy and the American Embassy was notified of his death.

Police said "We were told he was a polite man who lived alone and didn't have any problems with anyone."

- Kritsada Mueanhawong



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# DSI claims server error resulted in lost footage of Phuket official's 'suicide'

THE Department of Special Investigations (DSI) claimed on September 10 that it has no CCTV footage of the events surrounding the suspicious death of a former Phuket official in a police cell, insisting that the system's server was faulty at the time.

Police are investigating the death of Tawatchai Anukul, 66, who formerly worked for the land department in Phuket and Phang Nga provinces.

Police are attempting to determine whether Mr Tawatchai was murdered in custody or committed suicide as initially claimed by the DSI.

Mr Tawatchai succumbed to a ruptured liver and asphyxiation a day after DSI officials arrested him on August 29.

Public doubts have been growing following the incident,

particularly after the DSI failed to present recordings from its CCTV.

"Our CCTV system, which is linked to 49 security cameras, is working properly but its server is faulty. It couldn't efficiently record what happened," DSI chief Colonel Paisit Wongmuang announced at a press conference on September 9.

He said the DSI had discovered the server problem in April this year and had signed a contract to improve the whole CCTV system on May 30.

"Under the contract, the improvements will be completed by October 27," Col Paisit said. "During the improvements, the CCTV system can only provide real-time monitoring."

He explained that the DSI did not comment on Mr Tawatchai's case for over 10 days so as to not



A DSI official points to footage at a press conference. Photo: The Nation

interfere with police investigations or the fact-finding committee set up by the Justice Ministry investigating the death.

"But I can tell you that such an incident has never happened at the DSI before, and that the DSI has no need to protect wrongdoing officials, if any," Col Paisit said.

was unconscious. They learned from news reports later that the DSI claimed Mr Tawatchai had hanged himself with his socks.

Mr Tawatchai was accused of issuing illegal title deeds worth more than 10 billion baht. Given the extent of his alleged crimes, there was widespread speculation that he might have been silenced before he could implicate his accomplices.

However, only authorized officials using key ID cards could enter the electronically locked gate at the detention-cell zone.

Mr Paisit said he had already forwarded to police recordings from the ground-floor cameras and still photos showing how medical help was given to Mr Tawatchai inside the DSI facility on August 30.

- *The Nation/Phuket Gazette*

## Russian robber stumped by safe



Mr Sevastianov at Patong police station. Photo: Patong Police

POLICE have caught a hapless Russian robber who broke into a gold shop in Patong on the night of September 9, but failed to snag any swag after discovering that all the gold had been locked away in the shop's safe for the night.

Dmitri Sevastianov, 32, admitted to breaking into Yaowarat Namchok Gold Shop on Phra Metta Road in Patong after police arrested him outside the hotel he was staying in.

Police did not reveal the name of the hotel, but said it is not far from the gold shop.

The escapade was caught on the gold shop's security cam-

eras, showing a European-looking man breaking in through a hole in a wall at the rear end of the shop and his fruitless attempts to crack the safe, leaving dusty fingerprints all over the safe door.

"Mr Sevastianov confessed after he was shown the security camera footage," Patong police captain Yingyong Chuoykij told the *Gazette* on September 12.

Mr Sevastianov was charged with breaking and entering. He faces a fine of up to 6,000 baht and could be imprisoned for up to three years.

- *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

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# Hope for Gibbon rehabilitation

From page 1

“Patrolling outside of the area is a low priority for us, which is tough because we just don’t have the extra budget to patrol the beaches looking for these touts. We cannot get out there very often.”

“Instead, we have a network that every now and then sends us news. When someone in our network sees animal touts, if we can go after them, we will. Sometimes police call us too,” he added. “Karon Police help us keep an eye out for touts on Kata and Karon beaches and they often arrest those touts.”

Mr Piyawat said sanctuary employees sometimes work undercover in order to catch touts. Even then, it’s often not enough to confront the animal smugglers and officers often risk their lives trying to apprehend the criminals.

“Sometimes we have to work alone. We cannot tell anyone when or where we are on patrol, because we don’t know who is our friend and who may warn the touts of our plans.”

“When we catch them, they may fight back or even try to stab us because they don’t know who we are,” Mr Piyawat said. “It’s very common, and they can attack us and say that it was to protect themselves.”

Mr Piyawat told the *Gazette*



The rescued gibbon, named Namthip, holds her infant in the Khao Phra Thaeo Wildlife Sanctuary. Photo: Wild Animal Rescue Foundation

that the efforts of conservation officers and the personal peril they often risk only results in a tout being fined a few thousand baht in provincial courts.

“They make up to 60,000 baht for each animal over the course of its life,” he said. “The suspects have told us after we’ve caught them in the past, that they’re willing to take such a risk because they stand to make so much money. There are still a lot of them around here and they have a lot of helpers too. There are a lot of people who help them by acting as lookouts for police or conservation officials. It’s very difficult to catch them in the

act.”

Mr Piyawat said that after gibbons began to go extinct in Phuket, conservation officials noticed an uptick in number of touts peddling different creatures to tourists.

“There are some slow lorises in the sanctuary too,” he said. “At least 10 slow lorises were rescued and released in our area last year. If we can release the animals here we do, but if not, we take them to the Phang Nga Wildlife Nursery Station.”

“According to our records and the confessions of slow loris touts we’ve arrested, most of the animals come from Ranong,” Mr Piyawat said. “I

believe they work in a network because they are found at Samui, Phi Phi and Phuket, depending on where they can make the most money with the fewest problems. For example, if Phuket cracks down on them, they’ll move to Samui or Phi Phi.”

Mr Piyawat said that sanctuary personnel also work with Kusoldharm Rescue Foundation volunteers and the Gibbon Rehabilitation Project at Bang Pae Waterfall due to the sanctuary’s limited budget and the vastness of the area it must look after.

“We are the caretakers of 13,925 rai in the Khao Phra Thaeo forest that was officially established as a non-hunting area in 1998,” Mr Piyawat said. “However, about 3,300 rai of that land can still be accessed by locals since they were working in the area before the forest was designated as a non-hunting ground.”

Mr Piyawat said locals sometimes come into the reserve to hunt.

“We have problems with teenagers coming into the reserve,” he said. “We seize their guns, but sometimes they still come back to hunt. We can’t always carry out a suitable punishment because they may live near our area and we’d lose valuable friends and goodwill by punishing them

appropriately.”

Problems maintaining the territorial integrity of the sanctuary and the safety of its inhabitants are further exacerbated by a lack of funds.

“We don’t attach tracking devices to the animals – we let them live freely and naturally,” Mr Thanaphat said. “Although, I must admit that we don’t have a big enough budget to track our gibbons. The devices are very expensive and their batteries often only last a year. If we attach one to them, we’ll have to bother them again when it’s time to change their battery, which we don’t think is good for them and would be logistically difficult for us.”

The problem, according to Mr Piyawat, fundamentally lies with tourists. For him, as well as conservation officials and police, the persistent demand for photographs with often highly-abused animals continues to threaten exotic species in Thailand and officers that must make risky arrests of desperate individuals.

“Please do not take part in or support such activities,” Mr Piyawat pleaded. “Now that the world is paying attention to animal conservation, we cannot continue to be associated with the abuse of endangered animals if we are to be a world-class tourist destination.”



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# Train services resume

TRAINS in the Deep South resumed operations on September 12, in time to serve the surge in Muslim holiday makers celebrating Eid al-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice), following the completion of repairs to railway tracks in Pattani, after they were damaged in a bomb blast on September 3.

Thanongsak Pongprasert, deputy governor of the State Railway of Thailand (SRT), said on September 11 that a train without passengers would undertake a test run from Hat Yai to Sungai Kolok.

The explosion in Pattani's Khok Pho district on September 3 derailed a passing train and destroyed much of its rear carriage. One SRT employee was killed and three people were wounded.

The train left Narathiwat's Sungai Kolok district and was headed for Songkhla's Hat Yai district.

Hundreds of Khok Pho residents rallied against the violence in the southernmost provinces and prayed for peace on September 11.

The residents, including Muslim leaders, gathered at Khok Pho Train Station, recited



Train services in the deep south resumed with heightened security. Photo: The Nation

a Muslim prayer for peace and expressed their opposition to the ongoing bloodshed.

In Narathiwat's Rusoh district, two unidentified gunmen went to a house at about 5am and fired an M-16 assault rifle at Maro-ning Dolohnideh, 53, and his wife Aesoh

Jeh-a-sae, 52.

Mr Maro-ning died at the scene from a shot in the chest. Ms Aesoh was hit in the stomach and is in critical condition.

Three spent rifle cartridges were found at the scene.

The assailants knocked at the door and when the husband

opened it, they shot him twice, police said.

They then entered the house and shot the wife in the bedroom.

Police suspect a personal conflict as the motivation behind the attack.

– The Nation

## Krabi locals discover rare substance

KRABI locals discovered a rare silvery-white substance known as *lek lai*, in a river near the Klongthom Temple, and are now using it to produce holy objects and accessories.

Locals who discovered it, donated it to the temple on September 13.

Prapajit Chanakul, 54, a vendor of holy objects and accessories in Klongthom Temple, said that the substance is quite rare and hasn't been seen for many years until its discovery last week.

"*Lek lai* is melted to produce holy objects, and fares well with Malaysian, Singaporean and Thai tourists. It costs 5,000 baht per kg and can generate income of up to 15,000 baht a month" Ms Prapajit told the *Gazette*.

"It is believed to help keep poisonous animals away, cure diseases and pain, and bring money to the wearer," she added.

Klongthom Temple abbot Phra Mahawichan Naratipo stated that the proceeds from these sales will contribute toward temple renovations.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Corruption probe hits national parks

ALLEGATIONS of corruption against three marine national parks directors are erroneous and causing serious morale problems among officers, one of the accused said.

The Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation set up an investigation committee on September 12, to look into the directors of Ao Phang Nga National Park, Mu Koh Similan National Park and Hat Noppharat Thara-Mu Koh Phi Phi National Park.

The probe alleged corruption regarding admission fees at the three parks and a claim that there had been no development at the parks despite higher incomes.

Sarayut Thantian, the head of Hat Noppharat Thara-Mu Koh Phi Phi National Park, said he had not received a summons and no investigation had begun, but added that the news of the probe had demoralized his of-

ficers.

The other park directors involved are Worapoj Lomlim of Ao Phang Nga National Park and Ruamsin Manazhongprasert of Mu Koh Similan National Park.

Thon Thamrongnawasawat, deputy dean at the Faculty of Fisheries at Kasetsart University, said he was frustrated that dedicated officers had been subjected to the allegations.

He said all three national parks had raised a billion baht this year, significantly more than last year's income of 187 million baht.

He said the claim that the national parks had not improved was 'nonsense' because there were several clear examples that all three national parks had made improvements.

The investigation committee was set up because of complaints from tourism operators and tourists, the department said.

– The Nation

## Krabi weighed down by 600,000 tonnes of trash

DEPUTY Prime Minister Admiral Narong Pipatanasai visited Krabi on September 8 to see what could be done about 600,000 tonnes of untreated waste piling up in the province.

Admiral Narong met with Krabi Governor Pinit Boonlert and other provincial agencies at Krabi City Hall to discuss waste management measures, as well as to observe progress of other public works undertaken by the province.

Krabi Municipality has requested 25 million baht in funding from relevant agencies to address the trash and waste problem and is reportedly waiting for that to be approved.

Officials were also briefed on the implementation of economic stimulus measures to help farmers and poor families, and the work of the Dam Rong Tham Center in solving social issues.

The Deputy Prime Minister confirmed that he will continue



Deputy Prime Minister Narong Pipatanasai. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

to promote waste treatment efforts in Krabi. He also expressed concern over tourist safety following explosions and incidences of arson in seven of the southern provinces last month – instructing all concerned to ensure tourist safety.

Adm Narong previously visited the province in March to review projects that the local administration planned to implement in order to stem the daily tide of 1,800 cubic meters of wastewater spewing into the marine park.

– NNT

## ‘Lost’ Chinese divorcee found in Chon Buri

A CHINESE tourist who went missing during a trip to the Sriracha Tiger Zoo was found alive on September 13.

Gao Li Ping, 36, left the zoo on her own on September 11 without telling anyone.

Authorities located the tourist after receiving a tip-off from a local resident in Chon Buri's Sri Racha District.

A tour guide had led Ms Ping and other tourists around Sriracha Tiger Zoo. She was the only one who did not return to the tour bus, prompting a frantic search by hundreds of officials in the vicinity. Media speculated that she might have committed suicide at the zoo.

Officials said Ms Ping seemed frightened of going back home. She was under stress because she had allegedly been forced to take out a life insurance policy worth millions by a person who was then named as the beneficiary in the event of her death.

“I heard that she had not eaten anything during the past two days,” Sriracha district chief Worayarn Bunnaraj said.

The tourist was sent to a hospital for a check-up and tourist police are in touch with the Chinese embassy. Tour guide Jingya Sae Jao said that Ms Ping had been alone before she joined the tour group and seemed sad and distant. She had reportedly divorced her husband before coming to Thailand alone.

## Zika virus threat being downplayed

HEALTH and city officials in Thailand downplayed risks from rising infections from the mosquito-borne Zika virus, which is linked to serious birth defects, and expressed concern that disclosing information would damage its tourism industry.

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control on September 9 warned of the increasing spread in Thailand of Zika.

“Thailand is combating the risk by spraying mosquito-infested areas,” said Anuttarasakdi Ratchatata, epidemiologist at the health ministry's Bureau of Vector Borne Disease.

Twenty-two new cases were confirmed on September 11 in the Sathorn area of Bangkok, including a pregnant woman



who later gave birth with no complications.

The health ministry has urged Thais not to panic as it said the virus was not deadly or contagious – though in fact it can be passed on sexually.

Several countries in Southeast Asia have reported a rising number of Zika cases, but Thailand has one of the highest number in the region, with more than 200 confirmed since January.

Six pregnant women with the virus have given birth with no complications, so far.

## North Korean nuclear test sparks concerns

Thailand officials shared grave concern on September 9 over the latest nuclear test carried out by North Korea in the morning September 9.

Such a test constituted a clear provocative violation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, a statement of the Royal Thai Government read.

“In view of the existing relationship between the two countries, the Royal Thai Government once again urges the government of the DPRK to heed concerns of the international community, to comply with its obligations under various UNSC resolutions and to cooperate fully and promptly with the International Atomic Energy Agency regarding its nuclear program,” it said.

## NATIONAL NEWS Briefly

### Five Filipinos arrested for diamond theft

FIVE FILIPINOS were arrested at Bangkok's Don Mueang Airport on September 7 after tourist

police seized a 300,000 baht diamond necklace they allegedly stole from the 58th Bangkok Gems & Jewellery Fair.

Three men were named as Ebuieza Christian Carpio, Bien Nonoy Mulobuko and Chapoco Florenz Velarde, while the two women were named as Canoy Adoracion Carpio and Mallari Sofia Candelaria.

Tourist Police Division commander Maj-General Surachet Hakphan said CCTV footage showed the Carpios acting as customers and steal-

ing the necklace from a display at about 2pm while the shop owner, Poramin Thaharian, was not looking.

When it was established that the descriptions of people seen buying tickets to the Philippines at the airport matched those in the CCTV images, police carried out a search and found the stolen necklace hidden in one suspect's bag.

## Chiang Mai's Grand Canyon shut down

CHIANG MAI'S Grand Canyon has been closed temporarily pending a safety review in the area, after a tourist drowned earlier this month.

CCTV recordings from September 10 show a Thai tourist being hit by another while in a pond, being rendered unconscious and quickly sinking. Police are investigating the death and are preparing to press charges of recklessness.

Chiang Mai police chief Colonel Preecha Wimonchaijit joined officials inspecting the area and talked to Chakaran Trakooninsan, who operates a tourist service in the area.

“During the meeting, we found that the operator had not sought a licence [designating the area] as a tourist site yet,” Col Preecha said. “There are no clear regulations either, so we will need to further discuss this case.”

## Phuket Gazette

# Born to be wild

THE report of gibbons reproducing naturally in the wild in Phuket comes as rare good news for an island that has suffered much environmental degradation in recent decades (see news pages). Hopefully this discovery can serve as a reminder of the importance of preserving what remains of our once natural ecosystems.

Baby gibbons rank right up there in the Anthropomorphic Hall of Fame with pandas, koalas and dolphins for perceived 'cuteness' among us humans. Unfortunately, their high cuddleability quotient is actually their curse, making them popular with tourists and touts who illegally use them as photo props, often in full view of law enforcement officials.

The dynamics of the illegal trade in protected species is well-understood and the entire system is driven by ignorant tourists who are completely unaware of just how inhumanely these animals are acquired, treated, and in the end, disposed of once they reach adulthood.

The *Phuket Gazette* applauds the work of the Wild Animal Rescue Foundation of Thailand (WARF), the Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT) and all other organizations that do so much to treat or rehabilitate animals who have fallen victim to the tourist tout trade, as well as to raise awareness about just how wrong the entire practice is from every standpoint.

Fortunately, at least in this regard, we are living in a time when those who innocently have their pictures taken with these animals can be quickly and collectively shamed in the social media, as was the case with former Miss Universe Natalie Glebova. To her credit, Ms Glebova was quick to admit her error and then use her considerable media clout to try and teach others the same lesson she had to learn the hard way.

The gibbon discovery comes at an interesting time, given that the government recently approved construction of a new, 12-lane artery connecting Mai Khao with Koh Kaew. While the proposed route of the 15-billion-baht thoroughfare should not directly affect the Khao Phra Thaeu non-hunting area where the gibbons live, the project will nevertheless have huge environmental impacts along its entire 22-kilometer length.

Anyone who commutes daily along Thepkrasattri Road in Koh Kaew will acknowledge the need for relief, but we can only hope this project can be carried out in a more environmentally-friendly way than many of the other road-building projects now underway across the southern region.



## Well done to all wildlife officials

*Re: Born to be wild: Baby gibbons repopulating Phuket, Sept 8*

Congratulations to all the people involved in returning these beautiful animals to the wild. It has been a long road to success. For once some good news about Phuket. Keep up the excellent work you do.

Stuart  
Gazette forum

### Proper driving test a necessity

*Re: Opinion: Addressing road safety in Phuket, Sept 11*

Who would teach these driver education courses? The typical Thai grows up driving a motorbike at seven and moves to a car when they can reach the pedals and can afford it.

There is never any education in driver safety, looking out for the other guy or common sense. This initiative would require every single driver in the country to be banned from driving until they pass a proper drivers test, like most any country in the civilized world.

Robert Smith  
Facebook

### Blind sois a risk for all motorists

*Re: Video: Chao Fa black spot claims American motorcyclist, Sept 8*

So many places where people risk accidents by turning right out of blind sois.

Make the traffic coming out of the soi turn left and then make

## Letters to the Editor

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

a u-turn when safe. Note, this is what you actually do at a roundabout, something local drivers could benefit greatly from if they were to learn about it.

CaptainJack  
Phuket forum

### No need for another 'super project'

*Re: Plans for 12-lane highway approved, Sept 12*

Another 'super project'. A properly designed and implemented public transport system using the existing road network would have done it. But that would make a lot of enemies with the locals.

Governors come and go, they only care for their political careers, nor do they have any in-depth grasp of what Phuket really needs.

On top of that – too many local fiefdoms – all jealous of each other and unable to agree on medium to long-term strategies for a better Phuket future.

Michael Pohl  
Facebook

### Lost count of the number of cameras

*Re: Officials plan to install 1,000 CCTV cameras, Sept 9*

I've lost count of the number

of cameras that have been supposedly installed over the past ten years – it's a complete joke.

Ten cameras at 100,000 baht each works out at approximately US\$2,800 a camera – someone is doing well out of it.

Mr Ree  
Gazette forum

### Why is there a reckless driving charge

*Re: Gloucester man killed in crash, Sept 12*

How can Mr Nipan be charged with reckless driving? Mr Macpherson lost control of his bike minus helmet. I would like to know how long were the skid marks of his bike to the point of impact plus were there any witnesses who saw the accident. If the police give more details as I have asked, you cannot charge him.

bazza  
Gazette forum

### Only a small part of the problem

*Re: Tougher driving tests down the road, Sept 12*

This is only a small part of the problem the main part being law enforcement. It doesn't matter how tough the test is if the police don't check nor care if you don't have a licence or insurance. Enforcement of law is the single biggest problem in Thailand, not just on the road but in most aspects of life.

David Warburton  
Facebook

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# Learning from mistakes **Fix Thepkrasattri**

## FIRST PERSON

I AGREE that the problem with the Samkong Underpass is due to lack of preparation and management over the project. However, that does not give a complete picture.

Dealing with unexpected problems is the hardest part of the job. We may think we are well prepared, but things don't always go as planned.

The first problem is the unexpected and unknown infrastructure at the construction site. Before starting the project, we did observe and cooperate with the relevant offices to find out what we should do with the electric poles, water pipes, telephone lines, and so on.

However, while digging, we found many other water pipes and telephone lines underground, which the officers had not been prepared for. We could not just cut them out as it would have affected everyone living in the area. So, we had to chalk out a new plan to deal with this, which considerably slowed down the progress of the project.

This is because the relevant offices, such as PEA and Phuket Water Authority, did not have much time to prepare for and check these things before construction started.

Another issue is the geography of the area. That area is low, and water flows both above and underground. We did study and plan for this, but we underestimated the amount of underground water we had to deal with, causing further delays.

This problem becomes even more serious in Phuket, as we



**Chalernpol Wongkiattikun**, originally from Chonburi province, is currently the Samkong Underpass project engineer from the Department of Highways. He graduated with a Master's degree in structural engineering from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from

Srinakharinwirot University.

Here, he talks about the problems with Samkong Underpass construction, and his advice for future construction projects in Phuket.

have eight months of rain and only four months of sun. The construction company did not plan well for this. The backhoe, tractor and other equipment was also destroyed by the flood and rain.

We can all learn from our mistakes. Therefore, we can apply the knowledge and experience from the Samkong Underpass project to upcoming future projects.

The first and most important thing we have learned for future projects is how to work in Phuket weather.

It is harder to dig during periods of heavy rain, so we will be better off doing something else on the ground. This could include managing the pipe system, moving the pipes and extending the surface of the road. During the four months without any rain, we have to quickly dig as much as possible so we can finish the project on time.

The second thing that we will improve in future projects is to make the flow of traffic as normal as possible. We will

only close the portion that we are working on and not the entire road, as that causes bottlenecks in traffic.

We will also try and better maintain the roads that people use for their daily commute. It is important to make it as smooth as possible, so we can avoid unsafe roads, as was the case in Samkong Underpass construction. Sometimes, we get wrapped up in the project too much and forget what issues people face in their daily lives.

Most importantly, we will plan and deal with relevant officers to take action in advance at least six months before we start the construction project, so we can avoid any unexpected issues during the construction phase.

Lastly, during the construction process, we will try to have as minimal an impact on people's lives as possible. Some inconvenience might occur during construction, but we must keep the real purpose in mind, which is to ease the traffic in Phuket.

## Island View

By Desmond Farang

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

WITH over 20,000 deaths every year, Thailand is second only to Libya – a country in the midst of a civil war – for highest rate of annual traffic fatalities.

Here in Phuket, poor planning, dense populations, unqualified drivers and a lack of law enforcement conspire to constantly raise each week's body-count.

The main thoroughfare across the island – Thepkrasattri Road – resembles a parking lot during rush hours, and overdue and over-budget construction projects are not helping.

Outside of rush hours, 'ghost' motorists going against oncoming traffic, people throwing on their hazards and parking on the road to pop into 7-Eleven, salengs sloshing along too slowly, unsafely overloaded trucks, teenagers on motorbikes racing between lanes without helmets, tour buses cutting off the entirety of the roadway on u-turns, and taxi and speeding van drivers with a half-dozen ghost-faced Chinese tourists in the back are all ongoing concerns.

That's to say nothing of the degraded state of much of Thepkrasattri and Bypass roads. Ongoing simultaneous construction projects throughout the province (whoever had that brilliant idea) has forced the majority of traffic onto too few lanes, wearing down what roads are left. Road crews of Burmese workers – themselves little better off than indentured servants and forced to live in camps – are either preoccupied with com-

pleting overdue projects, or unable to patch up the craters due to incessant traffic.

While outgoing Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada is correct that something must be done about Phuket's roads, it doesn't take a 12-lane highway or (God forbid) a train running down the center of Thepkrasattri. It doesn't take new laws or more baht or very much bureaucratic wrangling either.

Simply don't allow people to park on Thepkrasattri.

What is meant to be a six-lane artery for the island is choked up to four or even two lanes along its route into Phuket Town.

Phuket does not need another construction project, particularly after how poorly her underpasses have been handled by contractors. She needs her veins flushed.

Paint every curb along Thepkrasattri red and white and, most importantly, enforce the no-parking rule. It wouldn't be too hard to convince police to quit shaking down businesses and instead shakedown motorists stopped along the thoroughfare.

Phuket's traffic casualty rate is approaching, quite literally, epidemic proportions. Building more roads is not going to solve what is, at its core, a systemic failure of governance.

Yes, there will be a backlash, an outcry and a great brouhaha from every yokel who has to park around the corner to buy his cigarettes and beer. But frankly, they could use the walk as heart disease is still the number one killer of Thais. And, ultimately, it's a fair price to pay for the family of four on a scooter to not end up as another smear across the roadway and yet another newspaper clipping in the teetering stacks we keep at this office.

## Words from the Wise

**“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.”**

– Harriet Tubman

**“Good advice is always certain to be ignored, but that's no reason not to give it.”**

– Agatha Christie

## Issues & Answers

### Why was Rajabhat construction halted?

I SPOTTED a new building under construction at Rajabhat Phuket University, near the entrance to Simon Star. However, it seems abandoned and I haven't seen anyone working there lately. Was there a problem during the construction?

Surapol Samkong

**Sukanan Chukrachan, Building & Site Administration Division officer at Rajabhat**

**Phuket University replies:**

Thank you for your query. We are awaiting budget to be approved for the project at the

moment. We have also hired a new contractor for the decoration of the building.

The construction of the structure has been completed and the decoration will be completed soon as well.

Once it is finished, this multi-purpose structure will transform the university into one of the most beautiful Sino-Portuguese style buildings in Phuket.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further queries.

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)

# Ministry cracks down on 'zero-dollar' tours



Chinese tourists are often victims of zero-dollar tours offering extra-low prices for trips to Thailand but they find that there are many hidden costs once they arrive. Photo: Gazette file

THE number of Chinese tourists visiting Phuket is expected to drop with the Tourism and Sports Ministry and the China National Tourism Administration (CNTA) moving to crack down on 'zero-dollar tourism' and the use of Thai nominees to skirt foreign-ownership laws.

Tourism and Sports Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul and Zhang Xinhong, director of the CNTA's Bangkok office, on September 12 said they would team up to reduce zero-dollar scams and crack down on local nominees who help Chinese run businesses here illegally.

Under zero-dollar schemes, tour operators offer extra-low prices to Chinese tourists travelling to Thailand, but they find that there are many hidden costs once they arrive.

Prime Minister Prayuth

Chan-o-cha has ordered Tourist Police and other authorities to suppress zero-dollar tourism as well as the use of nominees in order to protect travellers and the economy.

Besides the use of nominees to evade the Foreign Business Act, many businesses defraud tourists and avoid taxes.

Ms Kobkarn's ministry claims that zero-dollar scams have damaged the Thai tourism industry for more than 20 years.

She said that the number of Chinese arrivals to some areas of Thailand would drop slightly for a short period after the crackdown on unscrupulous tour operators.

"Authorities have been cracking down on illegal operators and also seized properties and licences in order to [prevent] bad behaviour," she said.

She added, however, that the number of Chinese tourists was still growing. From September 1 to 11, their numbers increased by 33.7 per cent compared with the same period last year. From January 1 to September 11, the Chinese market grew by 19.3 per cent. Overall foreign arrivals were up by 12.1 per cent.

The Tourist Police recently seized assets of OA Transport over the company's allegedly inappropriate operations. The company controlled more than 3,000 tourist buses in the country.

Thailand welcomed nearly 8 million Chinese visitors last year who injected revenue of 370 billion baht into the economy. The number of Chinese visitors is expected to surpass 10 million this year.

- *The Nation*

# Wichit district promotes local food businesses



The Wichit Municipality organized a healthy food festival at Sriphuwanat public park from September 7-11. Vice Governor Prajiad Aksornthammakul presided over the event, which was sponsored by the Phuket Public Health Office. Photo: Wichit Municipality PR

# TPC set for 'waste to power' project in south

TPC Power Holding (TPCH), one of only a few alternative-power companies in the deep South, has invested in a 45 per cent stake in Siam Power in preparation for a waste-to-energy plant in Nonthaburi.

The move comes after TPCH recently successfully bid for a government contract to build and operate three biomass power plants with a combined capacity of 26 megawatts, out of a 36MW quota set for three provinces in the deep South.

The project forms part of the company's five-year expansion

plan for electricity production, under which it targets reaching a combined 200MW of electricity generation in 2020, from 142MW currently.

Cherdsak Wattanavijitkul, Nonthaburi Provincial Administrative Organization managing director, said that Siam Power held a 10-year landfill concession from the Nonthaburi authorities covering 137 rai of land for 3 million tonnes of waste, plus 818,812 tonnes from a nearby public landfill site on another 40-rai plot.

- *The Nation*

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# Fake tax invoice sellers exposed

THE Customs Department is investigating the dodgy dealings of a construction materials shop in Nonthaburi Province, outside Bangkok, for filing fake tax invoices.

Investigators suspect the shop has ties to a wider tax fraud scheme that has caused over a billion baht in lost tax revenue.

Director-General of the Customs Department, Prasong Poontaneat, revealed earlier last week that his department had discovered numerous tax

invoices for construction material transactions that could not be found.

A raid carried out by the Customs Department on the construction material shop in Nonthaburi discovered connections to a network of fake tax invoice sellers based in Bangkok and other provinces.

Those that bought the fake invoices had also falsified VAT receipts in order to appear more legitimate.

A preliminary assessment of the scheme has estimated

that the scheme has cost the country a loss of over a billion baht in tax revenue.

Authorities believe that more than 100 businesses have purchased similar invoices.

Both buyers and sellers of fake tax invoices are subject to jail sentences between three months and seven years, as well as a fine of 2,000 to 200,000 baht, on top of a fine double the amount in their fake tax invoices.

- *NBT*

# Push for speedy approval of mega highway budget

By Sukawin Tanthavanich

GOVERNOR Chamroen Tipayapongtada announced on September 6 that preliminary plans for a proposed 12-lane highway running the length of the island have been approved and may be completed by 2022.

Although the exact route of the proposed superhighway has not yet been decided, the 22 kilometer project would reportedly start 1km away from Phuket International Airport and extend to the Premium Outlet mall in Koh Kaew at a cost of 15 billion baht.

Governor Chamroen said the proposed highway is necessary to accommodate Phuket's future growth. "We hope to raise the standards of roads and infrastructure in Phuket to a world-class level," said Gov Chamroen. "This road will help alleviate traffic rush hour on Thepkasattri Road and reduce the number of accidents. The highway will also be able to handle the increasing number of vehicles predicted to be on Phuket's roads in the next 10 to 20 years."

"Phuket's high economic growth rate and opportunities compared to the south of Thailand continue to drive migration to the island, while the tourism industry continues



An artist's impression of the proposed 12-lane highway to run for 22 kilometers between the airport in the north of the island and the bypass road in Koh Kaew. Image: Department of Highways

to follow an upward trend in the increasing number of visitors," said the governor, adding that the main thoroughfare of Thepkasattri Road is already stretched beyond capacity with about 80,000 vehicles using the road each day. That number is expected to reach at least 100,000 vehicles within the next few years.

"Traffic jams are a regular occurrence on Thepkasattri Road. They increase the instances of accidents and impact

the response time for emergency vehicles using the route," he said.

It is not yet clear how land owners along the route are to be compensated. However, properties are to be categorized as commercial, residential and as rubber tree plantations.

Project manager Seksit Sirivaidyapong of MAA Consultants Co Ltd said most residents living along the proposed route have agreed to the project.

"Initially there were three different blueprints of the proposed highway," Mr Seksit told the *Gazette*.

"We have chosen the option that will take care of traffic from both Phuket International Airport as well as that coming from Sarasin Bridge," he said.

Mr Seksit said that about 11 historical sites will be affected by construction of the highway, namely Phuket City Pillar Shrine, Phra Nang Sang Temple; Moug Komalaphaj

Temple; Thalang Historical Park; the Two Heroine's House; Cherng Talay Temple, Thalang Pasak Pillar Shrine, Pasak Temple, and the areas of Ban Don and Bang Rong in Thalang.

Mr Seksit said that the chosen project team will mull over their plans during the fifth public hearing, and finalize everything by April 2017. Construction is scheduled to begin some time next year so it can be completed by 2022.

## Smart City Innovation Park opens



PHUKET Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada talks at the opening of the Phuket Smart City Innovation Park at Saphan Hin on September 8. The 4-storey building operated by the Software Industry Promotion Agency (SIPA) is open to the public as a co-working space for entrepreneurs to network and learn about new business development technologies from organizations at the park such as the Board of Investment, the ASEAN Tourism Software Excellence Center, IOT Smart City Lab and the BIM Innovation Center. Free wireless internet access is provided at the park by state-owned CAT Telecom. Photo: Sukawin Tanthavanich

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# Foremost fronts Ironman 70.3

Leading dairy food brand Foremost by FrieslandCampina (Thailand) PCL on September 12 announced its affiliation with the 2016 Ironman 70.3 Thailand event to be held in Phuket on November 27. The *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and *The Nation* are proud media partners of the event.



(From L-R) Director of Professional Sports Development and Boxing Department, Sports Authority of Thailand, Tanukiat Jamchum; Managing Director of FrieslandCampina (Thailand) PCL (Foremost) Marco Bertacca; Phuket Vice Governor Dr Prajiad Aksornthammakul and Sunrise Event Inc chairman Fred Uytensu.

# Young golfer awarded

Aspiring young golfer Napat Paramacharoenroj claimed victory in the inaugural 'Faldo Series Thailand Championship – South 2016' with a three-day aggregate of eight-under 205 in the Boys' Under-16 category. He also led the way in the overall standings in the R&A World Amateur Golf Ranking event, earning himself an exemption into the forth-coming Singha Phuket Open at Laguna Golf Phuket. Mr Napat will join the 11th Faldo Series Asia Grand Final, to be hosted by Sir Nick Faldo at Laguna Lang Co Golf Club in Danang, Central Vietnam in March, 2017.



Laguna Golf Assistant Vice President/Group Golf Director Paul Wilson (left), hands a certificate of achievement and trophy to Napat Paramacharoenroj.





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**ents in Paradise**

# Sansiri launches dcondo Kuku

Sansiri PCL officially announced the launch of its latest addition to Phuket's condominium market, dcondo Kuku, on September 8 following the sell-out success of dcondo residences in Kathu.



Metha Angwatanapanich, Senior Executive Vice President – Business Development and Project Development Division (Low Rise) Sansiri Public Company Limited.

# Culinary art and flare celebrated at the Andaman Hotelier and Tourism Fair

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office and Phuket City Municipality jointly held two expositions celebrating the province's culinary creativity from September 9 to 11. The Andaman Hotelier and Tourism Fair 2016 was held at Limelight Avenue and the 'Phuket Tasty Food 2016' exposition was held at Phuket's Queen Sirikit Park, featuring bartender and barista competitions, fruit, vegetable and ice carving and of course all sorts of food in addition to live entertainment.



(From L-R) President of the Thai Hotels Association Southern Chapter Dr Krissada Tansakul; President of the Phuket Chief Engineering Club Treephop Paojin; Deputy Governor for Tourism Products and Business Visanu Jaroensilp; Phuket Vice Governor Dr Prajiad Aksornthammakul; Deputy City Clerk Chutima Sanitpram; Vice President of the Phuket Tourism Association Bhuritt Maswongsa; and TAT Phuket Office director Anoma Wongyai.

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# Indulge your Italian cravings

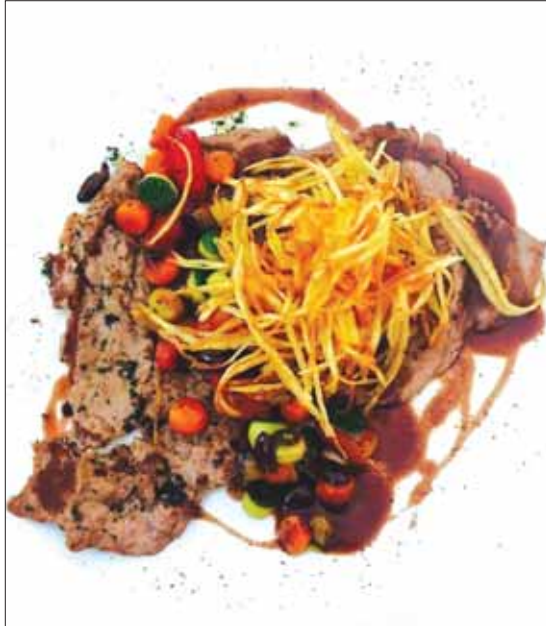
By Zohaib Sikander

MY TASTEBUDS had been tingling for some authentic Italian food for a few weeks, so I feel fortunate to have discovered Leonardo Da Vinci restaurant located in Kata Hills.

The restaurant recently launched a new menu, in addition to a sizable wine list offering a variety of sparkling, white, rose and red wines.

The newly renovated restaurant can seat up to 70 people in multiple dining areas, which include two bars, private rooms and an outdoor seating area, for an intimate dining experience under the stars. The ambience is modern and elegant with a wooden, earthy décor. At the same time, the feel is serene, warm and inviting. The restaurant is also launching a deli in November.

The first course of the night was *burrata alla caprese* – a soft, fresh Italian cheese made from mozzarella and cream, served with rocket salad and tomatoes. Following this tangy treat were



The main course of Angus beef steak was followed by a chocolate mousse dessert. Photo: Leonardo Da Vinci

three varieties of fresh bruschetta. Both appetizers were light enough to keep your appetite whet for the main course.

I've always found it difficult to order at restaurants I'm unfamiliar with, but the chef's recommendations put my mind at ease. The first main course I

tried was ravioli stuffed with Asiago cheese and onion-balsamic jam, sauteed in saffron sauce. This was followed by an Angus beef tenderloin and then a grilled lamb fillet. These may sound like contrasting choices, but I was right to trust the chef – he knows exactly what makes

his guests tick.

Being a beef enthusiast, I questioned him about how the beef is sourced. He said that the cows are bred in Australia, kept on a 100-day pure corn diet and then the tenderloin is aged for 120 days before being brought in. To top it off, the beef was



succulent and cooked to a tee. The steak is served with a mix of vegetables and porcini mushrooms, and topped off with a green pepper sauce.

The sous chef is passionate about what he does and it's easy to tell that he really cares about each of his creations. He says he loves to experiment, and served us one of his originals – a seafood soup made with freshly caught lobster, crab, sea bass, calamari, cherry tomatoes, garlic, spring onions and fish sauce.

The team at Leonardo Da Vinci offer a variety of fresh salads, soups, hand made pasta, pizza, spaghetti, risotto and, of course, desserts, but if you fancy something off the menu, they are happy to oblige. The servers were friendly and attentive, adding to the overall pleasure of the experience.

Leonardo Da Vinci restaurant is open from 5:30-11:00pm Monday to Saturday. For more information, call 076-604296 or email for reservations at leonardodavinci.asia.

## Phuket sport organizations in SPIA Asia finals

A HANDFUL of Phuket events and sports businesses have made the final shortlists of the 2016 Asian Sports Industry Awards (SPIA Asia) and will be competing against the best in Thailand and Asia for a prestigious SPIA award this year.

A total of 72 Thai entries made the final shortlist for SPIA Asia 2016 in a variety of categories, it was announced on September 7.

The awards are endorsed and supported by Thailand's Ministry of Tourism and Sports, the Sports Authority of Thailand, the Tourism Authority of Thailand and SPIA Asia.

The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony in Bangkok from October 3-4.

From Phuket, the Laguna Phuket Triathlon and the Phuket Rugby 10s were listed under 'Best Amateur Sports Event of The Year in Thailand'. The Laguna Phuket Marathon was recognized in the 'Best Mass Participation Event of the Year' and British International School Phuket was awarded a place in 'Best Sports Youth Academy of the Year in Thailand' category.

Several Thai organizations were listed in the 'Sports CSR Initiative of the Year' category.

They were Human Run by Days Poet Company (Thailand); Kings Cup Elephant Polo by Chao Phaya Resort Limited (Thailand); and Care for Cancer Run by Anantara Siam Bangkok Hotel (Thailand).

The Senior Asian Wrestling Championships by the Thai Amateur Wrestling Association (Thailand) was listed in the 'Best Live Experience at a Professional Sporting Event' category.

Centara Grand, the Bangkok Convention Center and the Honda LPGA Thailand by Siam Country Club Pattaya were listed in the 'Best Hospitality, Recreation or Leisure Offering in Sports' category. The Youth Development by Thai Amateur Wrestling Association (Thailand) scored in the 'Best Sports Youth Program of the Year' category and Siam Inter Multimedia PCL (Thailand) was recognized as one of the 'Best Sports Organization of the Year'.

The National Olympic Committee (Thailand) made it into the 'Best Sports Marketing Campaign of The Year' for their feature 'Team Thailand - Millions for One', and Lab Bangkok made it into the 'Best Use of Social Media in Sport' category.



The Phuket Rugby 10s has made it to the list of finalists in the 2016 Asian Sports Industry Awards under the category 'Best Amateur Sports Event of The Year In Thailand'. Photo: Gazette file

The Lab Bangkok also made it into the 'Best Sports Recreation Facility of the Year In Thailand' category, along with Centara Grand Bangkok & Convention Center; Royal Bangkok Sports Club; Siam Country Club Pattaya; The Green Cycle Track at Suvarnabhumi Airport; Muang Pattaya Sports Complex; and True Arena Hua Hin.

The Asian Sports Industry Awards series is the official celebration of business leaders, organizations, facilities and

campaigns at the forefront of the sporting industry, that have made a contribution to the growth and development of sport across the Asian region over the past 12 months.

It was founded by MMC Sportz, a Dubai and Manila based sports advertising and communication agency, and Sport360, the leading daily sports content provider in the Middle East and North Africa.

Speaking at the announcement, Lt Col Ruj Saengudom,

Deputy Governor for Professional Sports and Privileges, Sports Authority of Thailand, said, "Thailand has seen tremendous growth in the sports arena in recent years, both in terms of athletes' skills and the appearance of Thai athletes at international competitions all over the globe, including the Olympics and World Championships, and also in terms of our domestic facilities and sports industry.

"SPIA Asia is a great opportunity for Thailand's sports industry to gather with key players in international sports and showcase Thailand's talents and we hope to pick up a few of the prestigious awards which would be an additional catalyst and motivator for our local organizers and brands to encourage them to further invest into the local sports development.

"We are excited about hosting SPIA Asia 2016 from October 3-4 in Bangkok under the MOTS and SAT sanction and encourage our local sports community to participate and to reach out to the Asian Sports Industry Community during the awards and the conference".

– Phuket Gazette

# Phuket to host Ironman 70.3



Organizers and sponsors at the launch of the 'Foremost Ironman 70.3' held in Bangkok on September 12. Photo: Kongleaphy Keam

**By Kongleaphy Keam**

PHUKET is set to host the next Ironman 70.3 triathlon on November 27 with a US\$15,000 professional prize purse, Ironman Asia announced on September 12.

The 'Foremost Ironman 70.3 Thailand' comprises a 1.9 km rectangular swim that will start and end at Xana Beach Club Laguna Phuket, a 90 km bike ride through the Laguna Phuket property, move on to Sarasin Bridge and then back to Xana

Beach Club Laguna Phuket for a final two-loop scenic 21 km run ending back at the beach club.

A junior version of the event, 'Foremost IRONKIDS Thailand' for young athletes aged 6-14 years old, is also to be held at the Xana Beach Club Laguna Phuket, the day before the main event, on November 26.

Up to 30 of the athletes will qualify for age group slots for the 2017 Ironman 70.3 World Championship in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The 'Foremost Ironman 70.3

Thailand' is supported by the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) and the local Phuket government, and sponsored by leading dairy food brand Foremost by FrieslandCampina (Thailand) PCL.

The event has already attracted a thousand athletes from 56 countries, including over 20 professional triathletes, led by IRONMAN 70.3 World and Asia Pacific Champion Tim Reed.

Ironman Asia Managing Director Geoff Meyer says that

the race is evidence of the growing interest and development of the famous Ironman race throughout the region.

"Thailand has had a long history with the Ironman competition and we are looking forward to improve the event beyond what we could do back in 2012, when the last race was held here," Mr Meyer said.

"Phuket City is ready to welcome athletes and spectators to this prestigious international event. The event is considered

a successful step for the city to hold another international event, after the Asian Beach Games in 2014. We would also like to invite everyone to attend and cheer on the racers in Phuket," said Phuket Deputy Governor Prajiat Aksornthammakul on September 12.

The *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and *The Nation* are proud national media partners of this event. For more details, visit [www.ironman.com/thailand70.3](http://www.ironman.com/thailand70.3).

## Muslims in Phuket celebrate Eid ul-Adha

MUSLIMS in Phuket celebrated Eid ul-Adha, also called the 'Sacrifice Feast' or 'Bakr-Eid' on September 12.

The festive day is celebrated worldwide each year on the tenth day of the Islamic month of Zil-haj, also the last month of the Islamic calendar.

The occasion also marks the end of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, attended by millions of Muslims annually.

Goats and cows are usually sacrificed for the day's feasting and the meat is traditionally divided into three parts.

The family retains one third of the share; another



A family prepares to feast on Eid ul-Adha. Photo: Syefri Zulkefli

third is given to relatives, friends and neighbors; and the remaining third is given to the poor and needy.

- Nick Davies

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# Stewards of the future

**On Deck**  
By Duncan Worthington

PHUKET'S low season, in my opinion, is the best time to be on the island. Sure there's rain – and lots of it – but it's warm, and in between the rain storms there are some glorious days only the tropics can deliver.

It's also a great time to go sailing. The odd shower won't put off any serious sailor and the upside is the beauty and relative peace and quiet at even the most popular anchorages.

During the high season, nearby islands are at over-capacity. If anyone actually undertook a study of each island's carrying capacity, it would surely show that they are flat-lining. Come low season, the story is different.

While there has been much talk by marine and tourism bodies in Phuket for the need to protect the natural sea resources, much of it has been just that – talk.

But a round of applause is due for the recent marking off of areas fronting the beaches of some of Phuket's most pressured islands to stop boats getting too close and damaging the coral and ecology.

In the never-ending desire for money, money, money,



Day trip tourists pack a boat heading to Phi Phi. During the high season, nearby islands are at over capacity. Photo: Gazette file

Phuket's offshore islands are environmentally plundered and ecologically raped during the high season. Having pulled together sources of boat departure information last high season, my estimates are that on any given day there are up to 50,000 day trip tourists out in Phang Nga Bay and the surrounding area.

These are predominantly day-trip speedboat tours, shifting up to 50 people at a time to nearby hot spots. Add to that other on-water activities – sea canoes, diving, charter boats, private boat use – and the number only goes

up. But it's these day trip tourists who inflict the most pressure in popular spots.

Recent government efforts are welcomed, but more is needed.

Relevant government departments could learn from other mass tourism destinations around the world. Look towards Europe and the Greek Islands such as Crete. With its Patong-esque party spots, Crete is also blessed with stunning natural assets – beaches, coves, coral and nearby islands. Having been a hot tourist destination for European holiday-makers

since the 1970s, Crete welcomes about three million tourists per year – approximately half of Phuket's international arrivals – and yet retains its natural charm.

On the whole, it manages to delicately balance caring for the environment while catering to the needs and pressures of tourism.

Phuket should, ideally, not be looking to a model of preservation. To close off and protect all marine sensitive and tourist-popular sites is not realistic. What is needed is a long-term conservation plan, whereby access to sites is ro-

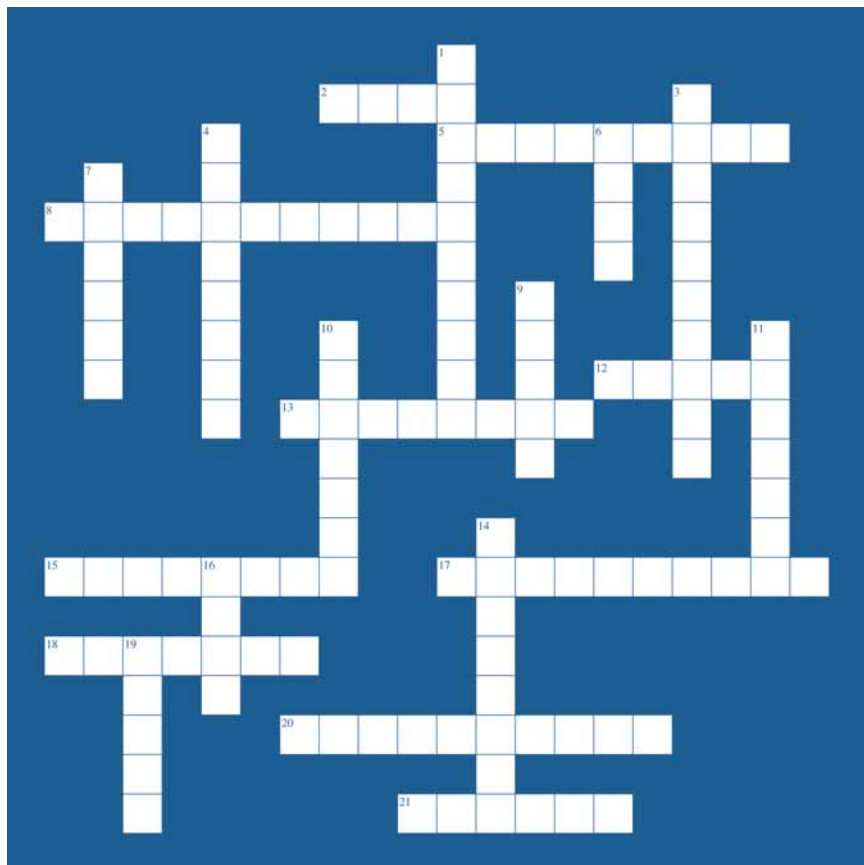
tated in an ecologically sound way, while accepting the need for the tourism business to continue. A balancing act where both sides are equal importance.

As far as the future of the tourism business is concerned, it cannot continue in its current form. For conservation efforts to work, the private and public sectors have to work together, and corruption must be stamped out. Recent action by Dr Thon Thamrongnawasawat highlighted the massive corruption at Hat Noppharat Thara – Mu Ko Phi Phi National Park, and subsequent clamp-downs need to extend to other high pressured areas and become the norm.

While enjoying the stunning natural wonders Phuket has to offer, we should all focus on leaving the environment in a better place than how found it so that future generations can enjoy it as much as we have.

As an Inuit saying goes "We do not inherit the earth from our fathers, we borrow it from our children".

*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 local knowledge.

**Across**

- 02. Mythological snake-like creature
- 05. Din
- 08. An expert judge in matters of taste
- 12. Capsicum
- 13. Didn't last long
- 15. Spot on target
- 17. Noisy activity with flare
- 18. Gone out of business
- 20. Thai sport
- 21. Darkening period of moon phase

**Down**

- 01. American hare
- 03. Train
- 04. Southern Phuket cape
- 06. Measurement of milk
- 07. Cheery
- 09. King Arthur's table
- 10. Retrieve from wreckage
- 11. Communal farm in Israel
- 14. Thai tennis star
- 16. Phuket Town architectural style
- 19. Sparkling drinks

*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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# Annuals and perennials



SOME bedding flowers can be cultivated as annuals or perennials. It all depends on such imponderables as the climate or the whim of the gardener. Take begonias. They will not tolerate frost, so in temperate zones, if you intend to keep them for more than one season, they need to be brought indoors during the cold weather. For this reason, begonias are deservedly popular in the United States and the UK, where they grace summer flower beds and hanging baskets, or spend winter indoors in pots.

The genus is huge; at least 1,500 species, most of which are tropical. In the wild, begonias are small, understory plants needing filtered shade and well-drained but not dry soil. The most popular variety is *semperflorens*, which as its Latin name implies, flowers more-or-less continuously, and which can be further subdivided into fibrous, wax and ever-blooming varieties. The flowers are small, but profusely produced in shades of pink, red, cream or white – invariably with a bright yellow center or eye. By way of contrast, the deeply-veined leaves are predominantly dark green with a triangular shape reminiscent of caladiums. And like caladiums, begonias are often grown primarily for their foliage, especially begonia rex, which hails from Assam, and *erythrophylla* which has deep purple leaves. Propagation is by division or stem cuttings. And a real bonus: begonias are immune to most insect and fungal attacks.



The portulaca is perfect for coloring gardens in Phuket. They burst into bloom whenever the sun caresses and they have an immunity to drought. Photo: Andrew Butko

More likely to catch the eye in Phuket is the portulaca. Unlike the begonia, which will need some cossetting, the portulaca or moss rose is drought resistant; requiring little in the way of water and nutrients. Its succulent stems and needle-shaped leaves are primed for

desert-like conditions. Portulacas are even lower to the ground than begonias – no more than eight inches tall – so they can be used as ground cover. But the real joy is the dramatic, cup-shaped flowers, which come in vibrant hues of red, magenta, orange, yellow and white. They burst into bloom whenever the sun caresses. Because of their immunity to drought, portulacas can be grown in crevices and on rockeries. And they grow readily from seed, though nurseries normally carry some in small pots.

Two other annuals and perennials worth thinking about are rudbeckias and gazanias. Both are daisy-like and belong to the *asteraceae* genus. They enjoy full sun and are both mainly yellow in color. They don't need much maintenance.

Rudbeckia *fulgida* comes in several varieties of which the longest lasting is the hybrid 'Goldsturm', which has russet and mahogany tones. But the best known rudbeckia is the one with yellow-gold petals and a black center, popularly known as 'black-

eyed Susan'. While the hairy leaves are not a plus point, rudbeckias make good cut flowers. Normally about one and a half feet tall, there is one variety, *maxima*, which rivals the sunflower for size and can produce five-inch blooms on nine-foot stems.

Gazanias or treasure flowers do not reach such heights. Like begonias, they are usually six to twelve inches tall, though the flowers normally rise above the foliage. Coming from South Africa, they can stand plenty of direct sun. In some ways they are better bedding plants than the rudbeckias.

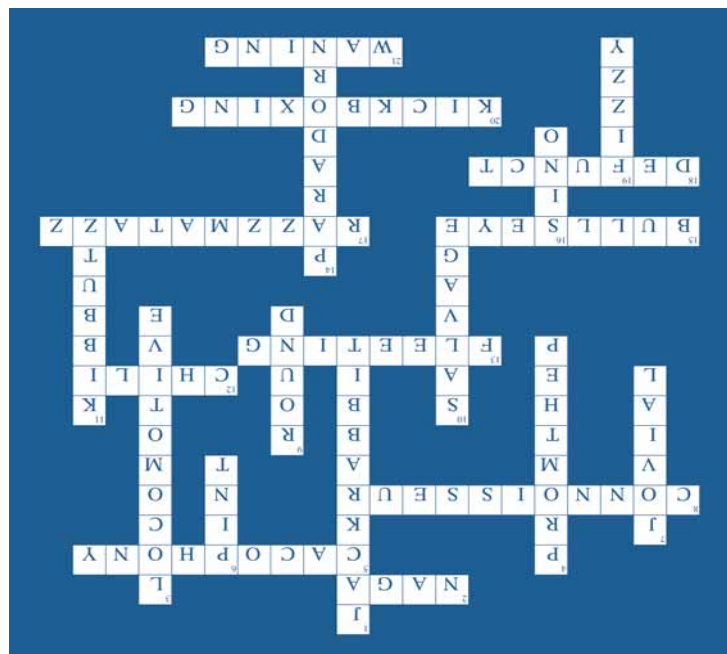
For a start they come in a broader palette of colors – pink, white, and red as well as the traditional yellow and orange. Moreover, the leaves are attractively notched. In some hybrids, notably *ringens*, they are a pleasing silver-grey hue. In the right conditions they will quickly cover the ground with a dense mat. But they may struggle in Phuket's monsoon weather, for they dislike hot and humid conditions.

They are worth a try nonetheless – if you can find them. But if the plants are not available, packets of seed most certainly are.

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 on his website: [GreenGaloshes Wordpress](http://GreenGaloshes.wordpress.com).

## Crossword Solution

Turn the page upside down to read the answers.



# High hopes for smart moves



IT IS great to note that Phuket has the watchful eye and support of our PM General Prayuth with the pending visit for the opening ceremony of the new terminal for Phuket International Airport and the speech on 'Phuket Smart City' and 'Startup Paradise'. Although Phuket has been experiencing growing pains from development, the island needs to develop to sustain interest from overseas – not just from tourists, but for long-term investment.

Whenever I arrive in Hong Kong or Singapore, I marvel at the achievements both have made in terms of their infrastructure. Businesses have flocked to both of these locations. Companies, their executives and employees have benefited from the lifestyle choices on offer there. Phuket possesses many jewels to attract companies, but needs the support and encouragement of the Government as well as local Thai and international residents in order to attain greater heights of achievement.

The property market has experienced a long, generally flat period for the last few years. Successful developers and mega-companies from Bangkok and beyond, who turned their eyes on Phuket, have invested heavily in marketing the province's environment to po-



Singapore's infrastructure is a marvel of achievements. The integrated resort of Marina Bay Sands, that opened in 2010, is one of the world's most photographed buildings. Photo: Erwin Soo

tential buyers. It isn't enough to sell four walls, an entrance way, furniture and a car park so developers have turned to digital marketing as a platform for promoting their properties.

Innovative companies have popped up, using drone technology and advanced graphic design work to produce a real feel for a property and its location. These companies can also be used to demonstrate the potential for a hotel on the market for sale or investment, or penned for branded operation.

Not many of these digital marketing companies are based in Phuket or even Thailand. However, if the business environment here were more

positive and friendly toward foreign investment, then perhaps some of them would consider getting involved in Phuket's Smart City program.

As a guest here, I can only speculate on the changes that might be needed to ensure foreign investment in the smart city program runs smoothly, but here are a few suggestions for any readers who may have influence in determining the direction of the program – and for those who are simply tracking the program – which is hopefully along the road to success.

1. Fast track efficient, transparent and clear work permit issuance with additional benefits for participants in the

program. Perhaps some flexible rules on the Thai-to-foreign worker ratios depending on the type of work involved. Making sure foreigners don't feel they might get arrested for working on their laptops – and not being sat down at the place of work specified on their work permit – would be a good positive change.

2. Leases in a premises under which there is clear protection for the investors, and those premises being in a location that signifies being in Phuket, such as a view of a marina or the sea along with exercise and sports facilities, schools and healthcare. Phuket can compete especially well

with international food and beverage options, including alcohol, which appears to be targeted in those countries less keen on promoting alcoholic consumption.

Phuket actually already has all of these. It's just a matter of combining the benefits into a package. This, I guess, will be for the private sector to look at as the government cannot coerce service providers to come up with the packages. There is also the notable development of the Phuket Smart City Innovation Park. I am sure there is room for more development there.

3. Internet. I find that the internet connection in my home is better than what I get in Singapore, and far better in terms of convenience than when I holidayed in Australia two years in a row. That said, there is room for improvement. Stability is extremely important for tech businesses, especially during the monsoon season, when internet services can be disrupted.

There are a lot of positives here that digital companies could share in the successful property development in Phuket. I really do hope we see more entrepreneurs arriving on the island, and that they receive a fitting welcome to match the promotion and fanfare of Phuket Smart City.

*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)*

## Adults-only resort wins luxury award

KATA Group Resorts Thailand is to receive a World Luxury Hotel Award for its adults-only Beyond Resort Khao Lak Phang Nga. The group will announce the award category in October.

Situated near Pakweep Beach, the five-star resort is touted as a 'secluded, romantic villa resort' for honeymooners.

Earlier this year it won the 'Most Romantic Resort in Asia and Australasia' at this year's Luxury Travel Awards. Last year the romantic retreat was awarded in the Romance category of the TripAdvisor Traveller's Choice Award, which is awarded to less than one percent of global hotels and resorts rated on the travel advisory site.

– *Phuket Gazette*



The adults-only Beyond Resort Khao Lak Phang Nga has won several awards for being a romantic destination. Photo: Kata Group resorts

## Krungsri offers fixed-rate loans

THE Bank of Ayudhya, trading under the Krungsri brand, has launched a long-term fixed-rate loan package targeting mid-to-high-income home buyers who are customers of the country's six top developers.

Executive Vice President of the bank's mortgage division, Nathapol Luepromchai, said on September 8 that the bank has developed special loan agreements for customers of AP (Thailand), Land and Houses, Quality House (Q-House), SC Asset, Supalai and Pruksha Real Estate. The loans carry fixed interest rates of 4 per cent for the first five years and 5 per cent for seven years for homes priced at more than 3 million baht.

– *The Nation*

## B3bn for anti-noise measures

THE Cabinet has approved 3 billion baht to spend on anti-noise pollution measures from the new international terminal at Phuket Airport – and to compensate nearby residents, announced Transport Minister Arkhom Termpittayapaisith last week.

A total of 1,671 buildings near the new international terminal are to be reinforced and fitted with noise insulation. About 200 of those buildings are occupied by airport staff and government officers.

Residents wishing to move will be compensated and offered new housing, said the minister.

The new terminal is already handling flights to and from China and was scheduled to be fully operational after the official opening on September 16.

The addition of the international terminal is expected to increase the airport's passenger capacity to approximately 12.5 million annually.

– *Sukawin Tanthavanich*

# Family homes filling up

RESIDENTIAL property developer Sansiri recently launched the second phase of their latest Phuket development Saransiri Koh Kaew following the successful sale of all units in the first phase of the project.

Located on 50 rai in Koh Kaew, next to the British International School, the new neighborhood features a total of 202 two-storey detached houses ranging in size from 140 to 151 square meters with a club house and swimming pool exclusively for residents.

Each of the new family homes features an all purpose open-plan living and dining room on the lower floor and three bedrooms on the upper floor, two bathrooms and a double car port.

Sales have been better than expected, reported Metha Anwatanapanich, the senior executive vice president for Sansiri's business and project development division.

"The new homes in phase one went on the market in May and 31 of them were sold by July so we are now



Metha Anwatanapanich, Senior Executive Vice President, Business and Project Development Division, outside one of the new two-storey family homes at Saransiri Koh Kaew. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

ready to proceed with phase two," he said.

The 171 houses in the second phase are slightly larger

than those in the first phase. Each of the houses in the 'Baan Sanrak' phase covers

a total area of 151sqm and

features larger bedrooms and a third bathroom. The houses are priced from 5.15 million baht.






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### NOTICE OF SALE

The company known as Canvas Creations Co Ltd, trading at Phuket Boat Lagoon, ID number 08355 43002257, will be transferred to new owners on 1st September 2016. All creditors of the company are hereby notified to render in their demands to the undersigned prior to the transfer date, and all persons indebted to the company are required to make immediate payment. Any claim submitted after the notice date will not be accepted by the new owners. Muzza Nordstrand, Managing Director. Tel: 081-370 1600. Email: [canvasphuket@gmail.com](mailto:canvasphuket@gmail.com)

### PA KHLOK HOUSE FOR SALE - 2.4MB



U-domsuk Village: 112/101, Soi 6. Hot water, 2 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 56sqw, Western kitchen, car park, 24hr security, 1.2km from Heroine's Monument. Email: [pratap@hotmail.com](mailto:pratap@hotmail.com) or LINE ID: h.prapatap

### HOUSE FOR SALE

Chalong. 36sqw, fully furnished, 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom bungalow. 3 million baht only. Please call 076-288988, 093-749 2277. Email: [admin@phuketconsult.com](mailto:admin@phuketconsult.com)

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### LAND FOR SALE IN PHUKET-SAKHU

1 to 5 rai, Chanote, 10 minutes south of the airport, nice quiet location, near Nai Yang - Nai Thorn Beach. Fixed price, only 2.6 million baht per rai. Tel: 087-076 6016. Email: [kanchanajit09@gmail.com](mailto:kanchanajit09@gmail.com)

### PA KHLOK HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, western kitchen, large living area, large garden, laundry area, furniture, sound system with 14 speakers included. Quiet gated area near Mission Hill Golf Club, airport & BIS. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 061-238 0155. Email: [paulajlaydon@hotmail.com](mailto:paulajlaydon@hotmail.com)

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### BEAUTIFUL KARON POOL VILLA

This very beautiful modern villa has it all – sparkling salt water pool, 3 huge bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, maid quarters. Fully furnished, secure estate close to the beach. G4S alarm system. Relax and enjoy all the hard work that has been done. A must see. Price: 12.5 million baht. Tel: 081-719 4688 (Thai). Email: [elbej@hotmail.com](mailto:elbej@hotmail.com)

## PROPERTY FOR RENT



**STUDIO ROOM FOR RENT**

Please contact 086-4769612  
email: annanol1@hotmail.com

Royal Place condo, Phuket City, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus, 37 Sqm, 2 fl. Studio room, fully furnished.

**NEW POOL VILLA IN PATONG**  
2 bedrooms, high quality, fully furnished villa with pool & separate Jacuzzi. Located in Central Patong. For rent on monthly & yearly basis. Yearly: 120,000 baht / month. Contact Ann. Tel: 081-597 6195. www.bukitpoolvillas.com

**APT FOR RENT NAI HARN BEACH**  
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**RAWAI - NAI HARN VILLAS**



Rent & sale. 1-6 bedroom, suites for all budgets. Tel: 081-538 4588. Email: info@purimasproperty.com, www.purimasproperty.com

**BRAND NEW VILLA THALANG**  
5-bedroom 5-bathroom 2-storey villa, pool area, quiet location, near PIA International School / Thanyapura Hotel, long or short term. Negotiable. Tel: 081-538 2110, 096-975 9628. Email: karelyn1@optusnet.com.au

**KAMALA CONDO FOR SALE OR RENT**  
1 bedroom, fully furnished, 2 swimming pools, gym, restaurant, tennis court, sauna, shuttle bus to beach and town, parking, 24hr security. Rent: 18,000 baht per month. Sale: foreign freehold, 3.9 million baht. Size 77.86 sqm. For more information, please call 061-238 0155 (English). Email: paulajlaydon@hotmail.com

**LOVELY APARTMENTS**  
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**LARGE LUXURY ROOM**



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**Luxury penthouse/roof villa. Kata Beach.**  
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**Tel/SMS: 081-788 8280**

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**HOUSE FOR RENT**  
Boat Lagoon Phuket. 2 bedrooms, fully furnished. Email: fon-daki@hotmail.com

**LUXURY POOL VILLA**  
Live in tropical garden near Laguna. Has all. Lease. Only 23,000 baht / month. Tel: 089-594 4067.

**KRABI POOL VILLA FOR RENT**  
New 200sqm villa, fully furnished, pool, European kitchen. 25,000 baht/month. Ao Nang. Tel: 081-720 5119. Email: camnet@gmail.com

**COZY HOUSE TO RENT PATONG**  
Area of Baan Suan Kamnan, left side of Patong Bay on the hill. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Quiet, green area. Price reduced. Long term preferred. Tel: 086-195 6975, 090-474 6192 (English & Thai). Email: cortlandtwood@hotmail.com

**CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE**  
Construction, renovation, maintenance, air-conditioner service & installation, pool service and maintenance, electric surveys, mold remediation. Kathu. Visit our website or give us a call for more information. Tel: 083-394 8337 (English), 080-141 4577 (English & Thai). Email: mattias@zionproperty.com, http://zionproperty.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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## GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS

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 Patong.com domain & website for sale. 1.5 million baht. Tel: +61-44-777 7077. Contact by patongdotcom@hotmail.com

**DEPARTMENT STORE FOR SALE US\$65 MILLION**  
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 Construction. Renovation. Shopfitting. Please call 063-118 3839.

**DIVING RELATED DOMAINS**  
 Diving related domains for sale: divingkhaolak.com and diving similans.com, Kata. Please call 076-284 580, 080-040 8805 (English). Email: stevenvanleewarden@yahoo.com

**BUILDING RENOVATIONS**  
 Villa constructions and renovations. Electric works, plumbing and maintenance. Located in Kathu. For more information, please call 076-390539, 083-394 8337 (English), 080-141 4577 (Thai). Email: mattias@zionproperty.com, www.zionproperty.com

**WANTED: LIGHTING BUSINESS**  
 Relocating to Phuket and seriously looking for an existing lighting, electrical, lamps business – supply, wholesale and retail. Any existing such business owner willing to sell, please contact us in Kenya. Tel: +254-20-374 9559, +254-733-424 013, +254-724-255 786. Email: karim@powerinnovation.sld.com Visit our website at www.powerinnovationsltd.com

### BULLETINS

**Alcoholics Anonymous**

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If you want to stop that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763  
 084-307 7408

Email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

Google AA Phuket

**BAR & RESTAURANT FOR SALE**  
 Amigo Bar & Restaurant for sale! Soi Nanai, Patong. Fully refurbished. Large bar and kitchen with terrace. Rent: 45,000 baht / month. Sale: 1.8 million baht. Tel: 061-662 7071 (English & Thai). Email: robbieabbott@yahoo.co.uk

**LAUNDRY SERVICE FOR SALE**  
 Fully equipped. Very busy operating laundry. Established customer clients. Located near Bangkok Phuket Hospital. Good cash flow. Good return on 170,000 baht investment. Ideal for single or family business. Bedroom and bathroom included. Current owner will help and train. Tel: 081-633 6149. Email: jaymurphy800@yahoo.com




### VACANT POSITIONS

**Zeavola Resort Phi Phi Island SLH member**

The Zeavola is the only five-star resort on Phi Phi Island and is highly successful. In order to improve our performance further, the Zeavola Family is seeking applications from dynamic and talented individuals who share our passion for providing excellent customer service. You should be highly motivated, confident and enthusiastic about assisting the team to reach new levels of service quality and financial success.

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- Dive Instructor
- Asst. Chief Engineer
- Sous Chef
- E-Commerce Reservation Supervisor
- Spa Supervisor
- Bar Supervisor
- Excursion Guide

**Profile:**

- ▶ At least a vocational certificate or Bachelor's degree
- ▶ At least 3-5 years experience in the field
- ▶ Strong result oriented, people management and leadership skills
- ▶ Strong English communication skills and computer skills
- ▶ Strong analytical and problem solving skills and execution of work

**Fringe Benefits:**

- ▶ Good salary + sharing service charge
- ▶ Group insurance, social security, workmen's compensation
- ▶ Duty meals in the staff canteen / Officer check at hotel restaurant as per position category
- ▶ Private dress / uniform laundry
- ▶ Transportation from/to Phuket / Krabi – Resort for round trip by ferry
- ▶ Accommodation as per your position at resort

Thai national and foreigner applicants will be considered. Please send your CV to [hr@zeavola.com](mailto:hr@zeavola.com) or [preecha@zeavola.com](mailto:preecha@zeavola.com) or call Preecha Onkong at 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

**SOCIAL MEDIA ORGANIZER**  
 You will be responsible for all social media marketing and internet campaigns for our various developments and companies. Social media expertise, internet savvy and advanced computer skills is a must. Located in Patong. Tel: 076-341 045. Please send us your CV to info@propertyinphuket.com

**EXPERIENCED THAI ADMIN**  
 I.T. Company requires experienced Thai Admin staff. Competitive salary, secure job with established business. Fluent English, computer literacy & own transport essential. Located in Pa Khlok. Tel: 076-604068, 099-316 6212 (English). Fax: 076-604069. Email: sales@pulse-tv.net

**HANDYMAN NEEDED**  
 Thai national. Full-time job. 6 days/week. Driving licence & spoken English skills required. 5-villa resort, small team. Cherng Talay, Thalang, Phuket. Please call 076-602 280, 089-594 5312 (English). Email: lea@siamaya.com

**AUTOCAD COMPETENT PERSON**  
 We are looking for a person who has experience in AutoCAD & some form of technical training. Your task is to calculate & draw the under floor heating systems in existing house plans. We will train you and it is an advantage if you have a technical interest & experience in house blueprints. Tel: 094-749 4571. Email: rockcityphuket@yahoo.com

**THAI FITNESS TRAINER**  
 Thai national only. Must have experience in fitness, gym and training techniques (Yoga, Mat, Pilates). Good English also required. Location in Ao Yon, Cape Panwa. Tel: 082-282 2532. Email: andamangypsea@yahoo.com

**TEACHER WANTED**  
 Home schooling, native English, female, Monday-Friday, 9.00-2.30pm, 3 children, 7-9 years old. Salary 40,000 baht. Tel: 081-343 0777.

## Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

**GRAPHIC ARTIST 1 POSITION**

- ▶ Graphic-design skills and knowledge of Adobe Illustrator, PageMaker, Indesign, Photoshop required
- ▶ Freehand drawing and web-design skills a plus
- ▶ Responsible, hard-working, attention to detail
- ▶ Able to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines
- ▶ Good communication skills, team player
- ▶ Thai-English speaker

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Anna (General Manager), by email, fax or post to:

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**  
 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, T. Koh Keaw, A. Muang Phuket 83000  
 Tel: 076-273555, ext 102 | Fax: 076-615240  
 Email: [anna@phuketgazette.net](mailto:anna@phuketgazette.net)

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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 140 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

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

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## WHEELS & MOTORS

### 2001 JAGUAR XJ8 FOR SALE



2001 Jaguar XJ8 3.2L. Excellent condition with only 80,000km. Full Sovereign option. Priced to sell at 750,000 baht. Kathu. Tel: 098-671 8477 (English). Email: richard@r-felton.com

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### CAR RENT AT FAIR PRICES

Low season price, starts at 10,000 baht monthly. Daily rental: 500 baht. Thalung. Tel: 084-847 4377 (English), 093-760 6016.

# Raising the standard of skin care

By Sahar Aftab Paliwala

Dr PASSARATEP Anuruk-paiboon MD, Dsc (or Dr Pat, as he is better known), is the director of dermatology and chief dermatologist at Phuket International Dermatology Institute (PDI) at Phuket International Hospital. He is originally from Bangkok, but was raised in Samui for about five years. After getting his medical degree from Mahidol University in 2003, Dr Pat began working in Ranong, where he was soon appointed as the hospital director of a 30-bed public hospital in Kraburi district.

He started to pursue dermatology in 2005 after visiting his uncle who had been practicing in San Diego for 30 years.

“Back then I wanted to experience different fields to see which one I liked. Originally, I wanted to be a pediatrician, because when I was young, I had an asthma attack and had to have treatment once a week for two and a half years. The doctors and nurses really helped me, so I felt like this would be a rewarding field to pursue,” says Dr Pat.

He first started out in cosmetic dermatology about 12 years ago. He practiced for five years in Bangkok and then enrolled at Boston University (BU) for his PhD to move beyond cosmetic treatments and learn more about skin diseases. Although he never attended an international school, he is proficient in English because of his varied group of friends and his interest in learning through movies and music. This helped him pass his admission test for BU.

“I’m very glad and grateful that I made the decision to study at BU. There were 13 medical schools in Thailand at the time, only half of which could provide dermatology training. Whereas in Boston and New England there were several world-class dermatology training programs such as Harvard, BU, Tufts University, University of Massachusetts and Yale. Boston is the motherland of dermatology and I got a chance to learn from world renowned dermatologists,” he says.

His mentors at BU, Dr Barbara Gilchrest, Dr Thomas

Ruenger and Dr Amal Kurban, were some of the foremost experts in dermatology.

“The good thing about being in Boston is the variety of people you get to treat, and fortunately, it’s the same here in Phuket. For instance, between December and February, I saw patients from 59 different countries,” says Dr Pat.

Dr Pat feels that most people believe dermatology only covers the aesthetic aspect of treatment, whereas it is much more than that. He says that while it is important for people to look good and be confident in their appearance, dermatology goes beyond that and can help improve people’s quality of life.

“I had an Egyptian patient who had a rare disease known as *pemphigus vulgaris* that caused burns on his body and mouth. Other doctors couldn’t even give him a diagnosis, but fortunately I had encountered a similar case in BU and was able to treat him,” he says.

His vision is to make PDI a hub for dermatology at reasonable prices and good quality. He also believes it is important to

make sure the treatment you’re getting is safe and effective.

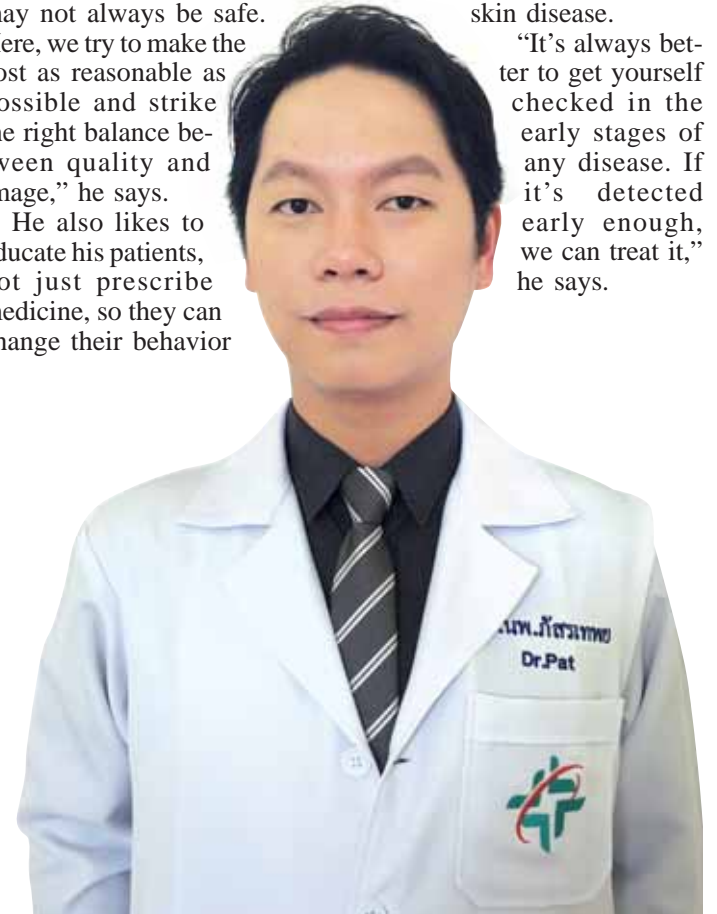
“There are cheap treatments available in the market, but they may not always be safe.

Here, we try to make the cost as reasonable as possible and strike the right balance between quality and image,” he says.

He also likes to educate his patients, not just prescribe medicine, so they can change their behavior

and lifestyle to treat the cause of the problem. Most importantly, he says you must never ignore any symptoms of skin disease.

“It’s always better to get yourself checked in the early stages of any disease. If it’s detected early enough, we can treat it,” he says.



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