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**1927-2016**

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## Month of mourning brings changes in media guidelines

### Broadcasters suspend normal programming for 30 days, papers and magazines publish in grey

TV CHANNELS suspended normal programming after televising the funeral procession of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej from Siriraj Hospital to the Grand Palace for the official mourning ceremony on October 14.

Government Spokesman General Sansern Kaewkamnerd, who is also the acting chief of the government's Public Relations Department, had requested broadcasters suspend their normal programming for 30 days and broadcast government related programs.

Gen Sansern said networks will broadcast from the Television Pool of Thailand – which contains government-sponsored and curated content – when special programs are televised concerning His Majesty the King's funerary ceremonies and rituals.

The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC)'s Broadcasting Committee also issued guidelines, stating that TV programs and advertisements must not transmit scenes containing dancing or violent acts, or scenes considered entertaining. TV presenters, hosts and announcers are required to dress in white or black and act solemnly.

According to the NBTC, criticism or analysis is not allowed during this period of mourning. Pictures and the tone of publications must be solemn and proper.

In response to the government's guidelines, media entities jointly postponed all entertainment-related activities and events for one month.

Triluj Navamarat, president of the Media Advertising Association of Thailand (MAAT) called for advertising via mainstream media such as television, radio and newspapers to be cancelled for at least three days. Entertainment programs have been largely replaced by documentaries about HM the King.

Media associations and media owners convened an urgent meeting regarding the guidelines after they were made public, following news of the death of HM the King on October 13.

Under the government's original guidelines for media, all TV and radio programs were stopped and simultaneously broadcast from the government-run Channel 11 for a week.

Newspapers and magazines were directed to publish in grey. The color of content within the publications is still subject to government direction.

The NBTC guidelines also apply to online and home-made media. Digital billboards and signage were directed to turn off at night.

YouTube's Thailand website was directed to shut down for the week following HM the King's death, and will support government-produced content and retrospectives about HM King Bhumibol throughout the month. Other websites appeared in grey.

Media and advertising agencies were directed to cease all commercial advertising for three days, while event organizers were asked to suspend all entertainment and performances for 30 days.

In response to the guidelines, social media giant Facebook announced that it had turned off all ads for Thailand during the period of mourning. However, advertisements continued as normal in other countries, and Thai advertisers are still able to run advertisements outside of the Kingdom.

– The Nation

## Gleeful fishermen catch hauls of fish in Patong



Fishermen caught a rare break in this season's lackluster catches when hauls of fish were captured off Patong's shore on October 15. Phuket Lifeguard Club President Prathaiyut Chuayuan told the *Gazette* that larger hauls are typical at the end of monsoon season. Photo: Phuket Information Center Line group

### Aussie man dies after heart attack in Patong

AN AUSTRALIAN man died at Patong Hospital on October 18, shortly after he was admitted unconscious following a heart attack.

The 32-year old man checked in at a resort in Patong on October 13. He was staying there with a 37-year-old Canadian woman.

"According to the woman, the man told her he was experiencing chest pains and having difficulty breathing at about 7am. She said she called out to him, but he fell unconscious," said Maj Pattapee Srichai of Patong Police.

"She then asked the hotel staff for help, who contacted the hospital and also performed first aid. They said his pulse was extremely low."

Doctors at Patong Hospital administered CPR, but could not revive him. The cause of death was stated by doctors as a heart attack.

The names of the two travellers are being withheld by the *Gazette* until his relatives are informed.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

### Police bust yet another Phuket gambling den

TWENTY-TWO suspected gamblers were arrested in Wichit during a joint police and military raid on October 15.

The raid followed a similar bust in Wichit in early October, during which police apprehended 16 suspected gamblers and confiscated more than 130,000 baht in cash, as well as gambling paraphernalia.

Approximately 30 Wichit Police and Army 41st Military Circle personnel raided a pop-up shop, allegedly constructed solely for the gamblers to bet on football. The man alleged to be running the pop-up gambling den, Somprasong Jaroengrueangwong, was also taken into custody.

The officers, led by Wichit Police Superintendent Nikorn Suksom and Army Major Sathit Naikhun – based in Nakhon Sri Thammarat – seized over 16,000 baht in cash and gambling chips. Three computers were also confiscated from the gambling hall.

The 'Step Up' den was located at Soi Charoensup on

Muangthong-Khao Khad Road in Wichit.

"We sent in our men to observe their goings on until we were sure they were gambling," Col Nikorn said. "So we went in at about 6:30pm and found the suspects either filling in gambling forms or watching TV. We rounded them up and took them to the station."

Mr Somprasong was charged as the proprietor of the gambling operation, while other players were charged with gambling.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

### Foundation gives out free black ribbons

THE Kusoldharm Foundation is providing free black ribbons to the public, in honor of the passing of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on October 13.

Volunteers with the non-profit organization told the *Gazette* on October 18 that they've made over 1,000 ribbons for mourners, which they are handing out to passers by near the Heroine's Monument on Thepkrasattri Road.

– Winai Sarot



# Royal Thai Police Nat'l Day observed

PHUKET Police officers marked 'Royal Thai Police National Day' on October 13.

Hundreds of Phuket police officers joined the event, which is part of nationwide celebrations to honor the force. The ceremony was held at the Phuket Provincial Police Headquarters in Phuket Town.

The celebrations started with a Buddhist blessing before the official ceremony, led by Phuket Provincial Police Commander Teeraphol Thipjaroen, who was joined by the governor of Phuket Dr Chokchai Dejamorthan.

Gen Teeraphol and Governor Chokchai presented awards to officers for their good work, as well as people from private organizations for supporting the police.

Gen Teeraphol read a statement from National Police Commissioner Chakthip Chaijinda to the officers.

"The Police National Day is a day of honor for all police officers. Police must be always ready to perform their duty at all times," he read.

"Thank you to all our brothers in the police who have been performing their duties to the best of their abilities, as well as dedicating themselves to the people by putting their own lives at risk. Sometimes they even trade their lives for the happiness and safety of others."

Gen Teeraphol thanked all police officers for following government and Royal Thai Police policies.



Police at attention in the rain. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

"We have been successful in cracking down on crime and I am proud of you all for helping us get there. We will continue to work tirelessly to eliminate crime on the island, from land, water or air," Gen Teeraphol said.

"I would also like to thank all traffic police officers who work in the rain and every officer who helps our organization to achieve our mission. I need you all to stick with your vows and not unnecessarily risk your lives. Remember what your job is at all times. I wish you all the best."

Gov Chokchai also thanked police officers for their work in supporting the government and for protecting and serving the people of Phuket.

"I am impressed with the good work officers have done for the island," Gov Chokchai said. "As I'm new here, we will need to get to know each other better and discuss the necessary ways forward for the island."

- Chutharat Plerin

# Two Phuketians investigated for defamatory comments



A woman prostrates herself in front of a portrait of HM the King. Photo: Suchat Hankij

By Suchat Hankij

A MAN in Mai Khao and a woman on Koh Samui were arrested on October 16, after allegedly posting negative comments about royalty on social media.

The arrests were catalyzed by mob demonstrations against the alleged commenters.

On the morning of October 16, a man identified on his Facebook profile as Payak Rai Haeng Nakhon Kor-En allegedly posted negative comments regarding Thailand's late Monarch.

Tah Chat Chai Police, responding to repeated complaints, moved against the suspect named as Manor-ussadin, at his house in Mai Khao. Police are withholding his last name.

"When we arrived at his house, his father told him to come out to talk to us, but he

refused to leave his bedroom," Tah Chat Chai Superintendent Prawit Suttiruengarun said. "From outside, we could see Mr Manorussadin holding a knife, pacing around the room and talking to himself. Eventually, his father opened the door to let us in."

"We found a methamphetamine (*ya bah*) pill in his room, so he was charged with possession of a Category 1 drug," Captain Prawit said. "We're still collecting more evidence concerning the royal defamation accusations."

That afternoon, more than 1,000 people gathered at Bo Phut Police Station on Koh Samui, after a woman was arrested for allegedly making defamatory comments about royalty on Facebook.

Social media application 'Line' users filed a lese majeste

complaint with police on Saturday against 43-year-old Umaporn Sarasat, who had reportedly posted her negative comments on October 14.

Bo Phut Police superintendent Thewet Pluemsut reportedly asked for and received an arrest warrant from a court for Ms Umaporn.

She was arrested at Thong Krut pier and then, in front of the crowd outside the police station, prostrated herself below a portrait of the late monarch. Police did not reveal whether any further action would be taken.

The latest arrests follow the detention of a Phuket man on October 15, on *Lese Majeste* charges early that morning after hundreds of angry locals had gathered in front of his shop, protesting against his alleged negative social media posts regarding the royal family.

# Authorities increase Internet monitoring

SOCIAL media users and their activities are under strict scrutiny by authorities following the announcement of the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej last Thursday, Phuket Governor Chokchai Dejamorthan said on October 14.

"We have set up a special team comprising police officers, military personnel and IT staff to keep a close watch on social media," said Governor Chokchai. "We are on the lookout for people who post or share false information."

He urged people to avoid believing 'everything they see

on social media'.

"Thailand has entered a period of mourning, and I wish that no one causes any trouble," said Gov Chokchai.

The governor reiterated the PM's announcement that government officials are to wear black for a year, while flags shall fly at half-mast for 30 days.

"Private companies are free to abide by their own judgment. We do, however, hope that private sector operations will also implement the clothing policy to mourn the loss of our beloved King," said Gov Chokchai.

- Chutharat Plerin



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## Firearms instructor shot in leg



Mr Chaisit is currently recovering. Photo: Kathu Municipality Rescue

A LOCAL firearms instructor was shot by his student during a training session at the Kathu Shooting Range located on Patong Hill at noon on October 19.

The 34-year-old Chaisit Chusawad received a bullet wound on his right leg, caused by a 9mm handgun.

"The shooter, named Emad Jamal Khalifa Hamed hailing from Tripoli, Libya, came in with his wife to purchase 10 bullets for handgun training at the shooting range," confirmed Kathu Police Superintendent Pattanachak Jakkapan. "He told Mr Chaisit that he was going to shoot five bullets, while the rest were for his wife.

Col Pattanachak told the *Gazette* that a misunderstanding regarding safety requirements at the range, most likely caused by a language barrier, may have resulted in the accidental shooting of Mr Chaisit.

"When Mr Hamed was done shooting, he attempted to hand over the weapon to his wife right away. However, Mr Chaisit grabbed it instead, causing the firearm to discharge," said Col Pattanachak.

According to shooting range regulations, trainees are supposed to give firearms to the instructors after firing shots.

Mr Chaisit was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where he was treated for his injury and released.

Col Pattanachak confirmed that the incident may have been an accident, and upon further investigations it will be decided whether or not to press charges against Mr Hamed.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

# Patong Mayor, locals hold ceremonies for late monarch

By Kongleaphy Keam

THE Baan Morn community of Patong, along with the mayor and several monks, prayed to bless His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and mourn his passing in a ceremony held on the evening of October 17.

Patong Police Superintendent Chaiwat Auikam also joined the mourners.

"Our King visited Pisit Koranee Road in Patong several times in the past; his first visit was on March 11, 1959. We built a pavilion after that visit, following which he visited again with Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn in 1968," Patong Mayor Chalermluck Kebsup told the *Gazette*.

"Our elders say that His Majesty the King visited Patong alone even though the commute was very difficult at the time. He also spoke to locals and visited Wang Kee Aon waterfall."

Her Royal Highness



Mourners pay their respects in Patong in a ceremony honoring HM the King. Photo: Phuket PR

Srinagarindra Mahidol (Princess Mother of Thailand) also visited the pavilion in 1967.

HM the King, Princess

Srinagarindra and Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn all signed their names at the pavilion and their signatures were later engraved

in a granite plinth placed in the middle of the pavilion for locals to visit and pay their respects every year on March 11.

## Bangla's bustling venues fall silent

AS THE Kingdom mourns the loss of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Phuket's governor requested on October 14 that the touristic island's entertainment venues close last weekend.

Entertainment venues in Phuket fell silent as a sign of mourning for the passing of HM the King at 3:52pm on October 13.

Bars and nightclub owners along the normally bustling Bangla Road in Patong turned off their music and instead lit up candles to pay tribute to His Majesty.

A similar show of grief could be seen at Saphan Hin in Phuket Town and other areas throughout the island.

"We have yet to receive any official letter to close up shop and stop selling alcohol," said Weerawit Kurasombat, president of the Patong Entertainment Business Association.

"However, some venues have turned off their music, some have stopped selling alcohol and some shut down entirely of their own accord, out of respect and consideration."



Mourners gather on at Saphan Hin to light candles in memory of HM the King. Photo: Muse Phuwapat

"We do hope the tourists understand," added Mr Weerawit.

Phuket Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan asked all entertainment venues not to put on performances over the weekend, following the announcement of HM the King's death.

"It's not an order and we won't be enforcing it, but the idea is to allow people who work in the venues to have a chance to pay respect to His Majesty King Bhumibol," Gov Chokchai said.

"After that, for the next 30 days, officials will be strictly

monitoring entertainment venues. After those 30 days, we'll see. I believe all Thai people understand the need for such measures and will be cooperative," he said.

- Chutharat Plerin and Kongleaphy Keam



# Muslims mourn the loss of HM

By Kongleaphy Keam

The Sheikhul Islam Office of Thailand released guidelines on October 14 detailing how the Buddhist nation's Muslims should pay their respects following the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The office's letter comes as the nation of 67 million mourns the passing of the world's longest reigning monarch on October 13.

"Since we are Muslims, we cannot dress in black and white like the Buddhists do," said Phuket Islamic Committee Secretary Piyadet Chuachalard.

"We can attend the ceremonies and write our name down as mourners at Provincial Hall, but we cannot join in."

The letter from the Sheikhul Islam Office states that Thailand's Muslims should:

1. Dress normally, but avoid colorful clothing.
2. Listen to the Imam's sermon and show gratitude for HM the King's goodness every Friday in the mosque before



Muslims listen to a sermon by an imam. Photo: Gazette file

prayer.

3. Review HM the King's work every Friday.

4. Visit exhibitions about HM the King's work.

5. Follow HM the King's teachings and advice in order to ensure a bright future for themselves and the country.

Mr Piyadet said that individuals may recite a *dua* (supplication to God) for HM the King after the sermon and during prayer.

"We are thinking of hosting an event where all of Phuket's Muslims can come together to recite a *dua* for HM the King," he said. "We will release more information when we know the specifics."

# 100kg krathom leaves seized on Koh Samui

By Suchat Hankij

A MAN was arrested with 100 kilograms of *krathom* in Koh Samui on October 16.

"At about 9am we were manning the checkpoint at the Seatran Ferry pier as usual," said Samui police chief Paitoon Krajang, "when we found a modified pick-up truck that had an oversized spare tyre and was riding low to the ground. It was suspicious, so we stopped the truck for inspection."

Col Paitoon said that the driver, named as Chayaporn Tayeng, 29, also looked suspicious to police officers during their vehicle inspection.

"We found three plastic boxes in the back of the truck. When we opened them, we found they were full of about 100kg of *krathom* leaves," Col Paitoon said.

"There were also 40 bottles of cough syrup and one sword in the truck."

During his subsequent inter-



The drugs were found in the back of a truck. Photo: Suchat Hankij











rogation, Mr Chayaporn reportedly told police that he was hired to deliver the cargo from Nakhon Si Thammarat to Samui for about 10,000 baht per trip. Col Paitoon said Mr Chayaporn had made the journey six times already.

"To broaden the case, we asked him who he picked up the *krathom* from and who it

was being sent to, but he wasn't able to tell us," said Col Paitoon.

"He said he was just hired to pick up from an appointed place and drop the drugs at an assigned place as well without seeing anyone.

Mr Chayaporn was charged with possession of a category 5 drug with intent to sell.

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# Mother of slain German gets help

By Sam Gruber

OVER two years after his murder, the alleged killers of a Düsseldorf man named Volker Schwartges are finally set to appear in judicial courts, after official letters of complaint from Germany have put pressure on Thailand's government.

The 46-year-old Mr Schwartges was attacked by at least four young Samui locals at about 6am on August 20, 2014. Mr Schwartges was kicked, beaten with bottles and bled out in the parking lot behind a music venue in Chaweng, after having his throat slit with a knife.

While the venue has since been closed by the police and the army, for two years there was little word about the case progressing in Thai courts, although 'Der Farang' newspaper repeatedly reported on "paralyzed police and judicial processing" holding up the prosecution of Mr Schwartges' murder.

Although the Royal Thai Embassy in Berlin had responded to an inquest two years ago, according to the 'Düsseldorfer Express' newspaper, and the investigations had been forwarded to the public prosecutor's office in Koh Samui in November 2014, the case never made it to court. The



(Left) Volker Schwartges, 46, was killed in cold blood and left for dead behind a music venue in Chaweng. (Right) His mother Gisela, 71, who has appealed to numerous authorities since 2014. Photos: Gazette file

perpetrators, including the main suspect, a 17-year-old, did not spend a single night behind bars.

In her distress and frustration, Mr Schwartges' 71-year-old mother Gisela wrote letters in German, Thai and English and sent them to the highest authorities and ministries in Thailand and Germany. On October 13 this

year, Ms Schwartges received a letter from Thailand's Ministry of Tourism, stating that the trial of her son's murder will begin on November 11, in a Koh Samui provincial court.

The prosecutor's office in Koh Samui confirmed only the case's file number, stating that they did not want to comment on the content of the

prosecution's case, nor on the reason for the delay in getting Mr Schwartges' case to trial. A clerk hinted that the trial's delay may have been caused by "the place that wrote the letter to the mother."

Experts on Thailand's judiciary system said that the opening of a murder trial more than two years after the act was "highly unusual".

A letter from the Tourist Assistance Center of the Thai Tourism Ministry to Ms Schwartges stated that her son's case had already been tried and the accused punished on June 15 in a Koh Samui provincial court. Since the murder victim was a German citizen, the German Embassy in Bangkok or the German Foreign Office ought to have been informed of the outcome of the trial. Neither institution had received such notification.

An employee of the Koh Samui prosecutor's office could not explain who had stood trial for Mr Schwartges' murder. The aforementioned 17-year-old suspect's three accomplices had their charges of intentional murder lifted, but reportedly stood trial for charges of grave bodily injury and the carrying of weapons in public. However, no verdict has been made against them and the German authorities have not been informed of the procedure.

Ms Schwartges and her friends in Düsseldorf say they are now eagerly awaiting November 11, and the appearance in court of her son's alleged killer, who has been seen repeatedly after the bloody slaying on August 20. He reportedly regularly went to the disco Mr Schwartges was murdered behind.

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## Krabi man murdered in drive-by M16 shooting

POLICE are hunting for unknown suspects who murdered a man and injured his wife in a drive-by shooting on Phet Kasem Road in Krabi on the morning of October 18.

The suspects pulled up next to the driver's side of a pick-up truck, driven by 50-year-old Thana Pisan. He and his 46-year-old wife, Sirikul Sirikunyawattana, were travelling back from a Krabi Town fresh market after buying supplies for their restaurant in the Khlong Thom area.

The suspects reportedly fired at the couple several times, causing their pick-up to crash, and drove off immediately.

Police found several 9mm and ten M16 bullet casings at the scene. They believe a love

triangle could be the motive behind the shooting.

"We found at least 10 bullet holes in the driver's side window," said Maj Somporn Songsaeng of Khlong Thom Police. "Mr Thana was already dead when we arrived, and Ms Sirikul had a gunshot wound in her right thigh."

Both victims were taken to Khlong Thom Hospital.

"They came out of nowhere. I don't remember the model of the car. The drove away right after the shooting," Ms Sirikul said.

Maj Somporn said the attack seemed well planned.

"We believe Mr Thana was the only target," said Maj Somporn. "However, we will continue our investigation into the case."

— Kritsada Mueanhawong



## Loyals travel far and wide to pay respect

MANY loyal villagers put aside everything, including concerns about their own financial difficulties, as they make arduous journeys from remote towns to Bangkok to bid farewell to HM the King.

Despite difficulty, some people have been willing to undertake long treks because they feel strongly connected and grateful to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej for his royal initiatives.

Chui Kaewjanta, 65, from Chiang Rai, the northernmost province, said: "I could not stay in my house any longer. My heart has flown to Bangkok already since I learned of this tragic loss. I have no money and had to borrow from my neighbors because I wanted to come here. I miss my King."

Kraiwut, 42, who is a mechanic, sat alone in a tent set up on a footpath by Sanam Luang with a portrait of the King in one hand. His other hand held a handkerchief to wipe tears from his eyes as he looked toward the Grand Palace, where the King's body now rests.

He travelled to Bangkok with a friend, who came to have his old car repaired. After the seven-hour drive, he separated with his friend and just came to the Grand Palace to pay tribute to the King.

Chalong Padpien, a 50-year-old employee from Ubon Ratchathani, said the King's goodness and benevolence were such that he felt compelled to come – to help send him to Heaven.

"I took a free train which took 14 hours to reach Bangkok. We are willing to come despite it being a long distance."

## Hundreds line up outside GSB to buy special bank notes

HUNDREDS of people queued up from 2am on October 18 at the Government Savings Bank Headquarters in Saphan Kwai to get commemorative banknotes of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.



An emotional Phuket Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan and other provincial dignitaries joined officials throughout the country in commemorating the loss of the nation's beloved King last week. Photo: AoT

Chatchai Payuhanaveechai, president of Government Savings Bank, said the GSB has some 90,000 sets of the commemorative banknotes on the occasion His Majesty's 84th birthday to sell.

The normal sets sell for 200 baht each and special sets for 500 baht each.

He said the GSB had received an overwhelming number of inquiries from the public about purchasing His Majesty's commemorative banknotes following the passing of the King.

## Paintings depict HM the King as the Supreme Artist

IN REMEMBRANCE of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej as the 'Supreme Artist', a group of Silpakorn art students have turned their university's white wall into a public art gallery.

Nine portraits depicting the late monarch's artistic talents are now on display at the university's Tha Phra campus, which is opposite the Grand Palace, where His Majesty's body is lying in state.

The portraits, including those of His Majesty painting, playing the saxophone, taking photographs, penning books, building a sailboat and sailing, have been put together in a mural on a two-by-two meter wall.



Completed early on the morning of October 18, the mural has become a major attraction for mourners to pay their last respects to the beloved monarch and take photographs.

"As art students, we wanted to show our respects to the Supreme Artist through this mural," the students said.

The mural is painted in sepia tones with dark shades.

"The main portrait depicts the King painting one of his well-known brightly colored

semi-abstracts," said Napat 'Butterfly' Kaewmanee, a fresh graduate who painted that part of the image.

"Each piece is mounted as a unified whole and painted as a cloud to symbolize his ascent to heaven," said Naphat Phatarapornlert, who painted the image of His Majesty writing a book.

More than 100 students and new graduates initiated the project on October 14, which cost them about 60,000 baht.

"We collected money to buy plywood instead of canvas, because it's cheaper, so we could buy plastic paint, which is used for exteriors," said Pituk Imtarapasi, who painted the image of His Majesty taking a photograph.

## PM sacks BKK governor names another

PRIME Minister General Prayuth Chan-o-cha invoked absolute power under the interim charter's Article 44 to remove MR Sukhumbhand Paribatra from the post of Bangkok governor and appoint deputy governor Pol General Assawin Kwanmuang to the post instead.

Published in the *Royal Gazette* on October 18, a news article read that the ongoing investigation into allegations against the elected governor, whose term was to end in a few months, would require time. New gubernatorial elections cannot be organized either because National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) orders are still in place.

In his capacity as NCPO chief, Gen Prayuth ordered the removal of Mr Sukhumbhand and his deputies before appointing Mr Assawin as successor on the grounds that the city administration needed to maintain consistency in its work. Mr Assawin will choose up to four deputy governors.

The order said the appointment or removal of deputy governors would require the premier's approval. It also said the prime minister could dismiss the governor and his deputies if they dishonor their position or neglect their duties leading to serious damage to the city, the civil service, peace and order, or public well-being.

Gen Prayuth initially ordered the suspension of Sukhumbhand in late August.

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## Phuket Gazette

# Forever in our hearts and minds

IT IS with great sorrow that this week the *Phuket Gazette* joins the province and the rest of the nation in mourning the passing of a much loved Monarch.

The sad news of the death of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej last Thursday, after the previous issue of the *Phuket Gazette* had gone to print, was surreal and profound, as the loss of the country's sovereign plunged the nation into widespread grief.

Surely anyone, no matter what nationality or faith, who has any kind of connection to Thailand has felt the very tangible sense of loss, or perhaps a deeper understanding of the reverence held for Thailand's King of 70 years – for Thais and foreigners alike.

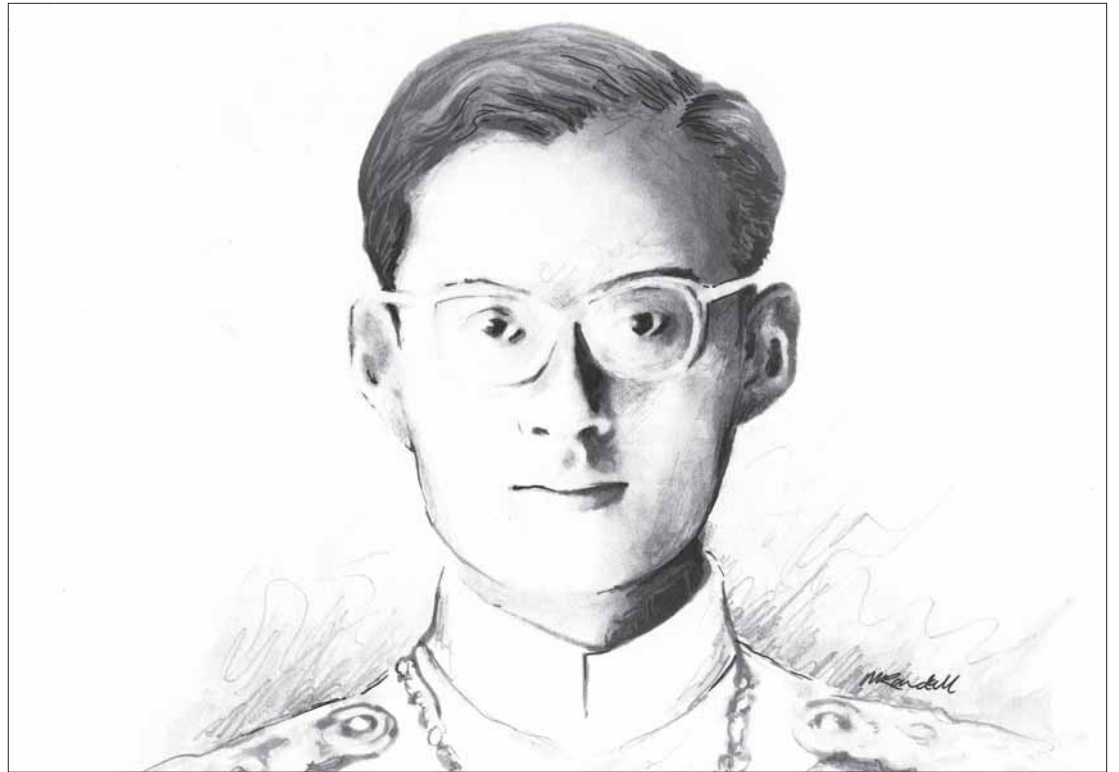
However, it is also heart warming to see the entire nation galvanized in respectful remembrance of HM King Bhumibol, as millions of people from all walks of life pour into the capital to pay their final respects.

Messages of condolence from world leaders have also flooded in [see page 15], showing an unprecedented worldwide affection for a King who led his people by example – encouraging his subjects to find their individual strengths and lead a self-sufficient lifestyle.

Phuket can be proud that King Bhumibol made four official visits to the province; the first, 57 years ago in 1959, to spend four days touring the island [see page 14]. As well as meeting the province's dignitaries, King Bhumibol spent time with locals – eager to learn about the grass-roots lifestyles of his subjects – leaving many of the island's native inhabitants with fond memories of a King who really cared.

The accolades to His Majesty during his seven-decade reign are far too many to mention in these pages, but now that he has passed on from this earthly existence, his memory is sure to live on in the hearts and minds of Phuketians.

The *Gazette* also hopes that this commemorative issue is treasured by readers as a memento of a humanitarian human being and a great leader of huge historical significance who touched so many. Phuket, Thailand, and indeed, the world, has lost a great leader, but his legacy will surely live on and remain a source of strength and pride for the nation.



## We share our tears with all Thais

*Re: Nation weeps over His Majesty's departure, Oct 13*

I share my tears with the people of Thailand and my Thai friends on their loss of the beloved King.

Peter (Perth, Australia)  
Gazette forum

My sympathy to all the wonderful Thai people and their nation

Gerry Foster  
Gazette forum

Condolences from my wife and I to the people of Thailand. We know how much The King meant to you.

Tony Robinson  
Gazette forum

My sympathy to the Royal Family for its great loss of a King and a man loved by all Thais.

Barry Wallace  
Gazette forum

### Most bars have respected the request

*Re: Phuket entertainment venues shut for weekend, Oct 14*

Most bars and entertainment venues have respected the request, those that were open and served alcohol had no music, or it was turned down to a minimum.

It's only a few days for us but this is a historic and very sad time for the local people, so let's try and respect that.

Ralph Teacake  
Gazette forum

Great attitude - gotta love it.

### Letters to the Editor

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

If you're a bar owner, and if I knew the name of it, I'd stop in to salute you when things settle down here a little bit.

Mark Daniels  
Gazette forum

### Laws on gambling are confusing

*Re: Another gambling ring busted in Phuket, Oct 17*

Can someone tell me the difference between a cock fight where millions are bet and a football game where thousands are bet but the police call it illegal gambling.

No matter how hard I try to understand the Police reasoning on this, I'm still bewildered.

bazza  
Gazette forum

### 'Safety 2' may be a better way to go

*Re: Opinion: Stick to the legal limit, Oct 16*

Still hoping that suddenly someone will wave a magic wand and enforcement will suddenly fix Thailand's many road safety issues.

Fifty years of evidence suggests otherwise.

You cannot enforce safety on a system, only compliance

where and when enforced.

There is a better way which is currently gaining international support. 'Safety 2' thinking works to find out how accidents happen and to educate people in how to avoid them.

Thai Safe Rider  
Gazette forum

### Why was the suspect allowed to go

*Re: No jail time for driver who killed German in road accident, Oct 15*

Shameful sentence. Why did the police allow the coward to continue his journey and why did they not breathalyze him?

This is a nation that says it is concerned with bad driving? Doesn't seem like it.

harry  
Gazette forum

### Educating youth can solve the garbage problem

*Re: Rendered images of Rajabhakti Park released, Sep 20ke.*

Rich believes the most important step toward solving the garbage crisis is educating the youth about pollution and its effects on the planet.

That's it exactly. Clean up all you want. It is endless. Fix the root of the problem. Same with animal welfare and road transport.

Jon Hyams  
Facebook

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# Man covers country on foot to honor HM



Mr Chuthipong (right) said that several kind-hearted people have supported him along the way since he set out from home more than five months ago. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A MAN from Phitsanulok Province passed through Krabi on October 18 after setting out from his home province on foot six months ago, determined to walk the length and breadth of the country, passing through all 76 provinces, in honor of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Chuthipong Saetan, 24, began his walk from Phitsanulok in North-Central Thailand with the aim of covering the entire country on foot to end up in Bangkok on December 5, to mark HM the King's birthday.

It was while on the southern leg of his march that he learned of HM's death on October 13.

However, Mr Chuthipong vowed to continue his walk to

the capital and reach the Grand Palace by December so he can pay his respects to the departed monarch.

A tearful Mr Chuthipong was clearly overwhelmed by the news of the king's passing.

"I was very upset to hear that the King has gone. I can't say much," he said.

"Actually, the aim of my trip was to pay homage to the king and make a blessing for him on Father's Day, December 5."

"All that has changed now. When I arrive in Bangkok, it will be to mourn instead," said Mr Chuthipong.

"I never ever expected it to turn out this way."

Mr Chuthipong told the *Gazette* that kind-hearted people have supported him all the way since he set out from home

more than five months ago in May.

"I made a promise to myself that I would be a good person and follow all the teachings of the king. One of my objectives is to do my best to protect all the trees that the king has planted," he said.

"Along the way, people have given me food and some have offered me accommodation, while others have offered support with money.

"I am saving all the money people have given me to buy food for people going to the Royal Palace to pay their last respects," he said.

The purpose of his walk is now to express mourning for the loss of his king instead.

Mr Chuthipong said his next mission will be to protect the trees that the King planted from being damaged.

## The nation grieves

### Island View

By Pruth Kulprasit

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

THE NEWS of the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on October 13 has brought immense sadness to all Thais. Facebook and other social media is filled with messages of love and condolence. Every time I see such messages, it brings tears to my eyes.

People are commemorating his life and achievements by sharing his history, hard work and endeavors for Thailand, accomplishments in music and sport, and so on. While reading this gives me great pleasure, my heart still bleeds for the loss our nation has suffered.

On October 14, Phuket Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan announced the guidelines for the official mourning period. All entertainment venues were shut for the first three days of mourning. They are now open, but are operating without live music for a period of 30 days. No doubt, this will impact those whose livelihoods are directly connected to nightlife entertainment venues.

I myself work two jobs – one in the day time as an administrative officer and one in the nighttime as a musician, to provide for my family. For 30 days, I will lose my income as a performer, which will make things really tough for my family this month. However, I am willing to do so without any argument because I love my King very much. Some of my friends are full-time musicians, and the impact on their lives

has been even greater.

Bars, pubs and entertainment venue owners are also suffering a loss of income during this time. However, most of them respect the establishment and do it out of love for our King. Some entertainment venue owners are even providing free meals to their musicians during these 30 days, joined together in the nation's period of mourning.

I, and many others who love to run and cycle, showed our respect to His Majesty by doing just that. Some people ran 9.99km while others cycled 99.99km.

On Oct 13, I went out for a 9.99 km run at 6:30pm, praying for the health of His Majesty. I heard the news when I was in the middle of my run, at about 7pm. Despite the immense sadness that overcame me, I continued what I had started, as my purpose of good wishes and respect for His Majesty was still the same. I finished my run at 8pm and that is when I fully realized the extent of our loss.

Another major impact of this news has been on the tourism sector. Since the country is in mourning, several tourists have complained that they are not enjoying their holidays as bars are closed and parties have been cancelled. While I can understand this to some extent, I want tourists to know that this is a very sad time for us and we were just faced with the biggest loss in our history.

Tourists are always welcome to enjoy the sun and sand in Thailand, but since this is our time of mourning, we cannot offer parties. If that is what they want, I suggest that they choose another destination for the time being. When things have returned to normal, they are welcome to come back and enjoy all that Thailand has to offer.

## Words from the Wise

**"The will to work of everyone in the country is the best guarantee of national survival."**

– HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej

**"Nature is something outside our body, but the mind is within us."**

– HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej

**"Everyone must correct his own self; this is something more difficult to cope with, but it is not impossible."**

– HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej

## Issues & Answers

### Can foreigners wear shirts with '9' logo?

I WOULD like to wear a black T-shirt which bears the '9' logo on it to honor the late King.

However, I see conflicting reports of this online. Some say it's disallowed, while others say it's fine.

I and the other foreigners do not wish to flout any regulation. Please advise if it is appropriate.

Decha Phetwong, chief of Phuket's Office of Commer-

cial Affairs replies:

In public sectors, it is not allowed to wear these T-shirts,

since we already have an official uniform. However, it's okay for people in the private sector or anyone else to wear shirts with the '9' logo on them.

Additionally, please read the regulations regarding this from the Ministry of Interior at [www.moi.go.th](http://www.moi.go.th).

The price of black shirts are determined by the Department of Internal Trade, and excluding the logo, must not cost more than 250 baht.

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)



# Follow price rather than opinions



Finance

By Don Freeman

IT'S clear that the entire world is focused on the coming US elections as several of my non-US clients have asked me recently what the impact on their investments will be if Donald Trump actually is elected. One worried client even sent me an article from the New Yorker, highlighting the following lines:

"The Economist Intelligence Unit, an economic-and-geopolitical-analysis firm, has ranked the prospect of a Trump victory on its top-ten risks to the global economy. Larry Summers, a Harvard professor and former Treasury Secretary, predicts that, taken together, Trump's economic and trade policies would help trigger a protracted recession within 18 months. Even if Trump stops short of applying tariffs, Mr Summers told me, "the perception that we might well be pursuing hyper-nationalist policies would be very damaging to confidence globally, and would substantially increase the risk of financial crises in emerging markets".

On the other hand and for every email I receive from a client worried about Trump being elected, I get an email expressing concern about Hillary Clinton winning and



The biggest problem investors face right now is listening to the news, as it's all about Clinton vs Trump, as well as riots, police brutality and the refugee crisis. Photo: BU Rob 13/ Gage Skidmore

continuing the same policies of the last eight years along with the painfully slow (outside of the stock market's outsized performance) economic recovery the US has been in.

The biggest problem investors face right now is listening to the news, as it's all about Clinton vs Trump along with police brutality, riots, terrorism, Syria, refugee crises, Brexit fallout and other unknowns, but its worth reiterating this statement from mutual fund pioneer John Templeton:

"Bull markets are born on pessimism, grown on skepti-

cism, mature on optimism, and die on euphoria. The time of maximum pessimism is the best time to buy, and the time of maximum optimism is the best time to sell."

I would add that the only thing we can base our stock market decisions on is price and technical charts. Throw out everything else – including articles like the one mentioned above.

Remember, the stock market charts are forward-looking indicators and if we were headed toward a global recession, the Vanguard Total World Stock (NYSEARCA: VT), an ETF

tracking 7,000 stocks would be heading downward. It's not. VT bottomed in January and broke out above an old high in the summer. And while the chart is now showing some uncertainty and could roll over, it could also be forming a higher low and/or still break higher.

The technical chart for the iShares MSCI Emerging Markets Index ETF also looks similar to that of VT, while the SPDR S&P 500 ETF Trust has recently hit an all time high before falling off slightly. Both could still roll over into a downtrend to signal a recession,

continue moving sideways or break higher. Right now though, the world stock markets are not telling us anything ominous and the FED has said that it will not yet raise interest rates.

I would be more worried about the global economy if VT did roll over from the present US\$61 zone to below the US\$55 zone, and also if we start to see leadership stocks getting killed. But I am not seeing that happen. For example: Apple is moving higher (albeit shares are still below a previous all-time high) while Amazon.com has just hit a new all-time high.

In other words, investors need to follow price rather than opinion as stock market prices are not showing anything unhealthy right now. However and if the market ends up not liking what US voters decide in November, we will know because stock prices will start to reflect this.

*Don Freeman, BSME, is president of Freeman Capital Management, a Registered Investment Advisor with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), based in Phuket. He has over 15 years experience working with expatriates, specializing in portfolio management, US tax preparation, and financial planning. Call for a free portfolio review. He can be reached at 089 970-5795 or at freemancapital@gmail.com.*

## Prime Minister reassures France's business sector

THE Prime Minister has assured France's business sector that Thailand is stable and ready to continue close relations with the country.

President of the Thailand-France Business Council Francois Corbin led a delegation of French business operators and employers to pay a courtesy visit on PM Gen Prayuth Chan-o-cha with Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Somkid

Jatusripitak also present.

Gen Prayuth welcomed the delegation and bid them a good stay before confirming to them that Thailand is stable and ready to build on the 160 year relationship it has maintained with France.

The group showed keen interest in the products being sold, especially towards the varieties of rice on offer.

– *The Nation*

## Japan to back operators in Thailand

A GOVERNMENT spokesman from Japan said on October 14 the country would offer support to its firms in the Kingdom as concerns grow that the death of its revered monarch could derail the economy.

Japan has more than 4,000 companies operating in Thailand due to the huge number of auto manufacturing plants.

"The government will offer appropriate support to Japanese companies if necessary so that the impact on them would be kept to a minimum," top Japanese government spokesman Yoshihide Suga told a regular press briefing.

Concerns over the future of the country had been lingering with the ailing health of the world's longest-reigning monarch, who played a role of mediator at times of political turmoil during his seven-decade reign.

"Significant near-term dis-



Toyota said it would be business as usual for their factories in Thailand. Photo: d3ims

ruption is likely," John Marrett, research analyst at the Economist Intelligence Unit, said in a commentary.

"(We are) expecting a slowdown in Thailand's economy over the next 12 months."

Thai stocks rebounded sharply after plunging this week as analysts warned over the possible fallout – political and economic – from the King's death.

Japanese auto giants Toyota and Honda said it would be

business as usual for their factories in Thailand.

But Japanese media have quoted unnamed insiders at firms operating in Thailand who said they worried they might have to shut plants because Thai employees would be reluctant to work as the nation mourns the King's death.

Releasing new products during the one-year mourning period could be seen as being in bad taste, they added.

Representatives from auto companies stated that they will continue to operate their manufacturing plants unless the Thai Royal Family or Government instruct otherwise.

While much of Japan's investment in Thailand – about US\$4.2 billion last year alone – is based in manufacturing, more and more service-sector firms have opened up in the country in recent years.

– *The Nation*

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TOT



# Black clothing sales soar

‘The market will soon be saturated with black clothes’

By Sukawin Tanthavanich

THE government and private sectors have joined hands to ensure that the demand of black-colored clothing is taken care of in Thailand, including in Phuket.

The move came after the government announced that government officials must wear black clothing for an entire year during the official mourning period of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

However, employees in the private sector as well as tourists were only recommended to wear black.

“Unfortunately it is difficult for us to state a specific number of black clothing items that have been sold on the island since the announcement from the Royal Palace,” said Decha Phetwong, chief of Phuket’s Office of Commercial Affairs. “However, it’s easy to say that the quantity of black clothing in the market and the number of people buying and wearing them has considerably increased.”

Officials are keeping an eye out for vendors who try to sell the clothing items at a rate



Officials are keeping an eye out for vendors who try to sell clothing items at a rate higher than 250 baht. Photo: Phuket Office of Commercial Affairs

higher than 250 baht.

“The Department of Internal Trade has stated that the price of black clothes without any logos must not exceed 250 baht. We noticed a few vendors

on October 17 selling for 290 baht, but they had invoices proving that the shirts were originally supplied for an inflated price – which is okay,” he added.

A number of vendors selling black clothing chimed in, saying that demand increased very rapidly and they have had to order much more stock for their customers.

“The trend of clothing demands has changed only temporarily and I am doing my best to provide for my customers,” said Ms Fai, who has a clothes shop in Samkong.

“I have removed all different colored clothing from my shop and have only been selling black shirts,” she added.

The demand for black clothing comes mostly from people unrelated to government offices.

“Government officials normally have black clothes in their wardrobes for important occasions and official events,” added chief Decha.

He also added that the government has not forced people to wear black but a lot of tourists have purchased black clothing in order to mourn the loss of the HM the King alongside the Thai people.

“Tourists do understand local sentiments and culture of the country.”

“I think the constant demand for black clothing should last for a month. We expect everyone on the island and the rest of the country to have purchased black clothing items to the point of saturation.”

## TV broadcasting guidelines eased

ALL free-to-air television broadcasters are now allowed to show dramas, variety programmes, sports matches and commercials but must strictly abide by the guidelines for TV stations during the 30-day national mourning period, the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) announced on October 17.

This also covers digital TV stations, cable/satellite TV operators and Internet protocol TV providers.

The decision came after a meeting of the NBTC’s broadcasting committee and digital TV stations to discuss relaxing some restrictions imposed by the committee on all entertainment-related shows and advertising.

Natee Sukonrat, chairman of the broadcasting committee, said TV programmes must not contain improper scenes such as dancing, or frivolous and violent acts.

“Dramas, variety shows and documentaries should feature Thai history and culture or give inspiration to the viewer,” he said.

The announcement also said that TV commercials must show respect and offer condolences to the late King or contain inspirational messages.

Stations are also required to immediately switch to simulcasts from the Television Pool of Thailand when special programmes are televised concerning funeral rites for His Majesty the King.

– The Nation

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High ranking officers of the Phuket Provincial Police Force led by Commander Teeraphol Thipjaroen (center) at Phuket Provincial Hall during a ceremony in memory of HM the King.

# Province joins grieving nation in bidding farewell to beloved Monarch

The province hosted ceremonies at government offices on October 16 to mark the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, following his death on October 13, after a reign of more than 70 years. Provincial officials and thousands of members of the bereaved public have visited Provincial Hall in the past week to perform bathing rites at the foot of a portrait of the late King and sign books of remembrance.



Phuket Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan (center), Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana (left) and Phuket Airport Director Monrudee Gettuphan (right).



Mourners write messages for King Bhumibol in books of remembrance at Provincial Hall.



Many attendees of the ceremonies could not contain their grief.



Mourners perform ceremonial bathing rites in front of a portrait of HM King Bhumibol.





## Events in Paradise

Public descends on Sapan Hin Beach to make messages of condolence in the sand in commemoration of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej




Phuketians, young and old, from all walks of life were compelled to come together to light candles and write messages of remembrance for their beloved king.

Mom Tri's  
**Kitchen**  
Thai & Mediterranean  
at Mom Tri's Villa Royale, Kata Noi Beach



Mom Tri's  
**Wok Pagoda**  
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# Phuket graced by four royal visits

By Chutharat Plerin

PHUKET was graced by four visits of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej during his 70-year reign; the first was 57 years ago on Sunday March 8, 1959, accompanied by Queen Sirikit.

The royal couple took a car ferry across the Pak Pra channel from Phang Nga to Phuket, arriving at Tah Chat Chai at 4pm, where they rested for about 15 minutes before heading into Phuket Town by car. Then Phuket Governor Uan Surakul hosted the royals at the Governor's Residence that night.

On the following Monday, the King and Queen made a public appearance at Phuket Provincial Hall, before heading to Wat Phra Nang Sang School and Surin Beach.

On the third day of their Phuket visit, the King and his consort went to Rawai pier to make merit by releasing spiny lobsters into the sea. There, the King met with Rawai residents, including local sea gypsies, to observe and learn about their way of life. The gypsies demonstrated to the King their fishing techniques and how they maintained their boats. They also put on traditional dances and presented hand-crafted souvenirs to their majesties.

An accomplished musician,



His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej has favored Phuket with four visits. Photos: Phuket Provincial Office



King Bhumibol joined musicians from the Nai Muang Phuket Club, (Phuket Tin Mine Owners Club) in a jam session.

On the fourth day of their first trip to Phuket, the royal couple went to Patong and spent time at Wang Kee Aon waterfall, where His Majesty graciously accepted refreshments from locals.

That afternoon the royal entourage visited Wat Mongkol Nimit in Phuket Town, where a golden Buddha image from the Sukhothai era resides, and then made their way to Wat

Phra Thong in Thalang, before meeting locals from Pa Khlok and visiting the mangrove forest at Tha La Beach.

On March 12, five days after arriving on the island, the King and Queen left for Phang Nga.

Eight years on from his first visit to Phuket, King Bhumibol returned to the province on May 23, 1967, to preside over the inauguration ceremony of the Heroines' Monument dedicated to the memory of Phuket's female war heroes – Thao Thepkrasattri and Thao

Srisoonthorn.

His Majesty also led a blessing ceremony at Wat Charoen Samanakij, behind Phuket Provincial Court, and then presided over the opening ceremony of Vachira Phuket Hospital's new blood bank, the Lert Phokarak Building.

Two years later on July 23, 1968, King Bhumibol and HRH Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn donated to the province a Buddha image (Phra Buddha Nawarajabopit). The holy image was installed at Phuket Provincial Hall – one of

a collection ordered by HM King Bhumibol for each province in the country.

That afternoon the King visited local tin mining operation Thaisarco Co Ltd, and then went to Patong Beach to inaugurate the Ratchapathanuson Monument; marking the spot where the King and Queen first set foot on the beach in 1959.

The King and the Crown Prince left the island the next day, departing from Surakul Stadium in a helicopter to Phuket Airport, where they took a military plane to Surat Thani and from there took a private jet back to Bangkok.

The King's fourth and final visit to Phuket was on April 16, 1973. He was accompanied by HM Queen Sirikit, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and HRH Princess Chulabhorn Walailak.

The royal entourage met with provincial officials and locals and conducted a merit-making ceremony at the Heroines' Monument.

After a brief visit to Thaisarco again, the royals sailed to Naka Noi Island, where they donated clothes and other goods to the island's elderly.

To this day Phuket remains a favored destination for the royals and His Majesty's visits will forever be fondly remembered in the hearts and minds of Phuketians.

## Schedule of funeral prayers for His Majesty



All funeral prayers start at 3:30pm daily. Photo: Phuket PR

October 22: Anuphas Kritsadaram Temple, Kathu  
 October 23: Cherg Talay Temple, Thalang  
 October 24: Khao Rung Samakkee Dhum Temple, Rassada  
 October 25: Mongkol Wararam Temple, Thalang  
 October 26: Suwan Kiriwong Temple, Patong  
 October 27: Mongkol Nimit Temple, Thalang\*  
 October 28: Latthi Wanaram Temple, Chalong  
 October 29: Muang Mai Temple, Thepkrasattri  
 October 30: Thep Nimit Temple, Wichit  
 October 31: Siri Srila Suparam Temple, Chalong

\*Mongkol Nimit Temple will hold a 15-day merit making ceremony starting at 5pm.

All other prayers start at 3:30pm daily.

## TAT issues tourist guidelines

THE Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) released guidelines for tourists coming to visit the Kingdom after the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

The TAT, while still encouraging travel to the country, is cautioning tourists that this mourning period is an exceptional time in Thailand and many cultural nuances may confuse travellers.

According to the statement:

1. Many Thai people will be wearing black or white clothing as a sign of mourning. While this is not required of visitors, they should wear somber and respectful clothing when in public if possible.
2. Visitors should refrain from inappropriate or disrespectful behavior.
3. Tourist attractions will be open as usual with the exceptions of Wat Phra Kaeo



The TAT has emphasized that while the nation is in mourning, tourists are welcome to visit Thailand, but must behave with respect. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

(Temple of the Emerald Buddha) and the Grand Palace, as they are venues used in Royal Funeral Rites.

3. The Government has asked entertainment venues, such as bars and nightclubs, to consider keeping their businesses closed or at limited

operation at this time, but leaves the decision up to individual owners.

4. Most traditional and cultural events will be taking place as usual, although the celebrations may be changed for appropriateness as a mark of respect, or the events may be dedicated to the memory of His Majesty the King.

5. All public transportation, banks, hospitals and other public services will be operating as usual.

6. Heightened safety and security measures will be in place during the mourning period.

Travellers are also advised to plan for additional travelling time due to heightened security.

Any further enquiries can be directed to the TAT office at 1672.

– The Nation



# World leaders share grief for HM



*"His wise leadership and enormous prestige held the country together."*  
– Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

*"King Bhumibol presided over a period of transformative growth and development that saw Thailand emerge as a regional leader."*  
– New Zealand Prime Minister John Key



*"His Majesty the King was a close friend of the United States and a valued partner of many US presidents. His Majesty leaves a legacy of care for the Thai people that will be cherished by future generations."*  
– US President Barack Obama

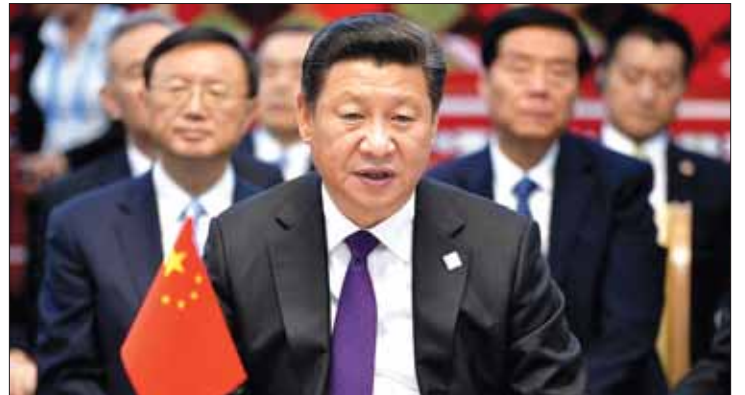
*"During the decades of his rule, he earned sincere love of his subjects as well as high prestige abroad."* – Russian President Vladimir Putin

*"The King had worked tirelessly for the welfare of the Thai people and steered the country through political and economic crises."*  
– German Chancellor Angela Merkel



*"King Jigme and the people of Bhutan offer sincere and heartfelt condolences to the grieving people of Thailand."* – His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck of Bhutan

*"The world has lost a leader who is close to his people, a bearer of peace, unity, and prosperity for the people of Thailand."*  
– Indonesian President Joko Widodo



*"His Majesty King Bhumibol was the guide of the national development of Thailand and a promoter of China-Thailand friendship."* – Chinese President Xi Jinping



*"His profound sense of justice, his care for modernity and sustainable development that earned him the affection of the Thai people, as well as the world's esteem."* – French President Francois Hollande

*"His Majesty guided the Kingdom of Thailand with dignity, dedication and vision throughout his life."*  
– UK Prime Minister Theresa May



*"We are deeply saddened by the passing of his Majesty and we offer our condolences to the Thai Royal Family and the people of Thailand."*  
– Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull



*"I express my sincerest condolences. I remember King Bhumibol as a highly gifted and gentle person."* – Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

*"King Bhumibol was a towering presence whose contribution to Thailand, and the rest of the region, is beyond words."*  
– Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak

*"King Bhumibol was the guiding hand behind the emergence of Thailand as one of the most progressive countries in the whole of Asia."*  
– Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte



# Doing it for the kids

By Zohaib Sikander

CHARITABLE organizations all over the world receive thousands in aid to keep their operations running smoothly. However, advocates of one such organization, called the 'Happy World Tour' that represents an orphanage in Phuket, takes funding to the next level via projects across nations and continents. This year, three cyclists have decided to cycle around the world.

The orphanage in Muang Mai was built in 2005 after the tsunami dragged across Phuket's west coast. The aim then was to help children and families who lost almost everything in the disaster. Eventually these people could move out to relatives and friends, but it soon turned out that the orphanage was still needed, and the cry for help was huge, even from people who were not affected by the tsunami. The majority of these people come from the poorest provinces in northeastern Thailand.

Unlike similar undertakings that have been motivated by the lust for popularity and fame by many around the world, Calle Wollgård is doing so with the sole purpose of helping out the caretakers and dozens of orphans of Barnhem



The trio plans to travel across 20 countries and will end their journey in Phuket. Photo: Calle Wollgård

Muang Mai – the orphanage run by Susanne Janson and Hans Forssell. Phuket and the rest of the world will pledge finances for each 10 kilometer travelled, as Calle and his team make their way to over 20 different countries around the world.

Calle has already begun his

fund-raising journey, and is joined this year by Eva Eriksson and Lovisa Håkansson.

They started from Phuket a few weeks ago with no prior training and just their wits about them, equipped with three 'Haibike', privately sponsored by a shop in Stockholm, in ad-

dition to bags, tents, cameras, some clothes and a small stove.

"My motivation has always been and will always be the people – the children, staff and all the people who operate behind the scenes at the orphanage," says Calle.

The Happy World Tour blog reads that the deter-

mined trio plans to pass Portugal, Spain, France, Monaco, Italy, Switzerland, Italy again, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Greece and Turkey.

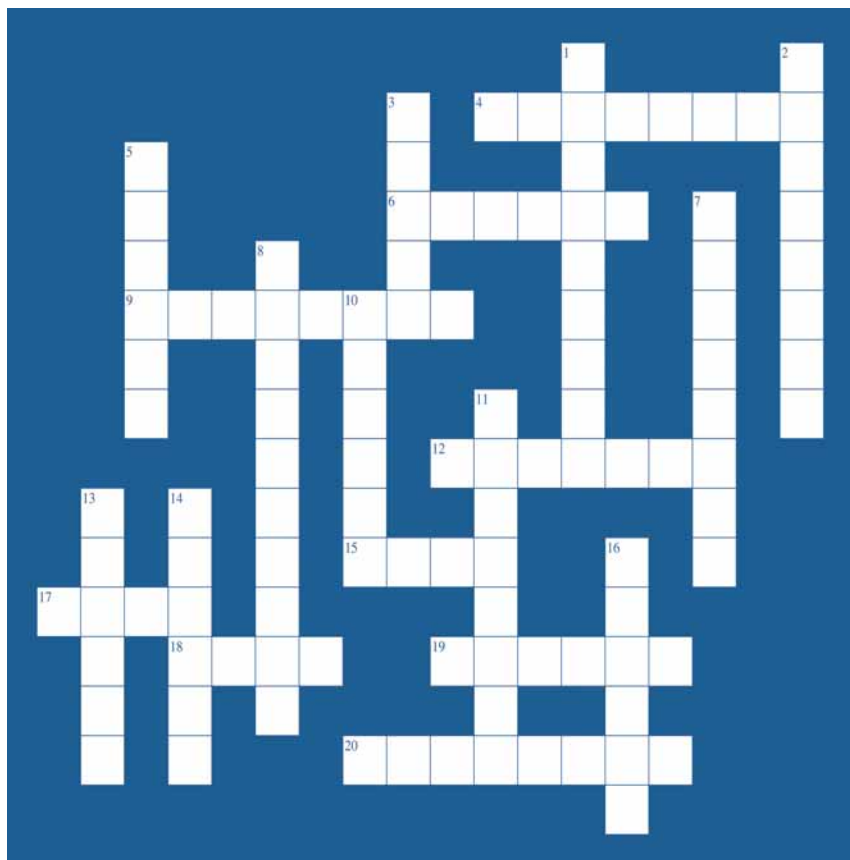
After Turkey, the trio plans to head through Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Laos and finally enter Thailand via Chiang Rai. Their strenuous journey is scheduled to end at Muang Mai, Phuket by the end of next year.

Calle doesn't take this project lightly, and before he left, he told the *Gazette* that he is looking forward to the experience.

"Last time when we embarked on a similar journey we didn't encounter a single person who wanted to cause us harm," said Calle. "We ended up meeting only good people who helped us along the way. Without that, I'm not sure I would be doing this."

"I hope that the fundraiser will be a success and we get to meet a lot of interesting people on the way. I'm also looking forward to being able to be close to nature."

Those interested can follow their journey and make donations online by visiting [thehappyworldtour.com](http://thehappyworldtour.com).



## Gazette Crossword

### Across

- 04. Clutter clearing event
- 06. Title of His Majesty King Bhumibol
- 09. Thais are officially observing this period by wearing black and white
- 12. Church spire
- 15. Traffic barrier
- 17. Eye amorously
- 18. Minor quarrel
- 19. Spanish for woman
- 20. Phuket native, for instance

### Down

- 01. Easily annoyed
- 02. Peace maker
- 03. Phuket beach, named 'virgin' in HM's honor
- 05. Eggnog spice
- 07. Self indulgent
- 08. \_\_\_\_\_ Hall, where Phuketians flocked to pay respect to HM
- 10. Kind of type
- 11. And so forth
- 13. Nullify
- 14. Afternoon nap
- 16. Trade goods

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**

**Tel : 091-078 9595**  
[info@phuketinternationallaw.com](mailto:info@phuketinternationallaw.com)  
[www.phuketinternationallaw.com](http://www.phuketinternationallaw.com)



# Beggars now required to register

Law, Life, and Society  
By Robert Virasin

THE Thai government recently passed a law revising the country's laws on begging in public areas. The law replaces the Beggar Control Act of 1941, which punished gangs and individuals for trafficking people for begging. People who wish to beg for money on the streets are now required to obtain licenses to do so. This not only applies to destitute women with hungry children but also buskers and street performers blocking public footpaths.

Those found in violation of the order can be fined as much as 10,000 baht and/or jailed for up to a month. Traffickers and others who benefit from the begging can be fined up to 30,000 baht and/or jailed for up to three years. If a government official is part of the conspiracy, they can be fined up to 50,000 baht and/or jailed for up to five years.

The law also provides that genuinely poor beggars or elderly Thai citizens who do not have any means of assistance are transferred to a welfare facility and would not be charged with a crime. Non-Thais and children found begging are dealt with under existing immigration and child welfare laws.

In a nation filled with Buddhist temples and generous people, I do not see begging as a major issue, except for areas frequented by large numbers of foreigners. It is rather distress-



Those wishing to beg for money on the streets are now required to obtain licences to do so. Photo: Posi66

ing to see the same woman holding a sleeping baby, or a man without legs lying flat in the middle of the sidewalk, begging for money. I occasionally see homeless men, who probably have some mental problems, but their circumstances are different. Do I give them money? No.

I expect that most of them are placed there every morning and picked up every night by organized criminal gangs. As long as those gangs continue to profit from the beggars, they will continue trafficking people into the city, including children.

Chapter 3 of the Child Protection Act 2003 says that young children used as props for begging must be removed. The act states that the government has a duty to protect the welfare of children by providing assistance or placing them in protective care.

There are some individuals who do not have a means of keeping a permanent job because of physical or mental impairments. These people can fall through the gaps in the welfare system but NGOs and charities such as the Thailand Association of the Blind and the Thai Disabled Development Foundation are there to assist people with physical and mental impairments. The law also provides for government assistance in getting them registered for welfare.

I do not see homeless beggars as a major problem here. Thailand has a strong social safety net of families and Buddhist temples to assist those in need. However, for those homeless living on the streets, the new law will help significantly reduce their numbers and provide them a pathway to getting help.

There's definitely a Biblical verse, a Confucian riddle or a

Buddhist proverb about the futility of handing a paper ordering the recipient to hand over money to someone who is himself asking for money. This is not a problem unique to Thailand, nor are the ways in which the problem is being handled. We often hear that 'they're not real beggars,' or 'they're being controlled by bad people'.

I actually mostly agree with that but let's just look at those two possibilities.

Saying that they are not real beggars alludes that they're either secretly rich or simply that they're not lacking - they're doing this as a job.

In that case, I suggest you sit with them for a whole day and start counting the money they make. Does it feel like a real job? Would you like to apply?

They spend 12 to 15 hours in the sun, literally throwing away their pride and dignity

while every one who passes by stares at them in disgust. If they can 'make a living' through such an ordeal, then they deserve the amount of money they get - begging might just be a job after all.

Beggars being controlled by bad people is most likely often true, but that's just an easy way to dismiss the problem. It is as if the very fact that the beggars are controlled by a shadowy group, more powerful than you or I, means nothing can be done - and we should just accept it. If they are only pawns in a bigger game of chess, then how can jailing beggars help in any sort of way? If the shadowy group is powerful enough to control the racket, they're probably smart enough to find new pawns when required.

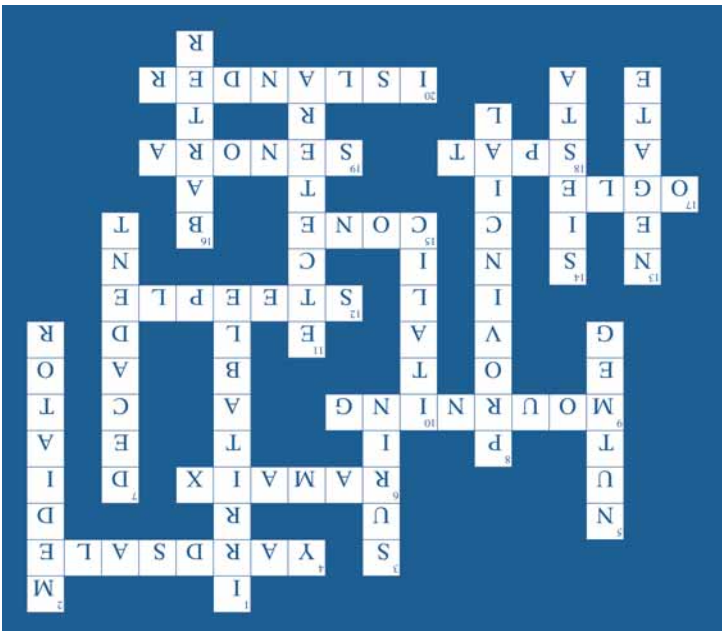
You can believe that they are being used, just be sure to be outraged when laws are enacted and decisions are made that hurt the abused rather than the abusers.

In any modern society, there are problems to be confronted and rectified and street beggars are an issue for both rich and poor countries. There are many perspectives on the best way to assist those who live on the streets. We would love to hear your ideas about solutions.

Robert R. Virasin is a licensed U.S. Attorney and managing director of Virasin & Partners. Mr Bruno Roussel is the head of the games department at the SAE Institute and dabbles in humanitarian causes. Robert Virasin can be reached at [info@virasin.com](mailto:info@virasin.com) or at [www.virasin.com](http://www.virasin.com).

## Crossword Solution

Turn the page upside down to read the answers.



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NGUO  
PHUKET

<http://dolphinsbay-phuket.com>



# Home maintenance hacks

## Property Inspector

By Mark K. Dietrich

I OFTEN get questions about home maintenance, so I thought it best to put them together in an informative article for everyone to learn from.

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions from readers over the years.

### How can I get rid of concrete stains?

Try mixing one cup of ammonia with one gallon of water and you should be able to deal with almost any stain. Just scrub the solution into the stain and rinse off with a hose.

### Our storage room has no windows and always smells damp. Can you help?

To scare away moisture and order, mix 1 kilo of cat litter with .5 kilo of baking soda, put in a shallow pan and place in your storage room.

### Our sliding doors and the drawers in our kitchen are hard to open and close.

Try rubbing the runners with a candle for a smooth and silent solution. The same trick works for stubborn windows with aluminum casings. As an added benefit you can still use the candle when your done.

### The knobs on our dresser keep coming loose.

Take the knobs off one at a



Stubborn sliding doors can be opened more easily by rubbing a candle on the frames. Photo: Tucker T

time and dip the screws in nail polish. After you put the knob back on, the nail polish will dry, and the knob won't be loose any more.

### Every time there is a loose screw my husband runs out a buys a bigger screw. I don't think we have a hinge in the house with the same size screws. Surely, there must be a better way?

Get yourself a twist tie or two. Cut the ties and fold them over so they are about as long as the hole is deep. Next take the twist ties and insert into the

hole. When you put the screw back in, it should mash into the twist ties and the extra width created should make the screw fit tightly. If you're a golfer, like me, you can put a little glue on the end of a tee, break it off in the hole, and reinstall the screw this works great as well.

### We have an oil stain on our driveway. How can it be removed?

To make grease or oil spots disappear from your driveway, pour some paint thinner on the stain then toss on cat litter.

Wait 12 hours then sweep your driveway clean. If you don't like the idea of paint thinner, try a generous amount of dishwashing detergent over the spot and let it sit. After a while, rinse it away with boiling water, then repeat the process.

### Every time I go into my toolbox there's a thin layer of rust forming on the tools. Any suggestions?

Try placing a few mothballs in your toolbox to prevent rust. Before you throw away your rusty tools or garden shears, try

soaking them in vinegar overnight. Or try a little salt and lemon juice, which which you can make a paste. Apply to the rusted areas with a dry cloth and rub.

### We seem to have a hard time with the locks on our house.

If you have trouble opening a lock, rub the edges of your key with a soft lead pencil. The graphite in the pencil lead will soon have it turning smoothly.

### Our outside lights always seems to get so corroded that we can't unscrew them when they burn out and they break. Any suggestions?

Here's a bright idea. Smear a thin layer of petroleum jelly on the base of the bulb before you screw it in. When its time to change the bulb, you'll be done in a flash. If you have already broken the bulb take a raw potato push the potato into the socket and turn, and if you didn't turn off the electric you'll have fried potato.

Mark Dietrich is a professional inspector and property builder with a Master's degree in building engineering. He came to Phuket after working for 25 years in the custom home and inspecting industry in the USA, and has been working in Thailand for more than 11 years. Visit [certifiedphuket.realestate.com](http://certifiedphuket.realestate.com), email him at [propertyinspectorthailand@gmail.com](mailto:propertyinspectorthailand@gmail.com) or call 085-809 8755.

## Residential launches gather pace

THE value of residential projects launched in Chon Buri, Rayong and Chachoengsao provinces has risen to more than 220 billion baht this year, thanks mainly to the government's policy decision to develop infrastructure and industry in the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC).

According to a survey by the Government Housing Bank's Real Estate Information Center, Chon Buri leads the way with up to 400 project launches comprising 53,000 units worth 157bn baht.

Some 94 per cent of Chon Buri's new projects are by local developers, with the remainder coming from listed property firms headquartered in Bangkok.

Rayong province has project launches worth around 50bn baht, combined for both con-



The value of new residential projects in Chon Buri is about 157bn baht. Photo: Peter Facey

dominiums and low-rise homes such as detached housing and townhouses, with a mix of local developers and property firms from Bangkok putting them on the market.

Chachoengsao province, meanwhile, has recorded new residential projects comprising around 4,000 units worth up to 20bn combined, with prices ranging between 2-4 million baht for condos, detached

houses and townhouses, according to a survey by Marui Real Estate.

Marui itself has launched a project valued at around 2bn baht in the province.

"Residential projects in the East of Thailand have started to expand following the government's policy decision to develop the EEC, which will entail more infrastructure to link the Eastern Seaboard with other provinces, and will also develop the new industrial investment across the area.

"This is the main reason boosting the demand for homes for newcomers who will have to move to location close to their places of work," said Jones Lang LaSalle Thailand's managing director, Suphin Mechuchep.

- The Nation

## FCL offers B13bn investment in Ticon

LISTED developer Frasers Centrepoint Ltd (FCL) has signed a conditional agreement to invest 13.23 billion baht in Ticon Industrial Connection Pcl, an industrial property developer listed in Thailand.

FCL's wholly owned unit, Frasers Property Holdings (Thailand) Co Ltd, is proposing to invest in Ticon via a private placement at a subscription price of 18 baht per share.

When the transaction is completed, Frasers Property will hold around 40 per cent of Ticon's enlarged share capital. It is designed to add a strategic partner Ticon and financially strengthen the company so it becomes an industrial property development leader in Asean.

FCL, one of the leading global real estate companies from Singapore, said the proposed investment would extend its exposure in Thailand from residential and commercial/hospitality mixed use developments to the industrial property asset class, and allow it to further grow overseas income.

Ticon has developed and built factories and warehouses in 18 industrial estates and 33 logistics locations in Thailand. It owns and manages approximately 2.5 million sqm of industrial space.

According to a Ticon statement on October 10, its board approved the capital increase and allotment of 735 million shares to Frasers Property.

- The Nation



# Marriott Inc launches innovative distribution and booking solution

MARRIOTT International, Inc has unveiled a new distribution and booking solution, [www.MarriottWholesalers.com](http://www.MarriottWholesalers.com), that provides thousands of authorized wholesalers, destination marketing companies, and tour operators access to real-time rates and inventory for more than 4,200 Marriott properties around the world.

Marriott has partnered with Sabre Hospitality Solutions to develop and launch this new platform.

The solution is part of Marriott's strategy to transform the wholesale and leisure segment with technology and shift to dynamic rates and automated reservations, replacing antiquated processes for contracting, accessing inventory and booking hotel rooms.

Approved wholesalers can now search real-time hotel net rates and inventory globally to create tailor-made packages for their customers. All hotel bookings are confirmed instantly



Marriott's strategy is to transform the wholesale and leisure segment with technology and shift to dynamic rates and automated reservations. Photo: Mariamichelle

online.

"Marriott works with more than 3,000 wholesalers and we have been eager to modernize our process for collaborating

with the wholesale and leisure segment.

"MarriottWholesalers.com provides our partners with dynamic access to a broader

selection of hotel products at the best prices, and allows them to focus on serving leisure travellers," says Drew Pinto, Senior Vice President,

Distribution, Marriott International. "Selecting Sabre as our technology provider brought speed to market, experience, and capability that we needed to bring this solution to fruition."

The solution provides significant value to smaller wholesalers by removing the need for them to make a technology investment to gain direct, dynamic access to rates and inventory.

The solution will make it more efficient to distribute Marriott's inventory to the broader leisure package segment.

Wholesalers can establish or renew access in seven languages at [MarriottWholesalers.com](http://MarriottWholesalers.com) and once authenticated, they immediately have access to the booking engine.

The STARnet ([www.starwoodnet.com](http://www.starwoodnet.com)) program supporting wholesaler activation for Starwood hotels will continue to operate in tandem.

- *Phuket Gazette*



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+ Garage and Servant Room.

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Telephone: 088-168 9455

### LARGE LUXURY HOUSE FOR SALE



3 floors, 740sqm, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms with swimming pool, walled garden, private parking, located at 69/26 Soi Kokyang, Saiyuan, Rawai, Phuket. For sale: 12.5 million baht. Tel: 076-613860, 095-061 2868. Email: l.dewis@hotmail.com

### PA KHLOK HOUSE FOR SALE - 2.4MB



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

### LAND FOR SALE IN PHUKET - SA KHU

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

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### LAND & VILLA IN TRANG

Land over 5 rai with Chanote on Koh Sukorn, Trang, includes 150sqm villa (\*2015): 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, huge living & 75sqm terrace with fields view. 100m from the beach. Near main coast, 90 min from Trang City. 15 million baht. Tel: 081-537 1957 (English & Thai). Email: ddsukorn@gmail.com

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### HOUSE FOR SALE

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### POOL VILLA RAWAI



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

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American hand made, unique property, near Thalongs. Big land (956 square meters) to make a pool. Need to sell: 7.4 million baht or nearest offer. Take a look! Call to view it. Tel: 081-968 0309 (English & Thai). Email: info@houseinphuket.com, www.houseinphuket.com/houses/HFS/b0966/

### 6-ROOM VILLA 4 MIN FROM BIS

Modern looking 1 floor, 6 rooms, 18m pool. 387sqm living space. Koh Kaew. Tel: 087-891 7331 (English). Email: karen\_leongsk@yahoo.com.sg

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

Pls contact 086-4769612 | annanoil@hotmail.com



## PROPERTY FOR RENT



**STUDIO ROOM FOR RENT**

Please contact 086-4769612  
email: annanof1@hotmail.com

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

**KATHU HOUSE FOR RENT**  
3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 3 aircons. Tel: 065-041 1634.

**RAWAI POOL VILLA FOR RENT / SALE**



2 bedrooms, furnished. For rent: 35,000 baht / month. For sale: 7.9 million baht. Tel: 081-538 4588. Email: info@purimasproperty.com

**STUNNING OCEAN VIEWS**  
4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, furnished villa, large pool with sala setting in gardens. Cape Yamu area. 15-minute drive to BIS & UWC Schools. Rent: 90,000 baht / month. Tel: 086-279 6283.

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**APT FOR RENT NAI HARN BEACH**  
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## GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS

## JOBS / RECRUITMENT

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#### LUXURY VILLA STAFF WANTED

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- Thai national, not over 28 years old
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- Experience is an advantage

#### School Driver (1 position)

- Thai national, 30 - 45 years old
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- Professional attitude / good organizational skills

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Please send a short letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph by email / fax and telephone contacts of referees to  
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 Tel: 076-335555 Ext.2113 Fax: 076 335573.  
 Email: [sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th), [nussaran@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:nussaran@bisphuket.ac.th)

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- Able to work under pressure and tighten deadlines due to the fast-track projects
- Self-confident and good team player
- At least 3-year experience in the position

If you are interested in the career opportunities stated above, please send your application letter and resume stating full details of your background, references and expected salary to [pitchayamon@dmg-thailand.com](mailto:pitchayamon@dmg-thailand.com)

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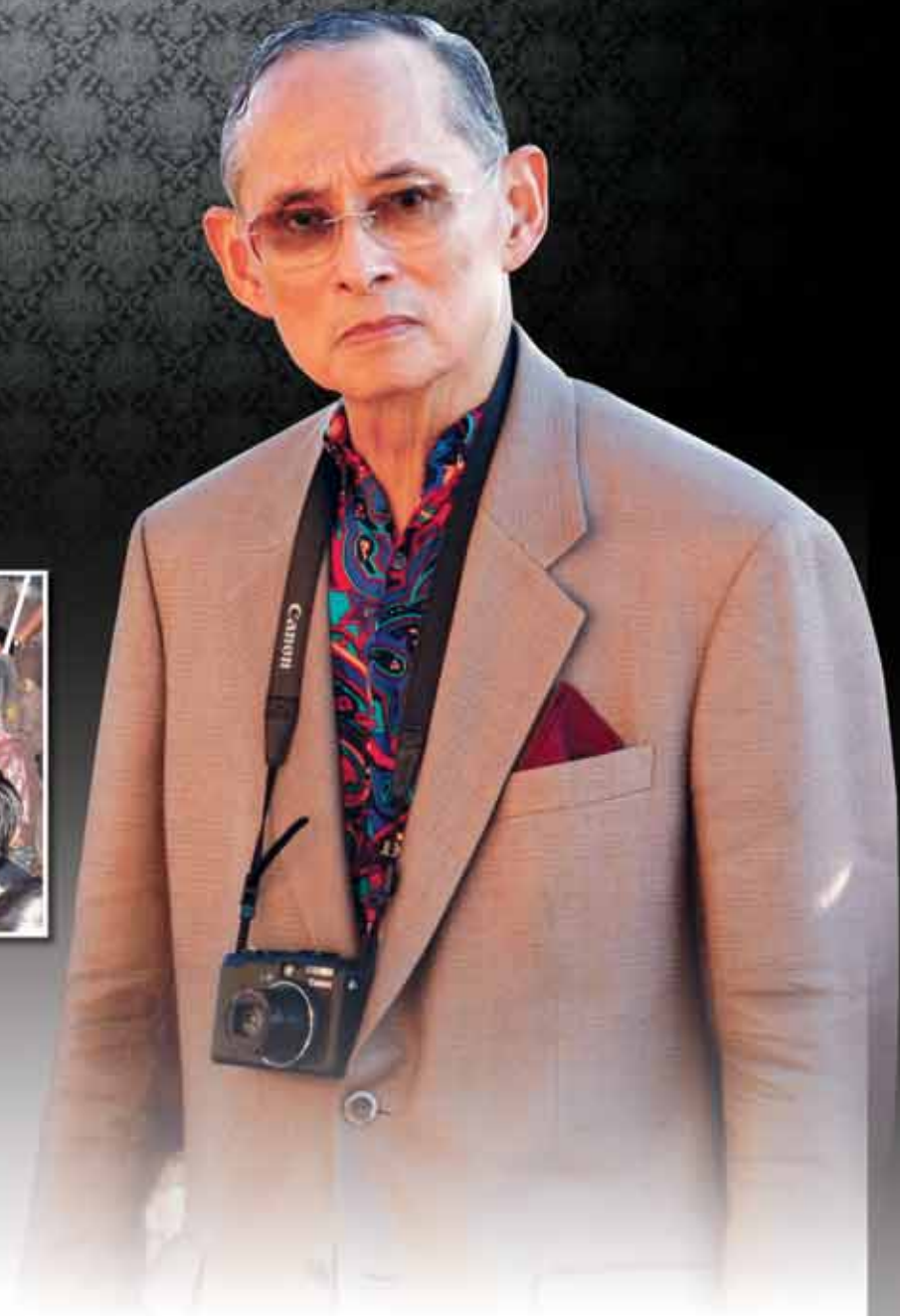
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**Phuket Gazette**





# His Majesty through foreign eyes

No one did more to burnish the reputation of Thailand on the international stage

## By The Nation

IN surveying the scope of achievements made by His Majesty the King, the incalculable benefits he wrought for Thailand and its people rightly take precedent. But no picture of his 70-year reign can be complete without appreciating the central role he commanded in Thailand's foreign relations.

His Majesty not only set the tone for warm ties with foreign leaders and countries, he also gave Thailand a firm and peaceful standing in the international arena.

The fruits of his tireless work at home also spread beyond Thai shores to aid the development and wellbeing of populations all over the world.

He performed on the international stage not only as head of state but also as the

embodiment of Thai values, personifying the wisdom of peaceful coexistence for a world of diverse peoples and cultures.

His first trip as King was to Vietnam, in 1959, after which came visits to nearly 30 countries across Asia, Europe and America. The United States, where he was born, was graced with two Royal visits, as were Germany and Austria.

The world was intrigued by the sight of a head of state as comfortable and poised in the presence of Elvis Presley as he was discussing global affairs with world leaders. But as well as head of state, His Majesty was recognized as a true king of the people by the public overseas.

Along with Her Majesty the Queen, the King blazed a trail abroad that other members of the Royal Fam-

ily have since followed, further burnishing Thailand's reputation and building bonds with other countries.

The overseas trips made by Their Majesties and their children and grandchildren have never been a matter of mere diplomatic protocol, but have made real contributions to state-to-state relations and also to ordinary people.

His Majesty's development work on behalf of the rural poor, including his philosophy of sufficiency economy, has been recognized globally. In 1995 the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization awarded him the Agricola Medal in recognition of his devotion to the well-being and happiness of all Thais.

In 2006, then-UN secretary-general Kofi Annan presented him with the global bodies' first Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award.

Three years' later, His Majesty's remarkable contributions as an inventor and active proponent of intellectual property as a development tool earned the inaugural Global Leaders Award presented by the World Intellectual Property Organization.

His first patent was registered in 1993, for the Chaipattana aerator. More than 20 were to follow, including patents for his rainmaking techniques in 1999 and 2003. The King's inventions have been put to practical use in a range of rural development projects, generating concrete benefits for communities throughout Thailand and neighboring countries.

It is important to note here the feelings of deep respect and gratitude towards His Majesty that

exist in ordinary households over the Thai border.

There are current nearly 10 major Royal Projects in Laos alone. The first, initiated as far back as 1992, was the Development Service Project at Huay Sone-Huay Sua in Nayang Village, Na Xaithong district, about 22 kilometers north of Vientiane.

His Majesty the King presided over the official launch of the project in April 1994 on a visit that also saw him open the first Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge across the Mekong River.

Since then, countries such as Cambodia have benefited from crop substitution projects and other development programs as part of His Majesty's efforts to solve problems and uplift the living standards of ordinary folk there.

