



HRH Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun was on December 1 proclaimed King Rama X of the Chakri Dynasty. Photo: Royal Household Bureau

MAHA VAJIRALONGKORN BODINDRADEBAYAVARANGKUN PROCLAIMED THE TENTH KING OF CHAKRI DYNASTY

# RAMA X ASCENDS

## ■ HM King Maha Vajiralongkorn accepts invitation from the National Legislative Assembly

By Phuket Gazette

HIS MAJESTY King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun was on December 1 proclaimed the 10th King of the Chakri Dynasty (Rama X) after he accepted the invitation made by the president of the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) in accordance with His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's will, the Constitution and Palace Law.

"I accept the invitation in order to follow His Majesty King Bhumibol's will

and for the benefit of all Thai people," HM King Maha Vajiralongkorn said in reply to the invitation during the inauguration on December 1.

The proclamation ceremony was held in the evening when King Maha Vajiralongkorn, then in his capacity as Crown Prince, granted an audience to Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-o-cha, NLA President Pornpetch Wichitcholchai, Supreme Court President Veerapol Tungsuwan and Regent pro tempore Prem Tinsulanonda.

At the audience at Ambhorn Sathan Villa in Dusit Palace starting at 7:16pm, Pornpetch asked the Crown Prince to ascend the Throne and become the 10th King of the 234-year-old Chakri Dynasty.

"I, Pornpetch, president of the National Legislative Assembly, on behalf of Thai people, ask Your Highness to ascend the Throne following the wish of the late King, the Constitution and the Palace Law," he said.

The reign of King Rama X actually began on October 13 when His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej passed away in order to preserve the continuity of the dynasty, he said.

After he accepted the invitation, King Maha Vajiralongkorn prostrated to pay respect in front of the portraits of his parents King Rama IX and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit.

The new King then addressed the audience briefly before ending the ceremony. The inauguration was televised nationwide but the King's conversation with the audience was not broadcast.

According to the law, it is the duty of the NLA president to extend the invitation and announce the proclamation. The other top officials were present at the ceremony as representatives of the sovereign powers in governance, namely the executive, legislative and judicial branches, Deputy Prime Minister Wassanu Krea-gnam said.

Prem, who ended his duty as the Re-

gent pro tempore after the proclamation, praised the new King.

Mr Pornpetch later made a public announcement of the proclamation on television. In the same television address, PM Prayuth made a statement saying that although people knew they were to be parted from a person they truly loved and respected, which caused suffering, loss and sadness, everyone should turn the crisis into an opportunity and grief into strength.

"Although the late King, who was the strength of the land, is no longer with us physically to protect us, the strength of the land will prevail with the power of faith and confidence in the royal aspiration and approach of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej," he said.

"His Majesty the new King, the beloved son of the late King, will carry forward his leadership and legacy," PM Prayuth said.

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## LOCAL NEWS

# Briefly

### Russian on a trip remembers nothing at all

A RUSSIAN tourist who went missing after diving into the sea while drunk at Kamala Beach late night on November 28 resurfaced in the afternoon of November 29 with no recollection of the incident.

Officials and rescue workers spent several hours searching for Mikhail Korneev after he was reported missing by a friend the previous day.

The search – which also involved local fishermen – continued until 1pm, when Mr Korneev showed up at the Tourist Police Office at Phuket International Airport.

He laughed when questioned about his disappearance, saying he was drunk at the time and couldn't recall what had happened. He said he'd only come to the airport to claim his lost belongings.

"Mr Korneev had filed a lost property report with us on Sunday after losing his bag. We found his bag and told him on Monday to come and get it, but he did not show up to claim it," said Phuket Tourist Police chief Naruewat Puttawiro.

"He says he remembers having an appointment to recover his bag, but nothing further about what happened from that time until now," Maj Naruewat added.

– *Kongleaphy Keam*

### Austrian ends up dead during snorkeling trip

A 75-YEAR-OLD Austrian tourist ended up dead on December 5 while snorkeling at Koh Rok, Krabi. His body arrived by boat the following day.

"We received reports that the man's friends were bringing his body to Chalong Pier early in the morning. I notified the Austrian Consulate and told rescue workers and Chalong Police to receive the body and take it to Vachira Phuket Hospital for autopsy," said Phuket Tourist Police Chief Naruewat Puthawiro.

## Buddhist merit-making event held at Saphan Hin



Phuket Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan led Phuket's government and locals in a Buddhist merit-making ceremony in honor of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on December 5 at Saphan Hin. Photo: Phuket City Municipality PR

Police said that the man had arrived in Thailand for a holiday with ten friends on November 27. They'd rented a yacht from Yacht Heaven to head off to Langkawi, Malaysia. Four of them had decided to stop by at Koh Rok for snorkeling. The Austrian reportedly went into shock soon after," he added.

The *Gazette* is withholding the man's name until confirmation his family has been notified.

– *Winai Sarot*

### Polish tourists rescued by Navy officials

A POLISH tourist was rescued from the waves by off-duty navy officers at Koh Pu on December 5.

Officials of the Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command were making their way back after finishing their duty at the Phuket King's Cup Regatta when they saw Splawska Beata, 30, and her friend waving to them for help.

Ms Beata and her friend were swimming in the area, but reportedly went too far out and were too exhausted to swim

back, so they attracted attention by waving a piece of cloth.

The pair were rescued and brought back to Kata Beach before being taken to Patong Hospital.

– *Chutharat Plerin*

### Phone thief gets away with B20,000 worth in merchandise

A TESCO Lotus Thalang shop operator has filed a complaint against an unidentified woman for stealing merchandise worth up to 20,000 baht from her shop on the night of December 4.

The 26-year-old mobile phone shop owner, Wannipa Boonyo, filed the complaint at Thalang Police Station.

She later took to social media for help by posting on her Facebook: "Please help. At 11pm on December 4, a person came in to Tesco Lotus Thalang and stole 4 items from my shop: Huawei T2; Samsung Tab A7; tab-1max7; and 1-max Plus."

Ms Wannipa later told the *Gazette* that she had closed up

shop at 8:30pm as she normally does.

"When I came back the next day I noticed that someone had rummaged through the counter and a key was lying on the floor.

I saw a woman in the CCTV footage walking around after the area had been shut down," she said.

Ms Wannipa also said that she normally locks up the expensive items in a safe for the night, but leaves those worth less than 10,000 in the counter due to the lack of space.

– *Winai Sarot*

### Phuket shakes as earthquake hits Indonesia

PHUKET, Krabi and Phang Nga felt tremors of an earthquake that shook parts of Indonesia about 5am on December 7.

The earthquake measured 6.5 on the Richter scale, occurring 377km away in the Indian Ocean near Aceh, North Sumatra. Several deaths were reported and dozens of people were hospitalized with injuries.

Many locals and expats in

Phuket took to social media to express their fears.

The National Disaster Warning Center (NDWC), however, announced that the earthquake did not cause a tsunami that would have affected Thailand.

– *Phuket Gazette*

### Strict safety checks urged at immigration

OFFICIALS are tightening security checks at Phuket immigration in preparation for the high season, in accordance with orders issued by the Immigration Commissioner on December 1.

After meeting with officials to discuss safety initiatives, Lt Gen Nathathorn Prousoontorn visited the immigration offices in Phuket Town and at Phuket International Airport to review safety procedures and ensure readiness for the high season, particularly given the slash in visa fees announced last month.

"The cabinet's decision to reduce the visa fee from 2,000 to 1,000 baht between December and February will increase the number of tourists visiting Thailand and Phuket. Therefore, we have to be ready to handle that influx," said Gen Nathathorn.

"A high number of tourists is good for the economy, but also quite risky. Our main duty is to ensure their safety and security, so the top priority is to prevent dangerous people from entering the country. We will also keep a strict eye on blacklisted and criminal elements," he added.

Gen Nathathorn added that in the future, he expected the government to approve a proposed biometric security system to be installed at immigration.

"As far as the speed of service is concerned, we will add more officers and equipment as a long-term solution. In the short term, officers should check flight status to see which periods are the busiest during the day. This will help them manage their time and schedules better, and we will have enough personnel present at all times, without overworking them," said Gen Nathathorn.

He also said it was important to ensure transparency during the entire process.

"I want all officers to strictly follow legal processes. Be accurate, but work fast in order to provide convenience to visitors," he added.

– *Kongleaphy Keam*

# Alleged American extortionist flown back to Phuket Province

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

AN AMERICAN man, who returned to the United States in 2013 after allegedly extorting a fellow countryman in Phuket, was flown back to Thailand, escorted by Royal Thai Police officers, on the morning of December 2.

“The suspect, named Shawn Abraham, was handed over to Royal Thai Police to face legal charges in Thailand as per an arrest warrant issued against him on February 13, 2015, which included charges of robbery, extortion, detainment, confinement and threatening another person,” said Lt Col Ason Jiraksa of Kamala Police.

The original complaint was filed on December 14, 2013, by another American national named Antonio Mario Adoniro. Mr Abraham was accused of extorting 30,000 baht and attempting to extort a further US\$2 million in cash and other belongings.

Col Ason told the *Gazette* that by the time the complaint was filed, Mr Abraham had already left Thailand and Kamala Police asked the court to issue an arrest warrant.

“We sent all evidence, as well as the arrest warrant, to the Royal Thai Police and Prosecutor’s Office to contact the relevant US authorities for their cooperation in the matter. They notified us as soon as they arrested him. Royal Thai Police officers flew to the US and transported him back



Police are proceeding with a court case after the suspect denied all charges filed against him. Photo: Kamala Police



Royal Thai Police officers escorted Mr Abraham from the US to Bangkok and Phuket for the handover to Kamala Police. Photo: Kamala Police

to Phuket via Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok,” confirmed Col Ason.

Mr Abraham was questioned by Kamala Police officers when he was brought to the station a little after 8am.

“He has denied all charges, so we are going to submit the case to court for further processing,” said Col Ason.

Mr Abraham is currently under Phuket Provincial Court’s custody.

# Homeless squatter blamed for blaze



Neighbors told police that the owners of the house had moved to Bangkok. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

A MENTALLY unstable homeless man is suspected to have started a fire that burnt down a house in Phuket Town about 5am on December 3.

The two-storey house located on Thepkrasattri Road, about 500 meters from Satree Phuket School, was enveloped by flames and smoke when firefighters and officials from the Phuket City Municipality Disaster Prevention (PMDP) Department arrived at the scene.

“It took three firetrucks and 30 minutes to douse the flames.

The house was completely destroyed, but there were no injuries and the flames were contained before they spread to nearby houses,” PMDP chief Pongsak Sirithap told the *Gazette*.

Witnesses told police that the owners had moved to Bangkok and that a homeless man often slept there and lit candles as well.

Police are questioning the suspect to get a better idea of how the fire started. No charges have been pressed so far.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

# Head-on collision kills two



One of the tourists was killed at the scene. Photo: Wichit Police

A HEAD-ON collision at Chao Fa West Road early morning December 6 has left two more tourists dead.

Police arrived to find a 38-year-old Korean woman,

named as Hyemi Lee, standing by her car in shock at the scene in front of Dibuk Hospital. Her car had collided with the tourists’ motorcycle, which was jammed under its

front right wheel.

“Witnesses told us that Ms Heymi was driving into town about 2:55am, when the two tourists came in from the opposite direction and crashed into her car,” said Lt Kwansirinath Thairat of Wichit Police. “The victims were reportedly speeding.”

Police found the two tourists at the scene, one of whom was unidentified and died on the spot. The other was a Russian national, who was taken into the hospital where he was later pronounced dead.

No charges have been filed against Ms Heymi pending further investigations.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



# Corporal crashes car Rama X reigns

Driver in ICU after midnight smash at Heroine's Monument

By Winai Sarot

A POLICE officer was seriously injured late night on December 1, when he crashed his car into one of the metallic pillars around the Heroines' Monument in Thalang.

Thalang Police received the report of the crash just before midnight and arrived at the scene to find the driver, Pol Lance Corporal Thanakorn Jimjuan of Phuket City Police, lying on the sidewalk. A Toyota Vios was parked nearby, with its front end severely damaged.

"We know that the car's airbag was deployed, but that didn't stop him from getting a 2-inch deep cut on his head," said Col Sanit Nukong. "Witnesses told us that people nearby helped him out of the car and notified the authorities."

"Rescue workers at the scene administered first-aid on the Corporal and took him to



The car hit steel barriers installed at the roundabout. Photo: Winai Sarot

the emergency unit at Thalang Hospital. He was later transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where he now lies in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) in critical condition."

L/C Thanakorn's relatives told police that he might have been driving from his hometown,

Songkhla, which is located over six hours drive from Phuket, and may have fallen asleep at the wheel due to exhaustion.

Col Sanit told the *Gazette* that there was no sign that the driver was intoxicated.

L/C Thanakorn remains in the ICU on life support.

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The proclamation was held after a merit-making ceremony marking the 50th day since the passing of HM King Bhumibol.

In addition to the ceremony held at the Grand Palace, which was closed to the public last Thursday, similar merit-making ceremonies were held at government offices across the country.

HM King Maha Vajiralongkorn presided over a merit-making ceremony at the palace on December 2, functioning for the first time as King of Thailand.

His coronation is to be held after the royal cremation of King Rama IX, which is expected to be in October 2017.

On Tuesday, His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun appointed a new 10-member privy council with immediate effect.

The ten privy councillors have been named as follows:

1. Gen Surayud Chulanont
2. Kasem Watanachai
3. Palakorn Suwanrath
4. Atthaniti Disatha-amnarj
5. Supachai Poo-ngam
6. Chanchai Likhitjitta
7. ACM Chalit Pukbhasuk
8. Gen Dapong Ratanasuwan
9. Gen Teerachai Nakwanich
10. Gen Paiboon Koomchaya

The appointment was countersigned by Privy Council President Gen Prem Tinsulanonda.

Deputy Prime Minister Gen Prawit Wongsuwan said the Cabinet will be reshuffled after Gen Paiboon and Gen Dapong have been appointed to the Privy Council.

He said Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha will make the final decision on the Cabinet reshuffle.

- *Phuket Gazette*

## Polish tourists beaten, robbed by local teens



The teens confessed and were charged with armed robbery causing extreme physical and mental injury. Photo: Karon Police

PHUKET police on December 2 apprehended four teenagers who brutally attacked and robbed two Polish tourists at Karon viewpoint on December 1.

Karon Police arrived at the scene of the crime to find the tourists injured and scared.

The victims told police that the four young boys had come up behind them while they were walking.

One of them smashed a glass bottle over one of the victim's

head, and then to his knee, causing him to collapse on the ground.

The other was also slammed to the ground and injured.

The teenagers then made off with the tourists' bag containing, according to the police report, 2,700 baht, 20 euros, a bank account book, an ATM card and a mobile phone. The thugs then fled on two motorcycles.

Police checked CCTV footage in the area to get further information and were able to arrest all four suspects within 24 hours.

"They confessed and were charged with armed robbery causing extreme physical and mental injury," said local Police Col Sanya Thongsawad.

The police recovered 2,000 baht and 20 euros, as well as the bag with the ATM card and mobile phone inside. They also seized the criminals' motorcycles.

- *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

## Two arrested for mobile snatching in Patong



Both suspects were charged with theft while the victims received minor injuries. Photo: Patong Police

TWO THAI men were apprehended after they snatched an iPhone from two Chinese tourists in a ride-by robbery in Patong on November 30.

Police identified the suspects as a 21-year old, named Sarawuth Rattanaprasert, and a 19 year old male.

"We received a report of a robbery on Sai Nam Yen Road

about 7pm. Patrol officers in the area immediately took action when they saw the two victims chasing Mr Sarawuth on foot," said Maj Thanturong Wuthiwong of Patong Police.

"We apprehended Mr Sarawuth, who confessed that he snatched the phone from the two tourists riding on a motorbike, while he was riding

nearly with Mr Thanawuth."

Mr Thanawuth was driving, while Mr Sarawuth, who fell off the bike during the struggle, attempted to flee the scene on foot after his friend made off on the motorbike.

The two victims, named Yu Sun, 32, and Jiang Yimeng, 31, also fell off their bike and began chasing Mr Sarawuth on foot, at which point police officers stepped in and arrested him. The stolen phone was found lying on the ground nearby, where he had chucked it when he saw the police officers approaching.

Mr Sarawuth told police that he and his friend were heading toward Kalim Beach.

Both were charged with theft and causing injury.

"Mr Sarawuth told us that initially he had not planned to rob anyone, but when he saw the two tourists driving nearby, he asked Mr Thanawuth to get close enough for him to grab the phone," Maj Thanturong added.

The tourists sustained minor injuries as a result of their fall and were taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital for treatment.

- *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

# Songkhla to Phuket drug supply busted



Acting on a tip-off, police officers at the Tah Tat Chai checkpoint found 2 million baht worth of drugs stashed in the suspect's car. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A JOINT TASK force charged a drug peddler on November 28 after they seized 10,000 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills valued at 2 million baht at the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint on November 26.

The operation was led by Border Patrol Police Captain Aumpon Samorthai and Tah Chat Chai Police Lieutenant Pisithkorn Maswichien, ac-

companied by several officers. "We received information early morning that a drug dealer named Santi Yadee, 32, had departed from Songkhla to distribute *ya bah* to buyers in Phuket," said capt Aumpon.

"We were waiting for him at the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint. He arrived at about 11:20am. When we checked his car, a white Toyota Vios, we found 50 zip-lock bags

containing 200 pills each, hidden under the car's front console."

"We didn't press charges against Mr Santi at first as we wanted the 'big boss' behind this drug mafia," he added.

Mr Santi, who was charged with possession of category 1 drugs with intent to sell, named the Songkhla 'boss' only as 'Eak'.

The car has been impounded and a mobile phone is likewise in police custody.

# High surf week warning issued

A HIGH-SURF warning was issued for Phuket beaches, particularly on the west coast, by the Surin-Bangtao Surf Life-saving Club on December 5.

Starting December 7, an unusually powerful and extra-seasonal storm is predicted to affect Phuket and to continue over the next seven to ten days, the 'Club' announced.

Affected beaches include: Nai Harn, Kata Noi, Kata, Karon, Patong, Kamala, Laem Sing, Surin, Bang Tao, Mai Khao, Nai Thon and Nai Yang, as well as the Sarasin Reef/Bar.

"A low pressure cyclone is predicted to form in the Bay of Bengal – to the northwest of Phuket – within the next 48 to 72 hours, stated the December 5 warning.

Wave heights could rise to 1.2 meters with wave faces up to 2.5 meters and more over the next 10 days," Daren Jenner of the Club told *Gazette*.

The warning also urges beachgoers to listen to life-guards and obey all warning signs and instructions, adding that inexperienced swimmers will face an increased risk of drowning at the above locations.

"Only advanced surfers and swimmers should enter the water if large waves are present.

Wave heights and rip currents are stronger near rocks and headlands and all swimmers should avoid these areas until wave heights decrease," said Mr Jenner.

The warning also said that swimmers should beware of the 'Phuket Cocktail' where longer period swells (which are farther apart and more powerful) are concealed by a nearly constant short period swell train, which causes sudden formation of very powerful rip currents, pulling swimmers out to sea and into the breaker zone.

Once in the zone, the second half of the 'Phuket Cocktail' takes over. Swimmers are then faced with waves breaking over them every few seconds. This situation can lead to drowning in a very short time, often within just a few minutes.

The Thai Meteorological Department posted a similar warning on its website.

"People should beware of severe weather and possible flash floods, and all water transport should proceed with caution. Strong winds [will] lead to waves 2-3 meters high in the Gulf. All ships should proceed with caution, and small boats keep ashore," they announced.

– *Phuket Gazette*

# Canadian robbed



Mr Ryan says he met the girl on Bangla Road before taking her back to his hotel room. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

A HAPLESS Canadian tourist on November 30 filed a complaint against a Thai woman, claiming that she made off with about 130,000 baht in cash from his hotel room.

Alexander Ryan, 31, told police that he had met the woman on Bangla Road in Patong the previous night.

He invited her back to his room at the Holiday Inn hotel, where they both continued

to drink.

Mr Ryan reported that he woke up the next morning to discover that the woman was gone and so was his money – a combination of 85,500 baht, 1,000 Canadian dollars and US\$350 – Patong Police Major Teerasak Boonsang told the *Gazette*.

An arrest warrant was issued for the suspect.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

# Southern floods claim twelve

TWELVE people drowned, two others were injured and two people went missing during floods in southern Thailand last week, Mr Chatchai Promlert, director-general of the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Department said on December 4.

He said the floods affected 157,580 families in 68 districts in the 10 southern provinces of Chumphon, Surat Thani, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Krabi, Trang, Phatthalung, Songkhla, Yala, Pattani, and Narathiwat.

Mr Chatchai said two people died in Surat Thani, three in Nakhon Si Thammarat, two in Songkhla, two in Phatthalung, and two in Pattani.

Meanwhile, Government Spokesman Lt General Sansern Kaewkamnerd said Prime Minister Prayuth was closely monitoring the flooding situation in the South and the prime minister had ordered local government agencies to coordinate efforts to help flood victims with utmost efficiency.

Nakhon Si Thammarat Governor Chamroen Tipyapongthada said that flooding there had affected 1,245 villages in 18 districts.



Four train routes to Trang and Nakhon Si Thammarat were halted due to flooding. Photo: Gazette file

Four train routes to Trang and Nakhon Si Thammarat provinces were stopped at Nakhon Si Thammarat due to the flooding, according to the State Railway of Thailand in Thung Song. Stranded passengers were bussed to their destinations instead.

In Surat Thani, Governor Uaychai Innak said the floods had affected 18,117 families in 421 villages in 14 districts.

In Songkhla Province, the

provincial disaster mitigation office reported that two five-year-old girls had drowned in the province in floods that hit six districts – Muang, Hat Yai, Na Mom, Saba Yoi, Sadao and Ranot. The office reported that the situation was improving after rains stopped and the bloated rivers had subsided to normal levels.

In Trang, some 20,000 people in seven districts were affected, where 15,000 rai

(2,400 hectares) of farmland was damaged.

In Nayong, a mudslide blocked a main village road, prompting officials to use a bulldozer to clear it.

Troops from the Phraya Rassadanupradit fort handed out bags of food and other necessities to villagers in Moo 4 village in Tambon Lamphura in Huay Yot. Villagers had to wade through chest-high water to receive the help.

# Four shot dead in Pattani

FOUR PEOPLE were shot dead and one wounded in three separate attacks by suspected insurgents in Pattani Province on December 6.

In the first incident at about 7.30am in Nong Chik District, police discovered the bodies of Muang district defence volunteer Thawat Pongsuwan and his wife Papimol Chaikhong.

Both had been shot several times in the head and chest as they rode a motorcycle near the entrance to Ban Tha Dan Moo 2 in Tambon Don Rak.

The couple had been on their way to pick up their child from a relative's house when they were ambushed by two men on a motorbike, according to authorities. Police suspect the attack was part of ongoing unrest in the deep South.

About the same time, people in Yaring district alerted police after the body of Duan Sirat, 38, was found near a chicken coop in Ban Yeuring Moo 4 in Tambon Tanyong Dalor.

– *The Nation*

# Flooding forces school closures in 2 provinces



Some residents moved to 2nd floors of their homes. Photo: The Nation

MORE than 100 schools in the South of Thailand remained closed in the wake of serious flooding including in Nakhon Si Thammarat Province.

Local education officials at a total of 88 state schools said they would be closed until December 7.

“Most of these schools are in the province's educational service area 1,” Nakhon Si Thammarat Governor Charoen Tipayapongthada said.

All 23 districts in the province had been inundated,

disrupting the lives of more than 261,000 people, said Governor Charoen.

The floods were also blamed for five deaths in the province.

In the worst-hit spots, floodwaters were reported to be more than two meters deep.

Emergency service personnel used boats to transport relief aid to affected residents, many of whom had moved themselves and their possessions to upper floors of their inundated homes.

– *The Nation*

# Krabi coral dealers caught after trading on Facebook

TWO women involved in the illegal sale of coral on Facebook were apprehended in Ao Luek on November 30.

The arresting officers found more than 20 kilograms of coral in their possession. They had been dealing in coralline algae, sea pens and various other coral used in jewelry.

A massive joint ‘task force’ of 30 personnel comprising Krabi Marine Police, Than Bok Khorani National Park chief and officers, Takua Thung Non-hunting Zone officials, Army officers, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources officials and Ao Luek Mangrove Development Station officials ‘raided’ the home of the two women and arrested them at 5pm.

The suspects were named as Sirimon Vaewjongdee, 35 and Janya Vaengjongdee, 39.

“The pair were openly trading the coral on social media, which is how we found out



About 30 personnel from various departments carried out the raid, netting a variety of protected species. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

about it” revealed Krabi Marine Police Lt Anurak Parinya-sathiragul. “These coral are very rare and considered protected animals.”

Col Anurak said the haul of protected marine life was the

largest in several years.

The two were charged with possession of protected animals with intent to sell under the Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act, BE 2535 (1992).

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

## Police and late night venues join hands

POLICE ARE seeking cooperation from Chiang Mai late-night entertainment venues in enforcing anti-crime measures.

“All stakeholders must play a role in ensuring safety and boosting tourists’ satisfaction,” Provincial Police Region 5’s acting chief Maj Gen Poonsap Prasertsak said December 6 at a meeting with more than 200 representatives from entertainment venues.

Gen Poonsap pointed out that with proper measures, tourists would have greater confidence in visiting Chiang Mai and tourism would in turn spur the province’s economy.

The senior police officer cautioned entertainment-venue owners against focusing only on profits and said they should also consider society, peace and compliance with laws.

Gen Poonsap said they were seeking ‘constructive partnerships’ and expected staff to alert police of any suspicious activity.

He also cautioned security guards at late-night venues to comply with proper procedures. “Do not assault others no matter what, not even when some problems occur,” he said.

## DSI draws plans for fugitive abbot

TWO action plans have been drawn up to deal with Phra Dhammachayo, the fugitive abbot of Wat Dhammakaya in Pathum Thani, by the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) based on whether he surrenders or not, former Justice Minister Gen Paiboon Koomchaya said on December 6.

Gen Paiboon declined to give details of the plans, but said officers will know which one to implement after a team from the National Office of Buddhism (NOB), which was trying to get the monk to surrender, reported on their latest attempts.

The DSI has been told by prosecutors to bring in Phra Dhammachayo to face charges of money laundering and receiving stolen assets linked to an embezzlement case involving the Klongchan Credit Union Cooperative.



The DSI submitted the case to public prosecutors, who will decide if there are grounds to indict the monk.

## Thai exchange student found dead in Russia

THE Foreign Ministry is cooperating with Russian authorities after a Thai cultural exchange student was found dead on a train in Russia’s Republic of Bashkortostan on December 1.

Ministry spokesman Sek Wannamethee on December 5 said that Chayanon Poon-sirasin, 16, was an exchange student in Russia under the non-profit AFS Intercultural Programs. He was found dead during a train trip from Yekaterinburg to Izhevsk, where his host family lives.

According to the Russian website day.org.ru, the teen was travelling on the train with a group of 12 and was last seen alive at the Yanaul train station. His money and belongings were still in his compartment and there was no sign of violence.

Russian authorities are yet to brief Thai officials on the investigation and autopsy results, Mr Sek said.

The Thai Embassy in Moscow has assigned consular officers and translators to cooperate with Russian police, he said.

Representatives also asked the Russian Foreign Ministry

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to inform local police and administrators to cooperate with the embassy, he added.

## Promoting urban forests to improve life

EVERYBODY can help create and manage urban forests that will boost the quality of life for city dwellers, academics from the URBAN Forest project said.

The initiative to increase well-managed forested areas in cities was proposed by a team of academics in a move to secure a better environment and livelihood of people in the city. They explained that forested land would not be in conflict with developed areas, and hoped that people would fall more in love with nature.

The project is supported by the Thailand Development Fund. A leading member of the team, Professor Pracha Koonnathamdee from the Faculty of Economics at Thammasat University, said the term “urban forest” was new and unfamiliar to most people, as it was very different from the traditional definition of forest.

“Urban forest in our defini-

tion is used for well managed green areas in the city that people who benefit from the forest are in charge of maintaining. To do this, they need a sustainable livelihood so they can pay for it,” Prof Pracha said. “Urban forests are different from other green spaces, such as public parks, which are maintained and funded by the government.”

“There is enough scientific evidence to prove that people close to nature have a better state of mind and are mentally healthy. Plus, the forest can be the city’s lung and absorb pollution,” said Niramon Sutummakid, a lecturer from the Faculty of Economics at Thammasat University.

## His Majesty hailed by world leaders

WORLD monarchs hailed His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn’s accession to the throne last week as King Rama X of the long-reigning Chakri Dynasty.

King Norodom Sihamoni of Cambodia sent a royal message to the new King, as quoted by China’s Xinhua news agency, saying: “I am confident that the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation existing between our two Kingdoms and Buddhist peoples will continue to be developed and enhanced under Your Majesty’s wise and benevolent reign.”

Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei also sent a congratulatory message to HM the King, recalling how relations flourished between the two countries during the reign of His Majesty King Bhumibol.

According to Radio Television Brunei, Sultan Bolkiah looked forward to continuing to strengthen ties and extended wishes to the new Thai King for his reign and the Thai people for continued peace and prosperity.

King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden sent a telegram to HM the King, wishing him health and happiness and for the well-being and prosperity of the Thai people. King Abdullah II of Jordan offered his congratulations to the King while stressing his desire to develop and strengthen bilateral relations, the Ammon News agency reported.

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## Phuket Gazette

## Elite tourism

A PLAN to introduce 10-year visas for 'senior' foreigners makes sense overall, but we hope those drafting the legislation can find a way to fine-tune it so a wider range of long-term expats, many of whom have contributed much to the Kingdom, can also qualify.

Under the recently-revealed plan [see *Gazette* online], the 10-year visas would be realistically obtainable to only a fraction of the law-abiding expats over 50 who might actually benefit from having one.

The main hurdles will be financial; only well-heeled foreigners with passports from select high-GDP nations need apply.

Thailand has long sought to position itself as an 'elite' tourism destination and has a long history of unabashed efforts toward the goal of attracting 'quality' [read: 'high-spending'] tourists.

Thailand's former premier Thaksin Shinawatra introduced the Thailand Elite Card program, which still offers long-term visas and other privileges starting at 500,000 baht for the most "basic" memberships.

The Elite program, run by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), now offers no fewer than eight packages, all tailored to meet the immigration and other needs of wealthy foreigners and their globe-trotting family members.

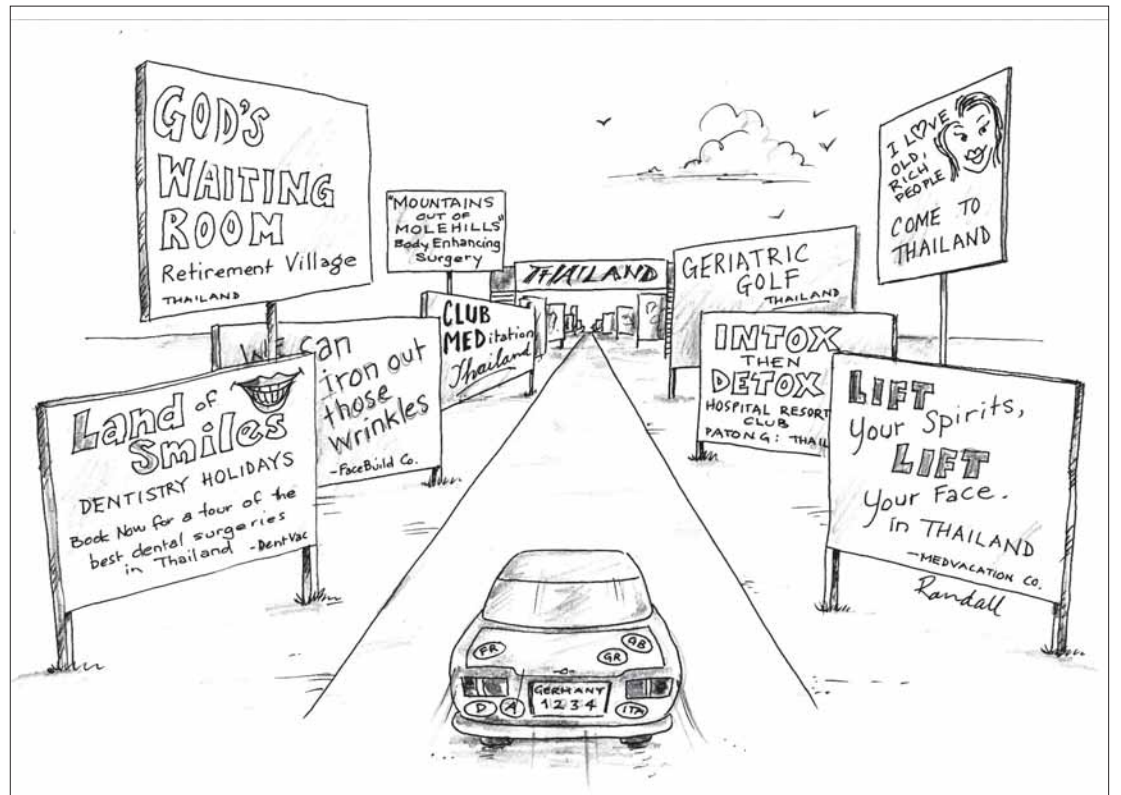
With these Elite packages and the proposed 10-year visas, wealthy foreign retirees are truly spoiled for choice when it comes to Immigration options for settling down in the Kingdom.

However, many long-term expats will still find themselves forced to endure 'visa runs' simply because they cannot afford the high-costs – or do not see these avenues of staying legally in the Kingdom as cost-effective.

The only other avenue, the immensely time-consuming application process for a residency permit, also comes at a steep cost of about 200,000, before lawyer's fees.

The fact remains that the welfare of scores of law-abiding foreigners who have lived, worked and paid into the state social security system for many years find themselves still needing to do visa runs – or face the prospect of having to leave stable homes and families as they reach old age.

For all of our elitist aspirations, this situation is not really appropriate given our nation's renowned reputation for hospitality, so we hope that the authorities will take the appropriate steps before the new rules are put in place.



## No more chances for hotel owners

*Re: Unlicensed hotels given two months to register, Dec 2*

Why should they be given a chance? Most of them do not have an Environmental Impact Assessment Report, dump sewage into the sea, are over the limit of used space, and some are built near a temple. Yet they are still allowed to go to exhibitions.

A fine is not enough. Lots of them are condos rented as 'hotel' rooms. Unfair competition.

James  
Gazette forum

## Tourists need to be more aware

*Re: Canadian tourist robbed of about \$4,000 by Bangla 'companion', Dec 1*

Hapless tourist is correct. Regardless of what country you are in, it makes no sense to invite a stranger back to your hotel room and leave them alone with your belongings.

Before blaming the system, perhaps we should educate the tourists first.

Barney Herzog  
Gazette forum

## Swift justice for teenage thugs

*Re: Polish tourists beaten, robbed by Phuket teenagers, Dec 3*

Make them do work for the local government, like cleaning rubbish from the beaches and streets wearing a T-shirt nam-

Letters  
to the Editor

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ing the crime they have committed. Name and shame, and stop worrying about these young thugs' feelings. They have no respect for the law and know they can get away with just about anything, so they do. The law is too soft on these thugs.

Peter Rawai  
Gazette forum

## How was intoxication determined

*Re: Police officer unstable after crashing into Heroines' Monument barrier, Dec 2*

"Col Sanit told the *Phuket Gazette* that there was no sign that the driver had been intoxicated."

Was he breath tested?  
Was blood taken and tested for alcohol?

Isn't it a law that all people involved in car accidents are to be tested for alcohol?

Law Abiding Citizen  
Gazette forum

## Well done to the US government

*Re: Alleged extortionist flown back from US to face charges, Dec 2*

If this is true, I hope my fellow countryman will be in in Bangkok prison for a long, long time.

And I thank my government for sending him back.

Charlie  
Gazette forum

## Practical punishments work best

*Re: Island View: Safety needs more than lip service, Dec 6*

We made national news the other day with the internet video of a police officer forcing 2 schoolgirls to run laps around their bike after he caught them riding without helmets.

Well done, that man!  
Let's see more news like this, not politicians blowing hot air.

CaptainJack  
Gazette forum

## Freehold property for foreigners

*Re: Across the Land: Proposed 10-year visa for over-50s, Dec 5*

If longstays were allowed to own their property freehold, this might work. Until then, the market will continue to suffer and quality retirees will go elsewhere. As a 15-year retiree, I have no rights other than a 90 day stamp. I feel far too vulnerable to invest any money here.

Harry  
Gazette forum

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

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Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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Volume 23 Issue 50

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# Marine safety matters

## FIRST PERSON

THE HOT issues in the marine industry in Phuket at the moment are public land encroachment, illegal fishing boats, and lastly, but most importantly, waste management.

We just had a meeting with Phuket Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan about these three issues, as so far they have been very problematic for us.

First of all, let's talk about beach and public land encroachment. It's one of our main concerns – the governor has ordered us to keep a strict eye on it and get rid of any businesses that encroach on public land.

Late last month, we took action against a business owner who had allegedly constructed a building on public beach land in Mai Khao.

Our investigations revealed that there was some construction, including walls and a building, overlapping public land. We are now looking into it further and hope to resolve the issue soon. We are also working on several other encroachment cases at the moment.

As far as the management of illegal fishing boats is concerned, we have actually been keeping a strict check on illegal, unregulated, unreported (IUU) fishing boats for a long time now.

However, lately Phuket has become a hot spot for illegal tuna fishing boats to come in, so we have had our work cut out for us. We are doing everything in our power to monitor all foreign boats that go in and



**Surat Siriasaiyas** is currently the chief of Phuket Marine Office. Before assuming his post in August this year, he was living in Samut Prakan.

Mr Surat was appointed as the chief after six months of Phuket having only an acting chief, since ex-chief Phuriphat Theerakulpisut

was transferred to the landlocked Nonthaburi Province in February.

Here, he talks about his major concerns regarding marine safety and management in Phuket.

out of Phuket.

Last month, we detained seven foreign tuna fishing boats with fake nationality documents trying to enter Phuket. Based on this experience, we have strengthened our controls even further to ensure that all the required documentation is in order before we let any vessels come into our territory.

I have left the most important issue for last – waste management. A lot of concern has been raised about untreated wastewater being discharged into the sea, for instance at Surin and Patong.

As Phuket is a tourist destination that is famous for its unspoiled beauty and pristine beaches, we cannot afford to let this happen, or tourists will not want to visit anymore. I consider this as one of the most urgent issues that needs to be resolved as soon as possible.

So far, we have been working closely with local authorities, such as the municipi-

ality office and *OrBorTor*, to prevent further wastewater from being discharged into the sea. Local authorities have been cooperative in this regard and many of them have improved their water treatment systems.

In addition to the above-mentioned projects, we have several other issues we have been continually working on, including jet-ski management. Jet-ski operators are aware of the policies, rules and regulations and we are keeping a strict eye on them to make sure they are not stepping out of line.

With regards to all the yachting and sailing events being held on the island this month, the main organizer is the Ministry of Tourism and Sports. Our duty is only to control and facilitate the vessels coming in and going out. We are doing our best to make this a smooth process and deal with them to the best of our abilities.



Even the smallest maintenance project on British roads features a plethora of safety signs, barriers, lights and reflective cones. Photo: David Anstiss

## Overkill vs Roadkill

### Island View

By Nick Davies

TRAVELLING in my car along Thepkrasattri Road at dusk from Thalang the other day, I hit a strip of the three-lane highway that was being resurfaced.

The roadwork crew had enough forethought to put a grimy 40km/hr speed limit sign on the median strip, just before motorists hit the edge of the freshly gouged surface, as well as a handful of traffic cones separating the left hand lane – but apart from that, there was nothing to help guide motorists on the dangerously uneven, dimly-lit patch of partially-dug road.

Even worse, were black-colored traffic cones, making them almost invisible, and meter-long metal poles with flat ends used as lane dividers.

I drove past several of the cones and poles, lying strewn about the road, after they had presumably been knocked out of place by passing motorbikes and cars.

It also wasn't clear how many of the lanes we were supposed to be using and which lanes were supposed to be blocked.

The roadworks vehicles were parked up in a nearby U-

turn bay but there wasn't a hi-vis-jacketed workman in sight.

It appeared that they had simply downed tools, packed up and gone home when it got dark without a thought for the dangerous situation they had created.

If billions of baht is to be spent building roads to 'international standards', can part of the budget be used to train road workers and ensure they have a good supply of reflective cones, signs and barricades so that drivers won't have to suddenly take evasive action to avoid a piece of metal left lying in the middle of the road?

In fact a familiarity trip for officers in the Highways Department to see how it's done in other countries would be money well spent.

In the UK, roadworks are a semi-permanent fixture on the country's highways and byways – to the extent where it can feel a bit excessive – but you always get plenty of warning to slow down and get into lane, well ahead of the roadworks themselves.

Sometimes it's overkill, but it's better than risking actual road kill – an all too familiar and depressing sight in Phuket which could so easily be fixed with a bit of forethought.

## Words from the Wise

**“There never will be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers.”**

– Susan B Anthony

**“Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former.”**

– Albert Einstein

## Thai idioms and their meanings

JUST like any other language, the Thai language has many proverbs and sayings, which often have interesting, and sometimes rather baffling, translations in English.

One often used phrase is *som nam nah*, which literally translates into 'sour water face'. This is the Thai equivalent of the commonly-used English phrase 'it serves you right'.

Another interesting proverb is *mai lorng mai roo*, which is pretty self explanatory and means 'if you never try, you'll never know'. However, due to



*Som nam nah* literally translates into sour water face. Photo: pexels

the Thai habit of changing 'r' to 'l' it often ends up being pronounced as *mai lorng mai loo* instead.

## K-Bank bullish on tourist tax break



Thai citizens can take advantage of a 15,000 baht tax break on domestic tour packages and accommodation in December. Photo: Gazette file

KASIKORN Research Centre says a B15,000 tourism tax break effective this December should generate an additional income of B2,000 - 4,000 million for domestic tourism.

The bank's think-tank unit said domestic tourism was crucial for the country's economy and the market should generate around B800,000mn, or a share of 5.7 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

The Cabinet approved on Tuesday a tourism stimulus package that offers Thai citizens a B15,000 tax break, which is valid when travellers purchase a domestic tour package or pay for hotel accommodation throughout December and can be claimed in annual tax returns filed in late March for 2016.

The measure came into effect December 1 and expires at the end of the year.

Travellers can only base their tax claim against official invoices and billings for travel and hotel services that are registered.

The Cabinet also agreed to reinstate hotel accommodation as a tax-deductible item until the end of this year, after the ruling expired December 31, last year. The maximum deduction is also B15,000 per person and must be supported by invoices from hotels that are registered to offer hotel services.

Travellers have the right under the two schemes to deduct up to B30,000 from their 2016 tax returns.

The centre forecasts that tourism revenue could reach B82,000 to B84,000mn, up 8.8 per cent to 11.5 per cent over the same month last year, which saw an improvement of 13.4 per cent.

Kasikorn Research Centre is a subsidiary company of Kasikorn Bank, which conducts tourism and business research mainly on Thailand's economy including tourism with reliable recommendations and indicators on business prospects.

– *Phuket Gazette*

## Execs to push exports



Super Brand Mall, a department store under CP in Shanghai, China. Photo: Emha

THE International Trade Promotion Department has drawn aggressive plans, including utilizing executives of large Thai companies to better penetrate overseas markets to help drive shipments to achieve a 3-per cent growth target in 2017.

Malee Cholumlerd, director-general of the department, said next year the department would emphasize many active plans in a bid to promote stronger export growth.

They will include drawing up strategic partnerships with trade-partner countries as it believes this strategy could effectively solve trade barriers and non-trade barriers as well as increase trade facilitation between Thailand and its trad-

ing partners.

The government will also nominate Thai nationals as advisers in targeted overseas markets who work for large companies operating in those markets so they can help drive Thai trade and investment.

For example, Berli Jucker will help drive exports to China and Asean markets and CP will help support Thai goods trading at Super Brand Mall, a department store under CP in China.

In Europe, Central Group will give advice to Thai traders and investors on how to penetrate European markets as the company has many businesses in Europe such as in Italy and Denmark.

Thai Union Frozen will help

drive Thai shipments and investment in the US. Sahapat Group will do the same for Japan and South Korea, while Double A will be used to boast shipments in the Middle East. SCG will be utilized for India.

Thailand will also ask foreign business people how the country can better penetrate targeted countries, and those people will be nominated as trade representatives or special trade envoys.

Those countries are China, Russia, Peru and Kazakhstan. Thailand will also emphasize promoting quality and innovative goods, as well as creating good positioning for Thai products.

– *The Nation*

## Credit program for SMEs unveiled

THE Thai Credit Guarantee Corporation (TCG) has unveiled a credit guarantee program for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in partnership with 19 banks, providing small businesses with easy access to funding.

TCG Chief Executive Officer Nithit Manunpon said the new program is an extension of the previous 'PGS 5' credit guarantee program, extending the period of guarantees from seven years to

10 years, with an annual fee of 1.75 per cent on each loan. Additionally, the program complies with government policy to provide the SMEs with various assistance measures. Those that qualify for the program must be registered to pay taxes.

Mr Nithit also revealed that as of now, the Thai Military Bank, Siam Commercial Bank, as well as the Standard Chartered Bank Thailand have already begun offering

the credit guarantee program to businesses.

The remaining 16 banks are expected to sign onto the program in the near future. Businesses can apply for the credit guarantee program until June 30, 2018.

The program is expected to assist over 13,000 businesses in the Kingdom, extending over 168 billion baht in credit and generating 458 billion baht in cashflow.

– *NNT*

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# Look Chok to stay afloat

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

KRABI locals have managed to find a new way to fill up their pockets with extra cash every month by collecting palm seeds (look chok) from nearby forests.

Originally earning a regular income from rubber plantations, an additional income of 15,000 baht per month comes by collecting look chok and using them to make and sell desserts in their communities.

Warakorn Praiphan, 32, told the *Gazette* that he and other locals found the look chok seeds in a forest near his community located in Moo 2, in Khlong Hin sub-district of Ao Luek District.

"The seeds can only be found once a year during the months of October and November," said Mr Warakorn. "We did not just collect the seeds and sell them off. We picked them out from their shells, developed a syrup using the seeds and make desserts to sell at the community market."

"Since the rubber prices dropped, our regular incomes through that channel was adversely affected. I used to sell fruit for extra money."

Mr Warakorn says he incidentally met a look chok seller in a market in Phang Nga, who educated him on how to find and



(inset) Earnings can be up to 15,000 baht a month for palm seed collectors in Ao Luek. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong. (main) Ripe palm seeds ('look chok') are used in desserts. Photo: oneVillage Initiative

collect look chok in forests.

"I asked the seller for information and when I made my way back from Phang Nga, I decided to search for them on my own. At first, my final prod-

uct was not very good – it became better with practice."

Mr Warakorn sells each bag for 20-25 baht, which totals up to 15,000-20,000 baht per month.

He also explained how to get

in on his new-found business. "I crack open the shells and boil the seeds for about 2 hours. Clean them and put in syrups with Pandan leaves (screwpine) to make the dessert.

## Lucky strike for millionth visitor

A CHINESE tourist arriving at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport from Guangzhou on Monday was the millionth visitor to Thailand this year.

The 'Thailand's Luckiest Visitor' campaign was launched as a tourism income-generating initiative by tourism authorities last year to welcome and reward every millionth visitor from June to December.

"The campaign garnered interest from the public and media organizations across the world, boosting Thailand's tourism sector and brand image," said Yuthasak Supasorn, governor of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

Thailand is projecting total international tourism revenue of up to B1.62 trillion this year, which is a year-on-year increase of 11.68 per cent over 2015, it was reported.

'Thailand's Luckiest Visitor', named as Huang Junyi, was given two economy-class return tickets to Thailand from her original destination, which are valid for a year.

She also received a voucher for a five-night stay in a luxury hotel in Bangkok, Pattaya or Hua Hin, as well as a mobile phone with a fourth-generation SIM card supplied with seven days of Internet usage.

– *The Nation*

## TAT to target Chinese market following PM's call for 6 per cent tourism boost

THE TOURISM Authority of Thailand (TAT) is aiming to attract more tourists from China in the wake of the Prime Minister General Prayuth's directive to boost tourism by 6 percent this year, following the damage low-cost tour operators have caused among the Chinese public.

The TAT's East Asia Region Executive Director Srisuda Wanapinyosak, said on November 30 that TAT is now targeting tourists from China after the number of Chinese tourists to Thailand was negatively affected by the government's effort to eradicate illegal tour operators from China, and to push for an expansion of the tourism market in this year's final



Back in September, the China National Tourism Administration Chief Wang Chiao Fong visited Patong Beach to get a grip on the extent of zero-dollar tourism. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

quarter.

She said that the TAT had already allocated 50 million baht to launch campaigns

with five TAT offices in China to help 53 Thai businesses and to promote Thai tourism products, specifically seaside

tourism as many parts of China are now beginning to have cold weather.

The TAT is also aiming to execute marketing plans with Thai-registered airlines to help promote Thai tourism in cities which normally see low visitor numbers.

TAT's executive director said the TAT was planning to launch the Amazing Campaign which includes promotions such as online advertisement and viral clips, as well as PR material via other channels over the next two weeks, to inform the Chinese public of the harm often caused by low-cost tour operators that may exploit tourists, causing them to spend much more money than they intended to.

– *NNT*



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# Central Pattana on board for King's Cup

Centara Grand Beach Resort held a high-end get-together for the organizers of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta as part of the resort's co-sponsorship of the 30th anniversary edition of the regatta.



Phuket King's Cup Regatta President Kevin Whitcraft (3rd from right), accompanied by the regatta's organizing committee head Santi Kanchanabandhu (4th from left), presents a certificate of appreciation to Kantaphon Phanitrat (4th from right), Central Pattana PCL Senior Vice President – Branch Marketing & Client Relations, at the Centara Grand Beach Resort bash.



Thai Sailor and King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee member Radab Kanjanavanit with Regatta Director Kae Wattana. Photo: Phuket Best Event

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## Events in Paradise

### 30th anniversary



Central Pattana Assistant Vice President – Branch Marketing, Piya Missita (left), celebrates with the crew of *Kingsman*, captained by Russian skipper Shkurin Nikolay (white beard), who won the Bareboat Charter Class on Day 2 of the King's Cup Regatta races.

### Dusit Thani charity dinner raises B150,000 for Operation Smile

A charity dinner held at the Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket on November 29 raised B150,000 for 'Operation Smile Thailand' – a foundation to help children born with autism and facial abnormalities. The dinner also marked the 29th anniversary of 'Gracious Thai Hospitality' campaign. Part of the proceeds from the night also went to help students at Phuket Panyanukul School.



(From left) Uthit Limsakul, Deputy Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket Office; Busaya Jaipiam, Phuket Provincial Public Relations Chief; Sanit Srivihok Deputy Phuket Governor; and Prachoom Tantipraertsuk, General Manager of Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket.

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# 30th King's Cup: Heritage of Passion

FAIR WINDS were afoot last Saturday for the launch of the 30th annual Phuket King's Cup Regatta, which this year is under the theme 'Heritage of Passion', in memory of the late HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej and in honor of Thailand's new monarch HM King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun.

Held at the Kata Beach Resort and Spa December 3-10 under the auspices of the Royal Varuna Yacht Club in co-operation with the Royal Thai Navy, the Yacht Racing Association of Thailand, and the Province of Phuket, this year's regatta boasts more than 200 international boats and yachts plus at least 1,000 local and international teams of sailors from over 30 countries.

The competitive classes this year include Keelboats, Multihulls and International Dinghy Classes.

During the regatta's opening ceremony, organizers and participants held 89 seconds of silence to mourn the passing of HM the late King. A ceremonial sail-pass was also held off Kata Bay in honor of HM King Maha Vajiralongkorn.

President of the regatta's organizing committee, Kevin Whitcraft, said the regatta has been the pinnacle of international regattas in Asia. "The King's Cup has helped to position Thailand as one of the world's premier international yachting destinations



From left: Mark Hamill-Stewart, Commodore, Royal Varuna Yacht Club; Pramookpisitt Achariyachai, President, Kata Group Resorts; Admiral Photchana Phuekphong, V/President, Yacht Racing Association Thailand; Phuket Governor Chokchai dejamornthan; Kevin Whitcraft, President, Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee and Radab Kanjanavanit at Kata Beach Resort and Spa on December 3. Photo: PKCR



Youth sailors join the opening ceremony of 30th Phuket King's Cup Regatta, during which 89 seconds of silence was held to mourn the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and bow respectfully in front of a portrait of the late King. Photo: PKCR

and continues to help the country's yachting industry grow while contributing to

the local economy."

The regatta is expected to generate more than 300 mil-

lion baht over the week, said Mr Whitcraft. "As a world-class yachting festival, the regatta has a positive effect on 'Brand Phuket' among travellers."

"The Phuket Dinghy Series has inspired youngsters in Southern Thailand from many sailing clubs to take up sailing since its introduction in 2010," he said.

Youth sailing classes are divided into Optimist (Boys), Optimist (Girls), Laser Radial, Laser Standard, Laser 4.7, and 420.

This year, the fleets comprise 12 classes of Keelboats and Multihulls: IRC Zero (international 'Grand Prix' boats), the highly competitive IRC 1, IRC 2, along with Premier, Bareboat Charter, Open Charter, Firefly, Racing Multihulls, Cruising, Platu One Design and Pulse One Design.

Many of last year's winners

are back again to defend their class honors such as: ReRefine, Hurricane, Pine Pacific, Twin Sharks and Pop Eye.

"This year we will see our new wave of young Thai sailors compete in International Dinghy Class; Bam Kamolwan Chanyim and Keerati Bualong, the first Thai Laser sailors who joined the Olympics in Rio. We also welcome the SEA GAMES 2017," said Mr Whitcraft.

The King's Cup trophy, designed by local architect ML Tridhosyuth Devakul, was bestowed upon the regatta by the late King Bhumibol (Rama IX), who was himself a skilled sailor. Thus nine sails adorn the silver trophy, which is topped with the Royal Cypher.

The *Phuket Gazette*, *Gazette Radio* and *The Nation* are proud media sponsors of the King's Cup Regatta since 2016.

- *Phuket Gazette*



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# Laguna receives Ambassador's Award for community projects



Peera Promsook, CSR Manager representing Laguna Resorts & Hotels PLC (right) accepts the award from US Ambassador to Thailand Glyn T Davies. Photo: Laguna Phuket



Participants in Laguna Phuket's Seedlings Internship Program get hands-on F&B experience at one of the resort's restaurants. Photo: Banyan Tree Phuket

THE country's American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) has awarded Laguna Phuket with the 2016 US Ambassador's Award for CSR Excellence in recognition of the resort's long-term community development projects.

The resort got a triple nod at

the 2016 AMCHAM CSR Excellence (ACE) awards ceremony in Bangkok for its 'Seedlings Internship Program' along with its community development and environment conservation projects.

Laguna Phuket was among three finalists – including IBM and Dow – that were

awarded on November 22 under the Thai-US Creative Partnership Designation to mark AMCHAM Thailand's 60th anniversary.

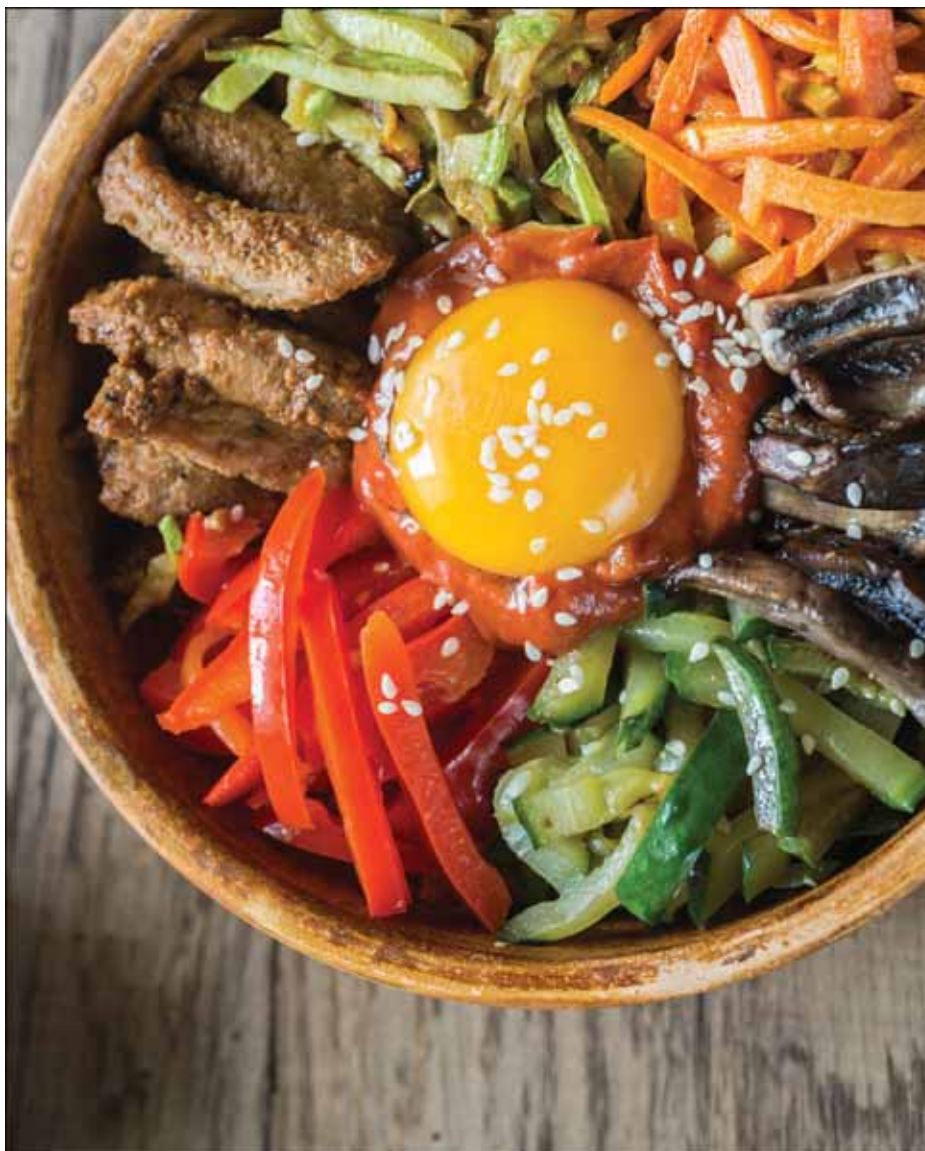
AMCHAM's ACE award honors member organizations that create long-term economic and social benefits in their communities.

Laguna Phuket was awarded ACE recognition in 2015 for its internship program with a focus on equality to help marginalized local young adults, and again this year received ACE 2016 recognition for its 'Greening Community Initiative' to plant 25,000 mangrove saplings

near the resort over 10 years with the involvement of more than 1,000 associates and 450 community members.

Laguna Phuket was one of 1,000 corporate members in the Thai-US Creative Partnership Designation, which selected 62 qualifying members.

– *Phuket Gazette*



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# Making the most of high season

**On Deck**  
By Duncan Worthington

I'VE NEVER met Kenneth Grahame. It would be rather difficult, as he passed away in 1932. However, he seemed to have a good outlook on yachting.

In his classic book *The Wind in the Willows* (1908), Rat said to Mole: "Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats."

Phuket's high season is in full swing and with the sunny weather and calm seas it brings, now is indeed the perfect time to be "messing about in boats".

With Christmas and New Year just around the corner, it's encouraging to see tourist numbers picking up, including the previously-elusive Russian visitors who are put in the 'high quality' bracket by government agencies due their average spending being, well, above average.

Russian visitors and their European neighbors are the backbone of Phuket's high season marine tourism, at least at the better quality end of the spectrum.

While searching for that perfect one-day speedboat island tour, bear in mind that you get what you pay for. A cheap deal likely means you'll



Daily tour boats are heading out to islands all over Thailand already. Photo: Zohaib Sikander

be crammed in like cattle as the driver goes from a standing start to near airborne in less than 30 meters. Safety? Unlikely to be their selling point.

Phuket's marinas, however, offer safe (and pleasant) jump off points for your marine extravaganza. Less than 15 minutes from Royal Phuket Marina or Phuket Boat Lagoon, you will be surrounded by islands, while the stunning islands of Phang Nga Bay are

within just minutes of leaving Ao Po Grand Marina.

Further north, as you leave the Phuket Yacht Haven channel, you find yourself in the northern reaches of Phang Nga Bay – some of the quieter spots in this majestic Jurassic Park lookalike wonderland. Alternatively, you can head West out of the marina, under the bridge – plan carefully – and then North to the snorkeling and diving sites of the Similan and Surin

islands.

While daily tour boats are heading out in ever increasing numbers to the mass tourism marine destinations, those 'locals' in the know and those chartering their own yacht need not worry, as there are plenty of other destinations that even in these peak times are under much less pressure and still offer the Phuket you saw in the Tourism Authority of Thailand brochure.

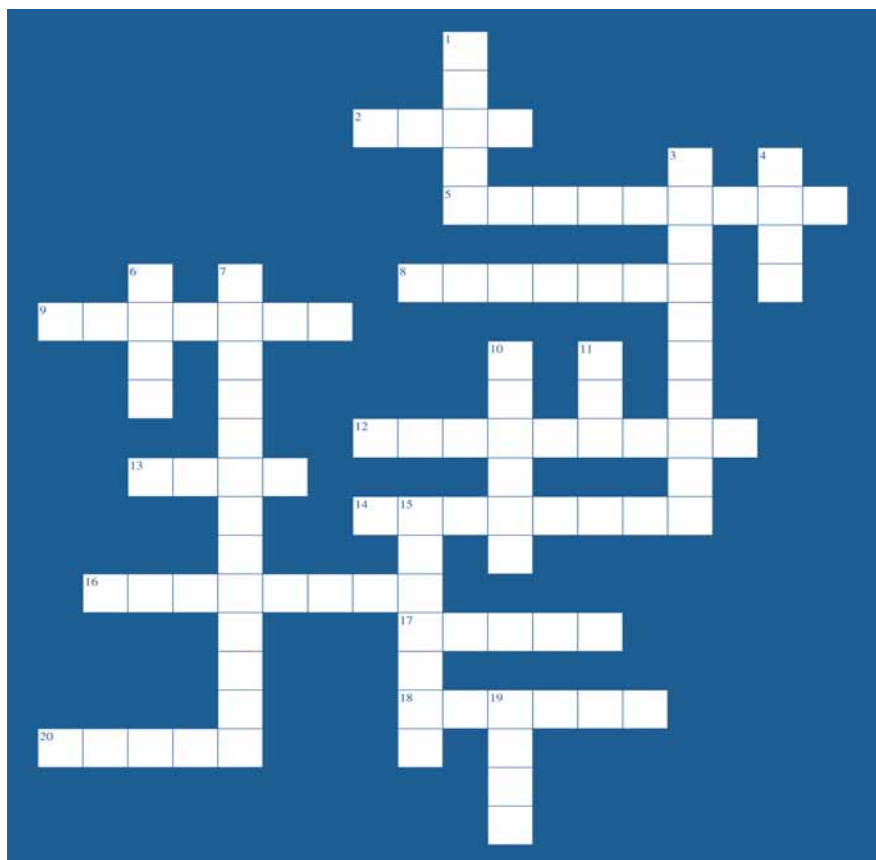
Over the high season I ex-

pect more than 50,000 people will be enjoying boat trips each month – that's in the region of 2,000 people per day. Add to that divers, ferries to Phi Phi/ Krabi and multi-day charters, and the numbers are impressive. At the same time, they are also a cause for concern, both from an environmental and safety standpoint.

It's clear that most visitors to Phuket get out on the water at some point. Even Asian visitors who are pigeon-holed as shopping tourists make up a huge number of low-season marine tourism numbers in Phuket.

While it is a great time to visit Phuket and enjoy its marine treasures, visitors are recommended to be aware of their surroundings at all times, whether in the sea or on the beach. On the beach, watch out for the numerous jet skis while swimming. It's easy to blame the owners and operators (plenty of us do), but the real danger is from inexperienced drivers. Enjoy.

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



## Gazette Crossword

Test your word power and knowledge.

### Across

- 2. Sign of sorrow
- 5. Soi off Bangla Road
- 8. Barber Shop \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. The Big Apple (2 words)
- 12. \_\_\_\_\_ eggs
- 13. Type of cookie
- 14. Type of potato chip
- 16. 'Star Wars' character (2 words)
- 17. Ancient Roman garments
- 18. Stage direction for characters to leave
- 20. Ancient Germanic invader

### Down

- 1. Mongol Leaders
- 3. British TV soap opera based in London
- 4. Oliver Twist's request
- 6. Exchange
- 7. Group of stars
- 10. Reproduces like sardines
- 11. Punch
- 15. Diamond-back snake
- 19. Long poetic composition centered on a hero

*Solution on opposite page.*



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

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**Business Contracts Property Law/Due Diligence**

**Visa & Work Permit**

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# Pruning with purpose: tackling a banyan tree



RECENTLY I received a question about pruning from Franck de Lestapis, general manager of Koh Lanta's Pimalai Resort and Spa, which boasts a massive banyan tree that dominates the pool and beach.

May I say straightaway that Pimalai is to be congratulated for allowing such a wonderful specimen to flourish unimpeded. But it needs pruning.

Let Franck take up the story: "I thought you might have some ideas on how to properly trim such a big tree. He adds: "We ought to do it as the weight of the foliage and branches is very heavy.

Maybe you have some tips on how to do it correctly" while retaining the nice shape of the tree?"

Well, it does present a bit of a problem on account of its size.

Let's start with a few suggestions – also applicable to smaller brethren. Don't prune now; that is to say in the rainy season. As Franck rightly assumes, the branches and leaves will be laden with sap and, more importantly, will still be growing.

Delay until the monsoon is over and then allow at least two weeks for the tree to dry out but don't leave things until the end of the dormant season: the tree may be distressed. On the other hand, diseased or dead wood, weak or narrow crotches which have split, or overlapping branches which rub against



Avoid cutting the top off at all costs. Such draconian action will promote unattractive and wispy sprouting from the severed main limb. Photo: a banyan tree in Bharat Vaina, Jessore, Bangladesh by Balaram Mahalder

each other can be removed at any time.

The actual process of pruning should aim at retaining the tree's natural shape – at least if it is, and this is the case here, beautifully proportioned.

So cut it back to the main branches in a symmetrical fashion. Avoid cutting the top off at all costs. Such draconian action will promote unattractive and wispy sprouting from the severed main limb.

Pruning of large branches should be carried out with a saw – a bow or tri-edge folding saw. Under-cut at least two inches away from the raised swelling where the branch joins a larger one (known as the collar). Cut about half way

through, and then saw right through from the top side, another inch or two out. This will ensure that there is no stripping of bark.

Small branches can be pruned with long-handled shears. With extra large branches, you may need to cut

further out to avoid tearing into the branch collar. In this case, trim another inch or two from the remaining stub.

The whole process will thin a dense canopy as well as reduce its size, allowing air and sunlight in and minimizing the possibility of disease. Frankly

– pardon the pun – I would entrust the job to a qualified tree surgeon as they will have the proper equipment.

Banyans, or bodhis as they are known in Thailand, are tough members of the fig (ficus) family. Remember that they are first epiphytes, then parasites which, like mistletoe, thrive at the expense of the host tree.

Fruit-eating birds drop seeds that lodge in the crevices and bark of the original tree. They send roots down to the ground, envelop the host and eventually kill it.

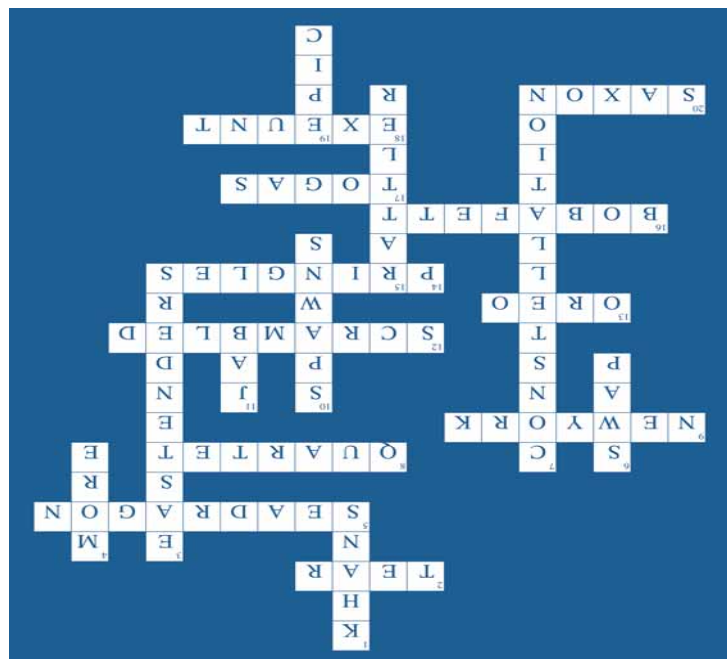
The decaying core provides nutrients for the banyan. Nonetheless, ficus benghazi is the national tree of India, sacred to Hindus, and can be extremely beautiful in its own right, as here at Pimalai.

Good luck with the pruning, Franck.

If you have gardening or environmental concerns, contact Patrick at drpaccampbell@gmail.com. Many of his creative and academic publications can be found at his website: Green galoshes Wordpress.

## Crossword Solution

Turn the page upside down to read the answers.



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Phuket Gazette



THE NATION

# What really makes Phuket unique



NO OTHER word suffers as much abuse in the Phuket property market as does the word 'unique', to the extent that the misuse is almost unique.

The word 'unique' is important for property investors, because like all businesses and products, the 'Unique Selling Point' is a factor that ought to be addressed at an early stage of planning to invest. However, items that are not unique may sell well if they are commodities. Property in Phuket, while in greater demand from prospective residents, is still a long way off from being a commodity. The investment into the property market is often a test by a new investor, a belief in Phuket's future or a punt on capital appreciation while other markets appear to hit a flattish ceiling combined with unattractive 'cooling measure' taxes.

When I see the words 'unique location' in property ads and brochures, I always wonder what that means and whether in-



'Unique' has become a much-abused word that is thrown around in Phuket's property market. Photo: Peggy\_Marco

vestors are paying attention or care about correct usage of the word. Due to the development of Phuket, some areas are really becoming 'unique'.

For instance, it is unique not to have to sit in a series of traffic jams for half an hour or more on your way to a destination. It is also unique to have an uninterrupted sea view, as most properties in Phuket don't have one due to the inevitable geographical and building permit limitations faced by places which have sea views.

Looking at comparable resort based property markets in Europe, the US, South America, Australia and the Caribbean, it is now easy to see that many offerings are not unique. 'Near a golf course' isn't unique considering the number of courses dotted around all of these destinations. In a developed area, being near 'the school' isn't unique, if there are plenty of schools to choose from. Being part of an 'exclusive gated community' isn't unique anymore, there are hun-

drreds and thousands of those.

Phuket was unique when it only had one Tesco Lotus and to buy any cheese other than that close to processed rubber, a hard and wide search was required. These days, Phuket is no longer 'unique' in terms of any single offering. You can buy a franchised ice cream in an air-conditioned mall in almost every province for example.

What makes Phuket unique now, is the combinations it has to offer and the environment in which it is offering those. One morning you can be at the beach and by afternoon you can be at the mall. You can have a locally flavored Southern Thai meal overlooking Phuket from the hills in Phuket Town, and the next day you can have a great steak with the meat sourced from meat lovers' paradise. You can live near a golf course and a marina, and keep your golf clubs on your boat.

Phuket's uniqueness, in my opinion still exists, and still helps prop up a sometimes unimaginative majority property market. I concede that this is certainly not true of all developers and professionals. To

maintain this unique selling point, a collective effort of all those involved in it to preserve its uniqueness will be required. We should celebrate when investors create new attractions, build new malls, expand golf courses and build new roadways, making the combination of uniqueness more convenient.

I see that successful businesses in Phuket and Thailand have tapped into the gaps really well, I can now order my cheese from cheesemakers in Hua Hin or Pattaya, have it packed in dry ice and delivered to my door. People that made this happen are innovators.

Innovation is an economic marker of advanced development and I really hope it continues in Phuket. I will try to think of innovative ways of improving my business. I hope we all do that, and without sounding too 'socialist', we can do that as a team. Team Phuket, Unique Phuket.

*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)*

## Govt Housing sets new goal

THE GOVERNMENT Housing Bank has set an ambitious new loan growth target for 2017 of 6 per cent, double the initial goal of 3 per cent, as its board of directors wants the bank to drive economic growth.

"The board wants the bank to help the real estate sector. The board believes we can do it," Chatchai Sirilai, president of GH Bank, said December 6.

Based on the assumption that gross domestic product grows by 33.5 per cent next year, GH Bank should have new loan growth of 6 per cent. This would help enhance economic growth for 2017.

To achieve 6 percent growth, GH Bank must extend 180 billion baht in new loans, while new loan bookings for this year are projected at 170bn baht.

However, new loan bookings as of November had only reached 148bn baht.

"Even though the bank has to grow more next year, it will try to lower non-performing loans (NPLs)," Mr Chatchai said. One way is to sell off bad debt.

In 2017, the bank plans to



The bank expects to dispose of 14 billion baht worth of bad debts in the third quarter of next year. Photo: geralt

dispose of 14bn baht off bad debt, but the actual figure might be 8bn baht, which would be 0.8 per cent of NPLs.

The bank expects to sell those bad debts in the third quarter of next year.

Under the four-year business plan, GH Bank must keep NPLs at 4 per cent.

The bank is waiting for regulations from the Bank of Thailand on reverse mortgages, which are a policy objective of the Finance Ministry.

Ministry experts say the criteria for reverse mortgages should be clear on what kind of housing could be eligible, what percentage of loan to value is proper and whether the mortgaged houses should have property insurance.

"The GH Bank Act needs to be amended to comply with reverse mortgages, but the bank has set aside a credit line of 10bn baht for the scheme," Mr Chatchai said.

- The Nation

## Land totalling 39K rai to be developed

A WORKING panel of the State Railway of Thailand (SRT) planned a meeting on December 8 to draw up a five-year action plan for the development of non-core land plots.

Amnuay Preemonwong, chairman of the panel overseeing the development of the SRT's non-essential land plots, said on December 6 that the panel would focus on how the state agency would benefit from these plots, which total to about 39,000 rai (6,240 hectares), from the year 2017 to 2021.

The panel will also draw up key performance indicators to evaluate the land's development.

Of the total land in question, 23,000 rai is vacant, 16,000 rai is land the SRT has rented out, and 252 rai is land that is being encroached on.

The SRT will consider whether it should set up a wholly owned subsidiary to undertake the land develop-

ment.

"The meeting overlooked which of the vacant plots can be developed and will consider raising the rental fee for leased land in order to boost the state agency's revenue," said Mr Amnuay, who also serves as the Finance Ministry's deputy permanent secretary.

The SRT will consider increasing the rental fees before the expiration of leaseholders' five-year rent period. The panel does not oversee management of the Makkasan land plots of which the SRT has transferred the right of use to the Finance Ministry.

The planned development of non-core land is part of the SRT plan to boost its revenue in line with its rehabilitation. The state agency has generated revenue of only 3 billion baht per year from its total land assets, which is significantly low considering the vast amount of land in its ownership.

- The Nation

# Unregistered hotels given two months

UNLICENCED hotels in Phuket have been given a two-month deadline to become legally registered or face consequences.

Phuket Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan said on Thursday, after a meeting with provincial officials, that more than 1,300 establishments currently operating in the province as hotel-like accommodation had until January 31, 2017 to properly register as hotel accommodation, otherwise legal action would be taken against them.

The number of establishments offering accommodation is increasing in Phuket, especially those offering daily rental deals, said Governor Chokchai.

The total number of properties registered as hotels in Phuket is 424, comprising: 204 in Muang District; 148 in Kathu; and 72 in Thalang, the governor confirmed on November 29.

“There are 1,355 establishments in the province such as condominiums, apartments and mansions providing daily room service that are not registered as hotels and so they can not



There are 1,355 establishments in the province such as condominiums, apartments and mansions providing daily room service that are not registered as hotels. Photo: Jaymantri

be closely monitored, which has a negative impact on hotels that are properly registered,” said Gov Chokchai.

Those establishments found to be operating as hotels but not registered as such after the January 31 deadline will be

shut down and face legal action, he said.

The governor added, however, that there would be some flexibility afforded on a case-by-case basis to establishments that began the registration process before the deadline but had

to wait for documentation to be processed. They would be given up to six months leeway, he said.

Having all accommodation establishments properly registered guarantees better safety standards and quality for the

comfort and convenience of guests. It also ensures that hotel managers help contribute taxes to the local community in order to better develop the province, said Governor Chokchai.

– *Phuket Gazette*






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

### GREAT CONDO LOCATION

Long-term rent. DCondo Mine, 6th floor, new fully furnished, 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom condo with kitchen. 100m swimming pool, gym, internet, 2 cable TVs, 3 aircons, washing machine, parking, security. Close to all shopping malls. 28,000 baht/month. Kathu. Tel: 081-893 9127, 087-886 7895.

### LOVELY APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Please contact 081-539 9612, 087-633 1472. Email: chrspalmer56@gmail.com Please see our website at <http://pukeyo.mefc2.web.fc2.com/phuketcondorent.htm>

### RAWAI VILLA FOR RENT



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

### LUXURY 1-BEDROOM APARTMENT

Ground floor, 65sqm, central Patong. Short or long term rent. Please send email for details and photos. Email: ianscondo21@gmail.com

### 6TH FLOOR FURNISHED CONDO FOR RENT



Long-term rent. Great location, fully furnished 2-bedroom/2-bathroom condo with kitchen next to new Duty-Free Mall, overlooking lake. 100m swimming pool, gym, internet, 2 cable TVs, 3 aircons, washing machine, parking. Security. Close to all shopping malls. 25,000 baht/month. Located in Kathu. Please call 081-893 9127 (English), 087-886 7895 (Thai). Email: duncaneclipse@yahoo.co.uk

## HOLIDAY HOMES & VILLA RENTALS

### NAI YANG HOUSE FOR RENT

Quiet, modern, furnished 2 and 4 bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms. Kitchen, aircon, internet, TV. 700m from Nai Yang Beach. Starts at 15,000 baht/month (long term). Tel: 081-837 5774 (English), 092-431 5962 (English & Thai). Email: info@adrinflatables.com

## ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

### LUXURY 1-BED CONDO

1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, condo in central Patong. 500m to beach, 1km to Bangla. Quiet. Tel: 091-874 9505. Email: yesgeoff@gmail.com

### LONG-TERM RENT (MINIMUM 1 YEAR)



In small friendly atmosphere building close to the markets & shops in Kata Beach center with indoor pool, sauna, elevator. **1)** 65sqm apartment, completely furnished, first floor, close to the pool. 24,000 baht/month. **2)** 60sqm apartment, third floor, new luxury furnishing (never used). 24,000 baht/month. **3)** Fourth floor 60sqm apartment also new furnishing. 26,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-788 8280. Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

## JOBS / RECRUITMENT



**Sales Representative**

- Real Estate experience will be motivated
- High commission
- Not serious refrain

Please contact 061-941 9564.  
Email: [ng@agtropical.com](mailto:ng@agtropical.com) / [info@theviewphuket.com](mailto:info@theviewphuket.com)

**OPERATIONS ASSISTANT**

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

**HOUSEKEEPER WANTED IN KAMALA**

Exceptional candidate required must be hardworking, honest, have 5-star hotel or villa management experience. 4 hours daily, Monday-Friday, weekends off. Must speak basic English. Thai / Burmese only. Apply to [jo@grovens-living.com](mailto:jo@grovens-living.com)

**FEMALE GALLERY MANAGER**

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

**LAWYER WANTED URGENTLY!**

Prefer Thai female, 22-35 years old. Bachelor's degree in law or equivalent, new graduate is welcome. Fair English skills. Located in Patong. For more information, please call 076-344180, 093-686 8525. Fax: 076-340767. Email: [admin1patong@ilo-phuket.com](mailto:admin1patong@ilo-phuket.com)



**Position: Chief Engineer**

- Follows company preventative maintenance procedures and guidelines for guestrooms, equipment, public space, and building envelop, etc.
- Maintains engineering related check book accounting procedures to ensure department operates within budgeted guidelines while maintaining required stock of supplies and materials
- Assures that basic mechanical and/or electrical equipment, machinery and/or circuitry of the property are kept in good working order
- A complete understanding of all building related systems -- Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing, Life Safety, IT, etc
- Any other duties assigned by Management

**Position: Sales Representative**

- Listening to customer requirements and presenting appropriately to make a sale
- Cold calling to arrange meetings with potential customers
- Responding to incoming email and phone inquiries
- Negotiating the terms of an agreement and closing sales
- Gathering market and customer information
- Negotiating on price, costs, delivery and specifications with buyers and managers
- Creating detailed proposal documents, often as part of a formal bidding process which is largely dictated by the prospective customer
- Coordinate and follow up sales with agents
- Prepare artwork for advertising in social network marketing and media

**Position: Executive Assistant General Manager**

The Executive Assistant Manager assists the General Manager and the Hotel Manager. He/she provides both Managers with information of all the departments. An Executive Assistant Manager is responsible for keeping a perfect coordination between all departments and controlling their operation with regards to the company's standards, revenues and controlling costs and the highest comfort and satisfaction for guests.

**Responsibilities include the following:**

- Manage schedules, answer and respond to phones, set up meetings and general office support for the General Manager and other team members as identified
- Coordinate travel arrangements, expense reports and department invoice processing
- Coordinate department-wide events, meetings, off-site venues, and training programs
- File, track and organize department documents and contracts
- Handle privileged and confidential information appropriately
- Ad the view projects will be assigned as necessary
- Maintain and order office supplies
- Monitoring and supervisor of all operations in all department

**Qualifications:**

- 2-5 years administrative experience required preferably in a hotel environment.
- Must be fully versed in Microsoft Office applications including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- Ability to work in a complex, fast paced environment with changing priorities
- Prioritization and multi-tasking against time lines
- Excellent written and verbal communications skills are required
- Team player and highly collaborative
- Demonstrate high levels of trust and confidentiality
- Sales and PR experience is required.

**Contact Person: Tukta**  
Email: [info@theviewphuket.com](mailto:info@theviewphuket.com) | Mobile: 083-691 4028

## GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS

### BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

**SAILING COMPANY**

Established in 1999 - Sailing School, Charter service, Yacht Chandlery and Management for sale complete - yachts, dinghies, vehicles, and advance sales, with all staff and infrastructure in place. Many opportunities for growth and expansion. Capital for four work permits. Sale due to the principal's health. Contact by email or call. Tel: 076-397942, 081-370 1995 (English). Fax: 076-397942. Email: [inq@sea-yss.com](mailto:inq@sea-yss.com) [www.sailing-thailand.com](http://www.sailing-thailand.com)

**LAUNDRY FOR SALE 2 MILLION BAHT**

Laundry shop in Phuket Town with semi industrial equipment with existing customers for sale. Eligible for work visa. Tel: 084-662 9961. Email: [pinyo@zolutionsthailand.com](mailto:pinyo@zolutionsthailand.com)

**INVESTOR WANTED**

Very successful property business in Phuket offering joint venture/partnership opportunity. For more information, please call 095-036 4962.

### BAR & RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT

**RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT SALES**

Equipment for sale December 10th-11th. Refrigerators, aircon, dishwasher and much much more. Tel: 093-783 5609 (English & Thai). Email: [tbtgroupthailand@gmail.com](mailto:tbtgroupthailand@gmail.com), view the location at <https://goo.gl/maps/8YVPk>

### CLUB MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE

**BLUE CANYON MEMBERSHIP**

Lifetime membership for sale 690,000 baht plus transfer fee. Tel: 087-887 9506. Email: [ono bu.yukio@gmail.com](mailto:ono bu.yukio@gmail.com)

**BLUE CANYON**

Blue Canyon corporate membership (2 players). Special offer: 700,000 baht including transfer fee. Tel: 081-737 5085 (English).

**BLUE CANYON MEMBERSHIP**

Lifetime membership for sale: 700,000 baht, transfer fee paid by buyer. Tel: 081-970 9055.

### BULLETINS

**Alcoholics Anonymous**

If you want to drink that is your business  
If you want to stop that is ours

**Daily Meetings**

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763  
084-307 7408  
Email: [phuketaa@yahoo.com](mailto:phuketaa@yahoo.com)  
AA Phuket

### HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

**REFRIGERATOR FOR SALE**

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



**Marketing Coordinator Wanted**

Real estate company is looking for marketing coordinator.

- Excellent English
- Male/female, Thai national
- Driving licence

Please call 089-594 6888. Email: [info@arthouse.asia](mailto:info@arthouse.asia)

## GENERAL AVIATION

**Let us....**



**Fly your brand**

**or promote your event!**



**Thailand Yacht Show**  
11-14 Feb 2016

**We add **buzzzzz**, and do it where the message cannot be missed!**

**Tel: 076-273555**  
**Ask for John or Oranee**

**Phuket Gazette**

### Classified Advertisements

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

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

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

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

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

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

## BOATS & MARINE

### 3 FIBERGLASS SPEEDBOATS

Made in Norway. 1) with Yamaha 85hp (used) for 6 million baht. 2) with Tohatsu 50hp for 4.7 million baht. 3) no outboard, bargain at 850,000 baht. Sold separately or together. Tel: 087-889 6904. Email: oldenper@gmail.com

### AZIMUT 43S FOR SALE



260,000 euros. Very well maintained. Full options. Tel: 089-470 8926. Email: jyfievet@gmail.com

### CUSTOM WORK BARGE FOR SALE



Built 2004, length 24.4, width 8.0, hydraulic ramp 4.3, small crane, hydraulic anchors bow & stern, twin drive Hino V 10's, great condition. Price: 9.5 million baht or best offers. For more information, please call 094-207 8993. Email: kohrangnoi@gmail.com

### CLASSIC YACHT FOR SALE

40ft classic wooden yacht for sale. Very well equipped and maintained by owner. Lying in Boat Lagoon marina (C21). Contact Paul for details/offers on 081-882 7917. Email: p\_brunning@yahoo.com

# For the love of all things sailing

By Phuket Gazette

GORDON Fernandes, one of the most well-known superyacht professionals in Phuket, is the general manager of Asia Pacific Superyachts Phuket & Myanmar. He is also the co-founder and organizer, along with Captain Charlie Dwyer, of the annual international Asia Superyacht Rendezvous (ASR), which is this year celebrating its 16th event in Phuket.

Having worked in Thailand for many years, Gordon's can-do attitude has helped him in his career and is reflected in his unstressed demeanor when welcoming and taking care of arriving superyachts from around the globe.

He arrived at his current position and passion in a roundabout way. After completing his university degree in Manufacturing and Business Studies in 1995 in Leicester, he moved on to a career in the computer industry (with a small company called 'Apple'). After a few years, however, the lure of travelling was too great and he headed off for an action-packed trip around the world.

Gordon had a strong desire to learn about Thailand, thus his next stop was the (then developing) Phuket in 1997. After working as a Dive Master, Gordon became a partner in an agency working with superyachts in Phuket, but continued following his yearning to broaden his horizons, soon setting forth for Australia.

After working and travelling in Australia, he returned to work with superyachts in Phuket, and this time he stayed. Gordon soon progressed in his work and became one of the founders and an active working partner of the highly successful Asia Pacific Superyachts Company and network of superyacht agencies. APS is now recognized worldwide as the leading superyacht agency in Asia Pacific with agencies at 17 branches in 15 countries.

A strong proponent of Phuket increasing its residential and visiting inventory of superyachts, Gordon and Charlie have worked enthusiastically and devotedly with Asia Superyacht Rendezvous since 2000, making ASR a prestigious annual global gathering of both sail and

motor superyachts, attracting many of the world's most elite superyachts over the years.

"There are many reasons why the ASR is getting a lot more attention these days. There are quite a few marinas in Phuket which can service bigger boats. The cruising areas, coupled with the lifestyle of Phuket makes life interesting for people," Gordon told Gazette Radio in an exclusive interview last week.

Gordon views Phuket as close to being the 'Superyacht Monaco of the East'. He supports and works closely with the Thai government and Thai labor forces. He believes Thailand's 'Mai Pen Rai' and 'Sabai Sabai' mentality help make Thais highly desirable as yacht crew, stating, "they do not get visibly stressed or show their emotions".

Gordon continues in his intensity and focus in increasing the number of visiting Superyachts to Phuket and enthusiasts, "We are seeing our dream of the country moving toward its destiny and of Phuket becoming deserving of the title 'The Superyacht Hub of Asia'".

"On the evening of the 16th we have a very exclusive cocktail party on a superyacht called Dunia Baru, a wooden Indonesian phinsi style yacht with a massive deck area where we'll be entertaining guests at an invitation only event. On the 17th we have the Benetti challenge where teams of three have to

make their own little yachts, which they have to blow down a course," Gordon said.

"This is the first year we're hosting a cup. For those who want to do hard and fast racing, we have a handicapped system and a cup will be presented to the winner at the gala dinner on the 18th, whereas pleasure sailors can come along and enjoy sailing as well."



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1-2 bedroom seaview apartments in the heart of Laguna Phuket

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ISSN 1905 - 8268