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PEOPLE LIKE ME

OPEN LETTER FROM PHUKET SPURS ACTION FROM PRIME MINISTER

An open letter by German long-stay tourist in Phuket Bernhard Stoeber has spurred action by the Prime Minister. Photo: Tanyaluk Sakoot

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The Prime Minister has ordered his assistants to investigate the circumstances of a German long-stay tourist in Phuket whose open letter was published by *The Phuket News*, appealing for him to be allowed to stay in the country after the 'visa amnesty' ends on Sept 26, instead of being forced to go back to Germany where COVID-19 infections have recently skyrocketed.

An official working at the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit, a research and policy advisory division that operates under the Prime Minister's

Office and reports directly to the Prime Minister, confirmed on Tuesday (Sept 1) that PM Prayut Chan-o-cha had read the open letter, penned by German man Bernhard Stoeber.

In his open letter, published online by *The Phuket News* on Aug 22, Mr Stoeber urged the Thai government to consider the circumstances he and many other long-stay tourists already staying in Thailand were facing.

"I am one of the many long-term tourists who have been lucky enough to be able to extend their stay in Thailand since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus. I firmly believe that this saved many people's lives!"

"Thanks to the prudent Thai poli-

cies, the first wave of global contagion was combated in an exemplary manner. For that, too, I and all "stranded" would like to thank you very much. And, of course, we would like to especially thank the Thai people who have received us with such indescribable hospitality. Thank you so much Thailand!" he wrote.

"However, the expulsion on September 26th hits us particularly hard. I would like to use my example to show you what this change does in individual cases. The same applies to many 'stranded' people," he added.

"I am a writer, 68 years old, live in Hamburg and am currently in Phuket. Everything is fine with me in terms of

health. Nevertheless, I am extremely endangered in Germany. Every year in autumn and winter, Germany and Europe are attacked by a dangerous flu virus that makes millions of people seriously ill and kills tens of thousands, mainly among the elderly. And the course of the disease becomes more severe from year to year. Unfortunately, I am very susceptible and get the flu every year. It was particularly bad three years ago and I almost died from it," he explained.

"So I decided to spend the winter in Thailand, which I learned to love a long time ago. Here I don't get any flu and live healthy. But the COVID-19 virus changed a lot.

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Officials unveil '5T' policy for safe tourism



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News



Hotels race to register as ALSQs > p5

Expats' stay status hit by COVID

The Phuket News
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The Phuket Immigration Office is asking any foreigners staying on a non-immigrant B (Business) visa who cannot satisfy the minimum income requirement for a one-year permit-to-stay to delay filing their annual application pending a "possible" temporary reprieve issued by officials in Bangkok.

The news comes only after the issue was brought to the attention of *The Phuket News*, whereby foreigners legally living and working on the island are no longer earning the same income as before the outbreak, and now face having their usual application for a one-year permit to stay being refused.

The 'visa amnesty' issued by Cabinet approval allows such foreigners to stay until Sept 26, yet the Immigration Bureau has urged foreigners to start filing their usual applications early to avoid a crush in the run-up to the amnesty expiring.

That point now seems moot as many foreigners can no longer satisfy the minimum income requirement for one-



Officials at Phuket Immigration provide assistance to foreigners seeking guidance on their visa status. Photo: Tanyaluk Sakoot.

year permits-to-stay, leaving them exposed to being granted only 90 days' stay, or worse, being asked to leave the country immediately after Sept 26.

Only in July did Phuket Immigration Deputy Chief Col Nareuwat Putthawiro confirm that foreigners with multiple employers listed on their work permits need to satisfy the minimum income from the major employer only in order to qualify for a one-year extension to a permit to stay.

However, the minimum income requirements in order

to be issued a one-year permit-to-stay remained unchanged.

The minimum income required for foreigners from any western European countries, Australia, Canada, Japan, and the United States of America is B50,000 per month.

For applicants from South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the income required is B45,000 per month.

For foreigners from any other countries in Asia [except Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam], as well as foreigners from Eastern Europe,

Russia, South Africa, any country in South America or Central America, or Mexico, the income required is B35,000 per month.

The minimum income required for nationals from any country in Africa (other than South Africa), or from Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam, the minimum income required to be issued a one-year permit to stay is B25,000 per month.

Yet, with international tourism shut down, many businesses on the island remain

closed or running at minimal cost, including salaries. Many employees on the island, both Thai and foreign, have accepted greatly reduced hours and salaries while the crisis continues just to maintain some form of income.

Phuket Immigration Office Deputy Chief Lt Col Udom Thongchin told *The Phuket News* on Tuesday (Sept 1) that his office has no choice in the matter.

"We can accept the applications, but they cannot be approved. We do not approve them here [in Phuket]. The applications are sent to [the regional immigration headquarters in] Songkhla, but they cannot approve them as the conditions have not been met," he said.

"We understand the situation has affected the income of businesses that hire foreigners. It has affected everyone's monthly income. The income is not enough for foreigners' applications. This affects foreigners in Phuket, and in other provinces, but there have been no changes or updates to the regulations concerning extensions [to permits-to-stay]," he explained.

However, Lt Col Udom

said that officers in Bangkok were considering the problem and might provide some form of reprieve, and he asked foreigners caught out by the income requirement to delay filing their applications.

"Please wait for an announcement after Sept 15, because Immigration officials in Bangkok are talking about this issue to figure out the problem," he said.

"I think they will have some solution before Sept 26, which is the final date to apply for an extension. This is my understanding," Lt Col Udom added.

"Updates will be issued as soon as possible. We want to help but we have to follow the 'visa extension' [sic] regulations. Please wait for an update from Bangkok," he repeated.

Meanwhile, Lt Col Worapol Panpetch, Inspector at Phuket Immigration, confirmed that the amnesty for filing 90-day reports expired yesterday (Aug 31).

"People can report themselves as usual, but any foreigners who are now late for submitting a 90-day report will be fined B2,000. We must follow the regulations, they are the law," he said.

Open letter spurs action to help 'stranded' long-stay tourists

Continued from page 1

"The second virus wave is now looming in Europe and Germany and will be probably even worse than the first. Together with the flu virus and the high age of most returnees, this means a huge risk for many people. And I too admit with discomfort that

if I have to return to Germany in September, I may never see Thailand again. For me, as for many others, it is really a matter of life or death," he added.

Mr Stoever asked the Thai authorities whether it was possible to issue a provisional residence permit for the 'stranded',

so that they can determine the return flight themselves. "Or is it possible to make repatriations dependent on the danger that exists in the home country. Nobody wants to die in a corona hotspot," he said.

Speaking to *The Phuket News* on Tuesday, Mr Stoever said that allowing long-stay

tourists such as himself to be able to stay in Thailand was a win-win for both parties.

"With long-stay tourists like myself, all my money goes directly to the local community. I stay at a place with no kitchen, so I eat out all the time, and even my laundry is done outside. Everything I do contributes to all the small business around where I am staying. This is the same with any long-stay tourist," he said.

He added that he knew he was not alone with his predicament. A German lady and an American both did not want to return home due to the state of COVID-19 infections in their home countries.

The officer at the PDMU that *The Phuket News* spoke with on Tuesday said that Mr Stoever's plea had been heard at the highest level. PM Prayut had asked the PDMU to interview Mr Stoever and investigate how many other long-stay foreign tourists already in Thailand were



Photo: Tanyaluk Sakoot

facing the same predicament.

"We want to know more about the case of the German man in Phuket, and similar cases in other provinces," the officer said.

"We are seeking a way to help the German man, and similar cases, to stay in Thailand and extend their visas. We want them to stay," he added.

Mr Stoever welcomed the news. "I want to stay. I want to live," he said on Tuesday.

To gain clear feedback directly from other long-stay tourists wanting to stay in Thailand, the officer at the PDMU invited such tourists

to email a clear description of their situation. By arrangement, such tourists can send their emails to stayinthal@classactmedia.co.th. *The Phuket News* will forward all relevant emails directly to the PDMU. Emails must include contact details and the Subject line must say, "Please let me stay".

People were urged to send their emails as soon as practically possible.

"We have no deadline for receiving these emails, but the PDMU will report its findings directly to the Prime Minister, and this will need to be done soon," the officer said.

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Dampening COVID fears

Officials move to quell fears of second wave, unveil '5T' policy

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Deputy government spokeswoman Traisuree Taisaranakul has moved to calm fears that Phuket being allowed to receive international tourists from Oct 1 would open the floodgates for foreign tourists to enter the country and spark an outbreak of COVID-19.

Speaking at Government House in Bangkok last Friday (Aug 28), Ms Traisuree explained very clearly that the "Phuket Model" for allowing tourists to enter the country was still under consideration. "There will be a lot more steps to be approved, in order to ensure that a second wave of COVID-19 will not happen," she said.

The measures yet to be considered include which foreigners will be allowed to come, how the foreigners will be tested to make sure they are not infected, and the protection measures to prevent any potential spread of the disease, she said.

"The Phuket Model will be tourism under the 'new normal'. There will be 14 days of quarantine and limited areas where the tourists can go, before letting them travel to other areas," she added.

"Importantly, the tourists must come from the countries that have



low risk of COVID-19," Ms Traisuree said.

"It may take time, but we must take as long as we need to be sure that opening the country to foreign tourists will not lead to a second wave of the pandemic," Ms Traisuree said.

"Phuket people and other Thais do not have to worry... the government will prepare and work as carefully as possible, in order to prevent any second outbreak," she added.

"During this period, the government invites Thai people to travel to stimulate the economy and help people in each area make a living," she said.

The move to calm fears and dispel any understanding that Oct 1 will mark the reopening of mass tourism to the country as it was before

the COVID-19 outbreak followed Phuket officials earlier last week announcing the basic outline for their '5T' policy for allowing tourists to arrive in Phuket.

However, in making that announcement, Phuket officials were very clear that the exact measures to be implemented must first be approved by the Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) in Bangkok.

The measures to be implemented in Phuket are under great scrutiny, as they are to be rolled out elsewhere in the country, if they prove successful.

Announcing the 5T model at Phuket Provincial Hall on Aug 26, Phuket Vice Governor Phichet Panaphong explained that tourists



Traisuree Taisaranakul. Photo: PRD

wanting to come to Phuket must be approved by a Royal Thai Embassy and have evidence of a COVID-19 test proving they are COVID-free within 72 hours before departing. Alternatively, they must present a 'Fit to Fly' or other documents proving they are free of infection.

Also, tourists must have health insurance coverage of US\$100,000 in case medical treatment is required, V/Gov Phichet said.

"After arriving, they must remain at a hotel recognised as an Alternative Local State Quarantine (ALSQ) venue for 14 days, and they will be tested two times during their stay at the hotel. The first test will be conducted sometime on days three to five of their stay, and the second

test will be conducted on days 11 to 13 of their stay," he said.

"The Phuket government has cooperated with hotel owners, medical staff, police, the military and other relevant people to prepare and work best under the orders of the CCSA," V/Gov Phichet added.

Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO) Chief Thanit Sermkaew described the 5T policy as follows:

- **Target** – selecting target groups of foreigners as approved by CCSA and choosing venues as ALSQs

- **Testing** – all tourists must be tested before coming and after arriving

- **Tracing** – using an app to know where the tourists are in real time

- **Treatment** – having enough medical staff, medicines and equipment to take care of them

- **Trust** – publicizing information about the readiness and the effective preparations to create trust and confidence among local people and foreigners

"Under the 5T measures, I confirm that Phuket is ready to be the pilot province and role model to welcome foreigners from abroad as ordered by CCSA, in order to stimulate the national economy with highest safety for local people," Chief Thanit said.

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Award-winning Kvik now in Phuket

ADVERTORIAL

Kvik Real Danish Kitchens has opened their new showroom in Phuket, located adjacent to the Hafele showroom, opposite the Big C shopping mall on the bypass road.

Kvik Danish Kitchens has more than 30 years' experience producing classic Danish designed and manufactured kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms from their factory in the north of Denmark. Now with more than 160 showrooms worldwide, they are one of the most popular furniture brands.

Iain Flitcroft, the Managing Director of Kvik Asia said, "Here at Kvik, we pride ourselves on selling real, imported, Danish kitchens. All of our furniture comes directly from our factory with nothing being sourced or manufactured locally. With award-winning designs, great quality and a 25-year guarantee, our customers can be totally confident when buying from us.

"Here in Thailand we have an expert team of kitchen designers, with great English skills, working in

our showrooms, backed up by our trained, in-house installers who achieve 95% five-star feedback from our delighted customers.

"Our state of the art factory in Denmark delivers efficiency levels that allow us to offer our product at a price that makes us the most competitive European import brand in the market. We are unique in that we have a warehouse in Bangkok where we carry most of our ranges in stock, meaning that

customers don't have to wait three to four months for their new kitchen or spare parts.

"Since the Covid epidemic began, we are living our lives differently and spending more time at home with our families or entertaining or visiting holiday homes within the country as opposed to travelling abroad. The kitchen really is the heart of the home and there has never been a better time to invest in the home than now."

The Kvik showroom on the bypass road features most of the products in the Kvik range, from the timeless Mano (a best seller for 10 years) to the latest Ombra, a quirky design available in pastel green and white and designed in collaboration with an award-winning Danish design house. For

traditionalists the new Paris range in white and whisper grey reflects a classic tone with shaker style detailing to the doors and panels. Other award-winning designs such as Prato are also on display.

Kvik works with both private retail customers and project developers, and has products to suit most budgets and styles. A full range of worktops and appliances is also available including Hafele, Caesarstone, Silestone, Bosch, Gorenje, Teka and Smeg. A feature of the Kvik range are the stunning wooden worktops in a range of wood finishes. The huge island worktop on the Mano display forms the hub of the Kvik social kitchen concept.

Iain said, "The kitchen is much more than a place to cook, it is the heart of the family hub of the home.

I have worked in the kitchen industry in the UK for 30 years and have seen home design change from separate kitchen, living, dining areas to a central family space where all the family can spend time together watching TV, doing homework, cooking, eating, entertaining friends. Mainly, time is precious and a Kvik Social Kitchen provides the perfect space to enjoy quality time together."

The Kvik showroom is open from Monday to Saturday 9.00am to 6.00pm. The sales team are also available for home appointments, online video meetings or private showroom visits. Tel: 076-390331. Facebook: Kvik Phuket. Email: mkt@kvik.com. Instagram: kvik_asia. Website: www.kvik.co.th



The Pavia design in pure grey is among the award-winning designs available.

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Real Danish Kitchens

The timeless Mano design, a bestseller for 10 years, features a huge island worktop, forming the hub of the Kvik social kitchen concept.

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Hotels scramble for ALSQ approval

Tanyaluk Sakoot
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Hotels in Phuket are scrambling to be inspected and approved as Alternative Local State Quarantine (ALSQ) venues so that they may receive guests under the 'Safe and Sealed' travel campaign.

From Oct 1, Phuket will be the first destination in Thailand allowed to receive international tourists since the COVID-19 outbreak began.

However, one key condition is that international tourists must stay at least 14 days in quarantine, which can be served at any approved ALSQ venue.

A recent surge of 27 applications saw the number of hotels in Phuket applying to be ALSQ certified jump from 55 to 82, explained PPHO Chief Thanit Sermkaew last week.

However, despite 14 hotels applying more than a month ago, only two have been approved: the Anantara Mai Khao Phuket (100 rooms and 36 villas) and Trisara Phuket Villas and Residences (15 villas).

A third resort, The Mangosteen Ayurveda & Wellness Resort, has been inspected and approved by Phuket health officers, but is still waiting for Bangkok officials to officially recognise it as an ALSQ, PPHO Deputy Chief Padungkiet Utokasenee told *The Phuket News*.



PPHO Deputy Chief Padungkiet Utokasenee led a seminar with hotel representatives at Bangkok Hospital Phuket on Aug 24 to explain ALSQ requirements. Photo: Bangkok Hospital Phuket

Only after local health officials have inspected a hotel can they request officials in Bangkok to approve the hotel as an ALSQ, Mr Padungkiet explained.

Mr Padungkiet declined to confirm how many hotels on the island PPHO officers had inspected for ALSQ validation.

Asked what was causing the long delay, Mr Padungkiet said, "Many hotels have applied, but most of them do not have a good understanding of what is required. They do not know the conditions."

The process is very involved, requiring an overhaul of the processes and services provided at

hotels, Mr Padungkiet explained. (A full list of requirements for hotels to become ALSQ verified are posted on the Ministry of Public Health website.)

"Most of the hotels are not ready to be designated as ALSQ. Some of them are still reworking their budgets, staffing and their build-

ings to satisfy ALSQ requirements, which includes the hotel partnering with a hospital," he added.

"Also, the hotel needs to establish a medical area on site, which will require extra investment in order to have the appropriate equipment," he said.

"They want to be ALSQ, but they are not ready," Mr Padungkiet said plainly.

Hotels may continue to submit their applications to become ALSQ approved until Oct 31, Mr Padungkiet noted.

However, he pointed out that some hotels are expected to withdraw their applications later if the hotel wants to target only domestic tourists.

"Some hotels are worried about their target market as their clients are Thai nationals. They are worried that if their hotel opens to receive foreign guests, Thai guests might not come. Then some of them might decide to deregister as an ALSQ later," he said.

Mr Padungkiet said he was unsure if the PPHO would even be able to inspect all the hotels that have already applied by Oct 1, the date set to allow foreign tourists to land in Phuket.

"I think our team can handle it. The hotels just need to be ready for the inspection. We are glad to do our job and keep people safe," he concluded.

We Travel Together benefits expanded to businesses

THE BENEFITS OFFERED through the government-sponsored We Travel Together domestic tourism campaign have been expanded in the hope of encouraging more people to travel throughout the country. Expats remain excluded from the campaign, but the expansion now allows registered businesses to take advantage of the cheap deals offered.

The Center for Economic Situation Administration (CESA) approved to increase the benefits offered in order to stimulate domestic tourism and national economy, said a report by the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket).

The report noted that since the campaign began in July, around 4.46 million people had registered to book deals through the We Travel Together portal.

Subsequently, a total of 625,606 guest accommodation rooms had been booked, together valued at around B1.8 billion, the report added.



The new benefits now promoted on the official We Travel Together website.

The campaign was initially hoped to bring Phuket alone a B100 million boost to the island's suffering tourism industry.

Under the initial benefits provided through the scheme, the government paid for 40% of the hotel rooms, but not more than B3,000 per night, limited to five rooms and five nights.

However, the CESA has now approved for the 40% hotel room rate support extended from five nights per person to 10 nights, but not more than B3,000 per night.

Likewise, the government will continue to subsidise 40% of the price of flight tickets, but with the maximum claim increased from B1,000 to B2,000.

To expand the market base for those allowed to claim the government subsidised discounts, the CESA has approved for registered businesses to book holidays through the scheme.

Allowing businesses to take part in the campaign has opened the doors for expats living and working in the country to book holidays through the scheme, but leaves other expats, including retirees, still excluded from the campaign.

The newly elected President of the Thai Hotels Association, Marisa Nunbhakdi, last month asked the government to include expatriates in the second phase of tourism stimulus, saying those who pay tax should receive equal rights.

The stimulus campaign for locals had run since July 18, but the slow response is a sign of weak domestic consumption as locals opt for stringent saving amid the economic slowdown, she said.

The Phuket News



The Importance of Beach Cleanups



SUSTAINABLY YOURS

Palmer Owyong

We've all done it, walked along the beach frustrated by the deluge of plastic being regurgitated by the ocean during monsoon season. Being an environmentally responsible citizen, you join a beach cleanup, grab a bag and start picking up trash. An hour or two later your section of the beach looks cleaner and you feel good about yourself. Only to come back the next day to find the same spot that you sweated over while cleaning filled with trash again.

Beach cleanups are a frustrating experience, and while they may seem futile, they do make an important contribution to keeping our oceans clean.

Where Does All the Plastic Go?

To understand how beach cleanups make a difference it's important to understand where our plastics go once they enter the ocean. According to a study by UK environmental consultancy Eunomia in 2016, only about 1% of the 12.2 million tonnes of plastic dumped annually into the ocean ends up floating in the five gyres despite all the notoriety they receive. Another 5% is deposited onto beaches and 94% ends up sinking to the ocean floor where



Beach cleanups may seem futile as more trash washes ashore day after day during the southwest monsoon, but they perform a vital function. *Photo: Sirinath National Park*

it's almost impossible to retrieve. It's estimated that there is already 70kg of plastic trash per square kilometer on the seabed. Since we don't completely understand the deep ocean, we don't know what all this plastic waste is doing to the food chain and how it is affecting our planet.

For a time, plastic will fluctuate in coastal areas between the beach and the open ocean. Going back and forth as the tides move in and out. By participating in beach cleanups, you are preventing plastic waste from moving out to the deep water where it sinks.

Cleaning beaches is also easier since they are more accessible and the con-

centration of trash is much higher on land. For example, the highest concentration of plastic recorded in the ocean was in the North Pacific Gyre at 18kg/km², whereas on beaches the global average is 2,000kg/km².

Four Reasons Beach Cleanups Are Important

They prevent plastic from degrading into microplastics that are less than 5mm in diameter, which fish and other marine life eat and ends up in the food chain, poisoning us and our children.

They prevent plastic from sinking to the ocean floor where it's irretrievable. They protect the Phuket economy,

much of which is based on tourism or property investment and depends on having clean, beautiful beaches.

They save the lives of marine animals by reducing the amount of plastic that they consume.

Where Does the Beach Plastic Come From?

There is much confusion about where the plastic debris found on Phuket beaches originates from. Some say that most of it comes from Malaysia, while others blame Indonesia. According to the Eunomia study, 80% of ocean trash comes from land. So most of the plastic that we see on Phuket beaches comes from us or neighboring areas in Thailand, not from foreign countries. The primary sources are:

Trash Bins, Trucks, and landfills – The wind blows plastic out of bins, trash trucks or landfills. Then it is carried directly into the ocean by the wind, or into canals that empty into the ocean.

Littering – Some trash is carelessly dropped on the street or left on beaches. This is deposited into the ocean by wind or through the canals.

Toilets – Wet wipes, cotton buds, sanitary pads are often flushed down the toilet rather than disposed of in bins.

Fishing Industry – Almost 50% of the plastic found floating in the five gyres is comprised of fishing nets and other equipment, according to the chief scientist at the non-profit the Ocean Conservancy.



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While cleanup efforts by park officers focus on the beach sand, areas right beside the beach remain littered with trash. Photos: Supplied

What Can You do?

Reduce your fish consumption – Until we can find a way to fish without nets, reducing or eliminating it from our diets is our only option.

Just Say No – Refuse plastic as much as you can by using reusable bags and bottles.

Biodegradable Plastic – There are dozens of non-petroleum-based plastic substitutes available that are made from plant oils and are biodegradable. One example is Avani-Eco, which makes bags and dishes from cassava and sugarcane. While Ecovative uses mushrooms to make substitutes for foam packaging.

Recycle – Living in the modern world, it's difficult to not use some plastic packaging. We can recycle some

of this at one of several recycling centers on Phuket

Beach Cleanups – At the moment, they are one of the best ways to keep our plastic from flowing into the ocean. Two of organisations that meet regularly are Trash Hero and Clean The Beach Bootcamp

Potential Solutions

More Trash/Recycling Bins – Adding more bins with closing lids to the beaches and around towns is a simple way of keeping plastic and other trash from blowing into the ocean.

Debris Nets in rivers and canals – Many cities in Thailand and around the world are adding debris nets to their waterways to catch trash before it gets into the ocean. Some of these include Pat-

taya, Rayong, Tampa Bay and elsewhere in Florida, and Perth, Australia. Bali is installing 100 of them through an organisation called Make a Change World.

Make Recycling Easy – Norway recycles 97% of the over 500 million plastic bottles that it sells each year. They do this by giving the bottles a return value of about 10 cents, which is built into the purchase price. Users can then bring their bottles to vending machines or bins in stores where they collect the money.


Future Solutions

Revirginized Plastic – In 2016 Japanese scientists discovered bacteria that evolved to eat PET plastic. Based on this discovery, a French company called Carbios has developed enzymes to

revirginize plastic which makes it 100% recyclable, meaning the same plastic can be reused over and over again the same way that metal is rather than just downcycled into an inferior material the way it is now.

Beach cleanups can be a frustrating experience, after seeing your hard work erased the very next day. However, when combined with debris nets, a recycling program, better waste management and individual action, they can help to reduce the amount of litter on our beaches and oceans until a time when technology can offer us a more comprehensive solution.

Palmer Owyong is an environmental activist working with the Kamala Green Club and the Global Sustainability Hub.



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POP QUIZ

- 1. In 1903 Mary Anderson was granted a 17-year patent for which useful device?
- 2. What is the main ingredient of Hummus?
- 3. What did RMS stand for in the ship's name RMS *Titanic*?
- 4. Which Asian country is the leading exporter of uranium?
- 5. In which sport would you perform a "Randolph", also called a "Rudy"?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across

 - 1. Certain sandwich
 - 5. Broodish
 - 10. Sky box?
 - 14. Celestial
 - 15. City in Rio de Janeiro
 - 16. It gets pumped
 - 17. Classic film
 - 20. Lt.'s inferior, in the Navy
 - 21. Carry away, in a way
 - 22. Floppies, e.g.
 - 23. Ticket info, maybe
 - 24. Floor items
 - 26. Stephen King title
 - 29. Threat word
 - 30. Drink from a dish
 - 33. Group of eight
 - 34. Horned mammal
 - 35. Old Italian bread
 - 36. Classic film
 - 39. Bolted
 - 40. Lions' prey (pl.)
 - 41. Great success
 - 42. Load from a lode
 - 43. Arctic sight
 - 44. Underline
 - 45. "Go ahead!"
 - 46. Swaddle
 - 47. "M*A*S*H" extra
 - 50. Garlicky mayonnaise
 - 52. Car accessory
 - 55. Classic film
 - 58. Carpet type
- Down

 - 1. "Lord of War" star
 - 2. Old Spanish kingdom
 - 3. Garden decorations
 - 4. Departure announcement
 - 5. Happy face
 - 6. Turkic language
 - 7. Real
 - 8. Crushing defeats
 - 9. Hong Kong actress, Sally
 - 10. Fuzzy fruits
 - 11. Pupil's place
 - 12. Honky ending
 - 13. Aims
 - 18. Creep
 - 19. Periphery
 - 23. Bait
 - 25. Military acronym
 - 26. "All for one and one for all," e.g.
 - 27. Greek god liquid
 - 28. Cubic measurement
- 29. Provide, as with a quality
 - 30. Fine thread
 - 31. Met expectations?
 - 32. Agreements
 - 34. With footnotes, e.g.
 - 35. Ill-gotten gain
 - 37. Unappealing fruit?
 - 38. Kind of unit
 - 43. Central points
 - 44. Electrical transformer
 - 45. Dreary song
 - 46. Omnivorous mammal
 - 47. Physics calculation
 - 48. Canyon sound
 - 49. East Indian lentil sauce
 - 51. Mosque prayer leader
 - 52. Braveheart hillside
 - 53. Civil rights icon, to friends
 - 54. Apple spray
 - 56. Place for sweaters?
 - 57. Unspecified number

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Windshield wipers; 2) Chickpeas; 3) Royal Mail Ship; 4) Kazakhstan; 5) Trampolining (single front somersault with 1.5 twists)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18					19				
20					21					22				
				23					24	25				
26	27	28					29					30	31	32
33						34					35			
36					37					38				
39					40					41				
42				43						44				
				45					46					
47	48	49				50	51					52	53	54
55						56					57			
58						59					60			
61						62					63			

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

GURU	LASSO	SEAT
ANIS	ESTOP	AXLE
LIGHT	ASAFE	FEATHER
ATSEA	BART	ARM
RITE	ROT	GUTS
NAM	LAND	NILS
ASAP	USES	RATES
SPIRIT	UAL	MEDIUM
ASSET	ETUI	GORE
OPAL	HERO	NOW
NONSLIP	DEUS	
ENE	ICES	CHOPS
WITHA	HEAVY	HEART
SATE	ERNIE	AHOY
YSER	ESSEN	FUSE

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

average American consumes the same amount of resources as 32 Kenyans in a year.

20

percent of women experience foot pain after just 10 minutes of wearing high heels.

25

dollars is all Lynda Carter had in her bank account when she was cast as Wonder Woman in the 1970s series.

453

grams of grasshoppers is almost as nutritious as a pound of beef.

2010

was the year, specifically on October 3, that World War I officially ended.

2 million

cases of diabetes could be avoided if Americans stopped drinking soft drinks every day, says one study.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



On the rocks, at Yanui Beach. Photo: Kiattikul 'Jom' Chumanee

Got an unusual or particularly beautiful picture of Phuket? Email it to exeditor@classactmedia.co.th

This week in history

Sept 4, 1882

Thomas Edison flips the switch to the first commercial electrical power plant in history, lighting one square mile of lower Manhattan. This is considered by many as the day that began the electrical age.

Sept 5, 1960

Muhammad Ali (then known as Cassius Clay) wins the gold medal in the light heavyweight boxing competition at the Olympic Games in Rome.

Sept 6, 1522

The Victoria, the only surviving ship of Ferdinand Magellan's expedition, returns to Sanlúcar de Barrameda in Spain, becoming the first ship to circumnavigate the world.

Sept 7, 1978

While walking across Waterloo Bridge in London, Bulgarian dissident Georgi Markov is assassinated by Bulgarian secret police agent Francesco Giullino by means of a ricin pellet fired from a specially-designed umbrella.



The Large Hadron Collider at CERN. Photo: Maximilien Brice / WikiCommons

Sept 8, 1966

The landmark American science fiction television series *Star Trek* premieres with its first-aired episode, 'The Man Trap'.

Sept 9, 1939

Burmese national hero Sayadaw U Ottama, a Buddhist monk from Arakan State (or "Rakhine State"), dies in prison after a hunger strike to protest Britain's colonial government.

Sept 10, 2008

The Large Hadron Collider at CERN, described as the biggest scientific experiment in history, is powered up in Geneva, Switzerland.

Source: Wikipedia

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FRI

4 SEP

SUN

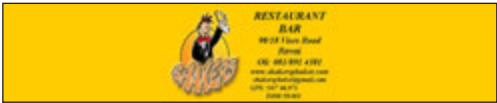
6 SEP

MON

7 SEP

THU

22 OCT



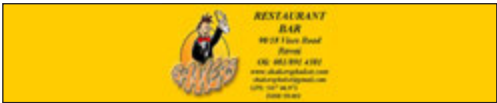
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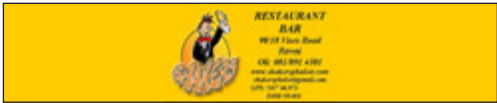
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SAT

5 SEP



All you can eat BBQ night
6pm – 11pm: Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages, Prawns and Squid, Salad buffet, Choice of potatoes and sauces, bread, buns and garlic bread. Reservation recommended. B395 P/P. shakersphuket@gmail.com 081 891 4381.



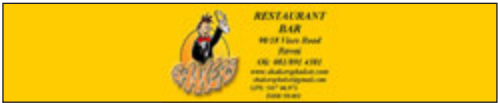
All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet
Beef, Pork and Lamb – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, fried mushrooms, grilled tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – roasted potatoes, mashed potatoes – gravy, mushroom sauce, mint sauce. Reservations recommended. B350 P/P. shakersphuket@gmail.com 081 891 4381.



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FRI

18 SEP



Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners hosted by AustCham
AustCham Thailand is delighted to invite members and guests from AustCham and partner chambers to join our Phuket Sundowners to be held on Friday 18th September, 2020, at the Le Méridien Phuket Beach Resort. Baht 500 for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members. Baht 900 for non-members. For registration code for Australian Alumni members, please contact AustCham team at 02 109 9616 or email to office@austchamthailand.com



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Allycia, Queen of the Ring

Phuket-based Muay Thai fighter wins ONE Championship crown

MMA

Ben Tirebuck

editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket-based Allycia Rodrigues lived up to her pre-fight promise by upsetting Stamp Fairtex to land the ONE Championship Atomweight Muay Thai World Title in Bangkok last Friday (Aug 28).

In the main event of 'ONE: A New Breed', Allycia won by majority decision and broke into tears of joy when the verdict was announced.

A clearly unhappy and upset Fairtex stormed out of the ring and straight to hospital on doctors orders due to a nasty nose injury sustained during the clash.

It crowned a miserable year for Fairtex, who began 2020 as a double champion but has now lost both the Atomweight Muay Thai and kickboxing belts after this defeat and her loss to Janet Todd in Singapore back in February.

For Allycia though it was nothing but smiles as she made good on her promise to emerge from the bout victorious: "I'm going to win this belt," she had stated pre-fight.

She carried her meticulous



Allycia Rodrigues with her ONE Championship Atomweight Muay Thai World Title belt and Kleiton, owner of Phuket Fight Club in Chalong. Photo: Helen Tran

game plan into the ring and managed to subdue Fairtex in the early rounds before emerging victorious via the majority verdict, taking

her record to 31-5 in the process.

The 22-year-old Brazilian, who fights out of Phuket Fight Club in Chalong, was humble in victory by

referring to her opponent Fairtex as "a great champion".

She also had praise for her support network and fans when she said: "Thank you so much for all the support, for all the fans. I knew I could do that and I showed it today."

'Build my story'

Allycia began her Muay Thai journey in her homeland back in 2014 when she followed her older sister into the sport. It became apparent very quickly that she had a natural gift and was ready to step into the ring for serious competition.

Her coach at the time asked her if she was serious about fighting competitively, to which she replied: "I said yes. I wanted to test myself and know what it was like to compete. I ended up fighting, and since then, I haven't wanted to stop fighting. I just wanted to train to be able to fight again."

In no time she was established as the top-ranked female Muay Thai practitioner in her native Brazil, winning six titles, including the Super Girls Championship in the under-50 kilograms weight category.

She relocated to Thailand, the home of Muay Thai, in 2018 as there were simply not enough op-

portunities for her to fight in South America and she was eager to, in her words, "build my story".

"In Brazil, I was fighting only once a year and was getting out of action," she said.

"I wanted to grow up in the fight world, so I decided to come to Thailand to gain more experience, fight against the best fighters, and build my story."

As part of that process she joined Phuket Fight Club in Chalong and hasn't looked back.

Joining ONE Championship, the world's largest martial arts organisation, was another positive step forward in her quest for greatness.

"I am very happy with this opportunity. It's a big step in my career," said Allycia prior to her clash with Fairtex.

"I want to be famous. I want to be the champion. I want to show what I'm capable of to everyone – to show that I can get there and that I can be among the best and compete with the best fighters."

Allycia certainly has made giant strides and proved that last week. One gets the feeling her story is only just beginning and there are many more evenings of triumph yet to come.

Lionel's messy bombshell

FOOTBALL

LIONEL MESSI SHOCKED the football world last Tuesday (Aug 25) when he declared he wanted to leave Barcelona.

However, the situation is unlikely to be straight forward and seems destined to become entangled in a legal quagmire.

Messi activated a release clause in his contract by notifying the club of his



Waving goodbye? Photo: AFP

intentions at the end of the season. That original date was June 10 but, with the season being extended due to the coronavirus pandemic, Messi argues this date became invalid and he has acted in accordance with the rules.

There are all manner of hurdles to be navigated; legal, monetary, image rights and otherwise. But it seems clear that the six-time Ballon d'Or winner and club's record scorer with 634 goals genuinely wants to leave for a new challenge.

Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain lead the chase for his signature although getting this inked will prove problematic and, quite frankly, very messy.

Ben Tirebuck



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