

**DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS YET TO ARRIVE > PAGE 3**

# THE BURN



More than 1,000 tonnes of trash is dumped at the Saphan Hin landfill each day. Photo: PR Phuket file

## B500MN SPENT ON MAINTAINING ISLAND'S ONE OPERATING INCINERATOR

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket City Municipality has inked a deal to pay more than B511 million for the upkeep of the island's only working public incinerator for the next 15 years. The half-billion-baht contract comes while a second incinerator is built at the Saphan Hin facility over the next two years, and while the volume of trash delivered to the island's main landfill continues to outpace the ability to burn it.

Phuket Town Mayor Saroj Angkanapilas signed the contract of agreement with existing operator PJT Technology Co Ltd, represented by Executive Director Tan Wang, at a signing ceremony

to establish a public-private partnership for waste management on Oct 31.

At the signing of the agreement, titled "Contract for Private Sector Rights to Manage a Community Waste Incinerator Plant with a Capacity of Not Less Than 300 Tons/Day", were PJT Technology's Legal and Compliance Manager Sajith Siripipat and Phuket City Municipality Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Chalernporn Piyanarongroj.

Also present were Phuket Town Deputy Mayors Suphot La-onghphet and Sutthipan Skulthep, along with Mayor Saroj's official Secretary, Niti Petchpradabsakul, and Advisor Chue Kongchin.

"Phuket City Municipality receives waste from all localities in

Phuket to be disposed of at the Solid Waste Disposal Facility at Saphan Hin," Mayor Saroj said.

"Currently, the amount of waste delivered to the Saphan Hin landfill exceeds the capacity of the incinerator by about 200-300 tonnes per day, including infectious waste," he added.

"We have a problem with waste management because the original incinerator has been in use for more than 15 years... While waiting for the construction of the second incinerator to be completed in the next two years, it is very important to renew the contract and allow the private sector to manage the waste," he said.

Noting the need for upgraded facilities to handle the current waste load effectively, Mayor Saroj

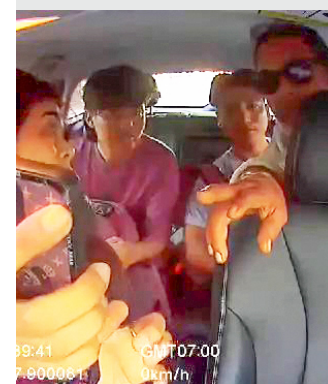
explained, "The machinery and equipment are starting to deteriorate. Therefore, it is very important to renew the contract with PJT Technology Co Ltd to allow the private sector to invest in improving the incinerator system, equipment and tools to be of good quality and in good condition, ready for waste disposal, in order to help solve Phuket's solid waste problem."

PJT Technology, established in 2003 due to a joint venture negotiation with Malaysian manufacturer Iris Corporation Berhad, was selected to manage the community waste incinerator for another 15 years because the existing and original contract states that as long as PJT Technology Co Ltd passes the evaluation in all...

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**NEWS** PAGE 3

**Motorbike taxi driver charged over threats**



**LIFE** PAGE 9

**Tastes become truly sublime through Infuse**



**SPORT** PAGE 16

**Phuket Dojo seeking help to stay afloat**



**LAUNCH YOUR FUTURE**

**INTRODUCING OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME UP TO 50% OFF**

- ✓ Diverse Environment
- ✓ Cambridge and French Programme
- ✓ Personalised Mentorship
- ✓ World Class Planetarium and Sports Centre

**LEARN MORE**

www.bcisphuket.ac.th





exeditor@classactmedia.co.th

## News



Russian charged  
over threatening  
'mafia' antics > p4

# Officials target waste issues

Continued from page 1

...conditions, Phuket City Municipality must first give the contract to the original company, Mayor Saroj explained.

"In order to manage the incinerator during the period of the contract, altogether worth more than B511mn, PJT Technology must use the budget to improve the entire incinerator's operating system, especially the machinery.

"In addition, the company must also provide support according to the contract details to improve pollution control and the environment, costing more than B46mn, in order to maintain the highest benefits for Phuket City Municipality," Mayor Saroj said.

## SPILLOVER

Mayor Saroj admitted that the foul smell emanating from the Saphan Hin landfill is purely the result of the overwhelming amount of trash delivered there each day.

"There are times when the company stops the incinerator in order to carry out maintenance, but only for a short period of time," Mayor Saroj said.

"The main cause of the odour is because a large amount of garbage from all areas is sent to



Photo: Phuket City Municipality

the waste disposal centre, totaling more than 1,100 tonnes a day, but only 700 tonnes a day can be incinerated.

"The rest must be sent to the landfill, approximately 200-300 tons/day, which is considered a very high amount," he said.

The daily volume of trash is expected to increase, as usual, with the coming tourism high season.

"During the upcoming tourist season, it is expected that there will be as much as 1,500-1,800 tonnes of waste per day. Managing this much waste is a very big issue for Phuket City Municipality," Mayor Saroj said.

"We would like to ask for cooperation from the public to separate waste from the begin-

ning, starting from households, to help reduce the amount of waste sent to the waste disposal centre," he added.

"If the amount of waste can be reduced, it will also help reduce the budget for waste management each year. This budget can be used to develop the city and improve the quality of life in other aspects.

"Every citizen is important. If everyone helps to manage waste to reduce the problem of overflowing waste in the city. Phuket City Municipality sees solving the waste problem in the long term, about 10 years," Mayor Saroj said.

"As for solving the landfill problem, Phuket City Municipality has received a budget of

B35mn from the Cabinet, and Phuket City Municipality has provided an additional B5mn, together giving a total of B40mn, to proceed with the expansion of the landfill area.

"This will allow us to accommodate the amount of waste until the construction of the second incinerator is completed in the next two years. Once the second incinerator is completed, we will definitely be able to handle more than 1,000 tonnes per day," he said.

"In addition to the disposal of general waste, Phuket Municipality also has infectious waste disposal, and the standard of the incinerator used to dispose of such waste will instil confidence among people that the disposal of

infectious waste is definitely safe," Mayor Saroj noted.

## BENEFITS ASIDE

As part of the agreement signed, PJT Technology has given B25.7mn to Phuket City Municipality to support public welfare work, which Phuket City Municipality aims to use to support its Saphan Hin Stadium football field project, for which the Phuket City Municipality's Engineering Division has already drawn up some plans.

"Phuket City Municipality intends to push for it to be a football field with international standards, one of the top in Asia, supporting international competitions," Mayor Saroj said.

"One of the aims is to expand the original running track to nine lanes in accordance with international standards, and to have a grass football field with a drainage system and standard lighting system that can support international competitions," he added.

"Phuket City Municipality has already requested budget support from the central government twice, but it was not considered," he noted.

"Therefore, the construction of Saphan Hin Stadium has been divided into several instalments," Mayor Saroj said.

## B290mn fundraiser launched for Vachira hospital cancer centre

A MAJOR FUNDRAISING effort is underway to raise B290 million to construct a new radiation therapy building at Vachira Phuket Hospital, the island's main government-run and government-funded hospital.

A 'phaapaa donation' event, a traditional Thai fundraising practice, will be held at Vachira Phuket Hospital on Feb 8, 2025, Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat announced on Oct 29.

The event is being organised by the Phuket Provincial Office in partnership with Vachira Phuket Hospital, the Nomklao Foundation and the Vachira Phuket Hospital Development Committee.

Governor Sophon highlighted the urgent need for a specialised



Photo: PR Phuket

cancer treatment centre on the Andaman coast to improve access to cancer care for the people of Phuket and neighbouring provinces.

"This hospital treats all patients, regardless of race or religion, and we hope everyone will join us in building this much-needed facility. We're grateful for the support of Luang Por Sai Thong Techathammo, a revered monk from Chaiphum Province, who has graciously agreed to be the patron of the phaapaa offering," he said.

The new six-story radiation therapy building will cover 9,000 square metres on donated land on Pracha Uthit Road in Ratsada, about four kilometres from Vachira Phuket Hospital. It will house departments for radiation therapy, nuclear medicine, chemotherapy and inpatient care, significantly expanding Phuket's capacity to treat cancer locally.

Pramookpisitt Achariyachai, Chairman of the Vachira Phuket Hospital

Development Committee, noted the phased approach to construction.

"We need B150mn by February 2025 to begin the first phase, aiming for completion and to deliver the first radiation therapy by Sept 9, 2026. Once built, patients from Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi can access comprehensive cancer treatment closer to home, eliminating the need to travel long distances," explained Mr Pramookpisitt, well known as Founder and President of Kata Group Resorts.

The initiative builds on the momentum of past efforts, such as the successful 'Radiation Run' campaign held by the Nomklao Foundation in March, which raised over B7mn and saw support from approximately 4,000 participants.

Vachira Phuket Hospital's director, Dr Wirasak Lothongkham, stressed the growing demand for local radiation therapy services. "Every year, we handle around 1,000 new cancer cases, with half requiring radiation. Currently, we must refer these patients to distant provinces like Surat Thani or Bangkok. This can mean significant expenses for patients, who face costs for travel, lodging, and meals," he said.

Dr Wirasak also noted that for many financially constrained families, such costs deter treatment, limiting patients' chances for recovery.

An official report of the announcement made at the Oct 29 event marked that donations can be made through Krungthai Bank, account name 'Donation for the Radiation Therapy

Building, Vachira Phuket Hospital,' account number 805 3 11019 3.

All contributions are tax-deductible, the report noted.

The report did not give any explanation as to why central government funds were not allocated to the project, as Vachira Phuket Hospital is operated and funded by the Ministry of Public Health.

Under Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra's recently appointed Cabinet, Somsak Thepsuthin is now serving as the Minister of Public Health, the same position he served under Srettha Thavisin's Cabinet.

Under the government of Prayut Chan-o-cha, Mr Somsak served as the Minister of Justice.

The Phuket News



# Taxi app driver accosted in Patong

**Eakkapop Thongtub**  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Patong Police have arrested a motorcycle taxi driver on several counts after he was involved in an ugly confrontation with a couple of tourists and a local taxi driver last week.

The incident occurred at the football field intersection on Thaweewong Rd (the Patong beach road) just after 5:30pm on Oct 31 when two tourists got into an EV taxi they had ordered via a legal app to take them to Phuket International Airport.

Shortly after they got into the cab, a motorcycle taxi pulled alongside the car and the driver prevented the tourists from closing the door. The motorcycle driver then demanded the tourists exit the vehicle, before the taxi driver explained they were tourists who had ordered the ride via the correct legal app and had done nothing wrong.

Unappeased, the motorcycle driver then reached into the car to grab one of the tourists phones to determine whether they had in fact ordered the taxi via the correct app.

Despite several harsh words shared between the motorcycle driver and the female taxi driver, the taxi ultimately left the scene,



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

presumably to head to the original destination of the airport. The nationality of the two tourists was not specified in police reports.

However, the dye had been cast as the incident was caught on CCTV camera inside the taxi and then shared on social media, prompting a sharp response from numerous netizens.

Many comments lambasted the ongoing aggressive and rude behaviour from taxi personnel in Patong that continued to damage the area's image and that could deter tourists from visiting the popular nightlife destination. Several posters used the term "taxi mafia".

Others stated that in this digital era, calling a taxi with an app is

more convenient than queueing and that the local authorities should consider banning traditional taxi queues in favour of the app booking process.

Patong Police were prompted to act once details of the incident appeared online, with Patong Police Chief Pol Col Chalermchai Hirasawat and Deputy Chief Pol Lt Col Wichet Suwanno managing to track down the motorcycle taxi driver, named in police reports as 'Mr Jampen'.

Mr Jampen was brought in for questioning last Saturday morning (Nov 2), during which he admitted that he had confronted the tourists in the taxi as accused. He was also found to have been intoxicated with alcohol at the time of

questioning and admitted to being so at the time of the incident.

He was then charged as follows:

1. Driving a vehicle while drunk or under the influence of other intoxicants
2. Using a vehicle that did not match the type of registration (personal motorcycle)
3. Not wearing a helmet
4. Not having a public driving licence
5. Not carrying a copy of the vehicle registration manual
6. Not paying the annual tax within the specified time

Police also confirmed that they are attempting to track down the driver of the taxi involved in the incident to determine whether she wishes to file a complaint and proceed with further legal action against Mr Jampen.

## ILLEGAL TAXIS IN KARON

Meanwhile, Karon Police have responded to accusations online that their officers were doing nothing to curtail illegal taxis operating in their area by announcing that 208 illegal taxis had been stopped and seized in Karon since the beginning of July.

In a statement issued on Oct 30, Karon Police said that officers set up checkpoints at least twice

daily to strictly enforce the Land Traffic Act and the Motor Vehicle Act, specifically targeting unregistered vehicles and traffic violators.

The station reported recent checkpoint activity, detailing arrests for operating vehicles not registered for public transport:

- July 2024: 15 cases
- August 2024: 85 cases
- September 2024: 55 cases
- October 1-25, 2024: 53 cases

Karon Police said they had also established a collaborative effort with local public vehicle operators in Karon.

The partnership created a LINE group, 'Public Vehicle Hire in Tambon Karon', which enables community members to report issues and submit evidence regarding illegal 'black-plate' taxis.

Information provided through the LINE group allows officers to track down vehicle owners of violations and initiate legal proceedings, the notice said.

Notifications to vehicle owners based on group reports were given as:

- August 2024: 14 cases
- September 2024: 16 cases
- October 1-25, 2024: 7 cases

Karon Police in its statement emphasised its dedication to maintaining strict law enforcement and ensuring safety in the area.

## Disaster relief funds still not yet paid

PHUKET PROVINCE'S DISASTER response authorities gathered at Phuket Provincial Hall last week to review the disaster relief funds still yet to be disbursed to families across the island affected by natural disasters.

The meeting, on Oct 31, was chaired by Vice Governor Adul Chuthong, and joined by Sopon Thongsai, head of the Phuket Provincial Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office (DDPM Phuket), and other key officials.

The meeting brought together two essential groups: the Phuket Provincial Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Committee (PPDC) and the Phuket Provincial Flood Victim Information Inspection Working Group.

The primary focus was implementing the Cabinet's resolution on Oct 8, which authorised assistance for flood-affected households across Phuket's districts, said an official report of the meeting.

During the session, committee members reviewed damage data from Thalang and Mueang Phuket Districts.

The committee recognised that 64 households were affected in the Thepkasattri Tambon Administrative Organisation (OrBorTor) area; 114 households were affected in the Thepkasattri Municipality area; 98 households were affected in the Cherng Talay Municipality area; 19 households were affected in the Cherng Talay OrBorTor area; and four households were affected in the Sakhu OrBorTor area.



Photo: PR Phuket

In total, 299 households across the various local administrative areas in Thalang District required B2.691 million in relief funds.

In Mueang Phuket District, 163 households in Chalong were affected, necessitating B1.467mn in assistance.

The committee also examined and verified the data, resolving to submit the validated figures to the provincial governor, the report said.

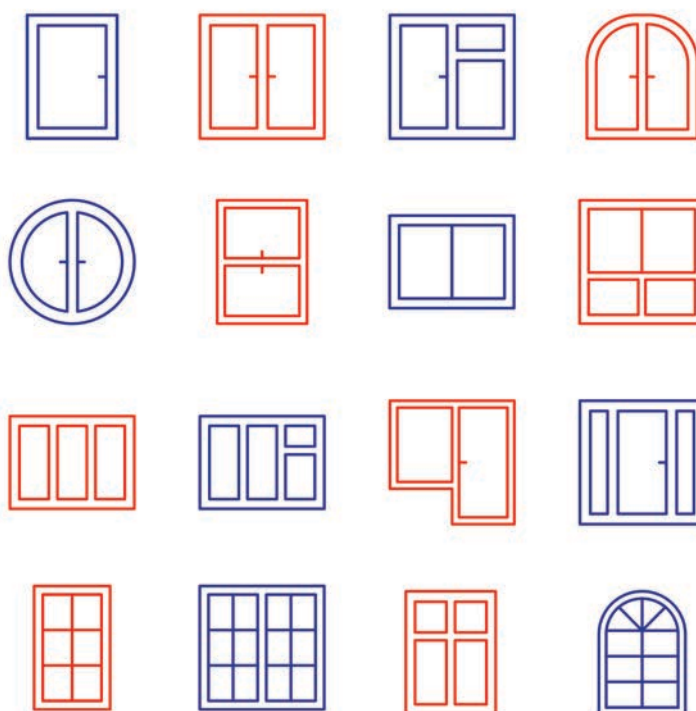
The data will then be forwarded to the DDPM head office in Bangkok and subsequently the Government Savings Bank for processing and fund disbursement.

Additionally, officials reviewed the case of a local fishing boat damaged by strong winds and waves, with the Thalang District Fisheries Office reporting significant losses. The committee agreed to provide B200,000 in assistance to the affected boat owner.

*The Phuket News*



## Safe, Secure, Soundproof Windows and Doors



087 061 7631 Nathan Window Man Brown pvcphuket.com



The Phuket News

## CONTACT US

editor@classactmedia.co.th 076 612 550

PURIYA BEAVAN  
EditorCHRIS HUSTED  
Executive Editor  
084 307 7408  
execeditor@classactmedia.co.thBEN TIREBUCK  
News / Sport Editor  
061 806 8132  
editor3@classactmedia.co.thCHUTHARAT 'UM'  
PLERIN  
Thai Editor  
088 766 1615  
thai@classactmedia.co.thNATNAREE 'MILD'  
LIKIDWANASAKUN  
Reporter / Translator  
082 295 3244  
reporter1@classactmedia.co.thJASON BEAVAN  
General Manager  
086 479 7471  
gm@classactmedia.co.thSIRIPORN (NOK)  
SEANGMAS  
Sales Support  
086 479 7470  
sales@classactmedia.co.thNIRAVIT 'MOS' VORAVANITCHA  
THANAPONG 'OAK' KHAO-AMPHAIPIHAN  
Graphic designersThe Phuket News  
@thephuketnews

ADVERTISING

ClassAct Media

Phuket News

WINDOW ON PHUKET

Where to eat in PHUKET

Новости Пхукета

ข่าวภูเก็ต

NEWS TV

LIVE 89.5

Phuket TICKETMASTER

076 612 550 ext. 605

Fax: 076 612 553

info@classactmedia.co.th

thephuketnews.com

99/7 Moo 1 (Billion Plaza),  
T. Kathu, A. Kathu, Phuket 83120

## PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

www.foreca.com

FRI NOVEMBER 8

High: +36°  
Low: +29°

Wind 11 m/s

SAT NOVEMBER 9

High: +36°  
Low: +28°

Wind 11 m/s

SUN NOVEMBER 10

High: +35°  
Low: +28°

Wind 11 m/s

MON NOVEMBER 11

High: +35°  
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE NOVEMBER 12

High: +35°  
Low: +28°

Wind 4 m/s

WED NOVEMBER 13

High: +37°  
Low: +28°

Wind 4 m/s

THU NOVEMBER 14

High: +36°  
Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

## Russian 'mafia' man charged for intimidation, attempted murder

Natnaree Likidwanasakun  
reporter1@classactmedia.co.th

A Russian man described by his Russian victims as 'mafia' has been charged for intimidating several people, including former employees, amid a spat over his employees quitting for being forced to work without a work permit. His acts included cutting the brake line on a motorbike of one of his victims.

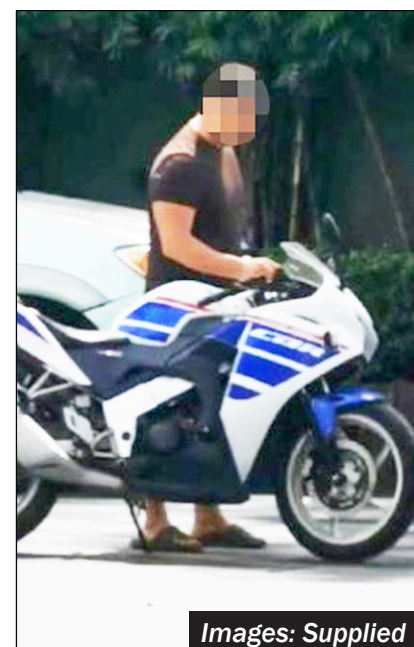
Cherng Talay Police Chief Pol Col Weeraphong Rakkhito told *The Phuket News*, "The investigation is complete, and the case report has been submitted to the prosecutor. I have filed charges based on what the victims reported to the police station.

"The complaint, submitted in June, includes charges of verbal and physical threats, stalking, property damage and attempted murder by causing a traffic accident," Col Weeraphong confirmed.

The charges were brought following the submission of much evidence, including CCTV footage, in a joint complaint by eight victims in total, Col Weeraphong said.

The Phuket Public Prosecutor's Office confirmed to *The Phuket News* on Oct 31 that the Russian man, who operates a well-known swimming school and language school in Cherng Talay, has been released on bail.

The joint complaint, filed by seven Russian nationals and one



Images: Supplied

Uzbekistan citizen, detailed a litany of intimidating behaviours, including physical threats. Six of the victims even had tracking devices fitted to their vehicles so the Russian man knew of their whereabouts at all times.

One of the victims had caught the Russian man on CCTV cutting the brake line on his motorbike while it was parked at his condo accommodation in Mai Khao.

Although the joint complaint was filed at Phuket City Police Station, the investigation and subsequent charges were brought by Cherng Talay Police as that was where the initial complaint was filed, Col Weeraphong explained.

The eight victims have expressed their fear and concern that the Russian man will try to

exact retribution for the complaint being filed.

"So far, action has been taken against [the Russian man], and he continues to commit illegal acts. We are truly afraid for our safety," the victims said in a joint statement to the Russian Embassy.

The Russian man had left Thailand for a period after the bouts of intimidation, and returned after the complaint was filed.

"Since we filed the complaint, we have been living in fear and knowing that [the Russian man] will seek revenge. This week, the Russian Consulate General confirmed that he has returned to Thailand," one of the victims told *The Phuket News*.

"Each of us (the victims) filed a complaint ourselves, detailing

how [the Russian man] used his influence to eliminate a competitor in a swimming school business, which illegally taught young children to swim. This is not only unacceptable, it also puts children at risk," the victim said.

Following a long period of silence from police about any progress into the case, the victims last month submitted their case to the Department of Special Investigation (DSI). However, *The Phuket News* was told the case was not accepted as it was considered a matter for local police.

Col Weeraphong was adamant police were not ignoring the case, saying, "I want to ensure the victims do not feel neglected by the police."

## Nine injured in head-on collision on Ao Po Pier road

A HEAD-ON COLLISION between a van and a small truck on Ao Po Pier Road in Pa Khlok left nine people injured late afternoon on Oct 29

Police were called to the scene, near Moo 9, Pa Khlok, at about 5:30pm.

Local emergency teams arrived on the scene to find two Thai men with head injuries sitting next to the small truck.

The van involved was carrying nine passengers, including two men, three women, and four children, all of whom suffered minor injuries.

The injured were quickly



Photo: Thalang Police

transported to nearby hospitals, with several taken to Thalang Hospital and others to Vachira Hospital for further treatment.

The van and the truck were removed from the scene.

At last report police were still investigating the circumstances that led to the collision.

Eakkapop Thongtub

## Tourist injured in drunken balcony fall

A 28-YEAR-OLD MALAYSIAN tourist was hospitalised after falling from a hotel balcony onto a parked car below in Patong early last Friday morning (Nov 1).

Patong Police were called to the hotel, on Rat-U Thit 200 Pi Rd, at 4:37am.

Officers and rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Foundation arrived to find the woman on the ground beside the car with multiple broken bones.

Police were told the woman had been drinking her her room with her husband. She went to stand on the balcony behind the room when she fell, landing on the car below.

The car, registered in Bangkok, had suffered damage by the impact, police noted.



Photo: Patong Police

Rescue workers transported the woman to Patong Hospital for treatment of her injuries, which were not described as serious.

Police are continuing their investigation with the intent of bringing legal procedures against her for damages. Eakkapop Thongtub



# Phuket to hold cultural heritage tourism festival

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket officials are gearing up to spotlight the island's cultural heritage with the launch of the 'Travel Old Town, Telling Phuket' tourism festival. Organised by the Phuket Provincial Tourism and Sports Office, the event aims to immerse visitors in the heritage of Phuket Old Town, bridging the past and present for a memorable cultural experience.

The event, from Nov 27 to Dec 1, will take place at the dragon statue in Queen Sirikit Park on Thalang Rd in Phuket Town.

Of note, the name of the festival is in Phuket dialect, 'Hwen Muang Gaow, Laow Phuket', and translates roughly to: 'Travel throughout Phuket Town, Telling the tale of Phuket'.

Officials and organisers, including Vice Governor Adul Chuthong and Ratchadaporn O-in from the Phuket office of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports



Photo: PR Phuket

announced the event at a press conference held near the Chartered Bank intersection on Sunday (Nov 3).

The festival aligns with Phuket's vision of becoming a 'world-class marine tourism centre' [sic], emphasising the unique local culture and rich architectural heritage of Phuket Old Town, said Vice Governor Adul.

Known for its Sino-Portuguese architecture, the area offers a captivating blend of arts, culture and history. The festival, organised under the 'Phuket Soft Power' initiative, will focus on showcasing the island's food, architecture,

clothing and emotional connection to its heritage, he added.

The festival will feature a range of immersive activities designed to give tourists a deep dive into Phuket's culture:

- Workshops with the Phuket Tourism Community Network – Engage with local artisans and communities.

- Art Exhibitions by Thailand Biennale Artists – Showcasing local talent from the Phuket Art Association.

- Spectacular Light and Sound Installations – The iconic clock tower in Dragon Square will be

illuminated with light shows, scheduled five times nightly from 7pm.

- Cultural Performances – Local youth and artists will take the stage, accompanied by food trucks serving Phuket's best street eats.

- Instagram-Worthy Photo Spots – Visitors can capture Phuket's cultural essence through curated photo backdrops.

- Guided Cultural Tours – Discover Phuket Old Town's landmarks through three themed routes:

- Temple Tour ('Mue' Route) – Visit five historic shrines, each with unique stories, including the Hainan and Put Cho Shrines.

- Museum Tour – Explore local history through the Bang Niao Community Museum, Thai Hua Museum, Peranakan Museum, and Chinpracha House.

- Old Town Street Tour – Wander Thalang, Phang Nga and Yaowarat Roads, with a hands-on workshop to cook local dishes with a local chef.



Photo: DMCR

## Marine debris kills young sea turtle

A YOUNG SEA TURTLE tangled in discarded fishing debris has been found dead at Pak Phra Beach, at the northern tip of Phuket.

Officials from the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) were informed of the discovery by the Marine National Park Operations Center 2 on Oct 29.

DMCR officials from the Andaman Sea Coastal and Marine Resources Research Center, operated by the DMCR at Cape Panwa, on Phuket's east coast, identified the turtle as a juvenile olive ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), weighing approximately three kilogrammes with a shell just 35cm wide and 32cm long.

The turtle was observed to be underweight, with a body condition score of '2/5'. Marine debris, including rope, fishing nets and drift-

wood were found wrapped around the turtle's front left flipper and hind flippers, causing ulcers and strictures.

Further investigation revealed the turtle had drowned.

An autopsy showed signs of a severe abdominal infection, inflammation of internal organs and a troubling discovery of rope lodged in its stomach, the DMCR reported.

The digestive tract was empty, indicating the young turtle may have struggled to find food before its death.

The remains of an adult sea turtle were found at Kamala Beach on Wednesday last week.

That discovery came among a spate of dugong deaths, with three dead dugongs found in Phuket coastal waters within nine days. *The Phuket News*

## Phuket Smart Bus to Patong proves popular

THE NEW PHUKET SMART BUS service between Phuket Town and Patong is gaining popularity, with operator Phuket City Development Co Ltd (PKCD) now launching day-pass tickets for students and regular passengers.

The new electric bus service was launched on Oct 10 amid much fanfare at an event led by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat.

The service operates daily from 6am to 8pm, with buses running every hour through key areas of Phuket, such as Samkong, Kathu and Patong, passing important locations including schools, hospitals, markets and popular tourist spots.

Governor Sophon said the new service aims to benefit both locals and tourists by offering convenient and eco-friendly transportation, while also easing traffic congestion and reducing pollution.

"Our EV bus to Patong has received highly positive feedback," PKCD General Manager Natthakanya Namphrai told The Phuket News.

"Since PKCD introduced the EV buses, daily passenger numbers have consistently grown, ranging from a minimum of 200 to a peak of 400 passengers each day.



Photo: Phuket Smart Bus

"Passengers are happy with the affordable fare and the comfort and quality of the buses," she added.

### NEW ROUTES

The positive feedback has motivated PKCD to explore new routes to provide EV bus services, Ms Natthakanya said.

"PKCD is considering additional routes in the Kuku area [in Ratsada], though this is still under discussion with the board," she said.

Ms Natthakanya declined to give any further details regarding the Kuku route under consideration.

"PKCD needs to research the market during the high season first and evaluate whether our current EV and smart buses meet passenger demand," she said.

"If demand for the EV bus service grows, we may need to import more buses and consider future route expansion projects," she concluded.

*Natnaree Likidwatanasakun*

# WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?

The Phuket News Your Island - Your Paper

Новости Пхукета ข่าวภูเก็ต

Where to eat in PHUKET

WINDOW ON PHUKET

LIVE 89.5 NEWS TV

The map of PHUKET English 中文 Русский

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th



# Tourist arrivals to top 14mn

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket Governor Sophon Suwanarat has reported that over the past nine months more than 9 million tourists visited Phuket, generating over B300 billion in revenue.

Hotel bookings for the upcoming high season are also over 90% full.

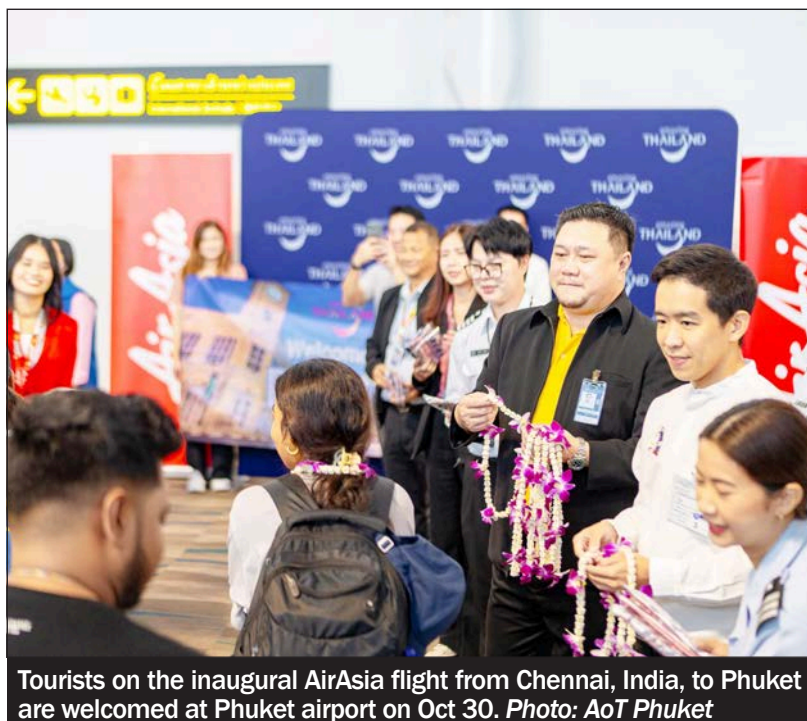
Speaking at Phuket Provincial Hall on Oct 30, Governor Sophon led discussions with leaders from provincial agencies under the Ministry of Interior and local administrative executives,

Governor Sophon highlighted Phuket's successful focus on community tourism, particularly benefiting local economies, which brought in a large number of Thai and international visitors.

By the end of 2024, Phuket is expected to welcome over 14mn tourists, with income surpassing B400bn, he said.

According to the Tourism Authority of Thailand, more than 90% of hotel rooms across Phuket are booked for the high season, primarily by European tourists.

In October 2024, China ranked first in tourist numbers, followed by Russia and India. That trend is expected to continue.



Tourists on the inaugural AirAsia flight from Chennai, India, to Phuket are welcomed at Phuket airport on Oct 30. Photo: AoT Phuket

Flight statistics show 4,642 international flights (mainly from Europe and East Asia) and 4,017 domestic flights for the month, Governor Sophon said.

## KAZAKH FOCUS

Phuket is looking at an increase in tourists from Kazakhstan following the start of direct flights to and from the central asian country's remote capital, Astana, reports the *Bangkok Post*.

The service is operated by Air Astana. The maiden direct flight,

KC163 from Astana, arrived on the island on Oct 27.

Suladda Sarutilavan, director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand's Europe region, said the new service was expected to boost tourist numbers.

Speaking at Phuket airport after the landing of the maiden flight, she said Kazakhs were the second largest group of visitors from the central-eastern European region, after Russians.

Ms Suladda said Kazakhstan was a prime target for the TAT,

with direct flights now and visa-free entry. This should help lift visitor numbers to the TAT's goal of 200,000 Kazakhs this year.

Phuket is already one of the prime holiday destinations for vacationers from Kazakhstan. The other favourites are Pattaya, Krabi and Phang Nga.

There were 137,000 arrivals from Kazakhstan from Jan 1 to Oct 23, a 16% rise year-on-year, and each spent an average B75,000 per trip, according to TAT statistics. Most of them were first-timers, according to the TAT.

## NATIONAL BUMP

The country's six main airports welcomed almost 120mn passengers in the previous fiscal year ending Sept 30 with air traffic on course to grow even further this current year, according to the Airports of Thailand (AoT).

The six airports operated by the AoT – Suvarnabhumi, Don Mueang, Chiang Mai, Phuket, Fae Fah Luang in Chiang Rai and Krabi – recorded 119.2mn passengers in the last fiscal year, up 19% from the same period the previous year, announced AoT President Kerati Kijmanawat.

Of those, 72.6mn were international arrivals, up 34.8%,

and 46.6mn domestic passengers, up 1%, Mr Kerati noted, reported the *Bangkok Post*.

In terms of flights, the six airports handled a combined 732,690 flights or 14.5% more than in the previous fiscal year. Of these, 416,190 were international flights, up 29.3%, and 316,500 domestic flights, down 0.73%.

Mr Kerati said the authority expects to welcome 129.9mn visitors this current year, an 8.9% increase year on year, and receive more than 800,000 flights at the six airports.

For the 2024/2025 winter flights, Mr Kerati said that 370,239 are scheduled to arrive and depart from the six airports, an increase of 22.1% from the 2023/2024 season.

Of those, 222,780 will be international flights, a 33.1% increase on last year, with most of the inbound flights coming from China, Malaysia, India, Singapore and Hong Kong.

The rise in traffic is expected to bring in 23% more visitors during the current cool season, said Mr Kerati.

"The AoT is working to improve services [at the airports] as we strive for the title of world's best flight operator," Mr Kerati added.

## Tokushima Governor floats trade links

TOKUSHIMA GOVERNOR Masazumi Gotoda and a delegation of representatives from nine companies arrived in Phuket last week to discuss opportunities for economic, tourism and business collaboration between the two areas.

Governor Masazumi and his delegation were warmly welcomed to Phuket by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwanarat and a host of local officials on Oct 28, said an official report of the visit.

The delegation joined a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall aimed at laying the groundwork for a memorandum of understanding to formalise cooperation in trade, tourism and economic development.

Governor Sophon emphasised Phuket's focus on tourism and environmental conservation, highlighting the province's famous beaches and natural scenery as core attractions.

He expressed optimism



Photo: PR Phuket

that a partnership with Tokushima Prefecture could unlock new opportunities and expand both regions' prospects in multiple sectors, the report said.

The Tokushima delegation showcased several unique regional specialties, such as the province's thriving oyster farming industry and its renowned bonsai cultivation.

The Tokushima business representatives also explored plans for Thai restaurants in their prefecture, aiming to foster cultural and business exchanges.

Tokushima, located in Japan's Shikoku region,

boasts famous sites like the Iya Valley and the historic Awa Odori Dance Festival, a 400-year-old celebration that draws visitors worldwide.

The region also promotes local trade through 'vending carts', which enhance access to local products, especially in rural communities.

This high-level meeting marks a significant step forward in deepening economic, cultural, and tourism ties between Phuket and Tokushima, setting a foundation for mutual growth and strengthening ties between Thailand and Japan.

The Phuket News

## Governor recognises outstanding CSR efforts

PHUKET GOVERNOR Sophon Suwaannarat led an event at Phuket Provincial Hall last week to recognise outstanding 'Corporate Social Responsibility' (CSR) campaigns by local organisations and businesses across the island.

Joining the event on Oct 31 was Sompit Sriksamhaeng from the Phuket office of the Department of Social Development and Human Security, along with representatives from various related government agencies and business networks in Phuket.

Certificates were presented to commend local organisations that have driven socially conscious initiatives throughout the business sector, said an official report of the event.

A total of 18 organisations were recognised for their commitment to community development, environmental care and sustainable business practices.

Honorees included notable businesses such as the Intercontinental Phuket Resort, Laguna Resort & Hotel, Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket, and the Seabed



Photo: PR Phuket

Grand Hotel Phuket, along with associations including the Phuket Contractors Association and the Andaman Food and Beverage Association. Foundations including the Scholars of Sustenance Foundation's Phuket branch and the Thongpoon Wanglee Foundation were also among those honoured.

"Today's business environment demands more than just profit-seeking – it requires a commitment to uplifting society and protecting the environment," Governor Sophon said.

He also praised the awarded organisations for setting a positive example through projects that benefit

the local community

"These organisations have shown a strong commitment to conducting business responsibly and with regard for their impact on society and the environment. I hope they will continue to drive activities that support sustainable development in our province and country," he added.

The certificates awarded reflect Phuket's dedication to building a socially responsible business community, highlighting the region's strides towards sustainability and the long-term welfare of its residents, the official report concluded.

The Phuket News



# Migrant decision stirs fury

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The government has defended its decision to grant Thai citizenship to migrants and members of ethnic minorities, saying the policy is in line with the law.

The Cabinet approved a policy on Oct 29 to grant Thai citizenship to over 483,000 migrants and members of ethnic minorities who have lived in Thailand long-term or were born here.

According to Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the decision seeks to address longstanding citizenship and residency issues while stimulating the economy by removing red tape that prevents these people from working.

However, critics have spoken out against the policy, saying it panders to migrants.

Direkrit Janekrongtham, a former senator, said that almost 500,000 migrants will enjoy the same rights and benefits as Thais, adding that they will now have the right to vote in local and national elections, apply to run in elections and hold political office, be members of a political party, set up a political party and vote in referendums.

They would also have the right to land and property ownership, to be labour union members and to set up a labour union, he said.

Responding to criticism, Interior Ministry spokeswoman Traisulee



Children from the Karen ethnic group in Kanchanaburi province receiving Thai ID cards in 2018. Photo: Bangkok Post

Taisaranakul said that the policy seeks to streamline and boost efficiency in the application for Thai citizenship.

“The policy is in line with international human rights principles and the government’s efforts to promote equality,” she said.

She also said that under a proposal from the National Security Council (NSC), if any of those granted Thai citizenship are later found to be a threat to public safety or national security, the Interior Ministry can revoke their citizenship under the Nationality Act.

Of the more than 480,000 who will be granted Thai citizenship, about 340,000 entered Thailand before 1999, and the rest were born in the country. Ms Traisulee said that adding the old rules and regulations prevented them from making a decent living in Thailand.

The policy, proposed by the NSC, expedites the process of granting legal

status to ethnic minority individuals residing in the country. The prime minister said 825,635 such individuals reside in Thailand, with 483,626 awaiting status confirmation.

Government spokesman Jirayu Huangsab previously said the policy update replaces an earlier 2021 Cabinet resolution. He said Thailand has experienced waves of migration into the community, with the first group arriving as early as 1984 and the second between 2005 and 2011.

Additionally, there are Thai-born children from minority groups and unregistered migrants. Without the new measures, processing their status could take up to 44 years, said Mr Jirayu.

This updated framework will simplify eligibility checks, allowing applicants to self-certify their qualifications and criminal history instead of undergoing lengthy investigations by multiple agencies, he said.

## Thailand not part of BRICS yet

BANGKOK

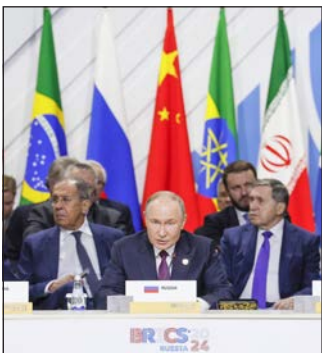
THAILAND HAS NOT yet been confirmed as a member of the BRICS international organisation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) said on Oct 31.

Ministry spokesman Nikorndej Balankura said the Thai government is still awaiting official notification from the BRICS chair, which is Russia, before the matter is considered in the House.

The BRICS organisation comprises nine member countries, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Egypt and Ethiopia.

Foreign Affairs Minister Maris Sangiampongsa was appointed by Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra to attend the BRICS Plus Summit in Kazan, Russia, on Oct 24 at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin, where the MFA says Thailand reaffirmed its interest in joining the bloc as a full member.

When asked about a recent report published on the BRICS news page on X



The Kazan BRICS Summit on Oct 24. Photo: AFP

and many other channels saying that Thailand had been approved by BRICS on Oct 24 as an official partner, Mr Nikorndej said that the MFA has yet to verify the news.

In the same report, the BRICS X page also listed Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Turkey, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Vietnam as “Official BRICS Partner Countries”.

Mr Nikorndej said: “According to the normal procedure, we must receive official notification from the BRICS chair, which is Russia. We hope that we can be a BRICS partner, but I cannot verify that it is true until the ministry receives the official confirmation document from the chair.”

Bangkok Post

## Conflict-free countries sought for overseas Thai workers

BANGKOK

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON Foreign Affairs has asked the Ministry of Labour to shift its labour export policy away from war-torn countries, such as Israel, to more peaceful ones.

Chonticha Jangrew, a committee member, made the remark on Monday (Nov 4) after the Hezbollah rocket attack on Israel last Friday (Nov 1) that killed four Thai workers and injured one.

Expressing condolences to the families of the dead and injured, she suggested the ministry should take the opportunity to expand its labour export markets to safer countries with high demand while providing workers with proper training.

The MP said the Labour Ministry should closely consult with the Foreign Affairs Ministry on situation assessments and the mitigation policies of countries which employ Thais.

As some Thai workers have decided to remain in the warzone for financial reasons, Ms Chonticha said the committee would recommend ways to help the Thai workers, including a backup evacuation plan and financial aid.

Shortly after her comments, the Department of Employment (DoE) confirmed it will send 800 workers to Israel later this month despite the ongoing conflict in the region.

DoE chief Somchai Morakotsriwan assured the workers will only be deployed



A Thai farm worker in Israel. Photo: Bangkok Post

in safe areas, noting employment agencies are banned from sending Thai workers to conflict zones in northern Israel.

In case the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah escalates further, Mr Somchai said the government will draw up a plan to evacuate the workers to safety. He said representatives from the Labour Ministry have reached out to officials from the Israel Embassy in Bangkok to discuss the issue.

When asked if the decision would put the workers’ lives at risk, Mr Somchai said suspending the cooperation won’t ensure the workers’ safety, as if they really want to work in Israel, they will find a way to go on their own – which would make it harder for the government to keep track and protect them.

Israeli companies are currently looking to fill about 2,000 positions for male applicants aged 25-45, said Mr Somchai, with many looking for carpenters, ironsmiths, bricklayers and tilers.

Bangkok Post



FREE

Free annual event connecting expats and families with services to make island life easier.

An invaluable resource of information for expats.

60 exhibitors are waiting for you !

16 NOV 2024

FROM 10AM TO 6PM  
AND THE ENTRY IS ABSOLUTELY FREE

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT PHUKET TOWN

REGISTER NOW AT:  
LIVINGINPHUKET.ORG

ORGANISED BY



WHATSAPP







# Rain, Rain... The ordeal by water



## GREEN THOUGHTS

Patrick Campbell

There are various ditties about rain. Those I remember from my childhood include: 'Rain, rain, go away. Come again another day', 'The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain' – a line from Bernard Shaw's 'Pygmalion' – and 'When it rains, it pours'. The last quote is particularly apposite. Not that we need any reminding. The stuff has been remorseless this year. Phuket is on course to record one of its wettest years ever,

France has experienced its worst inundations since 1980, and

unprecedented flooding has occurred in places as far apart as Australia and California. Climate change? Of course. Deforestation? Unnaturally... Just to take one local example. On Aug 23, 209 properties were damaged and 13 people lost their lives as a likely consequence of a massive landslide near the Big Buddha in Phuket. Why? Because several rai of land at the summit of Nakkerd Hills had been cleared of trees to make way for a car park. The natural sponge provided by tree roots had been destroyed.

The story for gardeners is less dramatic, but nonetheless impactful. As enthusiasts know full well, the needs of tropical plants vary. Xeric plants, originally from arid or desert regions, will succumb and rot if their roots sit for too

long in sodden soil. Plants such as cacti, and other succulents – yuccas and agaves for example – love Phuket's sun, but detest the drenching rain. Their best chance of survival is in sandy or gravelly soil that drains quickly, or in raised beds, containers or rockeries. High levels of humidity don't help. A reader recently wrote about the difficulty of cultivating lavender (lavandula) here. I have experienced the same issue. In my garden in rocky terrain in mountainous southern Spain it grew like a weed, thriving in conditions of dry soil and low humidity. It is a Mediterranean plant.

The southwest monsoon affects your garden in other ways. The growth of fungi and other microscopic life is encouraged by surfaces that are frequently warm and moist. All my sand-washed surfaces (sai lang) around the pool and on the balconies have become discoloured. Light-coloured paintwork takes on a grey hue. After 16 years, I have had to replace the wooden window frames on the windward side of the property as well as three rustic trellises.

Other unwelcome visitors put in an appearance, including giant millipedes and snails. In fact, the millipedes are harmless detritivores that feed on rotting vegetation, but they are poisonous. Most importantly, the soil is drenched so often that the leaching process causes it to become compacted, worse to lose most of its nutrients. But it's an ill wind... Worms, encouraged by the presence of moisture, help to aerate the topsoil by returning to the upper layers. And if you can, add compost to your tired soil. The more organic matter, the better.

And at the other end of the spectrum are shrubs which thrive in Phuket's protracted southwest monsoon. Some of these are flowering marsh plants such as canna lilies or bottlebrushes (callistemon), which naturally grow close to water or in boggy areas. Most ferns take on a new lease of life, even invading containers. The spectacular bird's nest fern (asplenium nidus) puts on a growth spurt. A couple of mine are now four feet across.

In general, it is fair to say that shade-loving plants, most of which exist under the forest canopy in the wild, will flourish at this time of year – especially aglaonemas, dieffenbachias and caladiums. They are all cultivated for their large decorative leaves, a feature which allows them both to absorb efficiently what limited sunlight is around, and to breathe out excessive amounts of moisture.



Photos: Patrick Campbell



I have not considered drought-loving plants. Suffice to say that most will and do survive the ordeal by water. One xeric shrub that does do well here is the adenium or desert rose. Since it hails from the tiny island of Socotra south of Yemen in the Indian Ocean, it needs little moisture. After all, in its native surroundings, rain falls in only one month of the year: November. Technically known as a drought-deciduous succulent because it drops most of its leaves in rainless conditions, the adenium has grey, swollen (pachycaul) stems which retain water during extended dry spells in the form of a latex-like fluid.

But the primary reason both for its popularity and success in Thailand is that it does well in containers. Grown almost exclusively in pots with large drainage holes, it requires little watering, and yet manages to produce richly coloured blooms in shades varying from white to a luminous red. The shrub has been widely hybridised.

Containers are, in fact, one potential solution to all these climatic excesses because the attentive gardener can thereby control the micro-environment of his plants. Water your pots in the dry season, drain in the monsoon. Watch the progress of your charges. And move them to a new location where necessary.

Patrick Campbell's book 'The Tropic Gardener', described in one Bangkok review as the best book on Thai gardening for 50 years, is available for B500 (half price) to personal callers from 59/84 Soi Saiyuan 13 in Rawai (Tel: 076-613227 or 085-7827551).



## The December/January 2025 hard copy issue goes to print very soon

Distributed in resorts/hotels lobbies, in a high number of restaurants and coffee shops, plus inserted in one issue of The Phuket News each month, it is a great way to Talk to Phuket.

## Want to be in it?

CONTACT JASON TODAY – gm@classactmedia.co.th



# Learning to 'Infuse' at Diamond Resort

Amy Bensema

**M**inimalistic and charming, Infuse Restaurant by Diamond Resort boasts a warm atmosphere. It's a popular dining destination, not only amongst the resort's guests, but also within the local expat community. The restaurant has built an excellent reputation for serving good, honest food. My dining partner and I had previously visited the restaurant, but we were excited to get back and enjoy a meal.

The staff at Infuse Restaurant are friendly and efficient. Upon arrival, we were seated immediately and presented menus. The enthusiasm of the staff, and clear love of their job, is evident. The staff were comfortable to highlight signature dishes from the menu, discuss ingredients and make suggestions based upon their favourite dishes.

As we perused the menu, we were greeted by Executive Chef Rieno Huyghebaert. A Belgian native with a warm smile and extreme talent in the kitchen, he's been at the helm of Infuse Restaurant since it opened in 2018. Chef Rieno excels at creating comfort food-style cuisine with Belgian influences and family recipes. He suggested a few items from the menu to try, and then we made our order.

Dinner started with a classic Brus-

chetta topped with marinated tomato, basil and red onion. The ingredients were extremely fresh, and each bite was both flavourful and light. We also tried a new menu item, the Garlic Prawns Flat Bread. The dish consists of oven baked flatbread served with prawns, garlic, tomato, onion, chilli, Mozzarella, rucola and micro herbs. It's a perfect appetiser – lighter than a traditional pizza but bursting with so much delicious flavour and succulent prawns. We devoured both dishes immediately.

For our mains, we chose a Belgian dish recommended by the chef. Chicken Waterzooi is comfort food at its finest. The dish consists of chicken slathered in a rich chicken and vegetable broth. The dish was both creamy and hearty – absolutely perfect for one of Phuket's rainy days. The second main course is a recommended dish from the Thai Fusion Kitchen options on the menu – Signature Massaman Chicken. Served in a large bowl, it consists of a slow cooked chicken leg in a rich cinnamon curry with coconut and potato broth. This dish was absolutely fantastic – a twist on a Thai traditional recipe, and the fragrant cinnamon really elevated the taste of the dish. I highly recommend both of the main courses we dined on.

Although we were stuffed, we let the wait staff talk us into ordering not one, but two, desserts! The Lava Cake is made with 80% Belgian chocolate and is



Photos: Infuse Restaurant by Diamond Resort



served with Banana Ice Cream and Chocolate Crunch. The cake is rich and decadent, and the creamy flavour of the Banana Ice Cream really complemented the richness of the cake. We also shared a decadent Belgian Chocolate Mousse with crispy tuille, raspberry sauce and Chantilly cream. This dessert was absolutely delicious. The mousse was feather light and had such a lovely chocolate taste.

My dining partner and I thoroughly enjoyed our meal and our evening. The menu at Infuse Restaurant is extensive and includes a fantastic selection of tasty comfort food dishes, Belgian specialties, Thai-fusion creations and vegetarian options as well as fresh seafood and premium cuts of meat.

Additionally, the dessert menu is a decadent treat. Prices are well affordable; portions are plentiful and the presentation of each dish is equivalent to the skill found in fine dining restaurants.

In addition to the regular menu, Infuse Restaurant also offers a variety of special menus including specials on the weekend, buy one get one free for pizzas every Monday, Happy Hour specials and much more.

*Infuse Restaurant by Diamond Resort, located at Diamond Resort in Bang Tao. Open daily 7am to 10pm. Reservations encouraged, Parking available onsite. Contact: +66 62 245 5704 (WhatsApp, LINE and Phone calls) Website: RestaurantInfuse.com*

**THAI**  
RESIDENTIAL  
Phuket's No.1 Trusted Real Estate Advisor

## Are You Trying To Sell Your Phuket Property?

List Your House, Villa or Luxury Condo with  
**Thai Residential**  
and Increase Your Chances  
of a **Successful** Sale.



PHUKET@THAIRESIDENTIAL.COM | +66 94 8411 918 | WWW.THAIRESIDENTIAL.COM  
THAIRESIDENTIAL CO., LTD. 82/37 SAM PAO COURTYARD, MOO4, PATAK ROAD, T.RAWAI, PHUKET, 83130



POP QUIZ

1. Which Wild West gunslinger was shot in the back while playing poker in Deadwood, Colorado?

2. 'Now is the winter of our discontent' is the opening line from which William Shakespeare play?

3. George Washington famously crossed which icy river on the night of Christmas Day in 1776 to set up a surprise attack?

4. Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated in which European city, thus sparking World War I?

5. What does the acronym 'CSI' stand for?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across
1. Where Pago Pago is

6. "Giovanna d' \_\_\_\_" (Verdi opera)

10. Saudi Arabia neighbor

14. Tart

15. Oil source

16. Phoenix neighbor

17. Position in line

20. Mouths, slangily

21. Polished

22. Low-income areas

24. Tobacco kilns

25. Presidents' Day event

29. Jest

31. Genesis locale

34. Galway country

35. Turndowns

38. Conclusive evaluation

41. Caribou kin

42. Lab vessel

43. Fish hawk

44. \_\_\_\_ Island National Monument

46. Engine attachment

47. Boito's Mefistofele, e.g.

51. Peaceful gesture?
54. Orbit point

56. Wet

61. Ending soon

63. Blood's partner

64. Adolescent

65. Jewelry measurement

66. Author Bagnold

67. Unrestrained indulgence

68. Pompous walk
- Down
1. Kind of vaccine

2. Berry

3. Bungle, with "up"

4. Table scraps

5. French clerical titles

6. Misbehaves

7. Ex-Yankee Guidry

8. Rail supporter

9. Catch \_\_\_\_

10. Last letter

11. Stands for

12. Good point

13. Lane and Hale

18. Web browser entry

19. Female feline

23. Breakfast cereals

25. Kind of call

26. Seed coat
27. Like young Abe Lincoln

28. Historic period

30. Guesstimate phrase

32. Air sacs

33. Follow

35. Student of Seneca

36. Kind of column

37. Eye affliction

39. Recoverer

40. Speedometer letters

45. Making a profit from selling sacred things

47. Symbol of authority

48. Table part

49. Lewis with Lamb Chop

50. Made, in a way

52. Tibetan gazelle

53. Nolte and Jonas

55. Enthusiastic about

57. Thin strip

58. Unit of pressure

59. Biblical twin

60. \_\_\_\_ Lake, MN

62. Young sheep

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

(1) Wild Bill Hickok; (2) Richard III; (3) Delaware River; (4) Sarajevo; (5) Crime Scene Investigation

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						64					65			
66						67					68			

Visit: [www.ilovecrosswords.com](http://www.ilovecrosswords.com)

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

T	E	M	P		T	O	D		L	A	M	A			
O	P	U	S		C	O	N	E	Y	A	L	E			
D	I	S	A	G	R	E	E	I	N	G	W	I	T	H	
O	C	E	L	L	I		S	C	A	R		A	R	E	
M	U	M	S		T	E	M	E	R	S	O	N			
H	I	T	S		T	E	A	M		O	W	E			
C	H	A		E	A	G	E	R		E	A	S	E		
B	E	G	G	I	N	G	T	O	D	I	F	F	E	R	
M	E	S	A		Y	E	A	R	N		R	A	N		
C	O	W	S	L	I	P		S	N	O	W		O	R	
U	S	A		A	G	H	A		K	N	A	V	E	S	
T	A	K	I	N	G	I	S		S	U	E	W	I	T	H
E	K	E	D		L	A	P		L	O	N	E			
S	A	N	S		E	L	S	E		S	L	A	W		

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

in every 10 European children are conceived in a bed from IKEA.

25

percent of the ants in a colony are inactive, they consistently just stand around and do nothing, according to one study.

400

feet long is the record for the longest baguette in the world, which took 60 bakers and seven hours to make.

1,000

US dollars on average is spent by Americans on prescription drugs every year – double the average of other developed countries.

200,000

standard laser pointers all focusing through a lens to an exact point would be needed in order to create a laser powerful enough to kill.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW

Basking in the glow at Nai Yang. Photo by Gus Chesterton

Got an unusual or particularly beautiful picture of Phuket? Email it to [exceditor@classactmedia.co.th](mailto:exceditor@classactmedia.co.th)

This week in history

Nov 8, 1492

The Ensisheim meteorite, the oldest meteorite with a known date of impact, strikes the Earth around noon in a wheat field outside the village of Ensisheim, Alsace, France.

Nov 9, 694

At the Seventeenth Council of Toledo, Egica, a king of the Visigoths of Hispania, accuses Jews of aiding Muslims, sentencing all Jews to slavery.

Nov 10, 1958

The Hope Diamond, weigh-

ing 45.52 carats and last reported to be insured for US\$250 million (B8.241bn), is donated to the Smithsonian Institution by New York diamond merchant Harry Winston.

Nov 11, 1918

World War I: Germany signs an armistice agreement with the Allies in a railroad car in the forest of Compiègne, northern France. The armistice came into force at 11am Paris time on Nov 11, 1918.

Nov 12, 2003

Shanghai Transrapid sets a new world speed record of 501km/h for commercial railway systems, which remains the fastest for un-

modified commercial rail vehicles.

Nov 13, 1974

The Amityville Horror. Ronald DeFeo Jr murders his entire family on Long Island, New York.

Nov 14, 1889

Pioneering American female journalist Nellie Bly (aka Elizabeth Cochrane) begins a successful attempt to travel around the world in less than 80 days. She completes the trip in 72 days. Source: Wikipedia

Armistice Day, 1918.



# Trades & Services

 The Phuket News  
 @thephuketnews

## CORPORATE SERVICES



**VERTIGO**  
VIDEO PRODUCTIONS  
VERTIGOVideOProductions.COM

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**Waterproofing & Crack Repair**

20 year WARRANTY

under yearly checkup plan...  
TCM Asia Co., Ltd - quality services since 2003  
office@tcm-asia.com 086-9439834

Drone Survey  
Pipe Inspection



## OTHER

Want your BUSINESS listed here?  
Reserve your space **NOW!**

076 612 550  
sales@classactmedia.co.th

## OTHER

Want your BUSINESS listed here?  
Reserve your space **NOW!**

076 612 550  
sales@classactmedia.co.th

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**WOOD FLOOR PHUKET - 24 YEARS**

Solid and engineered wood floor  
Sand & refinish/Deck supplier

 /solidwoodfloorphuketthailand  
 Matt 081 271 2684 or Jessika 062 372 6624

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**Little-til** SMART TILES  
Tile Leveling System  
Baun Wana - Cherrng Talay  
Tel : 076 620168

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE



www.tile-asia.com | letstalk@tile-asia.com

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**Plumber**  
German Water Team Ltd.Part  
We repair what your husband fixed


MASTERCRAFTSMAN  
WE REPAIR AND BUILD NEW:  
-ALL KINDS OF HOT AND COLD WATER SYSTEMS  
-HOT WATER SOLAR SYSTEMS AND SOLAR PUMPS  
-POOL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICE  
-REPAIR ALL KINDS OF WATER SYSTEMS AND POOL PUMPS  
-A VARIETY OF WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS TO FIT YOUR NEEDS

SHOWROOM NEXT TO WAT CHALONG  
OPEN FROM 8AM TO 5PM

094 594 8868 (THAI)  
089 645 4848 (GER / ENG)

www.germanwaterteam.com  
Email: germanwaterteam@yahoo.de

22/12 Moo 6 Chaofa R.d.west Chalong A.Muang Phuket 83130



## OTHER

**ME LOGO**

T-shirt, Cap,  
Polo-shirt, Flag,  
apron, Tote bag

Embroidery, Screen Print,  
Sublimation

Scan QR code

 ME LOGO ผลิตภัณฑ์พร้อมงานปัก-สกรีน  @melogo  096 637 9000



## MARINE SERVICES

**C&C MARINE**  

**MARINE ENGINEERING SPECIALISTS**

C&C Marine (Thailand) Co., Ltd.  
Tel: +66 076 272049 Fax: +66 076 273248  
Email: cholmes@candc-marine.com  
www.candc-marine.com  
16/2 Moo 4, Soi Koh Kaew 33, Thepkassatri Rd,  
Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand

**WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?**

The **Phuket News** Your Island - Your Paper  
Новости **Пхукета** Твой остров - твоя газета  
ข่าว **ภูเก็ต**

**WINDOW ON PHUKET**  
The map of PHUKET  English 中文 Русский  
Where to eat in PHUKET   
**LIVE 89.5** 

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th



FRI8NOV

MON11NOV

SAT16NOV



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT

98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

Oli: 081/891 4381

www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

FB: shakersphuket





STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT

98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

Oli: 081/891 4381

www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

FB: shakersphuket





Free annual event connecting expats and families with services to make island life easier.

An invaluable resource of information for expats.

60 exhibitors are waiting for you!

16NOV2024

FROM 10AM TO 6PM AND THE ENTRY IS ABSOLUTELY FREE

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT PHUKET TOWN

REGISTER NOW AT: LIVINGINPHUKET.ORG

ORGANISED BY











SOCIAL LIFESTYLE TRAVEL EDUCATION

in Patong, now reaches five schools in Phuket each year, offering a vital 10-week curriculum that imparts essential swimming skills and water safety knowledge to children. Over the past five years, the Rotary Club of Patong Beach has proudly supported more than 1,000 students through this life-saving initiative, fully funding the program's operations. Link to child swim program: <https://www.rotarypatong.org/page/save-a-child-swim-program> EVENT DETAILS Date: Saturday, November 16, 2024 Venue: Aquella Golf & Country Club Day's Events: 10:00 Registration Opens 11:00 Shotgun Start 17:00 Silent Auction Opens 18:00 Dinner & prizes 21:00 Event Concludes Tickets Golf & Dinner: THB 3300 Sale ends Nov 15, 11:50 PM Ticket type Only Dinner: THB 800 Sale ends Nov 15, 11:50 AM [kareneidsvik@gmail.com](mailto:kareneidsvik@gmail.com)

FRI22NOV



JOINT CHAMBERS PHUKET SUNDOWNERS

Friday, November 22, 2024 18:00 - 21:00 hrs.

Courtyard by Marriott Phuket Town

650 THB for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members, 1,200 THB for non-members.

Contact - [office@austchamthailand.com](mailto:office@austchamthailand.com)



### AustCham Joint Chambers Phuket Sundowners

Join us for a wonderful night of making new connections and catching up with familiar faces in the Australian-Thai business community in Phuket at Courtyard by Marriott Phuket Town. Friday, November 22, 2024 - 18:00 - 21:00 hrs. 650 THB for AustCham members, partner Chambers' members, and Australian Alumni Members, 1,200 THB for non-members. Contact - [office@austchamthailand.com](mailto:office@austchamthailand.com)

FRI6DEC



### Grow Boating Evening - December 2024

We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Evening at the Boardwalk Bistro and Bar from 5pm. We are delighted to announce that our drinks sponsor for the evening will be Paul Poole (South East Asia) Co., Ltd. an independent marketing consultancy based in Bangkok, Thailand specializing in commercial sponsorship. For more details see [paulpoole.co.th](http://paulpoole.co.th) There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by the Boardwalk Bistro and Bar for all attendees. Find us on [facebook.com/GrowBoating-Phuket/](https://www.facebook.com/GrowBoating-Phuket/)

### CLASSIFIEDS

### Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours

### Daily Meetings

Patong, Chalong, Phuket Town, Bang Tao & Karon

CALL

081 895 4763

[help@aaphuket.org](mailto:help@aaphuket.org)

 [www.aaphuket.com](http://www.aaphuket.com)

### Friday Mussels Night

56 PM onwards: Belgian style mussels served with French Fries. All you can eat. Your choice, Your style: Marinere, Selected drinks, Provencale, Garlic & cream, Creamy curry, Blue cheese or Thai style We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 325 baht P.P. [www.shakersphuket.com](http://www.shakersphuket.com) [www.facebook.com/shakersphuket](https://www.facebook.com/shakersphuket) Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18

### Monday BBQ Night

6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ buffet cooked to order. Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages, Fish, Prawns & Squids, salad buffet and veggies, Choice of potatoes, cold and hot sauces, Bread, Buns & garlic bread. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 395 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. [www.shakersphuket.com](http://www.shakersphuket.com) [www.facebook.com/shakersphuket](https://www.facebook.com/shakersphuket) Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381



Come and have a few at the Phuket Business Networking - 2nd Friday every month

### Phuket Business Networking - Nov 2024

Make sure to bring lots of business cards, as getting to know each other is what PBN is all about. A small entry fee, THB 500 per person, that includes the first 3 drinks and a light buffet. Location - Oasis Bar, Koh Kaew, starting 5pm. Register your attendance here - [facebook.com/phuketbusinessnetworking](https://www.facebook.com/phuketbusinessnetworking) or call Jason - 086 479 7471.

WED13NOV



STEAK HOUSE & RESTAURANT

98/18 Vises Road, Rawai

Oli: 081/891 4381

www.shakersphuket.com

shakersphuket@gmail.com

FB: shakersphuket



### Wednesday BBQ Night

6 PM onwards: All you can eat BBQ buffet cooked to order. Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Sausages, Fish, Prawns & Squids, salad buffet and veggies, Choice of potatoes, cold and hot sauces, bread, buns & garlic bread. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 395 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. [www.shakersphuket.com](http://www.shakersphuket.com) [www.facebook.com/shakersphuket](https://www.facebook.com/shakersphuket) Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

### Living in Phuket 2024

"Living in Phuket" is designed to help Phuket's many expats and their families connect with services that make life on the island easier. Major organisations and community groups from across Phuket in one location. "Living in Phuket" represents an invaluable resource of information for expats. The 2024 event will take place in the Courtyard by Marriott Phuket Town on Nov 16, presented by UFE Phuket, Melki.BIZ, Bangkok Hospital Phuket and The Phuket News. More info - [livinginphuket.org](http://livinginphuket.org)



THE SNOWBIRDS GOLF TOURNAMENT

Win Amazing Prizes!

3,500 Baht with dinner

90% of net proceeds go to the "Save a Child Swim Program"

Register now, space is limited!

BOOK NOW



SATURDAY November 16

AT AQUELLA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Check-in: 10:00am

Shotgun starts 11:00am

4 Ball scramble format

### The BDO/Rotary Club Snowbirds Charity Golf Tournament

CanCham South & Rotary Club of Patong Beach is holding its second annual BDO Snowbirds Charity Golf Tournament at the Aquella Golf & Country Club on Saturday November 16th, 2024. This is a family-friendly networking and fellowship event, as well as a fundraiser. Proceeds will be shared evenly with the Rotary Club of Patong Beach for their Save a Child Swim Program. Last year, with BDO as our Title Sponsor, we raised over 57,000 Baht for the Program. We are thrilled that BDO has returned as our Title Sponsor this year, and our goal is to raise over 300,000 THB. The Swim Program, originating

### CLASSIFIEDS

### BOATS, YACHTS FOR SALE



HENRI CAPTAIN

MORE THAN 100 USED BOATS FOR SALE IN THAILAND

HENRI-CAPTAIN.COM

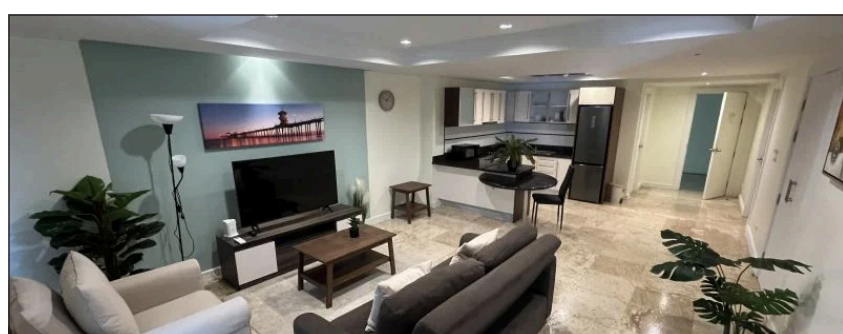




BOAT LAGOON MARINA, PHUKET

+66(0)636382661

### PROPERTY FOR RENT



### 2bdr apartments for rents

Bel Air Condominium, Panwa Sea Facing, Large 130-150m2, w/balcony w/Plunge Pool, Recently Refurbished, THB35-45K/month. Contact Paul +65 965 17134.



Commercial units and 25 apartments

A unique opportunity to start making money ASAP. New luxury apartment building for rent only 5 mins walking distance to Boat Avenue on Bandon-Cherngtalay Rd. Currently offering 5 rental options, unfurnished - 1 - Take over whole building (5 commercial units and the 25 apartments), 2 - Take over the 5 commercial units, 3 - Take over the 25 apartments, 4 - Take over an individual commercial unit, or 5 - Take 1 apartment and decorate by yourself on long-term contract, cats or quite animals allowed. With high season fast approaching now is the perfect time to take one of the above investment opportunities. For more details and to arrange a viewing please contact K. Pam (Thai and English) on 062 143 6559 or [phuketmyhouse@gmail.com](mailto:phuketmyhouse@gmail.com), WhatsApp: 062 143 6559, Line ID: [pamsirithan828](https://www.line.me/tv/pamsirithan828)





LIVE 89.5 Radio

Your Island, your radio station.

On FM and online.



LISTEN ONLINE





## EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THAILAND NETWORKING EVENT

The official launch of the European Chamber of Commerce in Thailand (EABC) took place on Oct 30 at the Blue Elephant Phuket Cooking School & Restaurant. Over 120 attendees enjoyed networking with industry leaders and potential partners and explored opportunities to strengthen European-Thai business ties. For more information on EABC, visit [eabc-thailand.org](http://eabc-thailand.org)



## GROW BOATING NETWORKING EVENING - NOVEMBER 2024

Held at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina on Friday, November 1. The drinks sponsor for the evening was ZERO SIX ONE Co Ltd (Thailand) who are the distributors for Acqua 3 Aqueous Ozone machines which use tap water, electricity and air to make ozone water, a cleaning solution that removes dirt, stains and odours. For more details see [zerosixone.weebly.com](http://zerosixone.weebly.com). A delicious buffet sponsored by Isola Restaurant was devoured by the lively group of marine specialists. See more info at [facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket](https://facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket)



## Spartan Race returns to Phuket

### FITNESS

THE HUGE POPULAR fitness endurance series Spartan Race returns to Phuket this weekend (Nov 9-10).

Under the official title of "Phuket Spartan Trifecta Weekend & Hurricane Heat 12HR Presented by Blue Tree", the leading cross country running competition will welcome enthusiasts from all over the world who will be tested to their limits.

Blue Tree Phuket and nearby areas in Cherg Talay will host the two-day event which this year sees the launch of the 'Young Spartans Running Race' for children between the ages of 4-14, as well as the 12-Hour Hurricane Heat, which is set to be staged for the first time in Thailand in both Phuket and Pattaya.

Founded in 2007, Spartan Race is a series of obstacle races of varying distance and difficulty ranging from 3 miles to marathon distances, with obstacles



Photo: PR Phuket

such as off-road running, mud wading, zip-lining, net climbing and wall climbing. It is said to be the world's largest obstacle and endurance race and events are held regularly in cities worldwide.

This is the third consecutive year the event has been held in Phuket, with the previous two editions both proving to be hugely successful.

While organisers did not speculate on participant numbers in advance, last year's event attracted over 10,000 participants from 30 countries and a similar, if not greater, number is expected to take part this year.

The event also boosts tourism and generates much needed revenue for local businesses and the island's economy, organisers said.

*The Phuket News*

## Max back in the winning groove

### FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato  
michael@boxofneutrals.com

Max Verstappen claimed a stunning 15<sup>th</sup>-to-first victory in a wet São Paulo Grand Prix after would-be title rival Lando Norris squibbed his chance to win the race from pole last Sunday (Nov 3).

Alpine teammates Esteban Ocon and Pierre Gasly also capitalised on the chaotic rain-affected race to take a double podium for the embattled team in a remarkable 126-minute marathon afternoon.

Thunderstorms were the background to Verstappen's improbable victory, his first in 10 grands prix. Though Saturday's sprint race, won by Norris, had taken place in warm and dry conditions, storms set in shortly after, forcing qualifying for the main race to be postponed to early Sunday morning.

By then the thunder and lightning had abated, but the rain had stuck around overnight. In a session that featured five red flags for crashes, Verstappen found himself in 15<sup>th</sup> place after serving a grid penalty for taking a new internal combustion engine.

Norris, dominating the pole-getting session, looked set to achieve a significant points swing in his favour to boost his slim title hopes.

But things went wrong almost immediately for the Briton, who lost



Max Verstappen celebrates his win on the podium. Photo: AFP

the lead off the line to second-place starter George Russell, and was then trapped in second position and unable to pass in the slippery conditions.

Russell and Norris headed to the pits on lap 27 after a virtual safety car was triggered, returning to the track behind non-stoppers Ocon, Verstappen and Gasly.

Then on lap 30 a Franco Colapinto crash suspended the race, allowing the three leaders to change their tyres for free while parked in pit lane, moving them ahead of Russell and Norris outright.

On lap 43 Verstappen made a sublime late-braking move down the inside of the first corner to complete his herculean recovery drive and pass Ocon.

From there he never looked back, setting 17 fastest laps on his way to a drought-breaking eighth victory of the season.

The win extended Verstappen's title lead over Norris to 62 points and he can seal the championship if he retains a 60-point lead after the next race in Las Vegas on Nov 23.

"It was incredibly important, because I was expecting to lose points today," he said. "From now, I just want clean races to the end."

Alpine's lucrative double podium, its best result by points since 2021, vaulted the French team from ninth to sixth in the constructors championship, a position that could net millions in prize money if successfully held for three more races.

Russell finished fourth ahead of Charles Leclerc, with Norris slumping to sixth.

Yuki Tsunoda finished seventh ahead of Oscar Piastri and Liam Lawson, with Lewis Hamilton scoring the final point in 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Bali Geckos win Phuket AFL Masters

### AFL

AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL was back with a bang at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) on Oct 26 as the Thailand Tigers, Bali Geckos, Singapore Sharks and the Phuket Power contested the Pacific Cross Health Insurance AFL Masters.

The Bali Geckos were led by former Sydney Swan Troy Luff and included four indigenous Indonesian players, while the Thailand Tigers had many of the core players from recent AFL Asia Championships.

The Singapore Sharks came with a similar team to last year which included that tournament's best player Mark Dessent, while the Phuket Power's squad of 17 players had two of Thailand's best male and female players mixed in with a few Australians and some newcomers to the game.

In the first game the Bali Geckos proved too strong for the reigning cup holders Singapore Sharks, winning by 9 goals and 3 behinds with Luff kicking six goals overall – an ominous sign of things to come.

The Phuket Power were seen off with ease by the Thailand Tigers 9 goals to nil and, despite faring better in their next game, were defeated 5 goals and 2 behinds by the Singapore Sharks.

The Geckos and the Tigers then played out the match of the day, with the



The Geckos celebrate. Photo: Supplied

former coming from behind to win by one goal before recording a big win over the Power, with Luff kicking his second bag of goals.

The final was a tight affair for most of the first half with both teams showing fine skills and intent, Luff bagging 2 goals and the Tigers' Michael Sanders scoring likewise.

Tempers flared shortly before half-time as the Geckos went into the break leading by 5 goals to 2 before they continued their skillful display in the last half to run running out eventual winners 7 goals 2 behinds to 3 goals 1 behind.

Local netball matches were also keenly contested throughout the day while the AFL was playing with the Vagabirds being named the Pacific Cross Health Insurance Netball Winners.

Thanks to all the teams, event sponsors and the staff at the ACG for making the AFL Masters and netball possible. *The Phuket News*

## Revamped Kathu Half Marathon confirmed

### MARATHON

THIS YEAR'S NEWLY revamped Kathu Half Marathon will take place on Sunday, Dec 8, organisers have confirmed.

The 27<sup>th</sup> annual edition of the hugely popular event will offer four separate categories for participants to take on: a 2.5 kilometre health walk and run, a 6km fun run, a 10km mini marathon and a 23km half marathon, with the latter increased from its usual 21km and rebranded as the 'Kathu Super Half Marathon.'

More than 2,500 entries across the four race categories are anticipated, organisers confirmed, while there will be over 300 trophies up for grabs as well as over B33,000 in prize money.

Confirmation of the event was made at an official press conference at the Kathu Municipality Council Offices on Oct 30, overseen by Phuket Vice Governor Samawit Suphanphai, who was joined by: Kathu Mayor, Wannayut Suttikun; Thamrong Chuay-akson, Kathu District Chief; Ratchadaporn Oin, Director



Photo: PR Phuket

of the Phuket Tourism and Sports Office; Pol Col Rungrit, Chief of Kathu Police; and Phongsaphan Thongphat, head of the Narendorn Andaman Center.

"The revamped version of the Kathu Super Half Marathon will elevate the event to that of international standards," commented Mr Wanyut.

He further explained that Kathu is a area very well suited to hosting long distance running events like the Super Half Marathon as it provides suitable terrain such as slopes and long, flat stretches through beautiful, natural scenery.

"It is a very popular event that will attract many people

to the area which will have a positive knock on effect for local businesses and the local economy," Mr Wanyut also noted.

Furthermore, the event aligns with the local government policy to promote exercise as an effective way to achieve and sustain a healthier lifestyle among local residents, he said.

"Exercise areas such as the Kathu Municipality Stadium and open areas such as the Phuket Mining Museum and Bang Wad Dam are great examples of locations where people can exercise and become much healthier," Mr Wanyut concluded. *The Phuket News*



# Liverpool seize top spot

## FOOTBALL

AFP

Liverpool seized top spot in the Premier League with a late comeback win against Brighton as Manchester City suffered their first league loss since December last Saturday (Nov 2).

Trailing to a 14<sup>th</sup> minute Ferdi Kadioglu goal, Liverpool staged a late revival to secure three massive points that put them top of the table.

Cody Gakpo bagged the equaliser in the 69<sup>th</sup> minute with a cross that looped straight into the net before Mohamed Salah curled a fine finish into the top corner for his ninth goal this season three minutes later.

In Arne Slot's first season in charge, Liverpool are two points clear of City after their eighth win in 10 league games.

"More than the position we are in, if you face a team like this and are 1-0 down and can come back to a 2-1 win that gives me a lot of confidence," Slot said afterwards.

City were unbeaten in their previous 32 league games, dating back to a defeat at Aston Villa last year. The Cherries had never beaten City in their 21 previous meetings, losing 19 of those matches, yet Andoni Iraola's team sprang a huge upset to derail the champions' push for a fifth successive title.

Goals from Antoine Semenyo and



Mo Salah celebrates his winner. Photo: AFP

Evanilson were enough to secure the win, despite Josko Gvardiol's late consolation goal.

Newcastle put a huge dent in fourth-placed Arsenal's title aspirations with a 1-0 win at St James' Park, with Alexander Isak netting in the 12<sup>th</sup> minute.

Injury-hit Arsenal, who struggled to get out of first gear and produced just one shot on target in the entire game, have now taken just one point from their last three games.

Nottingham Forest are up to third place after beating 10-man West Ham 3-0 to make it three consecutive top-flight victories for the first time since 1999.

Chris Wood grabbed his eighth goal in 10 league games in the 27<sup>th</sup> minute before goals from Callum Hudson-Odoi and Ola Aina sealed the points at the City Ground.

Dominic Solanki scored twice as Tottenham Hotspur blitzed Aston Villa in the second half to win 4-1 and move just two points behind the Midlands club for a top-four finish.

Moises Caicedo's strike denied Manchester United victory in interim boss Ruud van Nistelrooy's first Premier League game as Chelsea claimed a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford.

Sporting Lisbon boss Ruben Amorim will replace van Nistelrooy later this month.

Jordan Ayew's stoppage-time equaliser denied third-bottom Ipswich their first top-flight win since 2002 as Leicester rescued a 1-1 draw at Portman Road, while second-bottom Southampton beat Everton 1-0 to earn their first league win this season.

Wolves remain bottom after a 2-2 draw against Crystal Palace, while Fulham beat Brentford 2-1.

# FAT wins Diamond Award in AFC gala

## FOOTBALL

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF THAILAND (FAT) claimed the Asian Football Confederation's Member Association of the Year Diamond Award at an annual gala of the regional body held in Seoul on Oct 29.

In the 30-year history of the award, it is the first time that the Thai association has won the prestigious honour, with FAT president Nualphan Lamsam receiving the award.

Thailand's successful staging of the 74<sup>th</sup> FIFA Congress – along with the 34<sup>th</sup> AFC Congress – in May this year under the leadership of Nualphan played a pivotal role in tilting the balance in the favour of the FAT.

Nualphan's role in getting a number of public and private sector parties involved in organising the meetings in Bangkok was highly praised by FIFA president Gianni Infantino and AFC chief Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa.



Nualphan. Photo: Bangkok Post

In addition, Thailand was also lauded for the development of football at all levels in the country and for organising some important international tournaments like the 2023 AFC U17 Championship finals, the 2023 AFF U23 Championship, the 2024 AFC U23 Championship qualifying stage and the 2024 AFC Futsal Championship finals.

Thailand also showed improvement on the field with the senior national team breaking back into the top 100 in the FIFA rankings for the first time since 2008 when the War Elephants were ranked No.93.

The Thais are now ranked 96<sup>th</sup> in the world and are also among the top 15 Asian sides. *Bangkok Post*

# Dire loss ends Coach Tum's unbeaten run

## FOOTBALL

COACH TUM'S UNDEFEATED REIGN as manager of Phuket Andaman FC (PAFC) ended in disappointing fashion with a 1-0 loss at Songkhla FC last Sunday (Nov 3).

Neither team truly deserved the three points in this uninspiring match witnessed by a sparse crowd of 320 at the magnificent new 30,000-capacity Tinsulanonda Stadium, which recently hosted the King's Cup.

Sadly, this match did little to suggest Songkhla the team belong at a higher level. Their preference for disrupting play with niggly fouls, exaggerated reactions and diving overshadowed any footballing ability, while their victory merely highlighted PAFC's shortcomings, despite an immaculate pitch that should have suited their passing style.

PAFC seemed incapable of stringing more than three passes together and the promising form of recent weeks vanished, with winger Torky and captain Kla particularly culpable.

The first half was a dull affair, with PAFC never finding their rhythm and only desperate defending and woeful finishing by Songkhla preventing the home side from taking a commanding lead into the break.

The second half wasn't much better, with Brazilian forward Lizaso scoring what turned out to be the winner in the 70<sup>th</sup> minute, leaving PAFC in 9<sup>th</sup> position in the 12-team table.



Songkhla celebrate their goal. Photo: Supplied

It was a game that PAFC and Coach Tum will want to forget quickly. The project is still in its early stages, but the owners must be considering strengthening the squad in December when the transfer window opens.

Having three foreign wide players, the maximum permitted, seems wasteful when a centre-back and central midfielder would significantly improve the team. Alternative goal-scoring options must also be considered, as currently too much reliance is placed on Bank.

The Phuket authorities also need to address the lack of a suitable stadium for their only league football team. Tinsulanonda Stadium highlighted how inadequate Surakul is, both in terms of pitch and stadium quality.

Three fixtures remain in the first half of the season with the club needing to regroup and take nine points, starting with Krabi FC away tomorrow (Nov 9), Ranong United at home on Nov 17 and a trip to PSU Surat Thani on Nov 23. *Simon Causton*

PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

[@tileitthailand](#)
[@tileitthailand](#)
[@tileit](#)

[www.tile-asia.com](http://www.tile-asia.com) | [letstalk@tile-asia.com](mailto:letstalk@tile-asia.com) | Tel: 076 620168  
 177/35 Baan Wana, Sri Sunthorn Rd., Cherg Talay, Thalang, Phuket.



editor3@classactmedia.co.th

# Sport



**Top spot for Slot and his Reds > p15**



One big happy family: The Blue Tree Dojo team at their current home. Photo: Supplied

## Plea for help from local gym facing closure

### MMA

**Ben Tirebuck**  
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

The Dojo at Blue Tree in Cherng Talay has become one of the more recognised sporting establishments in Phuket in recent years, with lead instructor Alexis Plantard tirelessly building a facility that has become an integral part of the local community.

Alexis is a serial medal winner at international level competition in judo, jiu-jitsu and various forms of wrestling who decided to share his love of these sports by teaching students at the Cherng Talay-based Dojo.

Starting with one solitary student in 2020, and battling through the travails of the COVID-19 pandemic, Alexis has since trained hundreds of students ranging in age from three to over 60. He now has a lean, mean team of 30 pupils, many in the younger age bracket, who have consistently dazzled at numerous national and international competitions.

For proof, one only need cast an eye at the Dojo's trophy cabinet, which glitters with gold, silver and bronze medals and cups

galore. The team have been regular trailblazers, winning titles and best team accolades at international competitions in Hong Kong, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Bhutan, Indonesia, France, Australia, New Zealand and the United States, as well as being awarded "Best Children's Judo Team" in Thailand this year and last year. Seriously impressive.

Most recently the team won 10 medals (six gold, two silver and two bronze) at the 13<sup>th</sup> Lao Judo Championship on the weekend of Oct 26-27 in Vientiane, Laos. Finishing in the top five teams overall, they also won the best children's team trophy, while young student Tomo won the best fighter award.

### 'CAMARADERIE'

However, despite their impressive haul of silverware by collectively overcoming so many obstacles on the competition mat, Alexis and his team are now facing their biggest challenge yet as it has recently been confirmed the Blue Tree-sponsored Dojo facility is being forced to close its doors on Jan 1, 2025.

In an official statement on June 22 this year, Blue Tree announced it was "parting ways

with over 70% of our current team" following a "thorough evaluation of our operational model and an unwavering commitment to meet evolving guest preferences."

The Blue Tree Lagoon water park was the most prominent casualty, officially closing its doors on Aug 1, but several other businesses have also been impacted. The Dojo, which received funding support as a lifestyle provider at the park, is one such example.

It means Alexis and his students face the daunting reality of effectively being homeless and unable to engage in their daily martial arts training routine.

"Obviously, having no location in which to train is the main issue," Alexis explained. "However, we have already committed to numerous competitions next year, in the United States, Australia and Europe. Flight tickets have already been purchased and arrangements for accommodation confirmed which cannot be reversed. To not be able to train effectively as a team before such competitions will seriously undermine us."

It leaves Alexis in a quandary. Talk to the man for just a minute and his passion for martial arts is

clear – talk to him for a minute more and his passion for teaching is even more evident.

"What we have built here over the years is tremendous," he explained to *The Phuket News* recently. "Our current team is incredibly special and I am so extremely proud of them. The camaraderie between the team is second to none – we truly are one big happy family."

### LIFE VALUES

Alexis is keen to stay in the Cherng Talay area, preferably in or near to the current Blue Tree location, as he does not want to inconvenience his existing pupils and their families, or even worse, lose them altogether.

"At our current location in Blue Tree there are 15 international schools within a five to 20-minute radius, accommodating more than 5,000 students. It is the perfect catchment area," he explains.

"The plan is to construct a new 400 square metre facility that will include dedicated fighting areas. This expansion will allow us to accommodate over 200 judokas regularly over the next two years and enable us to host championships frequently, further nurturing the judo community in southern Thailand."

In an effort to secure this and keep his Dojo alive Alexis is seeking help from local businesses or individuals who may be willing to act as sponsors by lending financial support. He has compiled a complete overview on the specifications and related costs of a suitable facility that would enable him and the team to continue their quest to become one of the most established Dojos not only locally but nationally and internationally.

*The Phuket News* has covered the progress of the Dojo at Blue Tree since its inception and there is little doubt as to the role it plays in the local community as a safe space for children to not only undertake physical activity and learn martial arts but to simultaneously be taught and understand fundamental life values that sports like judo teach.

"Judo transcends mere combat techniques," explains Alexis. "It instills values such as politeness, courage, sincerity, honour, modesty, respect, self-control and friendship. It's contribution to the fabric of the local community cannot be underestimated."

Alexis is now hoping that help can be secured and the marvellous journey he is taking his students on can continue for many years to come.